Our Secret Weapon

Gandolf, Bilbo, and the dwarves had just narrowly escaped the goblins by running out of the mountain into the sunlight. But as soon as they did they encountered a band of orcs, led by the pale orc himself. They escaped by climbing some trees, which orcs cannot do. While in one of the trees, Gandolf whispered something to a butterfly, which then fluttered away. Pressed into only one tree, the band of dwarves looked like they were going to become food for the wargs (orc dogs), and worse yet, the tree started to fall over the edge of a cliff. As they were hanging on for dear life, a flock of giant eagles arrived. The birds picked up the dwarves and flew them to safety.

Gandolf had used a secret weapon of escape, the butterfly had delivered the message of the dwarves’ predicament to the eagles.

A secret weapon! It certainly helps to have one, doesn't it? When the battle seems like it's going against you, but you know that you have something coming that will turn the tide back in your direction, that's a good feeling. A secret weapon gives you confidence and hope. It enables you to face a variety of challenges unfazed.

Guess what? We have a secret weapon. It's the Paraklesis, and we sing it Wednesday nights at 6 pm. I've seen it work. When I was the priest of a small Orthodox mission in Canada, we came to a time when we had no money. This was especially bad for me personally, because it would mean that I would not have a paycheck that week. I did everything I could to raise what we needed, but it wasn't enough. Finally, someone said, "We need to pull out the secret weapon. We need to sing a Paraklesis." We did, that evening. The next day I went to the post office, and there was a check from someone for more than we needed to meet our obligations. Perhaps you're skeptical when I say the Paraklesis is a secret weapon. Perhaps you think that the check would have come anyway. That's OK. I know better. I know that when the days were darkest and I didn't know what to do, the Paraklesis was my secret weapon, and saved me and my parish.

It seems like such a small thing, like Gandolf whispering to a butterfly. And it is a small thing. A song, sung mostly to Mary, the mother of Jesus. How could that possibly have any effect on our lives, or on anything? I'll tell you how: The Theotokos and her Son love you and want the best for you. They will not abandon you to chance or to the world’s fluctuations. The Paraklesis is your whisper, our whisper, and it summons up legions of helpers to come to our aid.

What will this new year hold for you, for your family, this parish, our community, our world? It's impossible for us to say. But I can tell you this: everything you need is here in the Church, and I hope that your resolution number one will be to take advantage of it. God bless you and your family in 2024!

Your affectionate servant,
Fr. David
EPIPHANY
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, January 5th
Holy Epiphany Eve
9:00 am Royal Hours
6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy (in English)
Blessing of Waters

Saturday, January 6th
Holy Epiphany
9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy (in Greek)
Blessing of Waters
Dear Parish,

In how many thriller movies have we seen the protagonist racing against the clock to save hostages, to prevent a crime, to save the world, 5,4,3,2, gotcha. And once again, the good guys save the day.

What do we say, "A Stitch in time, time flies; time waits for no one. Then of course, there is the old adage "You have all the time in the world". Well, maybe, but then, time always runs out. Oh, no! There were so many things to do that we just did not have time for, just did not do. Perhaps the list might include going to church, receiving communion, forgiving a friend, forgiving an enemy. Or the really hard ones like doing God's will not our own, like genuine repentance.

Speaking for myself, the struggle to negate my own will and then present myself in true repentance is very, very hard. But that struggle is the most important task of our lives. So, in 2024 I will not take time for granted, and I will redouble my efforts, however inadequate they are sure to be, to do God's will and not my own. In the unseen warfare for salvation, it seems to me we must at least "fight the good fight". The time for that fight is now. Armed with the fear of God, faith, and love we engage the enemy who is us.

On a lighter but still important note. I have good news for everyone. St Sophia's choir is coming back to its historical quality. We now have highly qualified and talented people, Elena as organist and Roman as director, who are raising the quality of our efforts in a meaningful way. If you have been thinking of joining the choir, now is the time. More voices add to the fullness of our sound, and I assure you, you will be most welcome.

There will be a very important meeting this month for the parents of all festival dancers. Policies and rules for participation will be laid out for all to see. Dancing at the festival is a privilege earned and not a right. The parish council strongly believes that all festival dancers add to the success of the festival. We also believe that the dancers need to volunteer for non-dance festival tasks.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you all a Happy, Joyful, and Meaningful 2024.

Yours in Christ,

Peter Manolakos
Parish Council President
At St. Sophia's on Friday, January 12th  
6 pm to 9 pm

All youth groups and their families are invited for a night filled with different activities for each youth group

HOPE & JOY  
making slime downstairs and then watching a movie in the lobby

Jr. GOYA & GOYA  
will have board games and crafts down stairs

GOYA  
will pull an all nighter and set up upstairs

Families please bring......  
a snack or dessert to share! 
Pizza and soda will be provided

Please bring your favorite board games, friendship bracelet kits, or any indoor sporting equipment to use in the gym.  
One basketball hoop will be down to utilize.  
Pizza will be served right at 6:30 pm so that gives us plenty of time to hang out and enjoy each other's company.  
Please look for more specific details on Remind under your child's youth group.
DANCE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

This is for:

JOY - Elementary Group
JR. GOYA - Middle School Group
GOYA - High School Group

Practices will be held after Sunday School on Sundays starting in January.

These are not mandatory practices, we just thought to get the kids together to practice for the youth dance that will be held on February 10th.

Practices will take place in the lower hall after Sunday school.

January 7th
January 14th
January 21st
January 28th
FAMILY BOWLING PARTY

Saturday—January 27th
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS ALL YOUTH EVENT

AT
GREEN LAKE LANES
7930 East Genesee Street
Fayetteville, New York 13066

Please let our Youth Advisors know if you will be attending:

JOY—Crystal Swanson & Elaine Imbesi

JR. GOYA—Dina Ioannidis & Marianna Politis-Tacea

GOYA—Maria Sophia Vigliotti
Thank You

A sincere thank you to all those that donated cookies to the Annual Community Christmas Cookie Drive. The cookies were given to those in need at the Soup Kitchen of the Samaritan Center and the Salvation Army Women’s and Children’s Center and were greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

Please submit your 2024 pledge as soon as you can. Many thanks to all our stewards.

Yours in Christ,

Peter Manolakos
Parish Council President

2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

St. Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Church  ~  325 Waring Road  Syracuse, NY 13224  ~  (315) 446-5222

In gratitude for God’s blessing I/we pledge to contribute, for Christ’s work at St. Sophia’s Church, for 2024 a total amount of $___________

If you are interested in paying by Credit/Debit Card do so Online via the Church website stsophias.org

Please Print:

Name
Address
City
Telephone  (____) ______ - _______
State  Zip Code
Email Address
Signature ____________________________ Date ___________________

THE COMPLETION OF THIS CARD IS A REQUIREMENT TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING
St. Sophia's Website & Mailing List

Visit St. Sophia's website www.stsophias.org. There is a wealth of information on the website with the most up to date calendar on services and events, color photographs from recent functions, electronic sacrament forms to easily fill out and submit, and an online chapel highlighting the days readings and hymns.

Please subscribe to our mailing list to receive the latest information instantly. By subscribing to the mailing list you will be able to receive the electronic form of the Nepsis, the weekly bulletin, parish obituary announcements, and any other pertinent information. You may sign up by going to the website and clicking the tab titled “Subscribe to our Mailing List” or via this link: https://www.stsophias.org/join-our-mail-list It’s that easy!

If you no longer require the paper copy of Nepsis through the mail, please notify Katina in the office so that you may be removed from the mailing list.
2024 Parish Calendars

The 2024 Parish Calendars are now available at the Candle Stand in the Narthex.

Have a Happy and Prosperous 2024!

Year 2024 Offering Envelopes

The Year 2024 Offering Envelopes are now available at the Candle Stand in the Narthex.

House Blessings

It is the tradition of our Church to have our homes blessed each January. If you would like to have your home blessed, after Epiphany services in January, please call the Church office and leave your name and telephone number. Father David will call you back to set up an appointment.

Shut-In & Hospital Visitations

If you know of anyone that is unable to attend Church due to sickness or infirmity please call the Church office to schedule home visitations for these parishioners. Father David is regularly making visitations and these parishioners will be visited and will be able to receive Communion.

Again, please tell Father David everyone that you know of who is a shut-in or who is in the hospital. The Church is the first place that you should call!

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you to all those for their continuing donations to the Discretionary Fund of St. Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Church. This fund is used to meet the emergency needs of people (members and non-members) who come to our Church as matter of last resort. Their stories are often heartbreaking, and it is a great ministry of this parish that we offer them some kind of help, so that they can see a ray of hope in their situation.

Please consider making a donation to the Discretionary Fund. God bless you for your participation in this important outreach.

Thank you!
Father David
Syracuse
AHEPA Chapter 37
News

We hope that your holiday celebrations were wonderful and pray that you have a happy, healthy New Year.

We had a successful Initiation Event on December 16th, 2023. We welcome our new members and reinstated past members to our chapter.

We had a successful Toys for Tots campaign spearheaded by Vice President George Nardone.

Our next chapter meeting will be on January 23, 2024 at 6pm, it will be a hybrid meeting.

Upcoming highlights for 2024 will be the flag raising at City Hall on March 25, 2024 for Greek Independence Day. AHEPA Day on the third Sunday of May. Memorial Day flag placement to honor Veterans at the cemetery and the 100th anniversary celebration of AHEPA Chapter 37 on October 26, 2024

James Telonis, MD, President
Syracuse AHEPA Chapter #37
Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37

The Jewels of St. Sophia’s

Eligmos is a beautiful village on the southern coast of the Sea of Marmara in northwestern Turkey but if you try to find it on Google maps you won't succeed because it's now called Kursunlu Cumhuriyet. The village is located on the southwest coast of the Gulf of Gemlik within the sea, 12 km east of Mudanya in the district of Bursa. The Ottomans named the town Kursunlu because the dome of the village church was coated with lead (kurun kapli in Turkish). In the middle of the 19th century approximately 200 families lived in Eligmos, about thirty of them Ottoman, and the rest primarily Greek.

The Byzantine monastery of Saint Averkios was in Eligmos. Built in the 12th century it was named after Bishop Averkios of Hierapolis in Phrygia. He lived a holy life and preached in Phrygia, Syria and Mesopotamia. He performed many miracles and is considered “equal to the apostles”. He reposed in 167AD and his Feast Day is celebrated on October 22. Many miracles have occurred at his burial site. The monastery frescoes have almost disappeared today but traces of them remain on the vaults and windows of the arches. This is a sad reminder of the historical Greek presence in Eligmos. After the Greco-Turkish war of 1919-1922 and the Armistice of Mudanya between Turkey and the Allied powers a resulting population exchange occurred between Greece and Turkey. Many Greek families were displaced from their homes and moved to other countries.

Eligmos was a beautiful little village predominantly occupied by Greeks families who made their living by fishing, making olive oil and silk production. The children participated in the silkworm industry by keeping the eggs warm on their chests while lying down to rest. It was imperative that the eggs remain between 75-85 degrees to hatch into larvae. As each larva spun its silken web it would consist of up to 3,000 feet of silk.

In the early 1900’s many young men went abroad to avoid being drafted into the Ottoman military. The population of Greeks in the village continued to decline following the Turkish exchange of 1922 as the Turks did not treat the people kindly after the war. The idyllic life of the village had greatly changed during this period, thus four young adults left their beloved village for a better and safer life abroad. They traveled first to Europe and eventually took the treacherous journey by boat to their new homes in America.

Stavros “Steve” Sakezles and Smaro “Jenny” Mihou knew each other from the village but arrived separately in Syracuse. He arrived through Ellis Island on March 14, 1910 as a 24 year old. Smaro also arrived via Ellis Island as a 20 year old in 1911. She was very accomplished having been the only girl in her village who learned to swim and the first Greek woman in Syracuse who learned how to drive. They were married on November 14, 1920 in Akron Ohio. Thus on September 17, 1922 James “Jim” Sakezles was born. Jim was drafted out of Clarkson College and served with honor in the 336 Engineer Combat Demolition Battalion of the 9th Army and was involved in the Normandy Campaign on D-Day, the Northern France Campaign, the Rhineland Campaign and the Central Europe Campaign. His platoon liberated the Gardelegen Concentration Camp where he saw first hand the atrocities conducted by the Nazis.

Continued on Page 10
Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37
The Jewels of St. Sophia’s
Continued from Page 9

From the same small village in Turkey and in order to avoid conscription into the Ottoman military, Vasilios Hatzi Efrastiou emigrated to Syracuse in 1910. At Ellis island his name was changed to Bill Williams. In 1924 he married Efrancia “Fanny” Diamondakis and from this union Mary Williams was born on March 16, 1925.

Both families attended church at St. Sophia’s at the Montgomery Street site where the Syracuse War Memorial stands today. After the war, St. Sophia’s became the center of religious, social and cultural events for the Greek Americans in Central New York. The bond of their Greek Nationality aided their assimilation in America and their faith kept families close. Get-togethers at each other's homes were very common, primarily to celebrate Feast days and other special occasions.

Continued on Page 11
Jim and Mary attended one of these family get-togethers at the home of the Skoliades family and it is there that their love story began. According to both Jim and Mary it was love at first sight. Mary worked at the Carrier Corp on Geddes Street and Jim worked for his family's grocery store, a job he started at the age of 13. Jim’s job allowed him access to the family car and he took advantage of this luxury when after doing some detective work he realized that Mary took the bus to work each day. He readily offered Mary a ride to work as often as possible, a gesture that Mary accepted. After a couple of weeks and with the blessing of their families, Jim and Mary went on their first real date to a dance in Sylvan Beach. Jim must have been an impressive dancer that night because after just a few months they were married at St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox church.

On April 20, 1947 as the bride, groom and all their loved ones anticipated the great event at church that day, everyone realized that a very important person was missing, the priest! Fr. Lambros Vakalakis was fairly new to the area, and having taken the wrong bus was lost somewhere in North Syracuse desperately looking for St. Sophias. An altar boy was sent out looking for him and he was eventually brought to perform the blessed sacrament. Jim and Mary’s honeymoon plans did not go smoothly either as their car broke down on the way to The Thousand Islands Region. They returned to Syracuse and took the train to New York City instead. A special memory from the trip was a visit to Dempey’s Bar where they were both amazed at their first sight of a television! They cut their honeymoon short to return to Syracuse for the wedding of another iconic St. Sophia’s couple, Harry and Ann Tzivani!

Following their wedding Mary quit her job at Carrier to help Jim with the family grocery business. The business relocated several times from Otisco Street to Kennedy Street and finally to Delaware Street. Jim retired for a short time after selling the Onondaga Circle Market but quickly returned to work for Tops in Valley Plaza.

Being busy running a family business and raising their children did not deter Jim and Mary from being active members of the St. Sophia’s community. Jim served the Parish council for over thirty years and remains a lifetime honorary member. He was president of the Parish council from 1989-1990 Mary became a lifelong member of Philoptochos. They were involved with the Greek festival from its inception and volunteered for many church fundraisers over the years. Their love for our church is absolute and they have felt honored to be stewards of the church. In return for their lifelong dedication to the church they were honored by the Pan-Macedonian Association in 2007 and in 2015 Jim received a Testimonial of Appreciation by Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit.

In 2022 Jim and Mary celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary surrounded by the people who love them including their children Lula, Effie and Bill, five grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and the St. Sophia's community. Their commitment to one another and their exemplary participation in the life of St. Sophias has earned them the respect and love of all who know them. We look to them as shining examples of humble God fearing servants living a life dedicated to family and church. May God continue to bless them and their loved ones.
AHEPA Syracuse Chapter 37 will never forget those remarkable brothers and parishioners for their service to our chapter, to our parish and to the greater Syracuse Area.

From the AHEPA National Convention Book August 15th to 21st 1937 held in Syracuse, NY

Daniel Pananicles...........................................President
Charles DeSerras...........................................Vice-President
Leo Collis.....................................................Secretary
Harry N. Constas...........................................Treasurer

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Dennis K Vlassapulos, Peter Brown, Sam Kyriakos, Stephen Vassiliadis

APPOINTED OFFICERS
Peter Kambas.............................................Captain of the Guard
Peter Photopoulos.........................................Warden
Stephen Vassiliadis.......................................Chaplain
Michael Geiss, Dennis Stameris, Peter Vlassapulos..........Sentinels

By Mike Labatos, Chairman; AHEPA Syracuse Chapter 37; 100th Anniversary Committee and Lt. Governor Empire State District 6
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Join us on:
Saturday, January 13, 2024
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
at The Bistro 1926 at Drumlins

Philoptochos Luncheon
&
Sunshine Committee Introduction

Check out this months’ NEPSIS for more information on how to make a reservation.

Sunshine Committee
Support the members of our community who are not mobile, unable to commute to church and attend our church services and community events. **Share your gift of service to bring love and light to our church members in need.**

Instead of a Gift Exchange,
Consider a Donation of Greeting Cards to support the Sunshine Committee and its outreach efforts. To learn more about how you can get involved in the Sunshine Committee, reach out to one of the Philoptochos Officers.

Interested in learning more? Sunshine Committee Contacts: Ellen Tartakoff and Vicky Speno - OR Reach out to any one of the Board Officers listed below to learn how you can engage your time, effort and gifts to serve our community.

President: Theone Kalkinis
Vice-President (1st): Vickie Mihou
Vice President (2nd): Patty Donahue-Carey
Treasurer: Tina Carkey
Assistant Treasurer: Frieda Meskos
Secretary (Corr): Cara Potamianos
Secretary (Rec): Chryssanthi Intze

Please join us on Saturday, January 13, 2024 to learn more.

With the Spirit of Philanthropy,
Theone Kalkinis
Philoptochos President
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
$25/PERSON
(Cash or Check made payable to Philoptochos)

PHILOPTOCHOS LUNCHEON
BISTRO 1926 @ DRUMLINS
800 NOTTINGHAM RD
JOIN US IN WELCOMING NEW MEMBERSHIP AND FORMAL MEETING
Instead of a Gift Exchange, Consider a Donation of Greeting Cards to support the Sunshine Committee and its outreach efforts
To learn more about how you can get involved in the Sunshine Committee, reach out to one of the Philoptochos Officers
RSVP by 1/6/2024
After church services reservation table OR
CARA POTAMIANOS (315) 430-1907
STAVROULA KIPOROPoulos (315) 708-5003
**PHILOPTOCHOS COFFEE HOURS**

Philoptochos Coffee Hours began again on September 10, 2023. If you are interested in scheduling a Coffee Hour, please call the Church Office. Fees for sponsoring a Coffee Hour are as follows, payable to the Philoptochos:

|$50.00 Fee  
Philoptochos provides and serves the coffee, milk, sugar and juice. Parishioner provides pastries.

|$150.00 Fee  
Philoptochos provides and serves the pastries, coffee, milk, sugar, juice.

There will be no sponsored Coffee Hour on Stewardship Sunday, Godparents Sunday and Cheesefare Sunday.

Just a reminder...... Please note that there will be no sponsored Coffee Hours during the Summer months of June, July and August.

Parishioner wishes to have a coffee hour during the summer months of June, July and August the fee, payable to the Philoptochos, is $50.00. Philoptochos would provide coffee, cups, sweetener, creamer, stirrers and set up a serving table. The parishioner would be responsible to provide pastries, setup the serving station and tables, serve at the coffee hour and clean up following the coffee hour. Please call Vivian Alexander, Coordinator Coffee Server at (315) 673-2880 or (315) 430-6162.

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**January 2024 Volunteers To Serve Coffee Hour**

A special thank you to the following ladies of our community who have volunteered to donate their time to serve coffee:

- **January 7, 2024**  
  Artemis Voudouris  
  Sophia Wales

- **January 14, 2024**  
  Diane Peters  
  Aliki Anastasiou

- **January 21, 2024**  
  Chrisoula Anastasiou  
  Katina Baikos

- **January 28, 2024**  
  Eleni Dimanidis  
  Vasiliki Elovaris

~ Also, first two weeks of February 2024 ~

- **February 4, 2024**  
  Constantina Georgiadis  
  Roda Giaprakis

- **February 11, 2024**  
  Artemis Gilbert  
  Heppi Vastakis

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

If you are not currently on our list of volunteers for coffee hours, a sign up sheet is in the gymnasium.

All are welcome.
January 2024 Memorials
Eternal Be Their Memory

January 7, 2024
- Memorial Service for Christos Dimkos (1 Year)
- Memorial Service for Paschalina Tomkos (40 Days)
- Memorial Service for Evangelos Nakis (1 Year)
- Memorial Service for Alexander Mantzakos (13 Years)
- Trisagion Prayer for Vangel Sterio (6 Years)
- Trisagion Prayer for George Potamianos (26 Years)

January 14, 2024
- Memorial Service for Michel Mantzakos (40 Days)
- Memorial Service for Paschalina Tomkos (40 Days)
- Memorial Service for Evangelos Nakis (1 Year)
- Trisagion Prayer for Vangel Sterio (6 Years)
- Trisagion Prayer for George Potamianos (26 Years)

January 21, 2024
- None Scheduled

January 28, 2024
- None Scheduled

At St. Sophia’s,
we sing after
the Divine Liturgy:

Σὲ ὑμνοῦ, σὲ ὑμνοῦμεν, σὲ εὐλογοῦ, εὐλογοῦμεν, σοὶ εὐχαριστοῦμεν, Κύριε, καὶ δεόμεθα σου, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν!

(Se im-nu, se im-numen, se evlogu, evlogumen, see evharistoumen, Kyrie! Keh deometha sou, O Theos eemon!)

(We hymn you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, Lord, and we pray to you, O our God!)

November 2023
Sacramental Registry

Baptisms
Elijah (Elijah Edwin Branca)

Funerals
Fani Kousmanidis
Paschalina Tomkos

January 2024
Coffee Hours

January 7, 2024
In Memory of
Christos Dimkos
Given by the Family

January 14, 2024
In Memory of
Evangelos Nakis
Given by the Family
January 2024
Program Schedule For Cable Television
All Programs Air on Spectrum (Time Warner) Cable Chanel 98
in Onondaga County

Sunday Programs at 7:00 pm
“Tradition Today”
On Fox 68 WSYT
The series has ended
(On Spectrum channel 98)

January 7, 2024— The History of the Jesus Prayer
January 14, 2024—The Parts of the Jesus Prayer
January 21, 2024—Writers on the Jesus Prayer
January 28, 2024—The Context of the Jesus Prayer

Monday Programs at 7:00 pm
Fr. David’s “The Inner Way”
series airs every Monday

January 1, 2024—Unseen Warfare, Chapter 28
January 8, 2024—Unseen Warfare, Chapters 29, 30, 31
January 15, 2024—Unseen Warfare, Chapter 32
January 22, 2024—Unseen Warfare, Chapter 33
January 29, 2024—Unseen Warfare, Chapter 34

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Family Classic TV
Sponsored by
St. Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Church

Sundays at 5:00 pm
The Cisco Kid with Duncan Renaldo & Leo Carrillo
(2 episodes)
PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME

Sundays at 6:00 pm
Sir Lancelot with William Russell

Sundays at 6:30 pm
The Adventures of Robin Hood with Richard Greene

Thursdays at 8:30 pm
Sherlock Holmes with Ronald Howard

Fridays at 8:00 pm
Jim Bowie with Scott Forbes

PLEASE NOTE.....
Our programs also air on Verizon FIOS cable channel 29,
Sunday at 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm
Thursday at 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm
Many programs also appear on the internet at frdavidsmith.com
2024 Youth Calendar for Sunday School

Jan 2024
Jan 7—Stay in Church: Blessing of Waters
Jan 14—Teaching in Classrooms
Jan 21—Teaching in Classrooms
Jan 28—Children’s Sermon: All Classes in Church

Feb 2024
Feb 4—Teaching in Classrooms
Feb 11—Teaching in Classrooms
Feb 18—No Sunday School
Feb 25—No Sunday School

March 2024
Mar 3—Carnivale Group Sunday School
Mar 10—Teaching in Classrooms
Mar 17—Teaching in Classrooms
Mar 24—Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession
Mar 31—No Sunday School

April 2024
Apr 7—Cross Sunday: Children’s Sermon in Church
Apr 14—Teaching in Classrooms
Apr 21—No Sunday School
Apr 28—Palm Sunday

May 2024
May 5—Pascha
May 12—Mother’s Day
May 19—Sunday School Graduation
May 26—No Sunday School
2024 Youth Calendar
for GOYA & JR GOYA

Jan 2024
Jan 12 to 13—Lock In, Meeting at 5:30 pm followed by 6:00 pm Family Night, Board Games, Slime, Pizza and a Movie

Feb 2024
Feb 10—All Youth Dance in Gym 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Feb 11—Souper Bowl Sunday

March 2024
Mar 10—Meeting at 12:30 pm
Mar 24—Greek Independence Day Performance

April 2024
Apr 6—Koulourakia Cooking Class 10:00 am to Noon
Apr 27—Palm Folding: Open to all young people

May 2024
May 19—Reception & Last Meeting
# St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church—January 2024

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<td>9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. BASIL</td>
<td><strong>EVE OF EPIPHANY</strong> 9:00 AM ROYAL HOURS 6:00 PM THEOPHANY VESPERAL LITURGY (IN GREEK) 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS</td>
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<td><strong>VASILOPITA SUNDAY</strong> DANCE PRACTICE</td>
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<td><strong>8:45 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST</td>
<td><strong>8:45 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY LEAVETAKING OF THE THEOPHANY</td>
<td><strong>5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP</strong> 6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101</td>
<td><strong>5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP</strong> 6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101</td>
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<td><strong>PHILOPTOCHOS LUNCHEON</strong> <strong>BISTRO 1926 @ DRUMLINS</strong> 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS 6:00 PM YAL ICE SKATING</td>
<td><strong>8:45 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY LEAVETAKING OF THE THEOPHANY</td>
<td><strong>DANCE PRACTICE</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ALL YOUTH EVENT AT GREEN LAKES BOWLING 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM</strong> 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS</td>
<td><strong>5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP</strong> 6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101</td>
<td><strong>5:30 PM JESUS PRAYER GROUP</strong> 6:30 PM ORTHODOXY 101</td>
<td><strong>9:00 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. ANTHONY 6:00 PM PARAKLESIS 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 8:00 PM SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY OCF</td>
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<td><strong>8:45 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE</td>
<td><strong>8:45 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE</td>
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<td><strong>8:45 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE</td>
<td><strong>8:45 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE</td>
<td><strong>9:00 AM ORTHROS</strong> 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS 4:30 PM YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING</td>
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<td>6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL</td>
<td>9:00 AM ORTHROS</td>
<td>10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE</td>
<td>6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL</td>
<td>5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS</td>
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<td>8:45 AM ORTHROS</td>
<td>10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY</td>
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<td>5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS</td>
<td>6:00 PM ALL YOUTH GROUPS DANCE</td>
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<td>8:45 AM ORTHROS</td>
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<td>8:45 AM ORTHROS</td>
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<td>SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE</td>
<td>8:45 AM ORTHROS</td>
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<td>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN &amp; PHARISEE</td>
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<td>Fr. David out of town for Metropolis Clergy Meeting</td>
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