



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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OLGA THOMAS
Choir Director and Organist

MAY / JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER



Future Services

Biblical readings listed below cite page numbers where the Epistle and Gospel readings can be located in The Orthodox Liturgy (black-covered book) found in the pew racks. You may want to refer to your Bible for those readings not available in The Orthodox Liturgy book. Services are only held at the times listed below.

May 7 **Although there will be no Divine Liturgy, the sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m.-Noon.**
Sunday of the Paralytic
Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42, pg. 104
Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15, pg. 105

May 10 **Mid-Pentecost**
Wednesday

May 11 **Saints Methodios and Cyril, Equal to the Apostles**
Thursday

May 14 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman / Mother's Day
Epistle Reading: Acts 11:19-30, pg. 106
Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42, pg. 107

May 20 **Armed Forces Day**
Saturday

May 21 **Trinity Episcopal Church, Potsdam, New York Saints Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles Divine Liturgy** 2:00 p.m.
Sunday of the Blind Man
Epistle Reading: Acts 26:1,12-20*
Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38, pg. 110

May 24 **Apodosis (Restitution) of Pascha**
Wednesday

May 25 **Ascension of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**
Thursday

May 28 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Epistle Reading: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36, pg. 113
Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13, pg. 114

A Mnimosino service will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in observance of Memorial Day and the Saturday of the Souls. Should you wish to add names of departed loved ones, please leave the information in the church office or you may submit by postal mail or email to samueltthomas422@yahoo.com.

May 29 **Memorial Day**
Monday

June 3 **Saturday of the Souls**
Saturday

June 4 **Holy Pentecost / Trinity Sunday**
Sunday
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Acts 2:1-11, pg. 115
Gospel Reading: John 7:37-52; 8:12, pg. 116

The service of Holy Pentecost will be held following the Divine Liturgy at approximately 11:45 a.m.

June 5 **Day of the Holy Spirit**
Monday

June 11 **Sunday of All Saints**
1st Sunday of Matthew
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:38-40; 12:1-2, pg. 117
Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30, pg. 117

June 12 **Holy Apostles Fast Begins**
Monday

June 14 **Flag Day**
Wednesday

June 18 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Matthew Father's Day
Epistle Reading: Romans 2:10-16, pg. 118
Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:18-23, pg. 119

June 24 **Nativity of the Forerunner, Saint John the Baptist Saint Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner**
Saturday

June 25 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
3rd Sunday of Matthew
Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-10, pg. 119
Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:22-33, pg. 120

June 29 **Saints Peter and Paul, the Holy Apostles**
Thursday

June 30 **Synaxis of the Holy Apostles**
Friday

July 2 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
4th Sunday of Matthew
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:1-7*
Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:5-13, pg. 122

July 4 **Independence Day**
Tuesday

July 9 **Divine Liturgy**10:30 a.m.
5th Sunday of Matthew
Epistle Reading: Romans 10:1-10, pg. 119
Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1, pg. 123

* *The Reading is not available in The Orthodox Liturgy book.*

Holy Week

Appreciation is extended to Ali Jassem for making the palm crosses; Christina Thomas for decorating the Kouvoúklion, which the Epitáphios is placed during the Holy Friday Great Vespers Service. At the Holy Friday Lamentation Service on April 14, the procession of the Epitáphios was held inside the sanctuary. The processional bearers were Jeffrey East, Samuel Thomas, George Valtadoros and Jonathan Wilgus.

Following the Pascha Midnight service, a reception was held in the church hall featuring a variety of foods along with the traditional dyed red eggs which were provided by several families. We thank everyone assisting with our Pascha celebration.

Appreciation is also extended to the following who served as readers during Holy Week: Olga Thomas, ConnieNicole Yanulis, DanielleLynn Yanulis, Presvytéra Connie Yanulis, StephanieAlexandra Yanulis and also to the following who read in various languages during the Pascha Vespers Agape Service: Father Philip Yanulis – Greek, Ali Jassem – Hebrew, Olga Thomas – Latin and French, ConnieNicole Yanulis – English and StephanieAlexandra Yanulis – Italian.

Thank you to Father Philip Yanulis for conducting the services, David Lichtenstein who frequently chants the Epistle reading on Sunday morning, Kiki East and Dr. Steven Kalamaras for reading the Creed in Greek and to altar servers: Theodore Hewko, Mavryck Lloyd, Ian Lichtenstein, Isaac Lichtenstein, Christos Theodore and Kostas Valtadoros.

Appreciation is extended to Olga Thomas, choir director and organist, and to the following members of the choir: ChristinaLarissa Butler, Iliana Lichtenstein, Isabella Lichtenstein, Grace Theodore, ConnieNicole Yanulis, Presvytéra Connie Yanulis and Stephanie Alexandra Yanulis.

Christós Anésti!
Christ is Risen!

General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly Meeting was held on Sunday, April 2, at 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Financial Statement for the year ending 2016 at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, New York and to conduct Parish Council Elections. Financial figures for the years ending 2015 and 2016 are presented below

Parish Council Elections

Due to the lack of nominees, the Parish Council was reduced from seven members to five. Voting did not take place because the number of individuals nominated to the Parish Council did not exceed the number of positions. The following have resumed their officer positions: **Samuel Thomas**—President; **Constantino Hiotis** – Vice President; **Olga Thomas** – Secretary, **Dr. Steven Kalamaras** – Treasurer and **Pota Yianoukos Davis** –Trustee. **Jeffrey East** and **Ali Jassem** have chosen not to continue for another term, and we thank them for faithfully serving on the Parish Council. The term will end January 2020. We also thank **ConnieNicole Yanulis** for serving as Nomination Chairperson.

Easter Greek Pastry & Bread Sale

Following several days of rain, the annual Easter Greek Pasty and Bread Sale was held on Saturday, April 8, with sunny skies and cool temperatures.

Thank you to the following individuals for their help either prior to and/or during the sale: Alexandra Bica, Anna Bica, Aurelia Bica, Mihai Bica, Pota Yianoukos Davis, Jeffrey East, Kiki East, Constantino Hiotis, Ali Jassem, Christine Kalamaras, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Dr. Florica Miller, Maria Ronson, Christina Thomas, Maria Thomas, Samuel Thomas, George Valtadoros and Pashalina Valtadoros.



Appreciation is extended to Dr. Steven Kalamaras and the Thomas family for providing refreshments on the day of the sale.

Pictured above from left to right are Mavryck Lloyd, Christos Theodore and Ian Lichtenstein assembling pastry boxes during the coffee hour on Sunday, April 2.

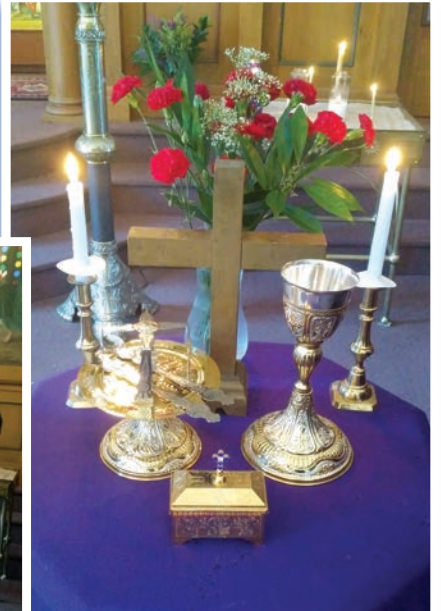
**CONNIE NICOLE YANULIS
TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPH.**

Blessing of the Sacred Vessels

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt, April 2, newly donated Holy Communion vessels were blessed and placed in the altar. Pictured below are the chalice, paten, star, spear, spoon and a container that is used for the placement of the Presanctified Gifts. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. The new vessels were first used on Palm Sunday, April 9. We are grateful for this very generous donation to our church.

The pictures on the right show Father Philip Yanulis offering the blessing and prayer and the altar servers from the left Christos Theodore, right front, Ian Lichtenstein and Mavryck Lloyd.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE
TAKEN BY MIHAI BICA.



Saint Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles

Constantine was the son of Constantius Chlorus, the ruler of the westernmost part of the Roman Empire and the blessed Helen. He was born in 272 in Naissus of Dardania, a city in Hellespont. When his father died in 306, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. When in 312 Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, Constantine marched into Italy with his troops. He saw in the midday sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, Jesus Christ appeared to Constantine in a dream and declared to him the power of the cross and its significance.

The following day a banner was prepared in the form of a cross, and inscribed on it the name Jesus Christ. On October 28th, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius. The next day, Constantine triumphantly entered Rome and was proclaimed the emperor of the West by the Senate, while his brother-in-law, Licinius, ruled in the East. Licinius, out of malice, later persecuted Christians, and Constantine fought once again and destroyed him in 324. He then became the monarch over the West and the East. Constantine ended persecutions against the Church, and Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown.

In 325 Constantine gathered the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. He solemnly was inaugurated in 330 and named the new capital after himself, Constantinople. When Constantine became ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism. He died in 337, having lived to the age of 65. His remains were deposed to the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople, which had been built by him.

After Constantine had made the faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, his mother, Helen, took a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross which our Lord was crucified. She then erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where Jesus was born, another on the Mount of Olives where he ascended into Heaven and in many other places throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus and elsewhere. She was glorified for her piety and departed to the Lord at about 80 years of age in 330.



Kontakion of Saints Constantine and Helen

"Today, Constantine with his mother Helen present the cross, the most precious wood. It shames the unbelievers. It is a weapon of faithful kings against their adversaries. A great sign has come forth which is awesome in battle."

**Feast Day:
Sunday, May 21**

Artemis Vrettos, Hamilton, New Jersey died on Monday, January 16, 2017, at Hamilton Continuing Care Center. She was 96 years old. Artemis was born on April 20, 1920 in Carthage, New York to the late Simeon and Avril Servetas Rochonchou. She was a graduate of Carthage High School and resided most of her life in the Trenton and Hamilton areas in New Jersey. She was a homemaker and a bookkeeper for many years at the Trenton Stove in Trenton.

Artemis was an active member of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Hamilton, which was founded by her maternal grandfather, the late Reverend Father George Servetas. She had served as secretary and bookkeeper for many years at the church and had sung in the choir and taught Sunday School. Artemis shared 59 years with her husband, the late Anthony Vrettos.

She was predeceased by her two sisters, Margaret Theodoris and Georgia Fokides. She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Anne and Nicholas Karnavas, New Port Richey, Florida; two sons and daughters-in-

law, Nicholas and Bonnie Vrettos, Williamsburg, Virginia and John and Angela Vrettos, Interlaken, New Jersey; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Tina Rochonchou, Yardville, New Jersey; eight grandchildren, 16 great-grand children and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

For many years, Artemis was a visitor to Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, New York, and her paternal uncle, George Ronson, was a founding member of Saint Vasilios Church. The funeral service was held on Thursday, January 19, at 11:00 a.m. at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, Hamilton. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery, Hamilton. Donations may be made in Artemis' memory to Saint George Greek Orthodox Church. Please forward to M. William Murphy Funeral Home, 1863 Hamilton Avenue, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619. "*Eonía i mními.*" "Eternal be her memory."

A Mnimosino service was held on April 30 for **Nicholas Mesires** (1 year). "*Eonía i mními.*" "Eternal be his memory."

Service Cancellation

On Sunday, May 7, there will be no Divine Liturgy, but the sanctuary will remain open from 10:00 until Noon.

Potsdam, New York

On Sunday of the Blind Man and the feast day of Saints Constantine and Helen, May 21, the Divine Liturgy will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of Trinity Episcopal Church, 8 Maple Street, Fall Island, Potsdam, New York.

Please Note: There will be no Divine Liturgy in Watertown on Sunday, May 21. The sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.

In Appreciation

Thank you to the following March / April coffee hour hosts: Pota Yianoukos Davis, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Mesires family and the Thomas family.

Thank you to Jonathan Wilgus for assisting Father Philip Yanulis with cleaning and organizing the cabinets inside of the altar and to Michelle Donohue for assisting with maintenance tasks in the sanctuary on Holy Friday.

Floral Fund

Appreciation is extended to those who generously donated to the annual Holy Week and Easter Floral Fund. To date \$410.00 was received in contributions. The floral cross placed on top of the Kouvoúklion on Holy Friday was donated by Nick and Kathy Dusckas.

The deadline for submission of information for the July/August 2017 Newsletter is Sunday, June 18.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We pray for the **persecuted Christians and others who are the victims of the horrific acts of terrorism and brutality by Muslim extremists, and for the innocent people who suffer from conflict and corruption throughout the world.**

We pray for the safety of the **10th Mountain Army Division**, who are stationed at Fort Drum, New York and Fort Polk, Louisiana, the **United States Armed Forces**, who are stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq and in other regions throughout the world.

We pray for the repose of **the souls of those who lost their lives or were injured** serving in the war against terrorism.

We pray for the well-being of our **military families.**

We pray for **the victims and the survivors** of the Islamic State terrorists' attacks which **took place on Palm Sunday, April 9**, at Saint George Coptic Orthodox Church in Tanta, Egypt, and at Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Alexandria, Egypt. Many lives were lost and many people were injured.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Artemis Vrettos.

Remember the following in your prayers: **Florence Bajjaly, Father John Demos, Lynn Kissman, Isaac Lichtenstein, Father Chris and Presvytéra Roula Matos, Anna Pialoglous, Nick and Mary Politis, Mary Mesires, Helen Thomas, Lola Valianos and Eleni Valtadoros.**

If you have a prayer request or wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact Father Philip Yanulis or a parishioner.