Parish Directory

CLERGY
Proistamenos
Rev. Fr. Patric Legato
frpatriclegato@stssophiaalbany.org

RETIRED CLERGY
Fr. Dennis L. Nagi, Ph.D

NEOKOROS
Evangelos Anton

CHANTER
George Lenares

CHOIR
Harry Ermides

ACOLYTES
James Diamantopoulos

ICONOGRAPHER
Efthimios Stoja

BUILDING AND GROUNDS
MANAGER
Alfredo Ramos

BOOK KEEPING
Jennifer Kline
bookings@stssophiaalbany.org

CHURCH CONTACT
Margaret Danes
parishoffice@stssophiaalbany.org

WEBMASTER
Christopher Pappis
webmaster@stssophiaalbany.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
(518) 489-4442

EDITORIAL STAFF
Rev. Fr. Patric Legato
Michél-Gabrielle Legato
testament@stssophiaalbany.org
Greek translations
Presvytera Eva Legato

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES
FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
TESTAMENT: OCTOBER 1, 2023

PHILOPTOCHOS
Maria Sokaris

SENIOR CITIZENS
James Stolis

MAKARIA
Dora Mokhiber
Elaine Sokaris

YOUTH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Theodosia Legato
sundayschool@stssophiaalbany.org

HELLENIC EDUCATION
Lainie Damaskos-Christou
greeklanguageacademy@stssophiaalbany.org

GREEK FOLK DANCE
Diane Cohen & Maria Pidgeon
st sophiadancers@gmail.com

GOYA
Mary Googas
Sophia Pallone
Mike Koutelis
Soula Landi
Demetra Xythalis

JOY
Maria Pidgeon
Bessie Sokaris

ST. SOPHIA SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE
Georgia Melas, Committee Chair
Frosine Stolis
James Stolis
Helen Tomaso
Christine Prudente
Foti Rantzaklis

Church Website: www.stssophiaalbany.org
© SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2023
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A group of kids were out on the street talking when someone yelled from a nearby schoolyard, “It’s beginning to look a lot like...” (the rest was muffled so they had to fill in the blank).

Hmm... What is missing? What follows? The answers came quickly. It could be almost anything. “A nice day,” was quickly offered, because the sun was shining. “Somebody is going to get a ticket,” another offered as a police car went speeding by with lights flashing and siren blaring. Another kid repeated that Ernie Banks, the Hall of Fame Chicago Cubs baseball player, would have said, “a great day to play two games.” So many thoughts and ideas filled the conversation, and almost anything could have been substituted. One of the girls said, “one of those days,” making note that this was just another time consuming discussion and a waste of time.
None of these, however, were the correct responses until someone in the bunch blurted out, “I am thinking of Christmas.” That’s it, they all agreed! “Christmas is the answer.” After all, it was colder outside, and had even snowed a few weeks earlier, and it was December. “But what is Christmas,” one of the boys asked?

What IS Christmas? They all had ideas, but then somebody suggested that they stop by the church on the corner and ask the priest where Fr. John served. He was well known in the neighborhood, and was always available for a talk or hot chocolate.

Fr. John said that the true meaning of Christmas is a “gathering for Christ”. He went on to explain that the Christmas celebration was attended by all of nature. The angels, people, the animals living in the cave…. “What? Wait a minute. In a cave?” Fr. John continued to explain that the story of the birth and the hymnology of the Orthodox Church plainly related the story as Jesus being born in a cave. “What’s with the manger,” one of the boys queried? Another chimed in, “Yeah. That's the stable.” Fr. John smiled and continued the story and explained that the animals were kept in a stable, but that the stable was a cave, and that the manger was the watering trough for the animals. “Wow,” shouted one of the older kids. “I never knew that.” Father chuckled. “I have even more information you probably never knew. Do you know the story of the Three Wise Men, the kings?” Everyone nodded. “We have a stable in our yard and the Wise Men rode on camels.” “Really,” Fr. John questioned. “And where did they get the camels?” Almost in unison the children said, “from a camel rental place.” Fr. John had a broad smile as he explained that the Three Kings came from Persia and followed the Star which was a very unusual star. In fact, he told them that there was never a Star like this one. He also shared that they came from a country that studied the stars. They were astronomers, and they believed the stars told a story. This particular Star would point to a very special event. That event was the Birth of the Savior of all mankind. He would be the King of kings. Then he informed them that in Persia, they had some of the world’s finest horses in the world known as Arabian horses. They were quick and like camels were accustomed to the dry and hot desert. He continued. “They followed the course of the Star all the way to Bethlehem, to the city of David.” The children were mesmerized by the talk Fr. John delivered and wanted to hear more.

“Shepherds, men and boys, just like you, were out in the fields, protecting the flock, when angels appeared to them and told them about the event. They quickly made their way to the cave, as well, to witness the Birth of the new King.”

“So he was King Jesus?” Fr. John lowered his voice and said that this king was the King to save mankind. He, in fact, was Christ.

“Wait. I thought his name was Jesus,” asked another girl in the group, which was growing in number. “It is Jesus! The word ‘Christ’, means the Messiah. The One to save the world from evil and offer us eternal life,” Fr. John answered.
The Story of Christmas never grows old. How unfortunate that so many do not have a clear understanding of this life saving Event. We have been indoctrinated and convinced that Christmas is about Santa Claus and the massive reception of gifts. The real gift, however, is in the Lord. The celebration on December 25th is Christmas. Gifts are just a small part of the celebration and commemorate the small, but very sincere giving of gold, frankincense and myrrh offered by the three wise men. They brought gifts for a King well beyond their stature.

It is my prayer that we spend the time and quietly and responsibly relate the real story. I love the lights which are festively and colorfully placed on houses. These are representative of the stars in the cosmos which dotted the sky. I love the well wishing and the patience we share with one another. This is the humble shepherds coming to greet the Christ-child. I love the celebration. This is the Birth of our Savior. Quiet and without fanfare, yet imposing and meaningful.

I love Christmas, because it is a time to be reminded that we all have a future in spite of our failures or tyranny, famine, flood, enemy invasion, political differences, or social indifference.

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year, with the holiday greetings, when loved ones are near. It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” Merry Christmas!

*In Christ's Name Amen,*

*Fr. Pat*
Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner

SPONSORED BY THE GOYA & JOY

December 2nd, 2023
3:00 PM

PLEASE RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Especially as we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the return of many of our members to Church – and families with children, in particular – has brought a renewed vibrancy to our parish on Sundays.

Already this fall, thanks to Fr. Pat’s vision and leadership with the support of the Parish Council, our community sponsored our first-ever Youth Jamboree kicking-off the start of the new Church year for our children. A week later, a youth trip to the American Museum of National History and the Hayden Planetarium in New York City on September 25 provided a wonderful opportunity for a bus-full of our children to join in fellowship with each other while exploring many engaging exhibits.

Programs like these help connect our children to each other and, importantly, to our faith and community. I am deeply grateful to those who helped support and sponsor both programs and look forward to continuing to identify new ways we can renew our children’s interest in St. Sophia and our community.

We were also delighted to host Rev. Fr. Elias Vilis, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan District, and Presvytera Melanie in the tri-cities on September 21. It was a blessing to gather in fellowship with our Capital Region sister Parish Councils, to be among our beloved Clergy, and to hear from Fr. Elias. We can’t wait to welcome Fr. Elias back again soon.
Finally, as we near 2024, I want to offer a personal appeal to you, my fellow parishioner: please consider giving of your time, talent and treasure in the New Year. We have begun our Stewardship 2024 appeal, and you can now pledge on-line through Realm. Please view information on the next page detailing the giving opportunities now available through Realm to support St. Sophia.

In the coming weeks, you will learn more about Realm and the added functionality to communicate better (and quicker), engage more frequently, and stay up-to-date on Church programs and events.

As always, I look forward to seeing you Sunday!

In Orthodoxy,

[Signature]

The Season of Giving

Pledge and Join the Saint Sophia Community Today!

see next page for more info!
GIVING MADE EASY AT SAINT SOPHIA

“All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God.” Deteronomy 16:17

BENEFITS FOR YOU:

1. Give from anywhere using a computer, tablet, or smartphone.
2. No need to find a check or stop by the ATM.
3. Use your Checking/Savings Account or your Debit/Credit Card.
4. Schedule gifts to occur automatically
5. Give to one or more funds at a time.

BENEFITS FOR SAINT SOPHIA:

1. Reduces administrative work allowing more time to focus on the ministry.
2. Helps streamline receivables.
3. Increases stewardship by providing members and guests easier ways to give.
4. More regular and predictable giving makes planning easier.

ONLINE

1. Click the GIVE button on our church website at:
   www.stsophiaalbany.org
2. Enter the amount you wish to give, select fund, and enter your email address.
3. Click GIVE and enter your payment method to complete the transaction

Note, If you have a Realm login, you can login when prompted and complete your transaction or schedule a gift.

TEXT

1. Text SAINTSOPHIA to 73256.
2. Click the link you receive in your text message response.
3. Follow the prompts to give.

Text giving even saves your payment method so you can quickly give again.

MOBILE

Give from our Realm App:

1. Search Realm Connect in your phone’s App Store.
2. Download the free app and sign in.
3. Click GIVING at the bottom, then choose MAKE A GIFT.

Don’t have an account for the app? Contact our church office.
Hi Everyone,

It is nice 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 meeting with the Schenectady and Troy chapters. It was nice to have all three priests join us too. We shared ideas on how to support each other and our communities. We also had a 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 5th. 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 50 bagged lunches two Sundays per month. If you would like to donate towards this great cause, please make a check payable to Philoptochos for $100.

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 5 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.

Lastly, we were able to fill 60 purses with tissues, hairbrushes, lotion, wipes, lip balm and a $5 gift cards. These purses were donated to various women’s shelters across the Capital Region. BIG THANK YOU to all that supported this great cause.

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

Have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

Maria Sokaris
Philoptochos President
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 6th, 2023

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"
St. Phillip was born in a remote corner of the Holy Land, in a tiny village named Bethsaida.

This village is also the birthplace of St. Peter and St. Andrew as well. Philip, like the other apostles of Christ, was assigned an area to which he would preach the word of Christ by the drawing of lots. To him fell the uninviting western area of the continent of Asia, or Asia Minor as it has been called. He assumed this responsibility with a confidence and humility born of the blessings of the Lord. He was more than ably assisted in this holy work not only by his devout sister Miriam, but by Apostle Bartholomew as well. Their efforts were assured success when the Lord chose to make St. Philip an instrument of miraculous powers.

He traversed the length and breadth of Asia Minor tirelessly preaching and doing good work. He then returned for a time to Greece, where, like St. Paul before him, he preached before throngs of Greeks in Athens. Then he brought countless numbers of Hellenes into the Christian fold with the assistance of Bartholomew and Miriam.

St. Philip’s return to Asia was hastened by reports of a strange Phrygian cult which had been introduced to the superstitious and illiterate populace and which was in direct conflict with Christian doctrine and practice. A snake of awesome size was being worshipped as a god, but with greater reverence than a whole herd of sacred cows, as in India. The colossal viper was said to be invincible, a notion which vanished when St. Philip strode up to the creature and placed his hand on it causing it to perish on the spot. This display brought the populace back to its senses and by thousands the Phrygians were baptized into Christianity.

To say that this caused the pagan fanatics considerable consternation would be quite an understatement.
The frightened pagans who were caused to change their minds out of fear and bring down the holy trio from their crosses were well aware of the Phrygian serpent, but that only served to add confusion to their fear after a profusely bleeding St. Philip died. Probably the first to be nailed to the cross and the last to be removed, the Apostle Philip was beyond help and since it was his will to die, there was no miracle forthcoming to save him. As John Donne was to say centuries later, “I shall no live until I see God, and when I have seen Him I shall never die.” Philip undoubtedly was aware of this and was as anxious to die as most are anxious to live. It is preferred to believe that the Lord called him to his side, since it is he who decides what the our of death shall be. St. Philip was not weary of his travails and certainly missionary work helped tremendously in laying the foundation of the Church of the New Faith, along with his fellow disciples and their associates, but for whom Christianity might have expired. His sister and St. Bartholomew had been spared, but it was God’s will that they do so. St. Philip, another brave disciple destined to be dwarfed by St. Peter, as well as the mighty Apostle Paul, had thrust himself into the Christian cause with equal vigor and devotion, and is as revered as any of his companions in Christ by the Greek Orthodox Church.

The holy trio of Philip, Bartholomew, and Miriam, were tried and condemned. The servants of God were sentenced to be crucified. The death sentence was carried out with dispatch and the holy three were nailed to wooden crosses. No sooner had this been done than the sky darkened and the earth trembled violently from a rumbling earthquake. This phenomenon struck terror into the hearts of those responsible, who immediately sought to appease the wrath of God by taking the intended victims down from their crosses.

Miriam and Bartholomew survived, but as though he had willed his own demise so that his death might be on the heads of his enemies, St. Philip did not. His dying gazed rendered the throng powerless and he bled to death on November 14 with his last breath praising the Lord.
SAINT SOPHIA
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

REHEARSAL:
WHEN: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
WHERE: ST. SOPHIA CHURCH HALL & CHURCH
TIME: 6 PM
PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED

SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LITURGY
Ο Άγιος Φίλιππος γεννήθηκε σε μια απομακρυσμένη γωνιά των Αγίων Τόπων, σε ένα μικροσκοπικό χωριό που ονομάζεται Βηθσαϊδά.

Αυτό το χωριό είναι επίσης η γενέτειρα του Αγίου Πέτρου και του Αγίου Ανδρέα. Στον Φίλιππο, όπως και στους άλλους αποστόλους του Χριστού, ανατέθηκε μια περιοχή στην οποία θα κήρυξε τον λόγο του Χριστού με κλήρωση. Σ’ αυτόν έπεσε η απρόσκλητη δυτική περιοχή της ηπείρου της Κύπρου, ή Μικράς Ασίας όπως έχει ονομαστεί. Ανέλαβε αυτή την ευθύνη με ευπρεπούς και τετελεσμένη στην επιθυμία στην ευλογία του Κυρίου. Σ’ αυτό το ιερό έργο τον βοήθησε περισσότερο από επιδείξεις όχι μόνο η ευσεβής αδελφή του Μαρία, αλλά και ο Απόστολος Βαρθολομαίος. Οι προσπάθειες τους εξαιρετικά επιτυγχάνουν όταν ο Κύριος επέλεξε να κάνει τον Άγιο Φίλιππο όργανο θαυματουργών δυνάμεων.

Διέσχισε τα μήκη και τα πλάτη της Μικράς Ασίας ακούραστα κηρύσσοντας και κάνοντας καλό έργο. Στη συνέχεια επέστρεψε για λίγο στην Ελλάδα, όπου, όπως ο Άγιος Παύλος πριν από αυτόν, κήρυξε ενώπιον πλήθους Ελλήνων στην Αθήνα. Στη συνέχεια έφερε αμέτρητους Έλληνες στο χριστιανικό μαντρέ με τη βοήθεια του Βαρθολομαίου και της Μαρίας.

Η επιστροφή του Αγίου Φίλιππου στην Ασία επιταχύνθηκε από αναφορές για μια παράξενη φρυγική λατρεία που είχε εισαχθεί στην θρησκεία και άγριο έργο του Χριστού και της έννοιας του Φιλάρη Αποστόλου της Ακρόπολης. Την πρώτη φορά της Ακρόπολης Φιλάρης και του Αγίου Ελευθέρου έπιπλέασε τον Άγιο Φίλιππο και άγαγκασε τον Άγιο Ελευθέριο και έβαλε την έννοια του στην Αθήνα. Στη συνέχεια έφερε αμέτρητους Έλληνες στο χριστιανικό μαντρέ με τη βοήθεια του Βαρθολομαίου και της Μαρίας.

Το να πούμε ότι αυτό προκάλεσε στους ειδικούς φανατικούς χαθείσος ένα μαθηματικό και ο Άγιος Φίλιππος επέπλεξε τον Άγιο Φίλιππο και έβαλε την έννοια του στην Αθήνα. Στη συνέχεια έφερε αμέτρητους Έλληνες στο χριστιανικό μαντρέ με τη βοήθεια του Βαρθολομαίου και της Μαρίας.

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Οι φοβισμένοι ειδωλολάτρες που αναγκάστηκαν να αλλάξουν γνώμη από φόβο και να κατεβάσουν την ιερή τριάδα από τους σταυρούς τους γνώριζαν καλά το Φρυγικό φίδι, αλλά αυτό βοήθησε μόνο να προσθέσει σύγχυση στον φόβο τους μετά τον θάνατο του Αγίου Φιλίππου που αιμορραγούσε. Πιθανώς ο πρώτος που καρφώθηκε στον σταυρό και ο τελευταίος που αφαιρέθηκε, ο Απόστολος Φιλίππος ήταν αβοήθητος και αφού ήταν θέλημα του να πεθάνει, δεν υπήρχε κανένα θαύμα να τον σώσει. Όπως έλεγε ο John Donne αιώνες αργότερα, «Δεν θα ζήσω μέχρι να δω τον Θεό, και όταν Τον έχω δει δεν θα πεθάνω ποτέ», ο Φιλίππος αναμφίβολα το γνώριζε αυτό και ανυπομονούσε να πεθάνει όσο οι περισσότεροι ανυπομονούν να ζήσουν. Είναι προτιμότερο να πιστεύουμε ότι ο Κύριος τον κάλεσε στο πλευρό του, αφού είναι αυτός που αποφασίζει ποιο θα είναι το δικό μας θάνατο. Ο Άγιος Φιλίππος δεν κουράστηκε από τις ταλαιπωρίες του και σίγουρα το ιεροποστολικό έργο βοήθησε πάρα πολύ στη θέσπιση των θεμελίων της Εκκλησίας της Νέας Πίστεως, μαζί με τους συμμαθητές του και τους συνεργάτες τους, για τους οποίους όμως ο Χριστιανισμός μπορεί να είχε λήξει. Η αδελφή του και ο Άγιος Βαρθολομαίος είχαν γλιτώσει, αλλά ήταν θέλημα Θεού να το κάνουν. Ο Άγιος Φιλίππος, ένας άλλος γενναίος μαθητής που προορίζοταν να τον κάνει νανισμό από τον Άγιο Πέτρο, καθώς και ο πανίσχυρος Απόστολος Παύλος, είχε στριμώξει τον εαυτό του στη χριστιανική υπόθεση με το ίδιο σθένος και αφοσίωση και είναι τόσο σεβαστός όσο οποιοσδήποτε από τους συντρόφους του στον Χριστό. Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία.

Η ιερή τριάδα Φιλίππου, Βαρθολομαίου και Μαριάμ, δικάστηκαν και καταδικάστηκαν. Οι δυοιοί του Θεού καταδικάστηκαν να σταυρωθούν. Η θανατική ποινή εκτελέστηκε με αποστολή και οι άγιοι τρεις καρφώθηκαν σε ξύλινους σταυρούς. Μόλις έγινε αυτό, ο ουρανός σκοτείνισε και η γη έτρεμε βύαια από έναν βουητό σεσμό. Αυτό το φαινόμενο έπληξε τον τρόμο στις καρδιές των υπευθύνων, οι οποίοι προσπάθησαν αμέσως να κατευνάσουν την οργή του Θεού κατεβάζοντας τα επιδιωκόμενα θύματα από τους σταυρούς τους.

Η Μίριαμ και ο Βαρθολομαίος επέζησαν, αλλά σαν να ήθελε ο ίδιος τον θάνατο του για να πέσει ο θάνατός του στα κεφάλια των εχθρών του, ο Άγιος Φιλίππος δεν το έκανε. Το ετοιμοθάνατο βλέμμα του κατέστησε το πλήθος αδύναμο και αιμορραγούσε μέχρι θανάτου στις 14 Νοέμβρίου με την τελευταία του πνοή δοξάζοντας τον Κύριο.
ANNUAL ST. SOPHIA JINGLE BALL
A night of holiday fun for our St. Sophia youth!

Friday, December 29th
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Parish Hall

Dinner & activities sponsored by Greek Dance, JOY, GOYA, Sunday School, and Greek School Programs

$10 minimum donation
Donations will go to support a charity for children in need
Stewardship

As of October 28, 2023

A
Anthony Albanopoulos
Demetra & Thomas Alund
David & Eugenia Alven
George Amanatides
Paul Amanatides
Danny & Panagiota Anagnost
Stella Anagnostakos
Anastassios Anastahas
Tommy & Helene Annas
Pauline Anton
Michael Anton
Angelica Apostol
Paul & Vera Apostol
Georgios & Nancy Athanassiadis

B
Danny & Gail Bahlatzis
Nicholas & Effie Balahatsis
Elizabeth Baltis
Peter & Kathy Baltis
Theodore & Glykeria Baltis
William & Caryl Baltis
Marius Beceanu
Dean Beckos
Marie & Andris Beiniks
Senait Berhane
Robert Bladel & Niki Ziamandanis Bladel
Theodorian & Diana-Andra Borca-Tasciuc
Elyse Bouloukos
Angeliki Bousbouras
Konstantinos & Christina Brotsis
Barbara Burke

C
Argie Cakouros
Emily Calabrese
Marietta Caladim
John & Penny Caracandas
Angel & Sophia Chajon
George Chakmakas
Despina Cholakis
George & Maria Cholakis
Joanne Cholakis
Michael & Christa Christakis
Philip Christo
Andreas & Sophia Christou
Arianna Christou
Euripides & Lainie Christou
Jeffrey & Diane Cohen
Niki Colydas
Eugenia & Daniel Condon
Achreve Condos
Assemina & Timothy Conlin
John Coracandas
Eugenia & Daniel Cordon
Christine Costopoulos
George & Constantina Cotzas

D
John & Katerina Dallas
Peter & Rosemary Dallas
Norma Damascos
Athena D'amico
Theodora D'amico
Lauren Dean
Tessie Deffigos
Nicholas & Marianna Diamantatos
James & Chrisanthy Diamantopoulos
Dimitrios & Eleni Dilis
Gregory & Shalyn Docous
Pauline Duke

E
Haralabos & Eleni Efstathiadis
Christopher Ermides
Constantine Ermides
Harry & Diane Ermides
F
Gari Fentekes
James & Georgia Fishburn
Donald & Dina Fisher
Gregory & Nina Floyd
Diane Forkeutis
George Foti
Joanne Foti
Foti & Theresa Fotiou

G
Janet Gallas
Anthony & Amy George
Alexander Georgeadis
Amy Georgeadis
William & Jamie Georges
Maria Gezerlis
Arthur & Christine Gianakos
James & Mary Googas
John & Mary Pat Googas
John & Sia Googas
Elisavet & Victoria Guarneri

H
Harry & Anne Hadjioannou
Nicholas & Panagiota Hallas
Catherine Halsdorf
Christine Harvey
Anthony Hazapis
Maria Hazapis
Kevin & Stephanie Holmes
Robert Hotaling
Nicholas & Lisa Hrimatopoulos
Vasiliki Hrimatopoulos
Alexander & Panagiota Hyde

J
Nadia Jefferson
Rita Jeoney
Catherine Julius

K
Stefan & Nelli Kalogridis
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
Matthew Klementzos
Thomas & Stella Koleci
Vasil Koleci
Theodore Kondoprias
Angelo Kontis
Constantine & Leanne Kontogiannis
Panagiota & Vasilios Kontos
Angie Koutelis
Diane Koutelis
Michael Koutelis & Mary Ellen Koutelis
Michael & Jewenie Koutelis
Nicholas Koutelis
Jeanne Koutoufaris
George & Paula Koutsakis
Lea Koutsakis
Stefan Koutsakis
Michael & Karen Koutsourades
Niko Ladopoulos
Helen Laines
Joanna Laines
Peter & Sula Landi
Sofeya Lascaris
Steven & Christina Lasher
Helen Legato
Michél-Gabriélle Legato
Rev. Fr. Patric & Evangeline Legato
Theodosia Legato
Elaine Legato Maar
Nikoleta Lelis
Sisay Lemma & Kelemework Wondimu
Konstantine & Holly Liapis
Andreas & Theodora Lois
Margarita Lois
Athena Loupessis

Rev. Fr. Dennis, PhD. & Candice Nagi
Dhimo Nasi
Sokol & Fabjola Nasi
Michael & Maria Neal
Mary Nicholas
Alexander & Molly Nichols

Peter & Irene Mafilios
James & Maria Mahar
Bessie Malamas
Angela Marathakis
Peter & Tina Marathakis
Kristina Marinopoulos
Robert & Stephanie Mathew
Jeffrey & Marie McCullough
Peter & Georgia Melas
Anastasios Meletis
Maria Meletis
Jaimee & Matthew Meyer
Demetrios Michael
Roger Mike
Constantinos & Diane Minas
Harry & Casia Mirones
Michael & Panorea Miszko
Jordan Moisides
Theodora Mokhiber
Steve & Sheila Moutopoulos
Lauren Mouzakes
Richard & Sylvia Mouzakes
Q & R
Nicola & Penelope Qaja
Tom & Nicole Rosa
Evangelos & Alexandra Rantzaklis
Frank & Theodora Rantzaklis
Dennis & Irene Rassias
Helen & Donald Read
Haroula & John Reitz
Michael & Sophia Reynolds-Cotzas
Terrell & Ann Roe
Alexandra Roth

T
Marie Takes
Anthony Thanopoulos
Helen Thomas
Helen & Marco Tomaso
Nicholas & Efthia Toppses
Christina Trifiletti
Loucas & Olga Tsakalakos
Vasiliki Tsamis
Diane Tseckares
Anastasia Tunny

S
Yasmine Sahawneh
Charles Sarris
LeGrande Serras
Christos & Erin Sikopoulos
Nicholas Simler & Betelhem Bera
Juliet Sisay
George & Debbie Socaris
Jon Socaris
Sophie Socaris
Elaine Sokaris
Gerasimos & Kathryn Sokaris
Gregory J. Sokaris
Gregory & Maria Sokaris
Gregory C. Sokaris
Helen Sokaris
Mary Sokaris
Nora Sokaris
Francisco & Eleni Soler
Dan & Anabela-Mihaela Stan
Christos & Delores Stavrou
Lea & Mark Stevens
George & Jami Stolis
James & Frohine Stolis
Cj & Cassandra Strippoli
Nicole Strippoli

U & V
Layne Underwood
Leigh Underwood-Brockmann & David Brockmann
Mary & Antonia Vamvalis
Demetra Vann
Sultana Varvarousis
Anastasia Vasilakos & John Rojas
Dimitra Vasilakos
Helen Vasilakos
Maria Vasilakos
Nicholas & Barbara Vriniotis

W, X, Y & Z
Patricia Wheeler
James & Amanda Wild
William Yager & Cassandra Stricos
Katherine Yavis
John Ziamandanis
Michael Ziamandanis
Peter & Maria Ziamandanis
Stephen & Claire Ziamandanis
November-December 2023 Class Schedule

Thursday Pre-School Classes are in session on
November 2, 9, 16, and 30. December 7, 14, and 21.
NO CLASSES ON NOVEMBER 23 & DECEMBER 28.

Saturday classes are in session on
November 4, 11, and 18. December 2, 9, and 16.
NO CLASSES NOVEMBER 25 & DECEMBER 30.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 5: OXI Day Celebration in Church following Divine Liturgy
Saturday, December 16: 9:00 AM Christmas Party for Greek School Students and Families

Information

Lainie Damaskos-Christou, Director/Teacher, Ioanna Loula, Teacher, Zeffi Kondoprias, Teacher, Anastasia Gouvitsas, Teacher
email: greeklanguageacademy@stsophiaalbany.org
website: www.stsophiagreekschool.org
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΩΝ ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ-ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2023

Την Πέμπτη ξεκινούν τα Προσχολικά Τμήματα 2, 9, 16 και 30 Νοεμβρίου. 7, 14 και 21 Δεκεμβρίου.
ΟΧΙ ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΣΤΙΣ 23 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ & 28 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ.

Τα μαθήματα του Σαββάτου είναι σε συνεδρία στις 4, 11 και 18 Νοεμβρίου. 2, 9 και 16 Δεκεμβρίου.
ΟΧΙ ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ 25 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ & 30 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ.

ΕΠΕΡΧΟΜΕΝΑ ΓΕΓΟΝΟΣΤΑ

Κυριακή 5 Νοεμβρίου: Εορτασμός της Ημέρας ΟΧΙ στην Εκκλησία μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία
Σάββατο 16 Δεκεμβρίου: 09:00 Χριστουγεννιάτικη Γιορτή για Μαθητές και Οικογένειες Ελληνικών Σχολείων

ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ

Lainie Damaskos-Christou, Director/Teacher, Ioanna Loula, Teacher, Zeffi Kondoprias, Teacher, Anastasia Gouvitsas, Teacher email: greeklanguageacademy@stsophiaalbany.org website: www.stsophiagreekschool.org
The Albany AHEPA Family's Annual

**Holiday Gift Giving Collection**

*December 3-31, 2023*

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

The AHEPA Family will deliver your donations to children and 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.*
Thank you for considering a donation to the Bernard & Millie Duker Children’s Hospital at Albany Med! Your generosity has a direct and positive impact on the patient experience for each infant, child and teenager in our care. Your donation makes it possible to equip our playrooms, celebrate holidays, provide birthday gifts, and so much more! Our patients, families and staff at the Bernard & Millie Duker Children’s Hospital greatly appreciate your support.

Please call Albany Med Foundation to schedule a donation drop-off:
518-262-3322

Child Life WISH LIST

Gift Cards
-high priority items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Stores</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10-$20</td>
<td>Dunkin'/Starbucks</td>
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<td>$15-$20</td>
<td>Bellini’s Counter/Chipotle/Panera/Recovery Room/Subway/Stewarts</td>
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<td>$20-$25</td>
<td>Walmart/Target/CVS</td>
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<td>$25-$50</td>
<td>Amazon/Grocery Store</td>
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<td>Walmart/Target/CVS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>iTunes/Movie Passes/Gas Cards</td>
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<td>Barnes &amp; Noble</td>
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Gift cards are used by the Child Life Team to purchase patient-specific gifts. They also enable the families of our patients to pay for gas to commute to/from the hospital, purchase a meal while visiting their child or help to reduce prescription costs when their child is discharged.

Some suggestions as you consider your donation:

- Coloring Books for Children and Teens/Adults
- Crayons, Markers (10-12 pack) and Colored Pencils (Crayola brand preferred)
- Elmer’s Liquid Glue
- Play-Doh
- Painting Sets/Craft Kits (not wooden)
- Little People Playsets
- Xbox One Games
- Card Games (i.e., UNO, SkipBo, Scrabble Slam, Pictureka, Blink and regular playing cards)
- Lego Kits (small and medium size)
- Matchbox Cars
- Toy Characters (Daniel Tiger, Sesame Street, Dinosaurs, etc.)
- Aquarium Crib Soothers
- Grab & Go Activity Packs
- Wipeable Blocks
- Onesies (size 6 months -24 months)
- Pajamas (size 2T-14)

For teens: manicure sets, makeup sets, books, art sets, handheld electronic games, gift cards (iTunes), model kits, scrapbooking kits

For parents: toiletries for parents who spend the night in the hospital with their child
- Travel Size Deodorant
- Travel Size Shampoo
- Laundry Detergent

Please call Albany Med Foundation to schedule a donation drop-off: 518-262-3322

For a more detailed wish list created by the Child Life team please refer to their Amazon Wish List at: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/35FTDRWDPXSML

Thank you for supporting our kids!

We CANNOT ACCEPT the following items:

- New or used stuffed animals
- Food, drinks, candy, gum
- USED toys or clothing
- Wrapped gifts, get well cards
- War games, toy guns of any kind (water pistols, or nerf guns)
- Toys larger than approx. 1 foot
- Sporting goods
- Religious materials (books, toys, music)
- Nintendo Games
- Wooden Craft Kits

Revised 10/20
Christmas and Flower Service Order Form

(Detach at dotted line and return with your payment or enter credit card below)

1) Name of Loved One (date of death) ________________
   Section ______ Lot _____ Grave# ______

2) Name of Loved One (date of death) ________________
   Section ______ Lot _____ Grave# ______

Enter plan # from centerfold _______________________

Enter item # single placement _______________________

1- Enter floral plan charge from centerfold $ __________
2- Enter Mausoleum vase if needed @ $50 ea $ __________
3- Voluntary Donation toward grounds $ __________

Total all charges $ __________

Please remit this amount above or complete credit card information below.

Your Name (Print): __________________________________________

Sign: ______________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________________________________________________________

Date: ________________________________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________________________

Card Type: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa
☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Expiration Date: ______________

Card Number: __________________ Sec. Code: ______

680 Delaware Avenue
Albany, New York 12209

Phone (518) 463-8408
Fax (518) 463-8414
INFO@GRACELANDCemetery.ORG

2023-2024

Annual Fundraiser for perpetual care and maintenance...

FLOWER PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Remember those you cherish with flowers of the season placed throughout the year by our staff.

24” Fresh Balsam Wreaths on tripod placed after Thanksgiving by Graceland

Effective September 2023
Beautiful Silk Arrangements

20” in Ground Vase
- Single Placement (Enter #20-1x) $25
- Year round 4 season placement $90
  (Enter #20-4x on form)

23” in Ground Vase
- Single Placement (#23-1x) $40
- Year round 4 season placement $135
  (Enter #23-4x on form)

22-24” Balsam FRESH Decorated Christmas Wreaths

$38 installed After Thanksgiving
Item#2018W

24” Artificial Wreath

$55 installed After Thanksgiving
Item#2018_Faux W

Beautiful Silk Arrangements
Mausoleum & Niche Vases
(vase holder extra)
- Single Placement (#Niche 1x) $15 or crypt (#Crypt 1x) $25
- Year round (4) placement (Niche 4x) $50 or Crypt (4) Placement (Crypt-4x) $90

Grave Stone Saddle 18”x32”
- Single Placement (Enter Saddle-1x) $65
- Year round 3 season placement $180
  (Enter Saddle-3x).

Pictures shown are examples. Actual product will match the season when ordered.
## November 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
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<td><strong>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:30 PM</td>
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<td>5th Sunday Luke&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Sunday School&lt;br&gt;OXI Day Celebration</td>
<td>Daughters Meeting&lt;br&gt;6:30 PM</td>
<td>Archangels&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>St. Nektarios</strong>&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy&lt;br&gt;5:30 PM</td>
<td>Parish Council Seminar&lt;br&gt;6:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:00 AM</td>
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<td>8th Sunday Luke&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Meeting&lt;br&gt;6:30 PM</td>
<td>Religious Education&lt;br&gt;6:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:30 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:00 AM</td>
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<td>9th Sunday Luke&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Sunday School&lt;br&gt;Stewardship Breakfast</td>
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<td>Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM</td>
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<td><strong>Thanksgiving</strong>&lt;br&gt;Church Office Closed</td>
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<td>13th Sunday Luke&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Family Worship Sunday</td>
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<td><strong>St. Andrew Divine Liturgy</strong>&lt;br&gt;at St. George&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy&lt;br&gt;5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:00 AM</td>
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<td>ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ</td>
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<tr>
<td>5η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Κυριακάτικο σχολείο Εορτασμός Ημέρας ΟΧΙ</td>
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<td>Οικογενειακή Λατρεία</td>
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<td>12η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ</td>
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<td>Κυριακή Θ’ Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 09:30 Κυριακάτικο Σχολείο Πρωινό επιμελητείας</td>
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<td>Οικογενειακή Λατρεία Κυριακή</td>
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<td>13η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ</td>
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## December 2023

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<th>SUN</th>
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<td>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy 10:00 AM&lt;br&gt;Sr. Holiday Dinner 3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Sunday Luke&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Sunday School&lt;br&gt;St. Barbara’s Day&lt;br&gt;Party</td>
<td>St. Barbara 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>St. Nicholas 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy 5:30 PM</td>
<td>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy 10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Sunday Luke&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Sunday School</td>
<td>St. Spyridon 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;Daughters &amp; Philoptochos Joint Meeting 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Religious Education 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy 5:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Eleftherios 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy&lt;br&gt;St. Sophia Youth Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Greek Language &amp; Culture Academy 10:00 AM</td>
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<td>11th Sunday Luke&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Sunday School&lt;br&gt;Christmas Pageant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Before the Nativity&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Family Worship Sunday&lt;br&gt;Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Christmas Day&lt;br&gt;Church Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Before Theophany&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;Family Worship Sunday</td>
<td>Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM&lt;br&gt;New Year’s Day&lt;br&gt;Church Office Closed</td>
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<td>Eve of Theophany &amp; Blessing of the Waters&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Theophany &amp; Blessing of the Waters&lt;br&gt;Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</td>
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### ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2023

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<td>Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας &amp; Πολιτισμού 10:00 π.μ. Διακατές για ηλικιωμένους 3:00 μ.μ</td>
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<tr>
<td>14η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 09:30 Κυριακάτικο Σχολείο Πάρτι της Αγίας Βαρβάρας</td>
<td>Αγία Βαρβάρα 09:30 Θεία Λειτουργία</td>
<td>Άγιος Νικόλαος 09:30 Θεία Λειτουργία</td>
<td>Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας &amp; Πολιτισμού 5:30 τ.μ</td>
<td>Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας &amp; Πολιτισμού 10:00 π.μ</td>
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<td>10η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ</td>
<td>Αγίου Σπυρίδωνα 09:30 Θεία Λειτουργία</td>
<td>Θρησκευτική εκπαίδευση 6:00 μ.μ</td>
<td>Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας &amp; Πολιτισμού 5:30 τ.μ</td>
<td>Άγιος Ελευθέριος 9:30 Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίας Σοφίας Νέων Χριστουγεννιάτικη Πρόβα 6:00 μ.μ</td>
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<td>11η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ</td>
<td>Χριστουγεννιάτικος διαγωνισμός Κυριακάτικου Σχολείου</td>
<td>19:00 Μ.Μ</td>
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<td>Κυριακή Προ της Γεννήσεως Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ</td>
<td>Χριστουγεννιάτικος διαγωνισμός Κυριακάτικου Σχολείου</td>
<td>19:00 Μ.Μ</td>
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<td>Κυριακή Προ των Θεοφανιών Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ</td>
<td>Περιπολή του Κυρίου &amp; Συνάντηση μας Ιησού Χριστού Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Πρωτοχρονιακό Εκκλησιαστικό Γραφείο Κλειστό</td>
<td>19:00 Μ.Μ</td>
<td>19:00 Π.Μ</td>
<td>19:00 Π.Μ</td>
<td>Θεοφανιών &amp; Αγιασμό των Υδάτων Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ</td>
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</table>
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*$20,000 allocated to music or arts majors

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based on academic achievement &
Hellenic values

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• Be U.S. Citizens/U.S. Permanent
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• Have a minimum GPA of 3.5
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• Be full-time students who are
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Applications are due
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