# The Testament

CENTENNIAL
1922-2022

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT



Volume 41 | Fall-Winter 2023



# Parish Directory

### **CLERGY**

### Proistamenos

Rev. Fr. Patric Legato frpatriclegato@stsophiaalbany.org

# **RETIRED CLERGY**

Fr. Dennis L. Nagi, Ph.D

### **NEOKOROS**

**Evangelos Anton** 

### **CHANTER**

George Lenares

### **CHOIR**

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James Diamantopoulos

### **ICONOGRAPHER**

Efthimios Stoja

# **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

# **MANAGER**

Alfredo Ramos

### **BOOK KEEPING**

Jennifer Kline bookings@stsophiaalbany.org

### **CHURCH CONTACT**

Margaret Danes parishoffice@stsophiaalbany.org

### **WEBMASTER**

Christopher Pappis webmaster@stsophiaalbany.org

### **Parish Office Hours**

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

### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

Rev. Fr. Patric Legato Michél-Gabriélle Legato testament@stsophiaalbany.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@stsophiaalbany.org

## **HELLENIC EDUCATION**

Lainie Damaskos-Christou greeklanguageacademy @stsophiaalbany.org

# **GREEK FOLK DANCE**

Diane Cohen & Maria Pidgeon stsophiadancers@gmail.com

# **GOYA**

Mary Googas Sophia Pallone Mike Koutelis Soula Landi Demetra Xythalis

# JOY

Maria Pidgeon Bessie Sokaris

### **PARISH COUNCIL BOARD**

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### RECORDING SECRETARY

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**Frosine Stolis** 

James Stolis

Helen Tomaso

Christine Prudente

Foti Rantzaklis

Church Website: www.stssophiaalbany.org
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# Fr. Pat's Insights

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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



SPONSORED BY THE GOYA & JOY

December 2nd, 2023 3:00 PM

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

# Parish Council



Michael N. Christakis President, Parish Council

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,



# 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

# **RENEFITS 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.

# RENEFITS 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.



- 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.



# **MORILE**

Give from our Realm App:

- 1. Search Realm Connect in your phone's App Store. 2. Download the free app and
- 3. Click **GIVING** at the bottom, then choose MAKE A GIFT. Don't have an account for the app? Contact our church office.







# Philoptochos

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"

# Saint Philip the Apostle

Commemorated on November 14th

Poulos, G. (1991). Saint Philip the Apostle. In Orthodox Saints Vol. 3 (pp. 113–114). Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Pr.



# 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



# Saint Philip the Apostle

Commemorated on November 14th

Poulos, G. (1991). Saint Philip the Apostle. In Orthodox Saints Vol. 3 (pp. 113–114). Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Pr.



# Ο Άγιος Φίλιππος γεννήθηκε σε μια απομακρυσμένη γωνιά των Αγίων Τόπων, σε ένα μικροσκοπικό χωριό που ονομάζεται Βηθσαΐδα.

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 κήρυττε τον λόγο του Χριστού με κλήρωση. Σ' αυτόν έπεσε η απρόσκλητη δυτική περιοχή της ηπείρου της Ασίας, ή Μικράς Ασίας όπως έχει ονομαστεί. Ανέλαβε αυτή την ευθύνη με εμπιστοσύνη και ταπεινοφροσύνη που γεννήθηκε από τις ευλογίες του Κυρίου. Σ' αυτό το ιερό έργο τον βοήθησε περισσότερο από επιδέξια όχι μόνο η ευσεβής αδελφή του Μαριάμ, αλλά και ο Απόστολος Βαρθολομαίος. Οι προσπάθειές τους εξασφάλισαν επιτυχία όταν ο Κύριος επέλεξε να κάνει τον Άγιο Φίλιππο όργανο θαυματουργών δυνάμεων.

Διέσχισε τα μήκη και τα πλάτη της Μικράς Ασίας ακούραστα κηρύττοντας 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 μαντρί με τη βοήθεια του Βαρθολομαίου και της Μαριάμ.

Η επιστροφή του Αγίου Φιλίππου στην Ασία επιταχύνθηκε από αναφορές για μια παράξενη φρυγική λατρεία που είχε εισαχθεί στον δεισιδαίμονο και αγράμματο πληθυσμό και η οποία βρισκόταν σε άμεση σύγκρουση με το χριστιανικό δόγμα και πρακτική. Ένα φοβερό φίδι λατρευόταν ως θεός, αλλά με μεγαλύτερη ευλάβεια από ένα ολόκληρο κοπάδι ιερών αγελάδων, όπως στην Ινδία. Η κολοσσιαία οχιά λέγεται ότι ήταν ανίκητη, μια ιδέα που εξαφανίστηκε όταν ο Άγιος Φίλιππος πλησίασε το πλάσμα και έβαλε το χέρι του πάνω του με αποτέλεσμα να χαθεί επιτόπου. Αυτή η επίδειξη επανέφερε τον πληθυσμό στις αισθήσεις του και κατά χιλιάδες οι Φρύγες βαφτίστηκαν στο Χριστιανισμό.

Το να πούμε ότι αυτό προκάλεσε στους ειδωλολάτρες φανατικούς φανατικούς τρόμους θα ήταν αρκετά υποτιμητικό.

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 Φίλιππου που αιμορραγούσε. Πιθανώς ο πρώτος που καρφώθηκε στον σταυρό και ο τελευταίος που αφαιρέθηκε, ο Απόστολος Φίλιππος ήταν αβοήθητος και αφού ήταν θέλημά 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 Φίλιππος 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 Φίλιππος δεν κουράστηκε από τις ταλαιπωρίες του και σίγουρα το ιεραποστολικό 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 Φίλιππος, ένας άλλος γενναίος μαθητής που προοριζόταν 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.

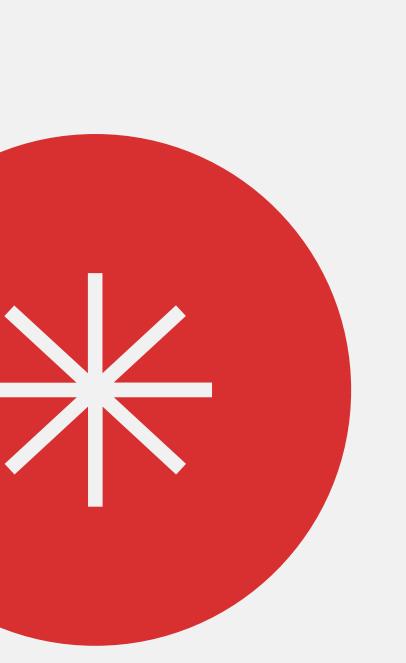
Η ιερή τριάδα Φιλίππου, Βαρθολομαίου και Μαριάμ, δικάστηκαν και καταδικάστηκαν. Οι δούλοι του Θεού καταδικάστηκαν να σταυρωθούν. Η θανατική ποινή εκτελέστηκε με αποστολή και οι άγιοι τρεις καρφώθηκαν σε ξύλινους σταυρούς. Μόλις έγινε αυτό, ο ουρανός σκοτείνιασε και η γη έτρεμε βίαια από έναν βουητό σεισμό. 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 Φίλιππος δεν το έκανε. Το ετοιμοθάνατο βλέμμα του κατέστησε το πλήθος αδύναμο και αιμορραγούσε μέχρι θανάτου στις 14 Νοεμβρίου με την τελευταία του πνοή δοξάζοντας τον Κύριο.



# ANNUAL ST. SOPHIA JINGLE BALL

A night of holiday fun for our St. Sophia youth!



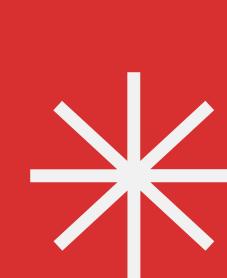


# Friday, December 29th 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Parish Hall

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

 $\boldsymbol{A}$ 

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

B

Georgios & Nancy Athanassiadis

Danny & Gail Bahlatzis Nicholas & Effie Balahtsis 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

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



John & Katerina Dallas
Peter & Rosemary Dallas
Norma Damascos
Athena D'amico
Theodora D'amico
Lauren Dean
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Dimitrios & Eleni Dilis
Gregory & Shalyn Docous
Pauline Duke



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



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



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 Anaie Koutelis Diane Koutelis Michael Koutelis & Mary Ellen Koutelis Michael & Jewelie 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

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

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

0 & P

Diana Ostroff Athena & Vito Pagnotti Sophia & Craig Pallone Violet Palombo Katherine Papa Keather Papa Konstantinos Papadopouls James & Andrea Papandrea Miltiadis Papas Peter & Maria Pappas Christopher Pappis

George Pappis Matthew Pappis Nicholas & Alexandra Parais Maria Patelos

Marina Patelos Mary Patelos

Spiro & JoAnn Pavlostathis

Chrysanthy Perlegis

Tina Perlegis

Michael & Thecla Philip Mignonne & David Philips Maria & Gregg Pidgeon John Polydouris H. Margret & James Poole James Posporelis

Joanne & Paul Pugliani

# $Q \mathcal{E} R$

Nicola & Penellope 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

# S

Yasmine Sahawneh **Charles Sarris** LeGrande Serras Christos & Erin Sikopoulos Nicholas Simler & Betelehem 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 Stevenes George & Jami Stolis James & Frosine Stolis Cj & Cassandra Strippoli Nicole Strippoli

# **T**

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

# $U \mathcal{E}^{V}$

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



# St. Sophia Greek Language and Culture Academy Corner

Γωνία της Ακαδημίας Ελληνικής Γλώσσας και Πολιτισμόυ Αγίας Σοφίας

# 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



# Γωνία της Ακαδημίας Ελληνικής Γλώσσας και Πολιτισμόυ Αγίας Σοφίας

# ΠΡΌΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΜΑΘΗΜΆΤΩΝ ΝΟΕΜΒΡΊΟΥ-ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΊΟΥ 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.** 

# ΕΠΕΡΧΌΜΕΝΑ ΓΕΓΟΝΌΤΑ

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

# ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΊΕΣ

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.

# Child Life WISH LIST





**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.

# 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)

**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

- ✓ 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)

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/35FTDRWDPSXMI

Thank you for supporting our kids!

# **Gift Cards**

# -high priority items

\$10-\$20 Dunkin'/Starbucks

\$15-\$20
Bellini's Counter/
Chipotle/Panera/
Recovery Room/
Subway/Stewarts

\$20-\$25 Walmart/Target CVS

Amazon

**Grocery Store** 

Walmart/Target/CVS

\$25-\$50

iTunes/Movie Passes/ Gas Cards

**Barnes & Noble** 

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.

# We CANNOT ACCEPT the following items:

Due to infection controls and the sensitive nature of our patient population, we are unable to accept the following:

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

# Christmas and Flower Service Order

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

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	Section Lot Grave#	

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Albany, New York 12209 680 Delaware Avenue

680 Delaware Ave. Albany, New York 12209

Phone (518) 463-8408 Fax (518) 463-8414 INFO@GRACEI AND-CEMETERY ORG

# 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.

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



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 <u>FRESH</u> Decorated Christmas Wreaths



# \$38 <u>installed</u> After Thanksgiving Item#2018W

24" Artificial Wreath



After Thanksgiving Item#2018\_Faux W

# Beautiful Silk Atrangements 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) \$6
- Year round 3 season placement \$180
- (Enter Saddle -3x).



# NOVEMBER 2023

SAT	d Greek Language & Culture Academy 10:00 AM	ll Greek Language & Culture Academy 10:00 AM	යි Greek Language & Culture Academy 10:00 AM	25	2	0
FRI	е	01	17	24	_	80
THU	2 Greek Language & Culture Academy 5:30 PM	O St. Nektarios Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Greek Language & Culture Academy 5:30 PM Parish Council Seminar 6:30 PM	lර Greek Language & Culture Academy 5:30 PM	23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	30 St. Andrew Divine Liturgy at St. George 9:30 AM Greek Language & Culture Academy 5:30 PM	7
WED	_	8 Archangels Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM	I5 Religious Education 6:00 PM	22	29	9
TUE	₹	7 Daughters Meeting 6:30 PM	14 Philoptochos Meeting 6:30 PM	2  Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM	28	D
MON	30	9	13	50	27	4
SUN	50	5 5th Sunday Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Sunday School OXI Day Celebration	2 8th Sunday Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Family Worship Sunday	Q 9th Sunday Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Sunday School Stewardship Breakfast	26 13th Sunday Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Family Worship Sunday	€

# Νοέμβριος 2023

ΣΆΒΒΑΤΟ	4 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 10:00 Π.Μ	 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 10:00 Π.Μ	β Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 10:00 Π.Μ			
Σ,	4 Aκαδι	Ακαδι		25	N	0
ПΑРАΣКЕУΉ	m	<u>O</u>		24	_	$\infty$
ПЕМПТН	2 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 5:30 Μ.Μ	5t. Nektarios Λειτουργία 9:30 ΑΜ Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 5:30 Μ.Μ Σεμινάριο Ενοριακού	Ιδ Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 5:30 Μ.Μ	23 Έκλεισε το γραφείο της Εκκλησίας της Ημέρας των Ευχαριστιών	30 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 5:30 Μ.Μ	7
TETAPTH	_	β Αρχαγγέλων Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ	5 Θρησκευτική εκπαίδευση 6:00 μ.μ	22	29	9
ТРТТН	₹	7 Συνάντηση Κόρες 6:30 ΠΜ	4 Φιλόπτωχος Συνάντηση 6:30 ΠΙΜ	2  Είσοδος της Θεοτόκου στον Ναό Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ	28	2
ΔΕΥΤΈΡΑ	30	6	13	20	27	4
КУРІАКΉ	50	5η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Κυριακάτικο σχολείο Εορτασμός Ημέρας ΟΧΙ	2 8η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Οικογενειακή Λατρεία	Ο Κυριακή Θ΄ Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία Ο9:30 Κυριακάτικο Σχολείο Πρωινό επιμελητείας	26 13η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Οικογενειακή Λατρεία Κυριακή	<b>C</b>

# DECEMBER 2023

SAT	2 Greek Language & Culture Academy 10:00 AM Senior Holiday Dinner 3:00 PM	Greek Language & Culture Academy 10:00 AM	IĜ Greek Language & Culture Academy 10:00 AM	23	30	C Theophany & Blessing of the Waters Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
r R	_	$\infty$	5 St. Eleftherios 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy St. Sophia Youth Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6:00 PM	22	50	5 Eve of Theophany & Blessing of the Waters Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
THU	30	7 Greek Language & Culture Academy 5:30 PM	Id Greek Language & Culture Academy 5:30 PM	21	28	7
WED	50	6 St. Nicholas 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	I3 Religious Education 6:00 PM	20	27	E
TUE	28	ಬ	12 St. Spyridon 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Daughters & Philoptochos Joint Meeting 6:30 PM	<u>O</u>	56	2
MON	27	4 St. Barbara 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	=	<u>8</u>	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM New Year's Day Church Office Closed
SUN	50	3 14th Sunday Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Sunday School St. Barbara's Day Party	10th Sunday Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Sunday School	11th Sunday Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Sunday School	24 Sunday Before the Nativity Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Family Worship Sunday Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy 6:00 PM	3  Sunday Before Theophany Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Family Worship Sunday

# **DEKEMBPIOS** 2023

ΣΆΒΒΑΤΟ	2 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 10:00 π.μ. Διακοπές για ηλικιωμένους 3:00 Μ.Μ	9 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 10:00 Π.Μ		23	30	Θεοφανίων & Αγιασμού των Υδάτων Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ
ПАРАΣКЕҮΉ		8	5 Αγιος Ελευθέριος 9:30 Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίας Σοφίας Νέων Χριστουγεννιάτικη Πρόβα 6:00 μ.μ.	22	50	5 Παραμονή Θεοφανίων & Αγιασμού των Υδάτων Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ
N'EMNTH	30	7 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 5:30 Μ.Μ	4 Ακαδημία Ελληνικής Γλώσσας & Πολιτισμού 5:30 Μ.Μ	21	28	7
TET'A PTH	50	δ Άγιος Νικόλαος 09:30 Θεία Λειτουργία	3 Θρησκευτική εκπαίδευση 6:00 μ.μ	20	27	ಣ
TPITH	28	2	Σ Αγίου Σπυρίδωνα 09:30 Θεία Λειτουργία Κοινή Συνάντηση Κόρες & Φιλόπτωχου 6:30 ΠΜ	6	26	2
ΔΕΥΤΈΡΑ	27	4 Αγία Βαρβάρα 09:30 Θεία Λειτουργία	=	8	25 ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων Εκκλησιαστικό γραφείο κλειστό	Περιτομή του Κυρίου και Σωτήρα μας Ιησού Χριστού Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ. Πρωτοχρονιάτικο Εκκλησιαστικό Γοσσοίο Κλαστάς
КҮРІАКΉ	56	3 14η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 09:30 Κυριακάτικο Σχολείο Πάρτι της Αγίας Βαρβάρας	() 10η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Κυριακάτικο σχολείο	17 11η Κυριακή Λουκά Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Χριστουγεννιάτικος διαγωνισμός Κυριακάτικου Σχολείου	Κυριακή Προ της Γεννήσεως Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Οικογενειακή Λατρεία Κυριακή Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων Θεία Λειτουργία 6:00 μ.μ	3  Κυριακή Προ των Θεοφανίων Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ Οικογενειακή Λατρεία Κυριακή

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF HELLENIC DESCENT!





# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



# \$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

20 Awards of \$10,000 each

based on academic achievement, financial need, & Hellenic values \*\$20,000 allocated to music or arts majors 20 Awards of \$2,500 each

based on academic achievement & Hellenic values

# In order to apply students must:

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- Be of Hellenic descent
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.5
- Be enrolled at an accredited university/college in the U.S. as of Fall 2023
- Be full-time students who are pursuing a four-year bachelor's degree

# Applications are due January 31, 2024

The application, criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at

www.panhellenicsf.org

For inquiries please email <a href="mailto:scholarships@panhellenicsf.org">scholarships@panhellenicsf.org</a> or call our office at (312) 357-6432





# 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;

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