

The Testament

SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH | ALBANY, NY

Volume 39 | Summer 2023



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT



ALBANY, NEW YORK

Celebrating 100 Years



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TESTAMENT: AUGUST 1, 2023**

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Front Cover Image:
St. Mary Magdalene Icon in Tiberias
©Rev. Patric Legato

Left: St. Mary Magdalene
©Vasiliki Tsamis

Fr. Pat's Insights

“

It was a day like any other day in the life of the people living in Jerusalem. Up at the crack of dawn, with the sun rising in the east, the dry, warm air would, in a few hours, heat up and the daily chores of living and doing would become almost unbearable.

So the morning was the best time to complete all the hard labor and obligations. The market place would be crowded with shoppers searching for the daily commodities and foodstuff to get through another day, before the searing heat zapped one's strength. Milling about the temple, the priests and scribes would get down to their daily task of studying the Word of God and debating the meanings and prophetic imagery, while the political leaders would discuss the needs of the people and how to appease the Roman interlopers who dictated policies, set taxes, and demanded obedience to Caesar. Meanwhile, the Imperial soldiers, who militarily controlled the city, would patrol and oversee every man and woman, free or slave, and visitor to the city, enforcing the law as dictated and prescribed. The city was bustling with work, building projects, oversights, and energy. There was a constant bustling of people. Everyone had a job to do, a place to be, or a responsibility to be fulfilled. It was like every other day, outside of the Sabbath. This day, however, an activity of epic proportions, would soon break the mundane existence of the people.

By now. Fifty days after ridding the city and the people of a man called Jesus, his proclamations, religious freedom, and hint of religious sedition were but an annoying memory. The leaders of the Jewish city had avoided a personal, religious and political catastrophe, while the Romans were no longer as worried about a populist uprising, because the leader of the “movement,” was crucified and buried. The followers of this movement and disciples of the Nazarene, were gathered together in a solitary room, and did not venture out as a group, for fear of being recognized and turned into the Roman prefect as the seditious rabble that almost turned the city upside down.

“...they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came down from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues”

The world of the Apostles and all of mankind had suddenly transformed. These men in hiding were suddenly filled with insight, courage, and strength. The city, which was teeming with visitors and traders from throughout the Middle East, as well as the inhabitants of the city, heard the tumult and quickly came to investigate. To their amazement, they clearly recognized the followers of the Upstart, who now exhibited an intellectual and spiritual presence which before had not existed. The Apostles began to speak to the wonders of God, and were heard by the onlookers in their native languages! Peter, the one who had denied knowing Jesus, stood up and addressed the crowd, which continued to arrive to find out what the noise was all about. The people who witnessed and heard the teachings of the Apostles that day were numerous and by the day’s end over three thousand people were baptized. The Apostles then began to openly preach the Word of God and teach in the temple, and to also go out into the world. Their travels took them throughout the Mediterranean basin and beyond. Thomas, the twin, was said to have gone to the far reaches of the East to India. They had transformed completely. Fear was no longer their mantra. Filled with the Spirit, they fearlessly and with conviction, preached the Word of God.

What a great and uplifting story to remember. The Apostles, who followed Jesus for three years with awe and respect, had been cast into a shadow of fear when He was arrested, tried, and crucified. They then saw Him. Walked with Him, and even were privileged to witness Him ascend body and soul into heaven. They knew He had resurrected, but what did that mean to them? They were locked away in hiding and seemingly without a purpose. That all changed with Pentecost. Their time had come. They were filled with the Spirit and from that point forward knew there was no fear which could overcome them.

We too need to make an observation and recognition of our own. We all, at the time of our baptism, have a Pentecostal moment. We are baptized with water and the Spirit. It becomes a part of us. We, unlike the Apostles though, do not seem to regard our situation with clarity. Our total being belongs to the Lord, but we are so negligent and unrelenting, and always point to personal privilege. We, in fact, often go out of our way to dismiss the Lord, and only seem to want to find him when we are in dire situations. Look carefully around and listen. When was the last time we looked in the mirror and saw Jesus in our life and all the courage, strength and, yes, wisdom He desires to share with us? Why do we think we can do as we please, without giving any regard to what His plan might be? We are all sinners and we all need to recognize that we belong not to ourselves, but to God. Sure. We all make mistakes, but no matter how egregious or sinister, careless or harmful, He loves us and desires that we see the truth and follow in His Way, because the Spirit does not flee from us, we simply hide it away.

A very wise person once said that in order to find our true worth, we have to break a few bones. I am sorry to say that our road is not easy, and our best laid plans are not always what is best for us. We must remember that God really does have a plan. Give a look. Take a peek, It can't hurt to try, now can it, and it could be most beneficial.

This summer, let's all strive to find the wind and the tongues of flames that have anointed us. Let us carefully and with faith erase the mistakes and the grime from our souls and return to Christ, or if we think we are already there, enhance our relationship. This summer, when the warmth of the Sun brushes our face, let us feel the brushstroke of God painting our way and find time to open our minds and hearts to God. The Apostles were not the only ones to experience Pentecost. So too have we, and with all His love.

May God bless us and protect us always.

Parish Council

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

If you're like me, you look forward to the longer days, warm breezes, fresh-picked strawberries, BBQ favorites, and vacation adventures that summer brings! And while this start to summer has been unseasonably cool, we can only hope that it means warm days into the fall.

But before we all rush into summer, I simply want to say --- 'THANK YOU.'

Our community benefits from many volunteers who give to of their time and talent throughout the year in a variety of ways. Whether they be Sunday School teachers, altar servers, choir members, Ladies' Philoptochos members, JOY and GOYA advisors, or volunteers in some other way, we all benefit from their tireless services.

These many volunteers embody *servant leadership*. Last month at the Direct Archdiocesan District's Servant Leadership Awards Banquet, held on June 6 at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, NY, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America honored Saint Sophia's own **Harry Ermides** and **Alex Melas**



Michael N. Christakis
President, Parish Council

with the inaugural Servant Leadership Award! With over 700 guests in attendance, Fr. Pat and I were delighted to join our two honorees and their families at an inspiring evening of tributes and recognition. It was an important reminder of the critical role that servant leaders play ---- across our Holy Archdiocese --- in the life of our Church and our individual communities.

I know you join me in congratulating both Harry and Alex on this very well-deserved recognition, and offer our appreciation for their tireless efforts on behalf of Saint Sophia.

THANK YOU to the small army of volunteers who made our 51st annual Greek Festival a resounding success! We saw attendance that rivaled pre-pandemic levels, ran out of food (waste not, want not) and, most importantly, worked together to showcase our culture and community.

Simply put, we could not deliver a festival of this scale without our volunteers. Again ---
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to those who helped make our Annual Church Picnic last month a success as we celebrated the end of the school year for our Greek and Sunday School students. The hot dogs and hamburgers were a hit and, best of all, our youth enjoyed some time together outside!

Finally, to all those who have volunteered in some way, shape or form to help sustain and advance the important work of our parish --- I, again, simply want to say 'THANK YOU.'

While the Christakis' plan to vacation here and there this summer --- including a trip to Greece, I do hope to see you at Church throughout the summer.

In Orthodoxy,

Mike



Pictured Above Left to Right: Parish Council President, Michael N. Christakis, Elaine Pallas, Lea Stevens, Harry and Diane Ermides, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Alex, Georgia, Christo, and Peter Melas



Pictured Above: Award Honorees Harry Ermides and Alex Melas with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Bottom Left: Award Honoree Alec Economakis, Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Washington, D.C. with his Yiayia, Fr. Pat, and Award Honoree Alex Melas

Bottom Right: Friends and Saint Sophia Recipients of Washington D.C. and Albany, NY Alec Economakis and Alex Melas

Sunday School Scoop



Another Sunday School year has come to an end. Thank you to all families for your commitment and attendance this past school year. We look forward to seeing you and your children as well as welcoming new students in the Fall.

Registration is now open for the upcoming 2023-2024 year. Classes will begin on **Sunday, September 17th**. The calendar for the upcoming year can be found in this edition of The Testament.

We are STILL in need of teachers for the upcoming school year! Please contact me at sundayschool@stsophiaalbany.org if you are interested in volunteering. **Please note, you will need to complete a Youth Safety training per the Archdiocesan Guidelines in order to serve.**

Sunday School Registration will be available online at:

bit.ly/stsophiasundayschoolregistration

Contact me if you have difficulty accessing the Google Form.

If your child is an acolyte (altar boy), please still register your child.

Also, please add the Sunday School email address to your contact list.

Any updates and important information will be sent from this email address:

sundayschool@stsophiaalbany.org

and will be where you can contact me if you have any questions.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Sunday School teacher volunteers for their time and commitment this year. I look forward to working with you again in the fall.

I hope everyone has a blessed summer vacation!

In Orthodoxy,

Theodosia Legato

Sunday School Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sunday School meets at 10:00 AM in designated classrooms

SEPTEMBER

17th - First Day of Classes

24th - Class in Session

OCTOBER

1st - Class in Session

8th - Family Worship
No Class

15th - Class in Session

22nd - Class in Session

29th - Class in Session

NOVEMBER

5th - Class in Session

12th - Family Worship
No Class

19th - Class in Session

26th - Thanksgiving Break Family
Worship - No Class

DECEMBER

3rd - Class in Session

10th - Class in Session

17th - Class in Session
Christmas Pageant

24th - Christmas Break
Family Worship
No Class



JANUARY

7th - Class in Session

14th - Family Worship
No Class

21st - Class in Session

28th - Class in Session

FEBRUARY

4th - Class in Session

11th - Family Worship -
No Class

18th - Winter Break
Family Worship - No Class

25th - Class in Session

MARCH

3rd - Class in Session

10th - Class in Session

17th - Class in Session

24th - Class in Session

31st - Family Worship -
No Class



APRIL

7th - Class in Session
14th - Class in Session
21st - Class in Session
28th - Palm Sunday
Class in Session

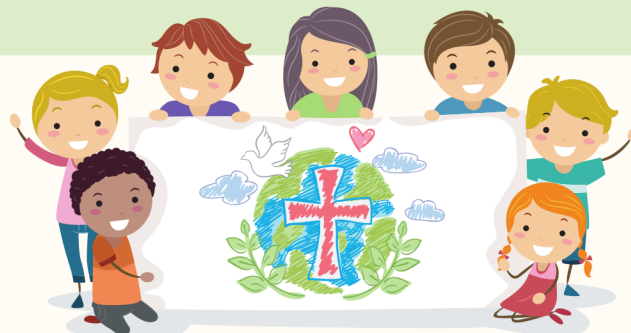
MAY

5th - Easter
Family Worship - No Class
12th - Classes in Session
19th Festival Weekend
Family Worship - No Class
26th Memorial Day Weekend
Family Worship - No Class

JUNE

2nd - Last Day of Class
Sunday School Celebration
Church Picnic

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



Sunday School Registration



Scan me

Scan the QR Code using your cellular device, iPad, or tablet camera below to open the Google Form to register your child(ren) for Sunday School.

Sunday

Sep
17th

following the
Divine Liturgy

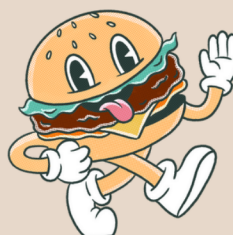
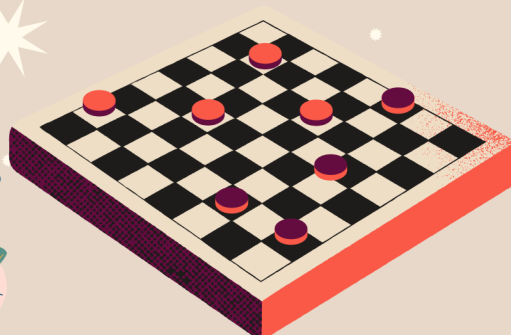


St. Sophia Youth & Family Jamboree

**Free
Entry**

Hosted by:
**St. Sophia
Youth**

**Outdoor
BBQ, Music
& Games**



Youth Ministries

The Festival was a huge success this year and I was personally gratified to witness how prominent a role the Youth played. The energetic dancing, working in souvlaki, lemonade, loukoumades, ice cream, hamburgers and hot dogs and salad booths were but a few of the areas our young people worked in. For me, this was the reinvigoration and participation I was so hoping for and am so proud to have witnessed. Keeping this in mind, our advisors and Youth workers are in for a special revitalization beginning this September. We have been blessed to have so many parishioners interested in helping us give our Youth something more to look forward to in the coming year. Why wait until September, when we can plan ahead and be prepared for the coming year. In consultation with just a few people, I have begun to investigate and to formulate a plan. Of course, nothing will be finalized until all of our advisors have an opportunity to take a look and express their ideas, but I am so confident in my discussions with some very supportive parishioners that I really cannot contain myself.

I would first and foremost like to thank all of our Advisors and parents who worked so hard at keeping our Joy and Goya active. I also wish to thank the dance teachers, Greek school and Sunday school directors and teachers for doing their best to hold our programs together. I know, from first hand experience, that these Programs all have their upsides and downsides, and that we can all be frustrated at times.

Now I want us to visualize a dream which several Youth Workers had brought to my attention a couple of years ago. Their idea was to get all our Youth Ministries working together. After some brainstorming and soul searching, I have the pleasure to announce the format which I, as the Pastor, feel we are all responsible for. This September, we will host a Jamboree Welcome Back party in which all of our Youth will be invited. No, it will not be an individualized JOY, Greek Language & Cultural Academy, GOYA, Sunday School, altar boys or Dance group event, but rather, a Youth Ministries event! Everyone will be asked to participate and it will be an all inclusive program. Yes, it will contain elements of language, culture, dance, fun and games, and faith. It will not just be a “Greek” thing. Our Community has transformed from an immigrant church into a modern all encompassing Orthodox Community.

I, personally, want to know more about Greek, Cypriot, American, Romanian, Albanian, Ethiopian, and our other Orthodox members who are in attendance and share in their customs and traditions, language and culture, and I look forward to us all getting to know one another. Our connection is Orthodoxy. We are so diverse, and an inclusive Community.

It is time to start the process of sharing and working together, and I am confident that the time is not only right, but ripe. Our first event will be held on September 17th following the Divine Liturgy. Food and games are planned and I cannot stress how important it is for not just our Youth to be present, but for our parents & legal guardians to be of service, as well as the entire Community.

In addition, in the planning stage are trips to the Hayden Planetarium on Monday September 25, a trip to Radio City Music Hall for the Christmas show and a visit to Rockefeller Center and the world famous Christmas tree, a visit to an offsite venue to bowl, be challenged to a laser tag competition, and a pizza night. We are also exploring visiting a ski slope and going tubing. Lastly, we are also exploring the possibility of an overnight trip, or camping experience during the summer vacation period and after school lets out next June.

I realize this may sound like a daunting task, but if we all work together, I am confident that what was once a dream, will become a reality for all of us. I am ecstatic and excited for the opportunity to share in the diversity of the various cultures and the added sense of getting to know our Orthodox faith well helping our Youth to stand up to the rigors and challenges of our technological society with a shared experience. There is so much to do and so much to learn. I am confident and enthusiastic in our collective ability to define exactly who we are, where we came from, and where we shall go. Look for more information and pay attention to emails and especially to our Sunday bulletin this summer.

Let's get ready for a very different approach to what being an Orthodox Youth truly means.

In Christ's Name,

Rev. Fr. Patric Legato
Proistamenos

ST. SOPHIA YOUTH & FAMILY TRIP

**Hayden Planetarium
at the American
Museum of Natural
History in NYC**

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023



**BUS LEAVES FROM ST. SOPHIA
PARKING LOT AT 7:30 AM
RETURNS AT 9:00 PM**

More Information to Follow

Contact Fr. Pat to Reserve a SPACE

Saint Mary Magdalene

Commemorated on July 22nd

Poulos, G. (1990). Saint Mary Magdalene. In *Orthodox Saints* (pp. 51-52. Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Pr.



The doctrine of equal rights for women is not a twentieth century concept, but had its beginning with Jesus of Nazareth who accepted Mary Magdalene into his confidence and recognized her as being on equal footing with the apostles.

Such was the status of Mary Magdalene, who was privileged to walk beside our Savior, that she was bestowed with the title of *Isapostolos*, "Equal-to-the-Apostles," a title of which few are aware. This ignorance of the true Mary Magdalene resulted from conflicting and misleading facts about her life, which diminished the true greatness of a woman who was favored by God to the extent that she had the confidence and companionship of Jesus Christ himself.

The popular misconception that Mary Magdalene was a fallen woman stemmed from accounts of Western Christendom. It was assumed that since Mary came from Magdala, a city as notorious as Sodom and Gomorrah, she was of ill-repute and was later cleansed of her many sins by the Lord.

But on the contrary, the Evangelist Luke depicted her as the stricken woman whom Jesus healed by removing seven demons from within her. Be that as it may, it is universally known that following her confrontation with the Lord she rose to become his close friend and devoted follower.

What woman, fallen or not, would not have traded places with Mary Magdalene to be near him who died to save the world, to be the woman who agonized at his trial, wept at his crucifixion, and glorified him in resurrection? What greater honor than to be at the tomb of Christ and to speak to him (John 20. 1-18)? What Christian woman would not wish herself to be a Mary Magdalene to know the excitement of accompanying St. John the Theologian after the Ascension of Christ?

The biblical account of Mary Magdalene, as with any passage from Scripture, must be read more than once, for in it will be found inspiration for Christian women who can identify with Mary. Aside from the apostles themselves, none of our saints shared the privilege of Mary's joy in being in Jesus' company. Other saints who were born at a later time did share an intimacy with the Lord while they were on earth, but Mary was alive when Jesus walked the earth.

How long Mary Magdalene lived after the death of Christ is not known, but what is certain is that she died in Ephesos where she had gone with St. John the Theologian. She was buried at the entrance to a cave where Christians had sought refuge.

In the year A.D. 890, through painstaking research under the direction of Emperor Leo, the remains of Mary Magdalene were located, removed from the entrance of the cave and were transferred to the capital city of Constantinople. Her remains were buried in a chapel where the remains of Lazarus are also said to be buried.

There is nothing to indicate that St. Mary Magdalene, prior to her encounter with Jesus Christ, was a woman of questionable virtue. The disparate views of the stricken women about to be stoned cannot be supported by documented evidence but indications are that at the very worst she was a woman possessed. In that case, the fault not lying with her, it was only through divine intervention that could have saved her and that intervention came about when the Lord strode into the crowd about her and in cleansing her indirectly, cleansed those privileged to look upon a miraculous power of God through Jesus Christ. It follows, therefore, that St. Mary Magdalene, having felt that spark of divine within her, could very well thereafter have expressed it to others in token of everlasting gratitude as well as a solemn desire to share this proximity to the divine with others. So long as the forces of darkness lurk to seek the destruction of the divine image in mankind there is the safety net weaved by St. Mary Magdalene and many more like her.

Accorded the honor of being one of the "Myrrh-bearing Women" of the New Testament, Mary Magdalene was further honored with the grand title of Isapostolos, a solemn tribute to a woman who brought glory to all women of faith.

her memory is commemorated each year by the Orthodox church on July 22.

ΜΝΗΜΗ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗΣ

22η Ιουλίου

(Από τον Ιερέως Γ. Παπασταύρου, Εφημέριου Ιερού Ναού «Αγίας Βαρβάρας» Πατρών...
Με Τους Αγίους...Προς τον Χριστον, Πάτραι 1973)

Η αγία αυτή Μυροφόρος, τιμάται από την Εκκλησία μας με ιδιαίτερη τιμή και χαρακτηρίζεται ως ισαπόστολος. Πάρα ταύτα πολλοί απληροφόρητοι ή κακώς πληροφορημένοι, υποβιβάζουν την τιμήν, που της έχει αποδώσει η Εκκλησία και νοθεύουν την ιερή ιστορία της. Και το χειρότερο, ορισμένοι θεατρίνοι και αστέρες του κινηματογράφου έχουν διαστρέψει με την φαντασία τους ή και από κακοπιστία τα περιστατικά της ζωής της και την παρουσιάζουν σαν αμαρτωλή και συνήθως την συγχέουν με την πόρνη του Ευαγγελίου, πως αναφέρεται εις το περιωνύμων τροπάρων της Κασσιανής. Καλόν λοιπόν είναι να ξέρουμε και εαυτού την αλήθεια, όπως την διδάσκει η Αγιά μας Εκκλησία.

Σύμφωνα με την ιερά ιστορία του Ευαγγελίου, η Μαρία η Μαγδαληνή υπήρξε από τις πλέον θερμές και αφοσιωμένες μαθήτριες του Κυρίου μας. Κατηγετο από τα Μαγδαλα, δια τούτο και Μαγδαληνή ονομάζετέ. Ήτο άρρωστη από επτά δαιμόνια και θεραπευθεί υπό του Ιησού. Έκτοτε τον ακολουθήσε πιστά μέχρι της Σταυρώσεως και της ταφής Του.

Αξιώθηκε πρώτη από τας Μυροφόρους να ήδη τον Κύριον και μετά την Ανάληψη, βγήκε όπως και οι Απόστολοι κηρύττουσα το Ευαγγέλιον. Κατέληξε εις την Εφέσον και έμεινε πλησίον του Ευαγγελιστού Ιωάννου. Απεθανε εκεί όσιός και εταφη εις την είσοδο ενός σπήλαιού. Το έτος δε 899 μ.Χ. επι της βασιλείας του Λέοντος του Σοφου, το άγιο Λείψανο της μεταφερθεί εις την Κωνσταντινούπολη. Αυτή είναι με λίγα λόγια η πραγματική της ιστορία, που μας δίδει πολλά διδάγματα. Πρώτον, ότι κοντά στο Χριστό βρίσκουμε τη λύτρωση και τη θεραπεία από τους πειρασμούς των πονηρών δαιμόνων, είτε είναι φανεροί, είτε αφανείς. Δεύτερον, οφείλουμε απέραντη αγάπη και ευγνωμοσύνη στο Σωτήρα Χριστό, δεδομένου «ότι πάσα δόσης αγαθή και παν δώρημα τέλειον... >> απ' Αυτόν χορηγείται. Και τέλος, είναι μεγάλο πράγμα να τεθούμε στην υπηρεσία του Αγίου Θεού. Διότι Εκείνος θα αξιοποιήση τις δυνάμεις μας και τις ικανότητές μας και θα μας ανάδειξη άξιούς της βασιλείας των ουρανών.

Saint Titus

Commemorated on August 25th

Poulos, G. (1990). Saint Titus. In *Orthodox Saints* (pp. 141-142. Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Pr.



If a man be known by the company he keeps, then a man called Titus could be remembered for all time solely for the reason that he enjoyed the confidence and close companionship of St. Paul, considered to be the greatest figure in Christianity.

The true greatness of Titus remains obscured by the fact that he is traditionally called to mind as the traveling companion of St. Paul, but a closer look at the man reveals Titus to be much more than a peripatetic escort, content to stand in the shadow of the mighty Paul. In his prolonged lifetime, he evinced the attributes which had led Paul to single him out in the first place.

Born twelve years after the Savior whom he was to serve for nearly a century, Titus, according to tradition, came of royal lineage of the house of Minoa, king of the prominent and influential island of Crete, the Mediterranean citadel of ancient culture and civilization. When he was thirteen years old and immersed in the traditional studies, he had a dream in which he was told his education would avail him naught if he failed to discover that the salvation of his soul was his true purpose in life. Seven years later, when Jesus of Nazareth was but a year away from his crucifixion, Titus had another dream in which a voice instructed him to read in the Holy Scriptures the passage from Isaiah, which reads, "Ye isles, keep a feast to me. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation; they shall not be ashamed nor confounded anymore."

Titus, oblivious to his destiny with divinity, saw as the key from the Scripture the word salvation and, after discussing the matter with his uncle, then ruler of the island of Crete, was given permission to leave the isle and seek out the New Faith which the ministry of Jesus Christ was bringing to the world. With sublime anticipation he journeyed to the Holy City of Jerusalem with a

glorious feeling that something wonderful was going to happen to him, and, indeed, something wonderful did happen. He met Jesus Christ

From that grand moment onward, Titus pledged himself to a lifetime service to the Lord and forthwith plunged himself into that task with such boundless enthusiasm that he caught the eye of St. Paul and was beckoned into a missionary life for the Messiah that stands forever in ecclesiastical history as the most important and, certainly, the most spectacularly successful crusade for Jesus, a campaign which assured the permanence of Christianity. Paul and Titus, lacking the legions of Alexander the Great or the elephants of Hannibal, went forth into the vast reaches of Asia Minor and brought to multitudes not the yoke of oppression but the sweet victory of the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Titus had witnessed the coming of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost, and although he was only one out of a small army of 120 apostles chosen to spread the Gospel throughout the known world, his stature was such that Paul, the mightiest convert of them all, preferred his company above all the rest. Their teamwork in the staggering logistics of converting entire nations remains to this day a marvel in human excellence and perseverance. They shaped the course of mankind as no other duo in history, and without the success of their mission the earth would doubtless orbit in spiritual weightlessness.

At Paul's suggestion, Titus went to his native Crete alone, there to promote the establishment of houses of worship and to provide the necessary personnel for the maintenance of a cohesive Christian Church to serve the needs of all the people. Titus rejoined Paul in Greece, where once again they became the most formidable pair to tread the path of righteousness. In due course, they were separated and the beloved Paul met a martyr's death in Rome at the hands of the tyrant, Nero.

Conversely, Titus lived to the ripe age of ninety-five, long enough to see himself honored many times over. In walking with Paul he had walked with God. He died on 25 August 107.

Church Calendar

July 2023

Services at 9:30 AM

Sunday, July 2nd | 4th Sunday Matthew

Sunday, July 9th | 5th Sunday Matthew

Sunday, July 16th | Holy Fathers

Sunday, July 23rd | 7th Sunday Matthew

Sunday, July 30th | 8th Sunday Matthew

ΙΟΥΛΙΟΥ

Λειτουργία at 9:30 μμ

Κυριακή, 2η | Δ Ματθαίου

Κυριακή, 9η | Ε Ματθαίου

Κυριακή, 16η | Κυριακή των Αγίων Πατέρων

Κυριακή, 23η | Ζ Ματθαίου

Κυριακή, 30η | Η Ματθαίου

August 2023

Services at 9:30 AM

Tuesday, August 1st | Paraklesis

Wednesday, August 2nd | Paraklesis

Thursday, August 3rd | Paraklesis

Friday, August 4th | Paraklesis

Sunday, August 6th | Transfiguration of Christ

Monday, August 7th | Paraklesis

Tuesday, August 8th | Paraklesis

Wednesday, August 9th | Paraklesis

Thursday, August 10th | Paraklesis

Friday, August 11th | Paraklesis

Sunday, August 13th | 10th Sunday Matthew

Monday, August 14th | Great Vespers in

Poughkeepsie & Windham

Tuesday, August 15th | Divine Liturgy Kimisis
Tis Theotokou

Sunday, August 20th | 11th Sunday Matthew

Sunday, August 27th | 12th Sunday Matthew

ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΣ

Λειτουργία at 9:30 μμ

Τρίτη, 1η | Παράκλησις

Τετάρτη, 2η | Παράκλησις

Πέμπτη, 3η | Παράκλησις

Παρασκευή, 4η | Παράκλησις

Κυριακή, 6η | Η Μεταμόρφωσις τοῦ

Κυρίου Ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

Δευτέρα, 7η | Παράκλησις

Τρίτη, 8η | Παράκλησις

Τετάρτη, 9η | Παράκλησις

Πέμπτη, 10η | Παράκλησις

Παρασκευή, 11η | Παράκλησις

Κυριακή, 13η | Ι Ματθαίου

Δευτέρα, 14η | Μέγας Εσπερινός εν

Poughkeepsie & Windham

Τρίτη, 15η | Κοίμησις τῆς Ὑπεραγίας

Θεοτόκου

Κυριακή, 20η | ΙΑ Ματθαίου

Κυριακή, 27η | ΙΒ Ματθαίου

Easter & Lenten Donations 2023

With sincere thanks to the following for their special donations for this year's Lent and Easter services.

1st Salutation Wreath	The Karamanol Family
2nd Salutation Wreath	In Memory of Felia Kondoprias
3rd Salutation Wreath	In Memory of Pappou & Yiayia Melas
4th Salutation Wreath	In Memory of John Deffigos
Akathist Hymn Wreath	Anonymous
Palms for Palm Sunday	Anonymous
Wreath for the Service of the Bridegroom	The Family of Nicholas Vasilakos and Panatiotis Koutoulas
Last Supper Wreath	In Memory of John Cholakis
Holy Thursday Crucifixion Crown	In Memory of Thano Jeoney
Candles for the Twelve Gospels	In Memory of Christos Xythalis
White Sheets & Hand Towels	Anonymous
Holy Oil, Rosewater	Anonymous
Carnations for Unnailing Service	"The Three Sisters"
Resurrection Lavaros	In Memory of Nicholas & Katina Soflogis
	Catherine & Christ Diamond
Resurrection Icon	In Memory of Pappou & Yiayia Marinopoulos
Resurrection Candles	In Memory of Tom, Mary, Steve Sarris
	John & Katerina Dallas & Family
Easter Eggs	In Memory of Georgia & James Zarifis, Mary Ann Gregor, and Gregory Gregor
Lilies	Anonymous
	In Memory of Nicholas & Irene Glinos
	In Memory of Petros & Sotiris Kilara
Epitaphio	In Memory of Alex Loupessis
	In Memory of Michael & Jane Melas
	In Memory of Helen Trigonis



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(3) dedicate the promotion of Christian Fellowship and values between the evolving diversity of cultures and its people.