

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 (315) 251-1654



"The Bible in our Cultural Expressions"

Recently I was speaking with a young person who didn't recognize the phrase, "the writing is on the wall." This idiom refers to a story from the Old Testament book of Daniel. An evil king Belshazzar gave a feast at which he drank wine from the sacred vessels of the Jerusalem temple (his father had stolen them from the Jews). Within a short time, a huge hand appeared and wrote something on the wall in Hebrew. No one could read it, but everyone knew it was not good! Daniel was summoned and read the prophecy for the king, who was so frightened that he became insane, living with wild animals and eating only grass.

"The writing on the wall" is something that tells you bad things are coming. This reminded me of other biblical idioms that enrich our language:

Salt of the earth. This was given to us by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5:13), as He described people who quietly add flavor to the world. They're not the leaders or the saints, but the regular people who love God and serve Him and thereby make the world a better place.

Feet of clay. Back to the book of Daniel for this one. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a huge statue made of gold, silver, copper, iron, and clay (Daniel chapter 2). The feet were made of clay, and Daniel's prophecy said that the statue represented the king, whose reign would be like the head of gold. But others would come to rule and eventually (represented by the feet of clay) bring about the destruction of the kingdom. "Feet of clay" describes someone who is strong and has a bright future, but who also has a fatal flaw which will eventually destroy everything.

Have you ever heard someone referred to as "a voice crying in the wilderness?" This refers to St. John the Baptist (John 1:23), alerting the people to the coming of the Messiah. This phrase refers to someone announcing something people need to know, but no one pays attention. I can't imagine.

Who would "build a house on sand" (there was a rumor that Bob Dylan had built his Malibu house on sand, but it wasn't true)? This also comes from the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 7:26-27), where Jesus tells us that those who ignore His words are like someone whose house falls down the first time it rains. The phrase refers to constructing something carelessly.

Hey, what better reason to start attending the Bible study other than to discover the myriad of ways the Bible has enriched our language? And you know what? The ones I've talked about here are just "a drop in the bucket" (Isaiah 40:15).

Your affectionate servant, Father David

SEPTEMBER 2025

2025 Parish Council

Peter Manolakos President

Thomas Anthis Jr. Vice President

> Robert Allen **Secretary**

Michael Copanas **Treasurer**

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

> **Honorary Board Member** James Sakezles



VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE stsophias.org





IMPORTANT DATES SEPTEMBER 2025 CHURCH CALENDAR

<u>INDICTION</u>—Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year Monday, September 1



NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Monday, September 8

9:00 am Orthros

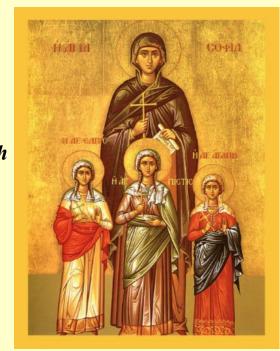
10:00 am Divine Liturgy



ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Sunday, September 14 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm Vespers for St. Sophia & Daughters Tuesday—September 16 Special Guest Speaker Deacon Nicholas Mahshie from St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church

FEAST DAY OF ST. SOPHIA & DAUGHTERS Wednesday, September 17 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Parish,

The leaves have yet to begin to turn, but it seems that the oppressive heat of this summer is behind us. Many of us look forward to the coolness of autumn. I have a friend who says he would like fall more if it were not soon followed by old man winter. Yet winter too can be a time of joy for many - for skiers, the snowmobilers, the football fanatic - the list goes on and on. For everything there is a season, a time to plant and a time to harvest...a time to be born and a time to die.

In his sermon last Sunday (8/24) Father David talked about the verse in Matthew 17:20 where Jesus scolds his disciples and tells them "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed ... nothing will be impossible for you". He says with such faith they could move mountains.

What kind of faith, how much faith gives us the power to overcome the very difficult, even what appears to be insurmountable? I would say it has to be a very deep and intense belief that informs a God centered life. A faith that, even in "small" amounts, allows us to surrender our will, our pride, our vanity to the will of the Lord. The tiny mustard seed grows and multiplies and gives us the power and confidence to overcome the real hardships of life. A faith that keeps us warm in winter. A faith that moves mountains.

St. Augustine tells us to "Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever, and take care of your soul as if you were going to depart tomorrow". We know but often do not do what is good for our body. We know but often do not do what is good for our most valuable possession—our soul. The church fathers echo Jesus's admonition to us. We nurture our soul with prayer and fasting. We need to participate in the sacraments of the church. We must abide by the Lord's commandments. But most of all, we must have a genuine and intense faith in and love for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Seek, Jesus says, and you will find, knock and the door will be opened. Knock hard, with a deep love of God, and the door will be opened. All this is easy to say, but for me, at least, it is very hard to do. Every day is a day of struggle, a day of unseen warfare. And without God's grace there is no hope of winning. But hey, that salvation would be easy, the bible never says.

Oh, and speaking of doors, the front doors of our church have been repaired, sanded, and re-stained. The doors were in a state of serious disrepair that could no longer be ignored. Thanks go to those parishioners who took the significant amount of time and effort to take the doors down, seal the entrance, transport the doors, and finally put them back up. If weather permits and we will hold the Panayiri outside, the doors will be a beautiful backdrop for our festivities.

We will have our 5th Paniyiri on September 13th. We have changed the menu quite a bit. Our wonderful chefs will prepare a meal of Greek chicken and potatoes, salad, and desert. There will be various mezzethes to start the meal off. Come, enjoy, and kali orexi.

Sunday school begins on September 14. That is the same day as the GOYA kickoff. As so many tell me, the youth of our church are a big part of its future. We are fortunate to have great kids, from which it follows that we have great parents. We have high participation in the dance groups, but less enthusiastic participation in other youth activities. To all those great parents, please let ME know how you think we can enhance our activities to generate more participation.

So summer is behind us and the busy time at church begins. I look forward to seeing those of you who have been M.I.A. for the summer. For those who managed to come during the summer, attendance, as you well know, is its own reward. Praise be to God.

Yours in Christ,

Peter Manolakos

Parish Council President





Join Us for a Night of Food, Music, & Dancing!

ST SOPHIA'S ANNUAL

PANIYIRI

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

OUTSIDE ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS

5 PM

8 PM

- GREEK-STYLE CHICKEN
- POTATOES, SALAD, GYRO,
- MEZETHES, DESSERTS, & MORE!

Minimum Donation \$10

BRING YOUR APPETITE- OPA!









St. Sophia's Blood Drive

Sponsored by Assemblyman John Lemondes

September 23rd 11:30 am—4:30 pm

St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church 325 Waring Road, Syracuse, NY 13224 <u>Lower Level Social Hall</u>

Be someone's lifeline...donate blood!

For an appointment, please,

- Visit redcrossblood.org, or
- Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), or
- go to: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stsophias

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.

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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Name	1 teuse 1 tini.			
Address City Telephone	()	State Email Address	Zip Code	
Signature		Date		

THE COMPLETION OF THIS CARD IS A REQUIREMENT TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING



<u>Stewardship Message</u>

The 2025 Stewardship year is barreling to its close. In a couple of months we will hold our annual stewardship breakfast. I hope you will, if you are financially able, increase your stewardship contributions in 2026. I say this all the time. The cost of running the church has risen significantly over the last two decades. Yes, the profit from the festival has risen also. But this year we have had major expenses that will reduce our balances. And lower interest rates will put a big dent in our interest income. I understand that your own regular expenses - food, clothing, insurance have gone up. That is why I say, "if you are able". And thank you for the monetary donations you have made and the volunteer hours you give. Thanks to all who are true stewards of our church.

June & July 2025 Sacramental Registry

Baptisms



Evangelos Samuel Scopelianos Evangelia Silakowski

Chrismations

Benjamin John Alexander Anthony Foster Scavella Samuel Alexander Murtaugh

Funerals



Ann Arvan
Elpis Voutsinas
Angelo S. Vastakis
Stergeos G. Arvantides



September 2025

Memorials

Eternal Be Their Memory



September 7, 2025 Memorial Service Christine (Anthou) Alex (3 Years)

> Trisagion Prayer Helen Copanas (8 Years)

Trisagion Prayer Maria Savas (19 Years)

Trisagion Prayer James Copanas (26 Years)

> September 14, 2025 None Scheduled

September 21, 2025 Memorial Service James Calocerinos (40 Days)

Memorial Service Anastasios Sinitsas (40 Days)

> September 28, 2025 None Scheduled







September 2025 Coffee Hours

September 7, 2025
In Memory Of
Christine (Anthou) Alex
Given by the Scopelianos Family

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In Memory Of Helen Copanas & James Copanas Given by the Family

September 14, 2025
Sponsored by Philoptochos
In Honor of
Elevation of The Cross

September 21, 2025 None Scheduled

September 28, 2025 None Scheduled



September 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>September 14, 2025</u> Heppi Vastakis Chrisoula Anastasiou

September 21, 2025 Helen Aravantinos Katina Baikos

September 28, 2025
Katherine Bristol
Eleni Dimanidis

Also, first two weeks of October 2025

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

October 12, 2025
Constantina Georgiadis
Artemis Gilbert

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

All are welcome.













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:

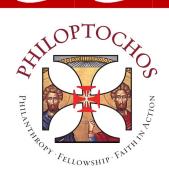
Philoptochos provides and serves the Pastries, coffee, milk, sugar, and juice.

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.





September 2025 News

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I hope everyone had a good summer and is refreshed and ready to get back into the swing of things!

Our focus this month is fellowship, and actually always is. Fellowship is not just about being together, but growing together and giving back within our church and community. While giving back can be viewed as giving a monetary donation, it is so much more! Giving back is helping the different organizations in our church, bringing the next generation to church and helping the communities that surround us. Over my summer I went to several cultural festivals, as well as many community events. In going to these events, I was able to see fellowship through the different perspective of other cultures and organizations, having love and pride for their cause or community and the support they had. In saying this, I hope to show that even the smallest act of fellowship, even if still monetary is appreciated, but your presence and commitment matters just as much to our church and community.

Philoptochos has a lot of good things planned for the upcoming year that will incorporate fellowship, joy and dedication to our family at St. Sophia's and the community.

Our meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month, to start at 6:00 pm in the lower level. I am looking forward to meeting and welcoming both old and new members! On September 14th, the names of the ladies of Philoptochos will be read with the blessing of five loaves of Artoclasia. Special thanks to Maria Allis for making the Artoclasia. Our first fundraiser will be the annual spaghetti dinner, date to be announced. Lastly, we are always looking for people to help serve at the coffee hours, as well as donations towards coffee hour.

We look forward to another successful year and to seeing everyone at our next meeting, and as always in church!

In Christ.

Jeanette Capousis-Vigliotti

President of Philoptochos







Philo-Sophia Bookstore

Open after Church on Sundays

We offer for purchase an assortment of Icons, Books & Religious Items



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September 2025

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



Sunday Programs at 7:00 pm On Spectrum Channel 98

Gregory Melnick continues the series Creation History in Genesis

September 7 Genesis 2:8-14

<u>September 14</u> 2:15-17

September 21 2:18-23

<u>September 28</u> 2:23-25

Monday Programs at 7:00 pm Fr. David's "The Inner Way" series airs every Monday

St. Isaac the Syrian, part 5

<u>September 8</u> Unseen Warfare, chapter 1

September 15 Unseen Warfare, chapter 2

September 22 Unseen Warfare, chapter 3

September 29 Unseen Warfare, chapter 11





Monday, September 1

Labor Day is the day set aside to pay tribute to working men and women It has been celebrated as a national holiday in the United States since 1894





ANNUAL MEET & GREET Sunday, September 21st

Please join us in the gymnasium after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 21st for the Annual Meet & Greet. Each Church organization will have a table set up with information available. Please visit the many tables and join the many organizations that St. Sophia's has to offer for all age groups.













SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be starting Sunday School for the Year 2024-2025 on Sunday, September 14.

Parents may register children online or at the September 21st Meet & Greet



Syracuse AHEPA Chapter 37 ~ ~ September 2025 News ~ ~

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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.

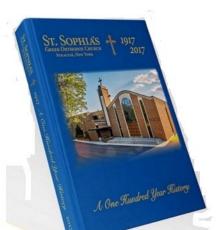
Winter Wonderland Two Dinner Dance, co-sponsored by AHEPA, Philoptochos and the Parish Council, will be held Saturday, January 10, 2026 at St. Sophia's. Entertainment will be by the Aegeans.

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



Available in the Church Bookstore and at the Meet and Greet
The One Hundred Year History of St. Sophia's Church

200 pages of history and pictures!

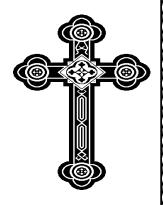
Includes 50 pages devoted to the 2017 Centennial Celebration

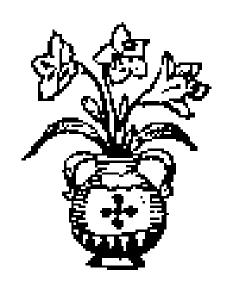
Discounted price of \$30

ON THE JESUS PRAYER "Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me!"

The Jesus Prayer is the foundation of perfection
This prayer has filled Paradise with holy men and women.

Blessed Elder Amphilochios of Patmos, + 1971





<u>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</u>

Sunday, Nov 2, 2025 General Assembly Meeting

Sunday, Nov 16, 2025
Parish Council Elections

Sunday, Nov 16, 2025 Stewardship Sunday & Breakfast



Welcome Back! Opa!

We are looking forward to another successful dance year!



The dance program continues to fundraise for new costumes. Thank you to all that have donated already! Here is a link to make a donation. https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZDFW/campaign/C-160E6.

The dance program is utilizing the Remind app for communications. You may have noticed your child moved to the appropriate dance group.

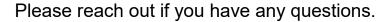
Please check that we have the information correct.

DIT: Prek-1st Elem: 2nd-4th MS: 5th-8th HS: 9th-12th

If your child is entering Prek-4 this year they are eligible to join Dancers in Training!

If you are new to the dance program you will need to sign off on a media release form and fill out a parent/guardian contact information sheet as well.

We are looking forward to new and exciting events planned for the dance program this year.





Your Dance Team

Andriana, Anastasia, Clemente, Chyrssa, Crystal, Marianna, Tina & Stavros

Required Form Submit to Dance Team

MINOR (CHILD) RELEAS	, the parent
or legal guardian of	[Child] el grant
St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church	- •
Permission] permission to use the pho	
platform associated with <u>St. Sophia's Instagram accounts.</u> [Describe Photog	
including but not limited to: publicity, o	· - · ·
illustration, advertising, and web conte	ent.
Furthermore, Remind is a safe and se	ecure platform for groups
to post.	
Parent/Guardian's Signature:	
	Date
Parent/Guardian's Name:	
Child's Name:	
Phone Number:	



	equired Form it to Dance Team
Parent Name(s):	
Child Name(s):	
Current Grade Level(s):	
Email:	
Cell Number:	
Any important medical inf (food allergies, environme	ormation to make us aware of? ntal allergiesetc.)

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church—September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	LABOR DAY INDICTION Ecclesiastical New Year	2 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	5:00 PM PARAKLESIS 6:00 PM ST. PAISIUS: FROM FARASA TO HEAVEN	6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	5	6 10:00 AM ROMANIAN LITURGY
8:30 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS	9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	5:00 PM PARAKLESIS 6:00 PM ST. PAISIUS: FROM FARASA TO HEAVEN	6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	12	5:00 PM PANIYIRI
8:30 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	16 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM VESPERS ST SOPHIA & DAUGHTERS	9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST SOPHIA & DAUGHTERS 5:00 PM PARAKLESIS 6:00 PM ST. PAISIUS: FROM FARASA TO HEAVEN	18 6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	19	5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS
8:30 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS MEET & GREET GOYA KICK OFF 28 8:30 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101 29 6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	23 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM 30 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	5:00 PM PARAKLESIS 6:00 PM ST. PAISIUS: FROM FARASA TO HEAVEN	6:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	9:00 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN	5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church—October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4	
						10:00 AM ROMANIAN LITURGY	
			6:00 PM ST. PAISIUS: FROM FARASA TO HEAVEN	6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS	
5 8:45 AM ORTHROS	6	7	8	9	10	11	
10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE		10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~			
	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101			6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE			
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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				6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS	
19 8:45 AM ORTHROS	9:00 AM ORTHROS	21	22	23	24	25	
10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY 3RD SUNDAY OF LUKE	10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY ST. GERASIMOS	~~~~~~~~~~~FATHER DAVID IS OUT OF TOWN ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~					
	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101			6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		5:00 PM GREAT VESPERS	
8:45 AM ORTHROS 10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY	27	28 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY	29	30	31		
6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE	6:00 PM ORTHODOXY 101	10.00 AW DIDEL OF OD F	5:00 PM PARAKLESIS 6:00 PM ST. PAISIUS: FROM FARASA TO HEAVEN	6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE			