

NEPSIS

Spiritual watchfulness and alertness. "Watch, therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:42)

Saint Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church
325 Waring Road
Syracuse, New York 13224

Phone (315) 446-5222 Fax (315) 251-1654

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"The Discipline of Silence"



This is from a monastery newsletter (Holy Transfiguration in Ellwood City, PA) published on Pascha 1987. These words have much to say to us today:

We live today in a busy and noisy world. Wherever we go, we are protected from the risk of finding ourselves alone in silence: in stores, doctors offices, and on the telephone "mood music" welcomes us. Even at home, so often we find ourselves flicking on the TV or radio to keep us company. We get nervous if dinner-table conversation lags.

Paul Evdokimov, a theologian who writes specifically for people trying to live the Christian life in modern society, says that our ascetic discipline today could consist of giving up all our stimulants, including frantic activity and noise. We could then take on the "discipline of regular periods of calm and silence, when we could regain our ability to stop for prayer and contemplation, even in the heart of all the noises of the world; and could then listen to the presence of others."

Strange as it may seem, if we want to have true, deep encounters with other people and with God, we absolutely must spend time by ourselves in quietness. Why is this? First of all, if we want to get to know another, whether a human being or God, in a true, deep and personal way, we must at the same time get to know ourselves. For, as Saint Seraphim of Sarov noted, if we do not understand ourselves, how can we understand anything else? The human person, created in the image of the three divine Persons, is not just a set of superficial characteristics, but a rich and complex being. It takes time and care to get to know a person, even when this person is oneself.

For this reason, we must from time to time lay aside all our activities and even our speech - for while these are expressions of our inner being, they still remain external to us - in order to be alone with ourselves. When we lay aside all the things that we *have* and all the things that we *do* then we can look at what's left and find out who we *are*. This is not always enjoyable – sometimes we may be afraid that there will not be much left. But if we take the risk of continuing, over a long period, to explore our inner terrain, we will discover not only that we are not all we thought we were, but also that we are and can be more than we ever dreamed possible.

Continued on Page 2

OCTOBER 2025

<u>2025</u> Parish Council

Peter Manolakos President

Thomas Anthis Jr.
<u>Vice President</u>

Robert Allen Secretary

Michael Copanas <u>Treasurer</u>

Joy Weatherup-Anthis Dimitrios Giaprakis Eleni Kosmas, MD Martha Lemondes George Nardone Marianna Politis-Tacea Christopher Shiomos, OD Jeanette Capousis Vigliotti

> <u>Honorary</u> <u>Board Member</u> James Sakezles



VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE stsophias.org



"The Discipline of Silence"



There is one caution, however, that we must observe on this inner journey. The human person is not a complete person in isolation; just as God, in whose image we are made, is One in three Persons, so human persons are meant to live in relationship with one another and with God. This brings us to the second reason for needing times of silence and solitude. If we are never alone with God, we will never get to know Him; if we are never silent with God, we will never hear Him. Of course, in our prayer life, we must talk to God, even very simply, like children. But if we never stop chattering and spend time being silent before God, we will not develop a real relationship with him.

It is the same in our relationships with other humans – they develop best with an alternation of togetherness and solitude, of speech and silence, of expressing, listening and reflecting. In close relationships, some of the deepest communication takes place without any words at all, when to simply enjoy each other's presence, or realize that their connectedness continues through periods of absence.

What is more, although the intimacy between a human soul and God is a mystery which should, to some extent, remain private, there come times when we long to share the fruit of our most precious relationship – that with God – with the people who are also precious to us. At those times, only words which flow out of an inner silence, and inner peace, will bear the weight of what we have to say. As Archimandrite Vasileios says in his book *Hymn of Entry*:

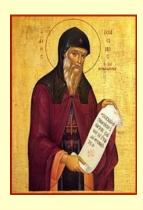
"It is not a matter of finding what to say, but of how to be silent, how to hear the Spirit speaking in our silence or our speech: the question is, how can we become instruments of the Spirit?"

If we are to be clear-sounding Instruments playing the pure music of the divine Spirit and of our human spirit, we must learn first how to be silent; we must learn first to listen to that music with which we desire to resound. For this is true silence: not simply an emptiness, an absence of noise, a lack of sound, but a fullness, an attentive listening to ourselves, others, and God, all readiness to receive the beauty which is offered us.

Your affectionate servant, Father David

IMPORTANT DATES OCTOBER 2025 CHURCH CALENDAR

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GERASIMOS
OF CEPHALONIA
Monday, October 20
9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am
Divine Liturgy

DEMETRIOS
THE MYRRH-STREAMER
Sunday, October 26
8:45 am Orthros
10:00 am
Divine Liturgy







PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parish,

And a good time was had by all. Or so I have been told, both first and second hand. What was this event? Why it was St. Sophia's 5th Annual Panagiri. We had 130 reservations, we cooked for 150, and we had 30 people just show up for a total of about 180. Somehow our cooks, led by the Doctor of Hunger Kosta Kousmanides, managed to feed all but a very few. Many thanks to Kosta and his loyal crew, Evans and Sarie Panos, Steve Nicolaos, Stav Capousis and Mike Copanas. Many others pitched in setting up, serving, and cleaning up. At 8:00 pm a few of us started to pick up the chairs. Within minutes our parishioners were on their feet, racking the chairs and moving the tables back into the church. Nothing needed to be said. Everything was done by 8:45 pm. Thanks to Parish Counselor Martha Lemondes for taking the lead on an event that is becoming another St. Sophia's tradition.

Tradition- Tevye sings a song about it in "Fiddler On The Roof". By the end of the play, all the traditions were upended. The familiar and time tested rules of his "culture" were all violated. So like any smart head of a family who let love outweigh the "rules" of his tribe, he adapted and moved to America, the burying ground of so many old world traditions. These imported traditions inevitably succumb to new ideas, modernity and technology. But it is not only foreign traditions that are overwhelmed by our fast changing environment. Home grown traditions also bite the dust. Indeed, there are times when some feel like the very ground beneath us is no longer stable. We make accommodations, we try to keep up and yet often enough the pace of change overwhelms.

To feel this flux, this upheaval, we have to reference the past, to remember the way things were. The young have no such natural reference. The young live in, are immersed in, the present, the now. One should not be old fashioned, they say. We must embrace the future. Well to no small degree, that is true. To be mired in the past can set you up to be run over by the future. Let's not forget the US Buggy Whip Corporation. One might say, of course, that is the way of things, the way of the world.

That is not, however, the way of the Church. In Orthodoxy we base our faith and our practices on Holy Tradition—the Word of God as it was given to us in the Bible, the teachings of the Apostles, the words of the Holy Fathers of the early church, the Ecumenical Councils, the liturgy itself. If you go to the Archdiocesan website (GOARCH.ORG) you will find an extensive explanation of Holy Tradition. We count on Holy Tradition to maintain the beliefs and practices of Orthodoxy. It is Holy Tradition which has allowed us to practice our faith today just as the early Christians did. It is Holy Tradition which provides the stability and consistency of our religion over the centuries. This is crucial for us in our quest to get closer to God. God does not change. The notion that our beliefs and practices must bend and change because "our world has progressed" is a dangerous road to take. If we replace Holy Tradition with the slogan of the day, we will have lost our way. Jesus told us what to do, how to live. Holy Tradition shows us the way to salvation. Glory be to God.

Yours in Christ, **Peter Manolakos**Parish Council President





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Where, When and Why is it Celebrated?

Every year on October 28th there is a celebration which is celebrated in Greece called "Ohi Day". In Greek "Ohi Day" is called "I Mera tou Ohi (H $\mu \epsilon \rho \alpha \tau \sigma \nu 'O \chi \iota$)".

People celebrate it because on October 28th, 1940 the Greek President Metaxas said to the Italian President Mussolini (who was a dictator and was a friend to Hitler): "NO! I will not let you take over Greece! (OXI! Δεν $\vartheta \alpha \ \sigma \varepsilon \ \alpha \phi \dot{\eta} \sigma \omega \ v \alpha \ \pi \dot{\alpha} \rho \varepsilon \iota \zeta \ \tau \eta v \ E \lambda \lambda \dot{\alpha} \delta \alpha$ ".

In response to Metaxas's refusal, Italian troops attacked Greece and it was the beginning of Greece's participation in Second World War.



Name Address







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Stewardship Message

Mark your calendars. The Parish Council will host our annual stewardship breakfast on Sunday, November 16. We will, if necessary, also have Parish Council elections on that day. In addition, we have scheduled the fall General Assembly meeting for November 2. Just a reminder, to vote at the general assembly meeting and to vote in the election, you must be a member in good standing of St Sophia's. This means that you have submitted a 2024 pledge card, paid that pledge, and have submitted a 2025 card, which does not have to be paid until December 31, 2025. We will post the names of parishioners in good standing on the gym door. If you feel you are a member in good standing but your name does not appear, don't go ballistic. Just call the office and Katina will address your situation. It only takes a phone call.

The Stewardship Committee

2025 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 2025 a total amount of \$_____

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

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City 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

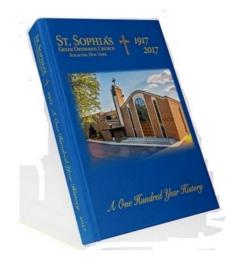
Visit the St. Sophia's website at www.stsophias.org. There is a wealth of information on the website with the most up to date calendar on services and events, color photographs from recent functions, electronic sacrament forms to easily fill out and submit, and an online chapel highlighting the days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

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We welcome everyone to join our Choir Check the Church Calendar for upcoming Choir Practices



Available in the Church Bookstore The One Hundred Year History of St. Sophia's Church 200 pages of history and pictures!

Includes 50 pages devoted to the 2017 Centennial Celebration

Discounted price of \$30

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August 2025 Sacramental Registry

Baptisms



Chase Jeffrey Cavanaugh Samantha Rose Ingersoll

Weddings



Bride: Sierra Marie Vasiliou Groom: Christopher A. Yeschick

Funerals



Anastasios Sinitsas James E. Calocerinos



October 2025 Memorials Eternal Be Their Memory

October 5, 2025



<u>Memorial Service</u> Georgios Ioannou (1 Year)



October 12, 2025



<u>Memorial Service</u> Marguerite Reynolds (1 Year)



October 19, 2025
None Scheduled

October 26, 2025
None Scheduled





October 2025
Coffee Hours



October 5, 2025 None Scheduled

October 12, 2025
None Scheduled

October 19, 2025 None Scheduled

October 26, 2025
None Scheduled



October 2025 Ladies Volunteering 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:

<u>October 5, 2025</u> Vasiliki Elovaris Roda Giaprakis

October 12, 2025 Constantina Georgiadis Artemis Gilbert

October 19, 2025 Anastasia Ioannidis Zafiria Kozaniti

October 26, 2025 Lula Kiser Stavroula Kipouropoulos

Also, first two weeks of November 2025

November 2, 2025 Despina (Tina) Lemon Frieda Meskos

<u>November 9, 2025</u> Patricia Meskos Vasiliki Mihou

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





<u>PHILOPTOCHOS</u> <u>COFFEE HOUR SERVICE</u>



Philoptochos provides the coffee service during Coffee Hour on Sundays from September through May. During these months, please call the Church Office to schedule a sponsored coffee hour for a memorial.

Procedure to Schedule a Memorial Sponsored Coffee Hour Service:

1. Call the church office 315-446-5222 and schedule the memorial and sponsored coffee hour with Katina Luvadis (Church Administrative Assistant).

2. Choose one of the levels of Coffee Service below. Coffee Hour Service Fees to be paid ONLY by check made payable to Philoptochos (Memo line: include date of service & name of honored loved one.)

Mail check to: Attn: Philoptochos 325 Waring Road - Syracuse, NY 13224

Sponsored Coffee Service Options

=>Basic Coffee Service - \$50 includes the following:

Philoptochos provides and serves the coffee, milk, sugar, and juice. Parishioner provides the pastries.

=>Super Plus Coffee Service - \$150 includes the following:

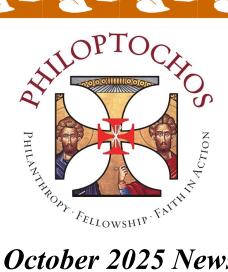
Philoptochos provides and serves the Pastries, coffee, milk, sugar, and juice.

Reminder: Dates not available to sponsor Coffee Hour service include; Stewardship Sunday, Godparents Sunday, and Cheese Fare Sunday. Please refer to the Church calendar for these dates.

*Summary Months of June, July and August:

To sponsor a coffee hour during these summer months only Basic Coffee Service (\$50) is available. Philoptochos provides coffee, cups, sweetener, creamer, stirrers and set up the serving table. Parishioner provides: Pastries, set up the serving station and tables, serve the coffee hour and clean up service immediately following coffee service. During these summer months, please call either Coffee Coordinators of Coffee Service - Vivian Alexander 315-673-2880 or 315-430-6162 or Maria Allis.





October 2025 News

Dear Fellow Parishioners.

The word this month is commitment. That is our commitment to our faith, traditions and parish.

As we step into a new month together, we should keep in mind of our love Throughout every season, joyful or difficult, our for one another. community, traditions and faith remain which let us prosper equally and united.

Let us never forget our faith is something that is not reserved for Sundays. Rather something practiced daily with compassion, humility and action. Every time we light a candle, help our neighbors or attend a service we are upholding our beliefs and traditions which is what binds us together.

I encourage you all to stay involved, attend services, participate in our many ministries and invite each other to do the same. Our church community flourishes when we remain connected in purpose and prayer. May we all walk this path of faith and fellowship with grace and love to strengthen our commitment to Christ. Remembering that through Christ, all things are possible.

With love in my heart and strength in my faith,

Jeanette Capousis-Vigliotti

President of Philoptochos



Philoptochos YIAYIA'S JEWELRY SALES

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE THAT DONATED JEWELRY TO PHILOPTOCHOS FOR THE ONGOING JEWELRY SALES

PROCEEDS FUND THE NUMEROUS
PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS OF PHILOPTOCHOS

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTINUE
TO DONATE YOUR JEWELRY—WE NEED IT!

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND

DROP OFF YOUR DONATED JEWELRY
TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR
PLACE IN THE PHILOPTOCHOS MAILBOX







MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, Nov 2, 2025 General Assembly Meeting

Sunday, Nov 16, 2025 Parish Council Elections

Sunday, Nov 16, 2025 Stewardship Sunday & Breakfast



The Jamesville Dewitt Ecumenical Food Pantry has been relocated twice in the last few months.

> Our building is being renovated and the work is behind schedule.

We will not begin to collect our food bags for the pantry until we are back into our permanent space. Hopefully, this will be in the beginning of November. Please keep the pantry in your prayers

to continue serving those in need in our community.









October 2025

Program Schedule For Cable Television All Programs Air on Spectrum Cable Chanel 98



Sunday Programs at 7:00 pm On Spectrum Channel 98 We continue the series Creation History in Genesis

> October 5 Genesis 3:1

October 12 Genesis 3:1-5

October 19

Genesis 3:6-7

October 26 Genesis 3:8-14 Monday Programs at 7:00 pm Fr. David's "The Inner Way" series airs every Monday

> October 6 Unseen Warfare, chapter 12

> > October 13

Unseen Warfare, chapter 13

October 20

Unseen Warfare, chapter 25

October 27

Unseen Warfare, chapter 26

Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37 ~ Cotober 2025 News ~ ~

AHEPA Chapter 37 will be having a picnic/food get together at the AHEPA Home on Onondaga Hill on November 8th. If you're interested in attending please let Jim Telonis know at (315) 247-6639. Non AHEPA members are also welcome.

AHEPA initiation event/ Christmas get together will take place in December, details to follow.

Winter Wonderland Two Dinner Dance, co-sponsored by AHEPA, Philoptochos and the Parish Council, will be held Saturday, January 10, 2026 at St. Sophia's. Entertainment will be by the Aegeans.

The first annual AHEPA family banquet will be held Saturday, May 16, 2026 featuring Hall of Fame SU men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim.

AHEPA Chapter 37 currently has 70 members and is always looking for new members to join us in serving our community. Through our AHEPA Housing branch we provide affordable housing for qualified seniors, our AHEPA Foundation donates to local charities and we support our Church and our youth through scholarships for continuing education. Please contact Jim Telonis if you're interested in joining our chapter.

Thank you,

James Telonis, President Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37



A STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Run for a position on St Sophia's Parish Council!

The Election Committee is seeking candidates to fill four (4) church board positions, expiring at the end of 2025. An official notification will be sent out by the Election Committee dated October 6th. Please feel free to contact one of the Election Committee members if you are interested in or would like to recommend someone to serve a three year term on the Parish Council.

Eligible candidates should be a member in good standing in St. Sophia Parish and a member for a minimum of one year. A candidate in good standing is any person who:

- Was baptized according the rites of the Church, or was received into the Church through chrismation.
- Who lives according to the faith and cannons of the Church
- Has met their Stewardship obligation (completed 2024 obligations and has paid ³/₄ of their 2025 Stewardship by October 26, 2025).
- Abides by the by-laws of the Parish.

<u>Candidate filing:</u> Interested candidates will file a simple petition for candidacy, complete a short resume form, and provide a picture.

Filing deadline is:

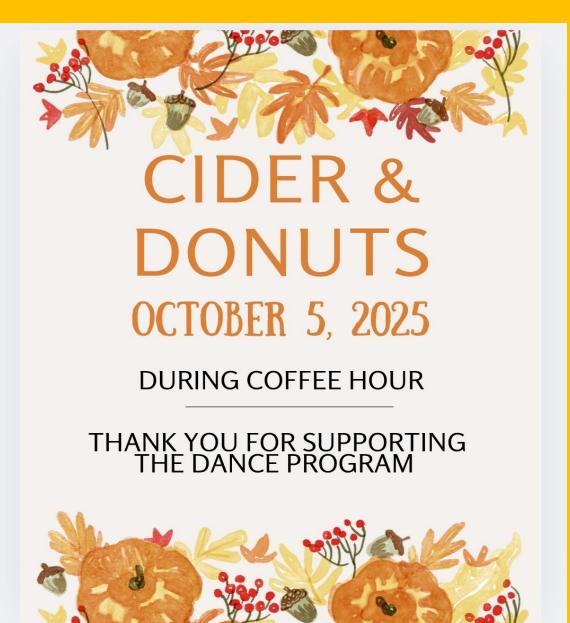
Sunday, October 26, 2025

Election Day is November 16, 2025

Our committee looks forward to speaking with all interested parties. Contact information for the Election Committee is as follows:

Sophia Meskos, Chair	315-559-5555 (C)	sophiameskos@yahoo.com
Andrew Miledonis	315-487-1126 (H) 315-882-7926 (C)	andrewmiledonis@gmail.com
Diane Peters	315-622-3318 (H)	dcpeters312@gmail.com
	315-748-9812 (C)	
Ellen Tartakoff	315-447-4799 (C)	eltartakoff@gmail.com
Sophia Wales	315-897-7998 (C)	sophiawales12@gmail.com











St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church—October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
			1	2	3	10:00 AM ROMANIAN LITURGY		
			6:00 PM PARAKLESIS	6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS		
5 8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY	6	7	8	9	10	11		
2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE		10.00 AW BIBLE STORT	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~					
	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	7:00 PM OCF AT SU		6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
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8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SUNDAY OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL 7:00 PM OCF AT SU			6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
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6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101  6:00 PM AHEPA MEETING 7:00 PM OCF AT SU			6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS			
8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE	27	28 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	29	30	31			
	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	7:00 PM OCF AT SU	6:00 PM PARAKLESIS	6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE				

# St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church—November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Thu	Fri	Sat
							1 10:00 AM ROMANIAN LITURGY 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM OCF AT SU	6:00 PM PARAKLESIS	5	6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	7	9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	11 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY VETERANS DAY 7:00 PM OCF AT SU	6:00 PM PARAKLESIS	12	9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	14	15 NATIVITY FAST BEGINS  5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY MATTHEW THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST  STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY & BREAKFAST	17 6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY  6:00 PM AHEPA MEETING 7:00 PM OCF AT SU	6:00 PM PARAKLESIS	19	20 6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE	5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE	24	25  ~~~ <i>FATHER DAVID IS</i> 7:00 PM OCF AT SU		~~~	27  THANKSGIVING	28	29 5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
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