

NOV/DEC 2025

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

the testament



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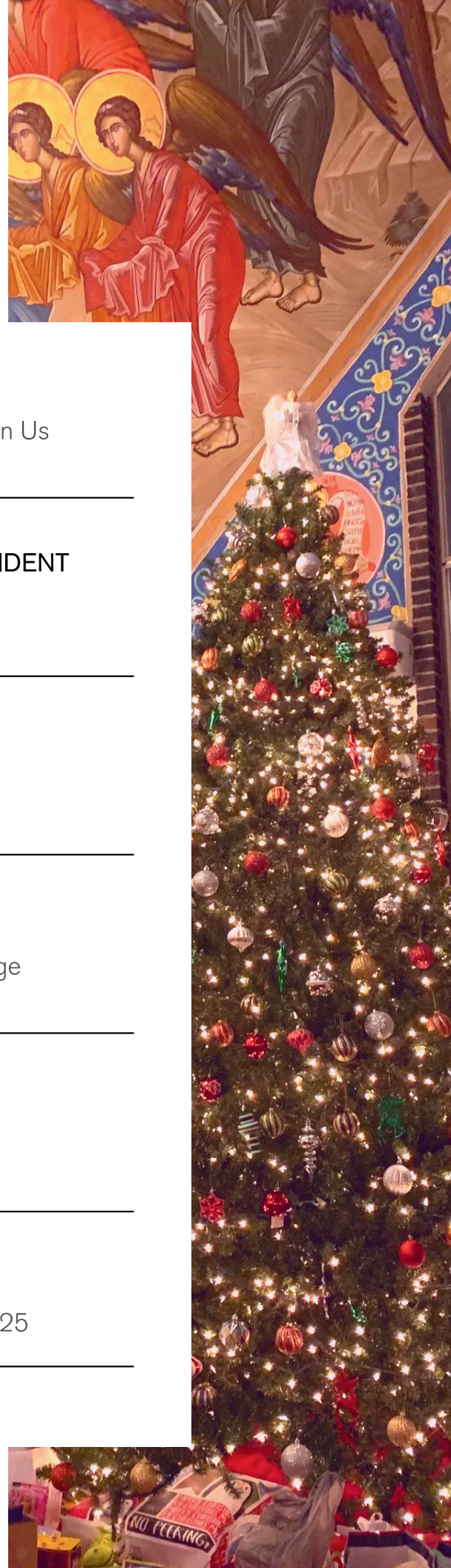
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the testament

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9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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**THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. SOPHIA
IS A PARISH UNDER THE SPIRITUAL AND
ECCLESIASTICAL SHEPHERDING OF
HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS
OF AMERICA OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA,
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE.**



Author Visit, Discussion & Book Signing

Grace Unbound

The Sacred Activism of an Orthodox Bishop

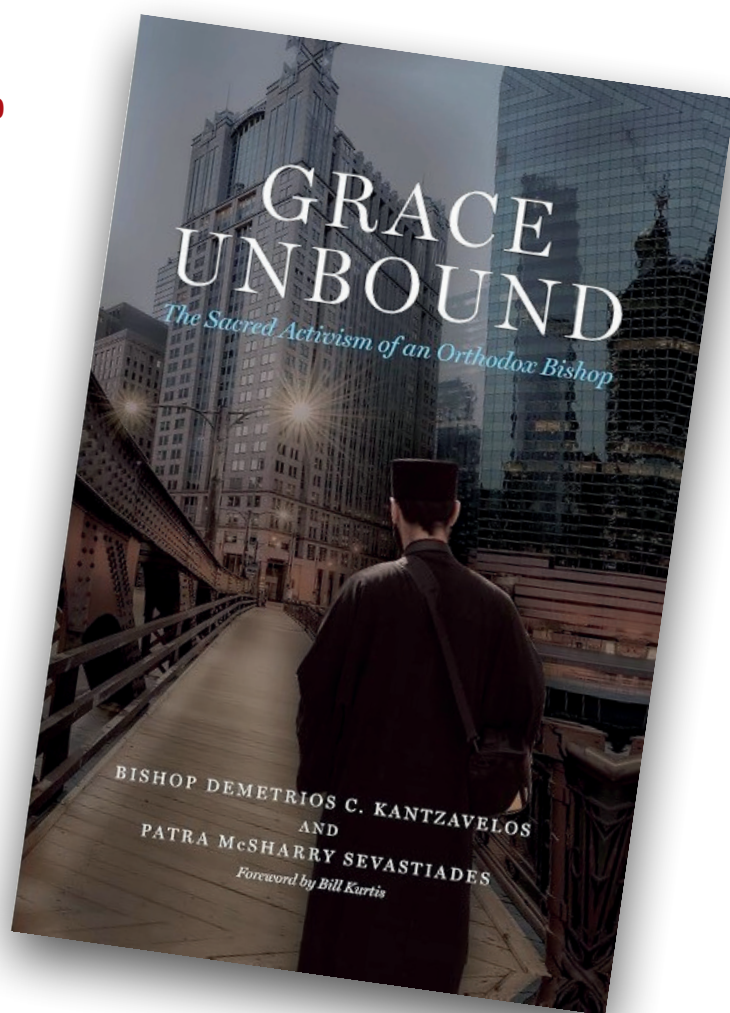
By Bishop Demetrios C. Kantzavelos

**Tuesday, November 18
at 7:00 pm**

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
440 Whitehall Rd. Albany, NY

Free and Open to the Public

Join us for a moderated discussion with the New York State Writers Institute's **Paul Grondahl** and **Bishop Demetrios**, author of *Grace Unbound*, as they discuss how a single act of compassion sparked a deeper calling to social activism, setting Bishop Demetrios on a path he had not anticipated. *Grace Unbound* is a gripping true story of faith, justice, and redemption, as one priest's mission to save a single life becomes a fight to transform an entire system.



Bishop Demetrios C. Kantzavelos is an ordained bishop, social activist, and leader in the Orthodox Christian Church. He is the former chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, and an auxiliary bishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Paul Grondahl is the Opalka Endowed Director of the New York State Writers Institute at the University at Albany. He was a staff writer at the Albany Times Union from 1984 to 2017, and is the author of several books, including political biographies of Theodore Roosevelt and Albany Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd.



FR. PAT'S INSIGHTS

Image: Festive Christmas Carol with Holiday Baubles by Owen.outdoors from Pexels



The Holiday Season will soon be upon us and November and December will see us celebrate several major saints and commemorative holidays. I do not believe anyone can ever overstate the power Thanksgiving and Christmas hold for us. Thanksgiving is an American tradition which has a direct correlation in our Orthodox faith, and Christmas is one of the great Holiday's of the Lord.

The word "Thanksgiving" has a very special meaning for us as Orthodox Christians. Θεία Ευχαριστία means "Holy Thanksgiving," and represents the depth of our holy Divine Liturgy culminating in the reception of Holy Communion. This life giving gift of Jesus to us is our opportunity to directly commune with the Lord. Holy Communion is our saving grace which overcomes our sinfulness and restores us in our relationship with God. It is the Last Supper and the idyllic and true source of receiving forgiveness. The depth of participating in the act of receiving the precious Body and Blood of Christ should never be understated. Thanksgiving, then, is not only an American tradition, but an Orthodox obligation.

Christmas literally means, "gathering in Christ." The Greek terminology, however, has a greater insight for us, and gets right to the point. Χριστουγεννα, directly translates to: "birth of Christ." As Orthodox Christians, Christmas is more than a celebratory gathering for some event in the life of Jesus. It is the pronouncement and act of the birth of Jesus. It is He who comes into our world to offer us the gift of salvation. It is the Incarnation and the prompt to begin our journey to eternal life.

Taken together, Thanksgiving and Christmas should provide us with a springboard to a faithful commitment to the Lord. To be thankful, and to receive this munificent, forgiving life line and Gift from God is truly without parallel. Then, four weeks later, we become witnesses to the act of He Who is the Salvation of our lives, and the provider of this lifeline.

How unfortunate that we have not spent more time adoring the Christ-Child and appreciating the "gift" of forgiveness. Frolic and play have replaced the solemnity of the work of God in our lives. The celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas have over the last Century and a half has underscored the religious aspect of these celebrations and dedication to God, and replaced them with a secularized version. The popularization of the character of Santa Claus has often overshadowed the salvation of Christ.



Does Santa Claus have a place in the celebration of Christmas?

That is a “yes” and “no” question. Legalistically speaking in our Christian tradition, the answer is “No,” but the technicality of the premise does have some merit, but only if we look at this inclusion as an example of selfless service in the Name of the Lord.

The derivation of Santa Claus comes from the real life personage of Saint Nicholas who died in the Mid-Fourth Century (December 6). He was from a city, which is now a part of Turkey, who used the inheritance he received from his parents to help the destitute and sick. This very real person dedicated his life to Jesus and to helping those less fortunate than himself. His story is filled with great sacrifice, faith, and later through the miracles attributed to him. His story is fascinating and awe inspiring. So, is it possible for St. Nicholas to have a place on Christmas?

Considering his life of caring and his providing for the poor, absolutely, but St. Nicholas did the work as a Christ-filled Christian. He took upon himself the role of a caretaker filled with the love of Christ, and not the other way around. He is an example of how we should all carry ourselves as Christians and an example of sharing our thanksgiving with humanity. Should he have a place in the Christmas story?

Based on his servitude and dedication, I certainly have no problem entertaining his deeds, but the overall thrust should be placed on Christ above all else. Nicholas the man, became St. Nicholas the servant of Christ. His dedication of service should be recognized, and has, but it should not overshadow the Birth of Jesus. Nineteenth Century writers and graphic artists inserted the legend of Santa Claus into our American culture. I am afraid he is here to stay, and we are confronted with a challenge as Christians to recognize the glory of the Birth of Christ and place it in prominence. Once that is accomplished, then all the feel good stories of not just St. Nicholas, but St. Basil, as well, who was not even spoken of, has merit.

We need to proclaim first with unfailing love our devotion to the birth of Jesus this Christmas, and recognize our “Thanks” as did the pilgrims for the Gift God offers us through Holy Communion. Lastly, we should emulate the “gift-giving” spirit of a man dedicated to his Christian values in the person of St. Nicholas. If we can put all this together, then the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas will truly make for an inspiring Holiday Season.

Have a blessed Holiday Season. Καλα Χριστουγεννα!

St. Sophia Harvest Dinner Dance

Saturday, November 15th, 2025
6:00 PM

Full Buffet Dinner Provided

\$60 Adult
\$20 Youth 6-18
Free under 5

Music By:
Prometheus Greek Entertainment

*Proceeds from the event will fund future St. Sophia projects
chosen by the youth of our parish, ensuring
the next generation has a voice in shaping our future.*

Purchase tickets through
the realm app here:



PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Dear Parishioner,

What a truly special experience we shared earlier this month on our parish trip to **New York City!** From our visit to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** to our time at the **Archdiocese** and at **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine**, it was an inspiring and faith-filled day for all who attended. The highlight was our unexpected audience with **His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros**, whose warmth and words of encouragement left a lasting impression on everyone present. Moments like these remind us how blessed we are to be part of such a vibrant and connected faith community.

Our **Fall General Assembly meeting on Sunday, October 26**, was a great success. We once again hosted a free fellowship breakfast—waffles and sausage—before we began our meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together in fellowship and conversation to reflect on our progress and plans for the months ahead.

I also invite you to consider running for the Parish Council. Serving on the Parish Council is a meaningful way to give back to our parish and help ensure a bright future for the next generation of our community. If you're interested, please speak with any current Parish Council member—we would be happy to share more about the process and responsibilities.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for two special parish events:

- **Our Harvest Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 15**, organized by our youth. This evening promises wonderful fellowship, great food, and lively music—all in support of the launch of our parish capital campaign. Tickets are on sale now.
- The return of **His Grace Bishop Demetrios on Tuesday, November 18 at 7 p.m.** for an author talk and discussion of his new book, **Grace Unbound**. The conversation will be moderated by **Paul Grondahl** of the New York State Writers Institute. His Grace's book is an inspiring story of faith and social justice, and we are honored to welcome him back to St. Sophia.

As we gather in the coming weeks, may we continue to strengthen the bonds of faith and fellowship that make our parish such a special place. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events and thank you, as always, for your continued love and support of beloved Saint Sophia.

In Orthodoxy,

Michael N. Christakis, Ph.D.



Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner

SPONSORED BY
ST. SOPHIA YOUTH GROUPS

*December 6th, 2025
3:00 PM*

PLEASE RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE
NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

STEWARDSHIP

AS OF OCTOBER 2025

A

Michael Allain
Thomas & Demetra Alund
David & Eugenia Alven
Wael Alzawahra
George Amanatides
Paul Amanatides
Panagiota Anagnost
Vasilis & Christina Anagnostopoulos
Anastassios Anastahas
Joseph & Helen Anastasio
George Andrews
Tommy & Helene Annas
Pauline Anton
Evangelos Anton
Michael Anton
Nick & Joanne Antoniadis
Paul & Vera Apostol
Georgios & Nancy Athanassiadis

B

Danny Bahlatzis
Nicholas & Effie Balahtsis
Evelyn Baltis
Glykeria Baltis
Peter & Kathy Baltis
William & Caryl Baltis
Barbara Beckos McDonald & Arthur McDonald
Marie Beiniks
Alexia Belperron
Robert Bladel & Niki Ziamandanis Bladel
Joseph Bobb
Theodorian & Diana-Andra Borca-Tasciuc
Athena Bouloukos
Elyse Bouloukos
Peter & Kathleen Bouloukos
David & Leigh Brockmann
Konstantinos & Christina Brotsis
Barbara Burke

C

Marietta Caladim
John & Penny Caracandas
George Chakmakas
John Chakmakas
George & Maria Cholakis
Joanne Cholakis
Maria Cholakis
Nia Cholakis
Michael & Christa Christakis
Euripides Christou & Lainie Damaskos-Christou
Jeffrey & Diane Cohen
Niki Colydas
Eugenia & Daniel Condon
Assemina & Timothy Conlin
Christine Costopoulos
George & Constantina Cotzas

D

Peter & Margaret Daikos
Athan Dalianes
John & Katerina Dallas
Peter Dallas
Norma Damascos
Theodora D'Amico
Kathleen Danna
Robert & Alexandra Davis
Lauren Dean
Vidal & Katherine Deleon
Drew Demers
Jana & Guarumuni Desilva
Nicholas & Marianna Diamantatos
James & Chrisanthi Diamantopoulos
Vassilios & Florence Dimitriadis
Stephani Dimopoulos
Pontis District
Gregory & Shalyn Docous
Mick & Lea Doemel
Pauline Duke
Charles Dukes

E & F

Harry & Eleni Efstathiadis
Constantine Ermides
Harry & Diane Ermides
Michael & Linda Ermides
Gari Fentekes
James & Georgia Fishburn
Donald & Dina Fisher
Gregory & Nina Floyd
Diane Forkeutis
Foti Fotiou & Theresa Fotiu
Fotini Fotiou

G

Sandra Galanis
Janet Gallas
Anthony & Amy George
Evan George
Alexander Georgeadis
William & Jamie Georges
Maria Gezerlis
Arthur & Christine Gianakos
Andrea Googas & Robert Hahn
James & Mary Googas
Mary Pat Googas
Jimmy Googas Jr.
Elisavet & Victoria Guarneri

H

Charalambos & Anne Hadjioannou
Lukes Hadjioannou
Nicholas & Panagiota Hallas
Catherine Halsdorf
Christine Harvey
Michael & Melissa Hatzistergos
Maria Hazapis
John & Mary Hormovitis
Nicholas & Lisa Hrimatopoulos
Vasiliki Hrimatopoulos

J & K

Alex Jefferson
Nadia Jefferson
Rita Jeoney
Catherine Julius
George & Athanasia Kalamaras
Stanley & Irene Karamanol
John & Theo Karatzou
Achreve Karlaftis
Constantine & Constance Karlaftis
Zaharias Karounos
Theodora Kelly
Theodore & Francesca Kendris
Debbie Kennealy
Elyssa Kirby
Valerie Kirby
Kostas Klementzos
Thomas & Stella Koleci
Vasil Koleci
Theodore Kondoprias
Anastasios Konstantakos
Zoi Konstantakos
Angelo Kontis
Constantine & Leanne Kontogiannis
Alexia Kordas
Nick & Laura Kordas
Nicole Kordas
Michael & Ioulia Koullias
Angie Koutelis
Diane Koutelis
Michael & Mary Ellen Koutelis
Michael & Jewelie Koutelis
Nicholas Koutelis
Jeanne Koutoufaris
George & Paula Koutsakis
Stefan Koutsakis
Michael & Karen Koutsourades

L

Niko & Laura Ladopoulos
 Paula Ladopoulos
 Helen Laines
 Joanna Laines
 Barbara Landas
 Lee Landas
 Peter & Sula Landi
 Spiros Lanides
 Adam & Loretta Laporte
 Edward & Kimberly LaScala
 Steven & Christina Lasher
 Rev. Father Patric & Evangeline Legato
 Michél-Gabriëlle Legato
 Theodosia Legato
 Nikoleta Lelis
 William Lembesis
 Sisay Lemma
 Matthew & Panayota Lindroth
 Andreas & Theodora Lois

M

Peter & Irene Mafilios
 James & Maria Mahar
 Freda Manuel
 Angela Marathakis
 Peter & Tina Marathakis
 George & Lea Marinopoulos
 Caterina Markowski
 Marie Martin
 Robert & Stephanie Matthew
 Jeffrey & Marie McCullough
 Christo Melas
 Maria Melas
 Peter & Georgia Melas
 Anatasios Meletis
 Maria Meletis
 Jaimee & Matthew Meyer
 Demetrios Michael
 Roger Mike
 Constantinos & Diane Minas
 Cassia & Harry Mirones
 Michael & Panorea Miszko

Nicholas & Diane Mitsios
 Jordan Moisides
 Panagiotis & Vasiliki Moisidis
 Theodora Mokhiber
 Konstantinos & Euthimia Moutopoulos
 Stavros & Sheila Moutopoulos
 Richard & Sylvia Mouzakes

N

Fr. Dennis & Candice Nagi
 Marigo Nasi
 Michael & Maria Neal
 Marie Needham
 Alexander & Molly Nichols
 Kanella Nicolopoulous
 Kurt Nolan & Ioanna Lista

O & P

Melissa O'Connor
 Diana Ostroff
 Kostantina Owens
 Nicholas & Elaine Palas
 Sophia & Craig Pallone
 Violet & Dana Palombo
 Benjamin Papa
 Katherine Papa
 Kella Papa
 James & Andrea Papandrea
 Peter & Maria Pappas
 Christopher Pappis
 George Pappis
 Maria Patelos
 Mary Patelos
 Tina Perlegis
 Donald & Vanessa Perry
 Michael & Thecla Philip
 Mignonne & David Philips
 Cathy Photopoulos
 Pauline Polits
 John Polydouris
 H Margaret & James Poole
 James Posporelis
 Nikoleta & Andrea Prifti
 Christine & Stephen Prudente
 Joanne & Paul Pugliani

Q & R

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Foti & Theodora Rantzaklis
Dennis & Irene Rassias
Helen & Donald Read
Haroula & John (Brad) Reitz
Michael & Sophia Reynolds-Cotzas
Sophia Richardson
Terrell & Ann Roe
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Gerasimos & Kathryn Sokaris
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Gregory J. Sokaris
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Gregory C. Sokaris
Laura Sokaris & William Farrell
Mary Sokaris
Nora Sokaris
Spiro Sokaris
Francisco & Eleni Soler
Nikolaos Sparakis
Dan & Anabela-Mihaela Stan
Virginia Stathidis
Christos & Delores Stavrou
Anne Sternbach
Lea & Mark Stevens
George & Jami Stolis
James & Frosine Stolis
Cataldo & Cassandra Strippoli
Nicole Strippoli

T

Peter Takantzas
Faith Takes & Joseph Moltzen
Anthony Thanopoulos
Anna & Pasquale Tirino
Elias Tonias
Nicholas & Eftihia Toppses
James & Christina Trifletti
Loucas & Olga Tsakalakos
Vasiliki Tsamis
Anastasia Tunny
Aleksander Tupe

U & V

Layne Underwood
Mary Vamvalis
Sultana Varvarousis
Maria Vasilakos
Anastasia Vasilakos & John Rojas
Dimitra Vasilakos
Helen Vasilakos

W, X, Y & Z

Patricia Wheeler
Joshua & Chelsea Woodard
William Yager & Cassandra Stricos
Katherine Yavis
Michael & Emalee Ziamandanis
Peter & Maria Ziamandanis

***2025 Saint Sophia Annual Community
Christmas Card***

SPONSORED BY THE PHILOPTOCHOS

**Wish your family and friends at St. Sophia
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



Cost \$20 per line, 3 line maximum
Orders due by December 7th, 2025

Please mail this form to the church office, attention:

"Community Christmas Card"

Holiday Greeting:

Purchased by: _____

Lines: _____ X \$ 20 = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Philoptochos"

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY



Hello Everyone,

It is so wonderful to see more people returning to church and kids attending Sunday School. The Philoptochos ladies have been busy with various activities already. We started off with a joint potluck dinner. It was nice to have Father Pat and Father Emmanuel bless us for the upcoming year.

We started off with a very profitable Doll Show Café this year. Thank you to Shalyn Docous for all your hard work organizing it. Also, thank you to ALL that donated their time and money toward this fundraiser, without your help it would not have been as successful. All proceeds will be used to support our monthly obligations.

The ladies here at Saint Sophia will be very busy during the next few months. We will be having our Election Day bake sale during polling hours on November 4th. We will donate all proceeds to local charities for the holiday season.

Our bagged lunch program for the homeless is in full swing. With the help of our youth, we prepare 60 bagged lunches two Sundays per month. If you would like to donate towards this great cause, please make a check payable to Philoptochos for \$120.

Christmas will be here before you know it. We will once again be sending a Community Christmas Card out. Keep an eye out for our table during coffee hour to sign up.

Last year, we adopted three families for Christmas. With the generous support from our community, we were able to provide a joyous holiday season to these families. It was a great success. Let's do it again! Please look for the "Giving Trees" late November.

Please remember our organization is here to help all those that are in need.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season with family and friends!

Demetra Xythalis Vann

Demetra Xythalis Vann
Philoptochos President



JOIN US!

You're invited to our

ANNUAL ST. BARBARA'S DAY PARTY

Celebrate the Holiday Season with Arts & Crafts, Games, and a "Surprise" Special Guest!

Sunday | 7 | December
Immediately Following Church Services | 2025

St. Sophia Parish Hall

Free and Open to Saint. Sophia Families
Pizza & Ice Cream Provided

SPONSORED BY THE
ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

sunday school

Our Annual Christmas Paegant will be held on Sunday, December 21st, following the Divine Liturgy. Rehearsal will be held on Friday, December 19th with the Choir at 6:00 pm. We encourage all families to participate. Please RSVP for Friday's rehearsal to Michél at sundayschool@stsophiaalbany.org **no later than Wednesday, December 17th.**

Please also note the updated Sunday School Schedule for November & December:

November 2nd - Classes in Session

November 9th - Classes in Session

November 16th - Family Worship, No Classes

November 23rd - Classes in Session

November 30th - Family Worship, No Classes

December 7th - Classes in Session

December 14th - Classes in Session

December 21st - Christmas Paegant

December 28th - Family Worship, No Classes

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to help substitute for Sunday School. Please email if you are interested in assisting!



Image above: St. Sophia Youth and Parishioners with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.

st sophia trip to nyc



On Thursday, October 2 St. Sophia took a bus trip down to NYC to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Greek Orthodox of America Archdiocese with a special visit from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, and to the St. Nicholas National Shrine in which we celebrated a Paraklesis for the congregation.

It was a beautiful day filled with memories which our youth and parishioners will not forget.

greek school

ΚΑΛΕΣ ΓΙΟΡΤΕΣ ΣΕ ΟΛΟΥΣ!

Happy Holidays to all!

We welcome new students to our program at anytime during the year. All classes from pre-school to early high school are on Saturdays simultaneously from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in 2 hour sessions depending on level. Learning a new world language and culture is an amazing experience at any age, especially the youngest ones! Contact us at:
greeklanguageacademy@stsophiaalbany.org



Class Schedule for November & December:

November 1st - Classes in Session

November 8th - No Classes Scheduled

November 15th - Classes in Session

November 22nd - Classes in Session

November 29th - No Classes Scheduled

December 6th - Classes in Session

December 13th - Classes in Session

December 20th - No Classes Scheduled

December 27th - No Classes Scheduled

YOU ARE INVITED TO

AHEPA FAMILY

CHRISTMAS PARTY

FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES

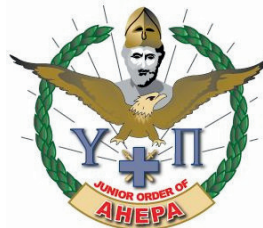
DECEMBER 21

FOOD | DRINKS

MUSIC, MOVIES, AND KIDS ACTIVITIES

THE TESTAMENT

20



ALBANY AHEPA FAMILY HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING COLLECTION



December 1, 2025 - January 4, 2026

We accept unwrapped toys, games, books, toiletries, gift cards and other appropriate gifts that are new and unused for children & teenagers.

The AHEPA Family will deliver your donations to children & teenagers currently being treated and cared for at the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center.

Please leave gifts beneath the Christmas tree located inside the Church.

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am
2 5th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School	3 Men's Basketball 6:30 pm	4 Senior Program 12:00 pm DOP 6:30 pm	5 Knitters 12:15 pm OPA-cize 6:30 pm	6	7	8
9 7th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School	10 Men's Basketball 6:30 pm	11 Senior Program 12:00 pm Philoptochos 6:30 pm	12 Knitters 12:15 pm OPA-cize 6:30 pm	13 Kali Parea 12:30 pm Illuminations 6:30 pm AHEPA 7:00 pm	14	15 Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am St. Sophia Harvest Dinner Dance 6:00 pm
16 Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Family Worship - No Sunday School	17 Men's Basketball 6:30 pm	18 Senior Program 12:00 pm Grace Unbound Event 7:00 pm	19 Knitters 12:15 pm OPA-cize 6:30 pm	20	21 Entrance of the Virgin Mary Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	22 Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am
23 9th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School	24 Men's Basketball 6:30 pm Illuminations 6:30 pm	25 Senior Program 12:00 pm	26 Knitters 12:15 pm	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed	28	29
30 Andrew the First-Called Apostle Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Family Worship - No Sunday School						

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Senior Program 12:00 pm	3 Knitters 12:15 pm	4 St. Barbara Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	5	6 Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am St. Nicholas Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
7 10th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School St. Barbara's Day Party Parish Council Elections	8	9 Conception St. Anna Divine Liturgy 9:30 am DOP & Philoptochos Christmas Party 6:30 pm	10 Knitters 12:15 pm	11 Senior Lunch 12:30 pm	12 St. Spyridon Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	13 Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am
14 11th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday School AHEPA 12:00 pm	15 St. Eleftherios Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	16 Senior Program 12:00 pm	17 Knitters 12:15 pm	18 Illuminations 6:30 pm	19	20
21 Sunday before Nativity Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Christmas Pageant AHEPA Family Christmas Party	22	23 Senior Program 12:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Christmas Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm	25 Christmas Office Closed	26	27
28 Sunday after Nativity Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Family Worship - No Sunday School	29	30 Senior Program 12:00 pm	31 Liturgy at St. Basil's in Troy 6:00 pm			

**SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
440 WHITEHALL ROAD
ALBANY, NY 12208**

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St. Sophia Mission Statement – St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, Inc. is a not-for-profit religious community under the leadership of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through the auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople whose mission is to: (1) maintain, practice, and proclaim the Christian Orthodox faith, enhancing the spiritual growth of its communicants; (2) develop and operate programs, activities, and services for the Parishioners which serve and further the religious educational, cultural, philanthropic, and social ministries of the community as well as to protect and continuously develop the physical buildings and religious property as deemed necessary; (3) dedicate the promotion of Christian Fellowship and values between the evolving diversity of cultures and its people.