

SEP/OCT 2025

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# the testament



[WWW.STSOPHIAALBANY.ORG](http://WWW.STSOPHIAALBANY.ORG)

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# the testament

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**FROSINE STOLIS**

**JAMES STOLIS**

**HELEN TOMASO**

**CHRISTINE PRUDENTE**

**FOTI RANTZAKLIS**

CHOIR

**HARRY ERMIDES**

PHILOPTOCHOS

**DEMETRA. XYTHALIS**

MAKARIA

**DORA MOKHIBER**

**ELAINE SOKARIS**

SENIOR CITIZENS

**JAMES STOLIS**

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**SOULA LANDI**

**SOPHIA PALLONE**

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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.**





# FR. PAT'S INSIGHTS

*Image: Dome of Milano - Santa Maria Nascente weible1980 from Getty Images Signature*



The city of Milan in Italy is one of the most beautiful and wealthiest cities of Europe. Originally, a Celtic outpost, it would grow in prominence politically, culturally, economically, and spiritually.

Of course, like practically all European cities, it changed hands many times until it became part of the Italian consolidation in the mid-19th century.

Present day Milan is a bustling center of commerce and religious activity. It is home to the largest Catholic church in the world, the Basilica of the Santa Maria Nascente. It is one of the most magnificent and imposing Gothic churches to survive two world wars and several centuries of change. Factually speaking, it was not even completed until more than two decades after World War II and more than 600 years after construction was begun.

The imposing cathedral dominates the City and criticism and praise have both defined its imposing structure. I look forward to one day visiting this magnificent and religiously imposing Basilica, whose only architectural rivals are St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and the architectural wonder of St. Justinian the Great; Saint Sophia in Constantinople.

Milan is also known as the happiest City in the world, where the accepted mantra is to walk the medieval streets with a constant smile. The philosophy of the Milanese is to publicly display a disarming and charming smile as a sign of welcome and contentment. Nowhere in the world is this common. The question we should all ask is, "Why are they content to smile?"

Maybe they are condescending or aloof? Maybe they are sneering at the rest of us, or simply smirking? What is it they know, that we do not know? I can certainly understand and accept that they believe that the idea of joy through a simple smile is contagious rather than condescending, and disarming, rather than alarming. Maybe there is something the inhabitants of Milan know that we do not understand, and after reading about this uplifting virtue, why hasn't the rest of the world learned to exhibit this behavior and make this our psychological, physical and emotional, life quest? I wonder. Could it be so simple as understanding the principle that as Christians we all can be saved? The thought of salvation should not simply excite us, but make each and everyone of us smile.

Then again, life is not so easy even for a Christian. For us, as Orthodox Christians there is a great deal of discipline to live by. Praying, fasting, a sacramental life, spiritual illumination, belief, faith, trust..., all are inclusive and binding, but if we can succeed in accomplishing a true following, then maybe we should smile, because we know what awaits us, and it is not an end, but a new beginning.

## A SMILE IS AN INVITATION



It is not easy to smile. So often, our reality and the world around us is harsh and we are often confronted with failure. We abandon hope and work on the skill of perfecting the art of scowling. We disfigure our facial expressions, turn on one another, and even God. How can anyone smile when we separate from the Lord? Herein is our challenge. When we put on the Lord, and are imbued with the Spirit, the Lord is with us. St. Paul tells us to be one with God and the message of the Bible is that salvation is at hand. We are invited to take up the mantle, follow Jesus, and make our way toward an eternal life of bliss. Eternal life? No pain? No sorrow? No sin? This is our invitation to smile and smile broadly.

The reality of being an Orthodox Christian should point us in the right direction. We should overcome our difficulties in life by confronting them and trusting in the Lord to help us overcome them, rather than accentuate them and use them as an excuse for removing ourselves from the presence of the Lord.

Always remember, God does have a plan, and that alone should help us to smile for the Gospels remind us that the Messiah came not to destroy us, but to save us. Negativity, then, should not be allowed to impede our primary goal of living and walking with the Lord in our quest to find salvation. And for all of us who call ourselves Christian, success is a unique combination of love, forgiveness, humility, understanding, charity, and sacrifice that guide us in the direction of salvation.

The Lord, Himself is our beacon of light!

Armed with this knowledge, we should all be able to muster the strength and joy to exhibit a smile. All we need to do is to reprogram our minds and come to the realization that God does not allow us to face any situation in life which is beyond our endurance. Accepting that, we should all be able to spread the joy of life and rediscover the art of the smile.

A spiritual Father was once asked a poignant question in a discussion from his spiritual child who was searching for his faith. This individual was terribly distressed and troubled and equated his existence to living under a tempestuous cloud which never dissipated. He felt deserted, stressed out, and overwhelmed. The holy man smiled and queried, "Have you ever flown in an airplane?"

The response was quickly delivered with almost an irksome retort, "You know, Father, I fly all the time."

"Then, my son, when you rise above the clouds, which are now spread like a blanket below, what do you see?"

The answer, of course, was the clear blue sky, light and the sun. **"FIAT LUX!"**

Our Christian strength should be drawn from this image. No matter how challenging, or disappointing, or frustrating life may seem; No matter how unbearable our pain and suffering may feel; No matter how cloudy the world appears to us, or how muddled our future may be, we need to rise above the clouds and see the Sun. Maybe then, we can all find something which has been eluding us and overcome our pains, frustrations and suffering, and rediscover the ever elusive expression which creates a very disarming atmosphere of joy and...smile.



# PARISH COUCL PRESIDENT



Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the new ecclesiastical year on September 1, I hope you enjoyed the blessings of summer and found time to rest, recharge, and do something you enjoy. In our Orthodox tradition, this time of year is an opportunity to look ahead with gratitude for what we have accomplished together and with renewed commitment to the work that lies before us as a parish.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at “The Joe” for St. Sophia Night at the ballpark in late June. The weather was perfect, the fellowship was uplifting, and it was a joy to share that evening together as a parish family.

As our students return to school at every level, we wish them continued success in their studies and activities. We also offer special recognition to this year’s scholarship recipients—your achievements make us proud and reflect the values we hold dear as a community.

Over the summer, we made several improvements to our facilities, including the installation of new computers in the parish office and the paving of the driveway in front of the church parallel to Whitehall Road. These updates will help us better serve our parish and guests.

Sunday School begins September 21, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer months. This fall, we encourage parishioners and families to reengage with our youth ministries—including Sunday School, Greek School, GOYA, and JOY—which play a vital role in nurturing faith, fellowship, and connection within our community.

On October 2, we will host a parish bus trip to New York City to visit The Met. Most area schools will be closed that day, so this is a wonderful opportunity to escape to NYC for the day. Space is limited—please RSVP with Fr. Pat soon to reserve your spot.

We are also pleased to share that the **Family Promise** program will be returning. This ministry has had a meaningful impact on families in need, and we encourage you to get involved. If you are interested, please see Peter Melas or Dina Fisher.

Thank you for your continued willingness to share your time, talents, and resources in support of our parish. Your dedication and generosity help make St. Sophia a vibrant, welcoming Orthodox Christian community for all who enter our doors.

In Orthodoxy,

*Michael N. Christakis, Ph.D.*

# STEWARDSHIP

AS OF AUGUST 2025

## A

David & Eugenia Alven  
Wael Alzawahra  
George Amanatides  
Paul Amanatides  
✙ Danny & Panagiota Anagnost  
Vasilis & Christina Anagnostopoulos  
Anastassios Anastahas  
George Andrews  
Tommy & Helene Annas  
Pauline Anton  
Evangelos Anton  
Michael Anton  
Nick & Joanne Antoniadis  
Paul & Vera Apostol  
Georgios & Nancy Athanassiadis

## B

Danny & ✙ Gail Bahlatzis  
Nicholas & Effie Balahtsis  
Glykeria Baltis  
Peter & Kathy Baltis  
Barbara Beckos McDonald & Arthur McDonald  
Marie & Andris Beiniks  
Joseph Bobb  
Theodorian & Diana-Andra Borca-Tasciuc  
Athena Bouloukos  
Elyse Bouloukos  
Peter & Kathleen Bouloukos  
Konstantinos & Christina Brotsis  
Barbara Burke

## C

Marietta Caladim  
John & Penny Caracandas  
George Chakmakas  
John Chakmakas  
George & Maria Cholakis  
Joanne 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  
John & Katerina Dallas  
Peter & Rosemary Dallas  
Norma Damascos  
Theodora D'Amico  
Daughters Of Penelope  
Robert & Alexandra Davis  
Lauren Dean  
Vidal & Katherine Deleon  
Drew Demers  
Nicholas & Marianna Diamantatos  
James & Chrisanthi Diamantopoulos  
Vassilios & Florence Dimitriadis  
Stephani Dimopoulos & Anthony Dicocco  
Gregory & Shalyn Docous  
Mick & Lea Doemel  
Pauline Duke

## E

Harry Efstathiadis  
Constantine Ermides  
Harry & Diane Ermides  
Michael & Linda Ermides



## F

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.

## H

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

## J

Alex Jefferson  
Nadia Jefferson  
✠ George & E Jeoney  
Rita Jeoney  
Catherine Julius

## K

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  
MaryEllen Koutelis  
Michael Koutelis & Mary Koutellis  
Michael & Jewelie Koutelis  
Jeanne Koutoufaris  
George & Paula Koutsakis  
Stefan Koutsakis  
Michael & Karen Koutsourades

✠: In Memory Of

## L

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

## M

Peter & Irene Mafilios  
James & Maria Mahar  
Bessie Malamas  
Angela Marathakis  
Peter & Tina Marathakis  
George & Lea Marinopoulos  
Caterina & John Markowski  
Marie Martin  
Jeffrey & Marie McCullough  
Maria Melas  
Peter & Georgia Melas  
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 & Dhimo Nasi  
Michael & Maria Neal  
Alexander & Molly Nichols

THE TESTAMENT

## O, P, & Q

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  
John Polydouris  
H Margret Poole  
James Posporelis  
Nikoleta & Andrea Prifti  
Christine & Stephen Prudente  
Joanne & Paul Pugliani  
Besnik & Penellope Qaja

## R & S

Foti & Theodora Rantzaklis  
Dennis & Irene Rassias  
Helen & Donald Read  
Haroula & John (Brad) Reitz  
Michael & Sophia Reynolds-Cotzas  
Terrell & Ann Roe  
Nicole Rosa  
Charles Sarris  
Legrande Serras  
Stiljan & Kristina Shkembi  
Spyridon Skordas & Elaine Hasapis  
George & Debbie Socaris  
Elaine Sokaris  
Gerasimos & Kathryn Sokaris  
Gregory & Maria Sokaris  
Gregory C. Sokaris



# 2025

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Gregory Sokaris  
Gregory Sokaris  
Laura Sokaris & William Farrell  
Mary Sokaris  
Nora Sokaris  
Francisco & Eleni Soler  
Dan & Anabela-Mihaela Stan  
Christos & Delores Stavrou  
Anne Sternbach  
Lea & Mark Stevens  
George & Jami Stolis  
James & Frosine Stolis  
Cataldo & Cassandra Strippoli  
Nicole Strippoli

## T, U & V

Faith Takes & Joseph Moltzen  
Anthony Thanopoulos  
Anna & Pasquale Tirino  
Nicholas & Eftihia Toppses  
Loucas & Olga Tsakalacos  
Vasiliki Tsamis  
Anastasia Tunny  
Aleksander Tupe

Layne Underwood  
Leigh Underwood-Brockmann & David Brockmann  
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 Ziamandanis  
Peter & Maria Ziamandanis

# PHILOPTOCHOS

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Happy Fall Everyone,

This is my last Testament letter for now. I would like to say thank you to everyone that has supported me throughout the 6 years of presidency. I had an amazing board that made it so much easier and a wonderful experience.

I'm confident that the new board will continue doing a great job. Keep an eye out for some new fun activities that are being planned.

Our September meeting will be Tuesday the 9th. We will start in the church at 6:00 pm with the Agiasmo service and then move to the hall for our first meeting back and dinner.

Please join us, old and new members, bring a friend if you like and hear what Philoptochos does for the church and for those in need.

Thank you,

Maria Sokaris  
Outgoing Philoptochos President

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Welcome back!



# Sunday School Calendar Fall 2025



## September

21 - First Day of Classes  
28- Classes in Session

## October

5 - Classes in Session  
12- Family Worship  
(No Classes)  
19- Classes in Session  
26- Classes in Session

## November

2- Classes in Session  
9 - Classes in Session  
16 - Classes in Session  
23 - Classes in Session  
30 - Family Worship ( No Classes)

Questions? Email:

[sundayschool@stsophiaalbany.org](mailto:sundayschool@stsophiaalbany.org)

# 2025 ST. SOPHIA GRADUATES SPOTLIGHT

BY: GEORGIA MELAS

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER PAPPIS



On August 17, the members of the St. Sophia Scholarship Committee were honored to present the St. Sophia Scholarship awards for the 2025-2026 academic year to 15 award recipients following the Divine Liturgy in Albany, NY. These awards were based on several factors, including their participation in various activities at St. Sophia, the student's academic record, and their student essay. One student received the Felia Kondoprias Memorial Scholarship. This will be an annual scholarship created by Felia's family in her memory.

Our 2025 award designees are Aphroditis Anagnostopoulos - University of Miami; Dimitris Anagnostopoulos - Siena College; Anna Cholakakis - Misericordia University; Peter Landi - SUNY Binghamton; Elliana Lasher - Utica University; Calla Meyer - SUNY Binghamton; Evangelia Miszko - SUNY Albany; Constantine Palas - Siena College; Thomas Pallone - Florida Institute of Technology; John Quackenbush - SUNY Albany; Sophia Quackenbush - Coastal Carolina University; Alexandra Roe - Fairfield University; Felia Kondoprias scholarship recipient; Ava Roe - SUNY Oswego; Dean Sokaris - Wesleyan University; Christopher Soler - SUNY Albany.

We extend our congratulations to all our recipients. It is the wish of this committee, and every member of St. Sophia that they will continue their adult lives at St. Sophia and encourage others who follow them to build on their achievements. We believe that investing in our children and our students is an investment in our future.



Elizabeth R. Alzawahra graduated on May 28, 2025 from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. Her major was Psychology and Political Science. Her minor was Education Policy. (pictured on left)

Elizabeth K. Cohen graduated from SUNY Cortland in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education. Liz will attend graduate school in the fall at SUNY Cortland for her Master's Degree in Health Education, which will be completed in 2026. Liz is looking forward to a long career as a Physical Education teacher in a local school district. (pictured below right)

Jeffrey George graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a BS in Electrical Engineering. He is working at Core Tech Industrial Corp. in Ballston Spa.

Gregory George graduated from the University of Massachusetts Lowell with a BS in Criminal Justice. He is pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Thomas Pallone is a graduate of Columbia High School. He will be attending the Florida Institute of Technology, majoring in Aeronautical Science with Flight (B.S.)

With a long-standing interest in aviation, Thomas took a Discovery Flight in October 2024 that confirmed his passion and soon began flight lessons and ground training with Richmor Aviation at the Schenectady County Airport. At Florida Tech, he will study the design, development, and operation of aircraft while training in single-engine and multi-engine planes. This combination of coursework and flight experience will prepare him to complete the exams required to become a commercial pilot.



Congratulations to our St. Sophia Graduates!

We wish you all the best in your future academic and professional careers ahead!





# 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 ONLINE** button on our church website at: [www.stsophiaalbany.org](http://www.stsophiaalbany.org)
2. Enter the amount you wish to give, select fund, and enter your email address.
3. 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.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## note from fr. pat

Our Youth programs will again continue this October with a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on Thursday, October 2, 2025. We are also hoping to visit the Shrine of St. Nicholas at the World Trade Center, depending on availability. The cost is \$45 for adults and \$22 for non-members of our GOYA or JOY. If you are not a participating member of our Youth program, please consider joining. Contact Fr. Pat for more information.

Be on the look out in the Sunday Bulletin for updates to our programs and for a new Religious Education program called: **ILLUMINATIONS**. This program will be an opportunity to have an open discussion on our Orthodox faith and is geared to helping us understand the faith, traditions, and biblical teachings we follow.

## sunday school

Sunday School classes will begin on September 21. The Divine Liturgy begins at 9:30 AM. Please bring your child(ren) inside Church first to light candles and to attend the Divine Liturgy. Children will be dismissed to their classes following the Gospel Reading. If you have not already registered your child(ren) for the 2025-2026 school year, please find the registration link on our church website. Questions? **Please contact via email only:** [sundayschool@stsophiaalbany.org](mailto:sundayschool@stsophiaalbany.org).

**WE ARE IN NEED OF TEACHERS! PLEASE EMAIL IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TEACHING THIS YEAR! MUST BE 18+ YEARS OLD TO TEACH.**

## greek school

The Greek School of St. Sophia is hiring a permanent part-time teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. It is preferable that the candidates have some experience teaching Greek language and culture to Pre-K-Early Elementary students. However, we could train and will provide the complete curriculum. They must be patient, understanding and friendly. There is a competitive hourly wage. For further information, **please contact Eleni Damaskos-Christou (Director) at:** [greeklanguageacademy@stsophiaalbany.org](mailto:greeklanguageacademy@stsophiaalbany.org).







## choir

Choir will resume singing on September 14th, the Elevation of the Holy Cross. Our choir consists of approximately 15-20 people, with various backgrounds.

Our choir sings at every Sunday Liturgy, every night of Holy Week leading up to Easter (Pascha), and various weeknight Liturgies conducted during the week. The music we sing is strictly Byzantine in nature, and we sing both in Greek and English. All of our music contains Greek phonetics for those of us that do not speak or read Greek.

Our practices are very easy to handle. With the exception of Holy Week and a few other Holy days, we can handle practicing changes to the Liturgy at dismissal. All sheet music and vocal samples of each hymn is usually sent to you with the Sunday's agenda. You can easily print off the sheet music and practice with the vocals.

The choir is open to everyone with a desire to sing. There are no auditions and no prerequisites. If you can't speak Greek, we will teach you the phonetics. We provide the music and choir robes. No special fees or dues are required. We do expect a professional attitude, and promptness. Overall, we want your experience singing in the choir to be spiritual and uplifting. We need everyone with a desire to sing.

Please contact me: (518) 573-7003 call or text.

**HARRY J. ERMIDES, DIRECTOR**

THE TESTAMENT

## st sophia dance group

Rehearsal schedule for this season will begin on September 27 for the Senior dance group and September 28 for the Junior-Freshmen groups. If you have not received the Dance group agreement and sign-up form, **please contact Diane Cohen or Maria Pidgeon at: [stsophiadancers@gmail.com](mailto:stsophiadancers@gmail.com)**



Image above: St. Sophia dancers at Greek Festival 2025, Theodosia Legato



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# AHEPA FAMILY NEWS

## 2025 scholarship award recipients

Education is deeply embodied in the identity and mission of the Order of AHEPA and since the inception of the scholarship this chapter has awarded thousands of dollars to worthy college bound students. The scholarship committee presented the 2025 awards on Sunday, August 17, 2025 following church services at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Albany, NY.

This year's Arthur P. Takes AHEPA Scholarship Award were awarded to Constantine Palas attending Siena College, Thomas Pallone attending Florida Institute of Technology, Dean Sokaris attending Wesleyan University, and Christopher Soler attending SUNY Albany.

In addition, the Daughters of Penelope Alope Chapter #158 awarded scholarships to Evangelia Miszko and Alexandra Roe. Evangelia will be attending SUNY Albany majoring in Human Body & Pre-Med. Alexandra will be attending Fairfield University majoring in Engineering.

We wish everyone the best of luck and success in their future endeavors!





# ahepa

AHEPA Casino Night returns Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-11:00 pm at the Polish American Citizens Club. Food, prizes, cash bar, and music! Tickets on sale Sundays during Coffee Hour starting in September. \$50 table games, \$100 no limit hold'em tournament. **Proceeds to benefit the St. Sophia Dance Groups.**

## daughters of penelope



™ Your favorite Greek dance & exercise class is back! Come join the fun for the Fall session beginning on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 pm in St. Sophia's parish hall. \$7 per week. 50% of all proceeds will be donated to the Albany Therapeutic Riding Center. To date the Daughters of Penelope has donated over \$4,000 to several local charities! For more information scan the QR code below to join the mailing list!



## 2025 CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

Great gift idea for family, friends & business associates alike! Wreath orders start at \$40. Place your order by calling Maria Neal at (518) 428-2308 or during Coffee Hour in October. Physical flyers will also have a digital QR code to place your order. Orders and payments due by **November 2**. Cash, check, and Credit Card accepted.



## sons of pericles & maids of athena



*Valentine's Day*

**SAVE THE DATE**



Mark your calendars for a sweet event! The Sons of Pericles & Maids of Athena Annual Valentine's Dance Weekend will be held **February 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

More details to come.



# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  Labor Day Office Closed	<b>2</b>  Senior Program 12:00 pm  DOP 6:30 pm	<b>3</b>  Knitters 12:15 pm	<b>4</b>  Senior Lunch 12:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  Sunday before Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>8</b>  Nativity of the Virgin Mary Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>9</b>  Senior Program 12:00 pm  Philoptochos Agiasmos & Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>10</b>  Knitters 12:15 pm  OPA-cize 6:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	<b>15</b>  AHEPA 7:00 pm	<b>16</b>  Senior Program 12:00 pm	<b>17</b>  OPA-cize 6:30 pm  Knitters 12:15 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am  Doll Show 10:00 am
<b>21</b>  Sunday after Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Sunday School Begins	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Senior Program 12:00 pm	<b>24</b>  OPA-cize 6:30 pm  Knitters 12:15 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am  Dance Group Begins (Seniors)
<b>28</b>  1st Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Dance Group Begins (Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Senior Program 12:00 pm				

# October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Knitters 12:15 pm  OPA-cize 6:30 pm	2  Senior Lunch 12:30 pm	3	4  Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am
5  2nd Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	6	7  Senior Program 12:00 pm  DOP 6:30 pm	8  Knitters 12:15 pm  OPA-cize 6:30 pm	9	10	11
12  Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	13  Columbus Day Office Closed	14  Senior Program 12:00 pm  Philoptochos 6:30 pm	15  OPA-cize 6:30 pm  Knitters 12:15 pm	16	17	18  Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am
19  3rd Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  AHEPA 12:00 pm	20  Illuminations Religious Ed. 6:30 PM	21  Senior Program 12:00 pm	22  OPA-cize 6:30 pm  Knitters 12:15 pm	23	24	25  Greek Language & Culture Academy 9:00 am
26  6th Sunday of Luke Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  General Assembly OXI Day Celebration	27	28  Senior Program 12:00 pm	29  Knitters 12:15 pm  OPA-cize 6:30 pm	30  Senior Lunch 12:30 pm		

**SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
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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.