



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

502 FRANKLIN STREET • WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601

Church Phone: (315) 788-4920 • Website: www.saintvasilios.org

SAMUEL THOMAS
Parish Council President
(315) 782-1763

REVEREND FATHER PHILIP YANULIS, Proistamenos
(315) 468-4814 (HOME) or (315) 413-0024 Ext. 12 (OFFICE)

OLGA THOMAS
Choir Director and Organist

MARCH / APRIL 2018 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.

Mar. 4 Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas
2nd Sunday of Lent
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3, pg. 182
Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12, pg. 182

Mar. 9 The 40 Martyrs of Lake Sebaste
Friday
Third Salutations to the Theotokos
The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 11 Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross
3rd Sunday of Lent
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6, pg. 183
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1, pg. 184

Mar. 16 Fourth Salutations to the Theotokos
Friday
The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 17 Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland
Saturday

Mar. 18 Sunday of Saint John Climacus
4th Sunday of Lent
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20, pg. 185
Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31, pg. 185

Mar. 23 Akathist Hymn
Friday
The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 25 Annunciation of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary
5th Sunday of Lent
Saint Mary of Egypt**
Greek Independence Day
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 2:11-18*
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:24-28*

Mar. 31 Saturday of Saint Lazarus
Saturday

Apr. 1 Palm Sunday / Saint Mary of Egypt**
Palm Sunday
The partaking of fish & oil permitted
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9, pg. 188
Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18, pg. 189

Holy Week Schedule of Services is listed on page 2.

Apr. 9 Renewal Week / No fasting all week.
Monday

Apr. 13 Theotokos of the Holy Life-Giving Font
Friday

Apr. 15 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday of Saint Thomas
Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20, pg. 100
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31; pg. 101

Apr. 22 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers
Epistle Reading: Acts 6:1-7, pg. 102
Gospel Reading: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8, pg. 103

Apr. 23 Saint George, the Holy Great Martyr and Triumphant
Monday

Apr. 25 Saint Mark, the Apostle and Evangelist
Wednesday

Apr. 29 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday of the Paralytic
Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42, pg. 104
Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15, pg. 105

May 2 Mid-Pentecost
Wednesday

May 6 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
Epistle Reading: Acts 11:19-30, pg. 106
Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42, pg. 107



The Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary Apolytikion, Fourth Tone

"Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the son of God becomes the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him." "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee."

Feast Day:
Sunday, March 25

* The Reading is not available in The Orthodox Liturgy book. ** Saint Mary of Egypt is also commemorated on April 1.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to inclement weather, services may be cancelled either the evening before the service or by 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning. Long distance travelers will be notified first, followed by local parishioners. The sanctuary will remain open for prayer. Should you have a question about a service, please contact Samuel Thomas.

Holy Week Services

Although there will be no services on Holy Monday, April 2, and Holy Tuesday, April 3, the sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Order forms for the Holy Week and Pascha Services book are available in the church hall.

Apr. 1 Service of the Bridegroom.....1:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday
Afternoon

Apr. 4 The Sacrament of Holy Unction 7:00 p.m.

Holy
Wednesday

Apr. 5 Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
The Twelve Gospels 7:00 p.m.

Holy
Thursday

Apr. 6 Great Vespers Service..... 4:30 p.m.
The Lamentations Service..... 7:00 p.m.

Holy
Friday

Apr. 7 Vespers Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Romans 6:3-11, pg. 191
Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-20, pg. 191
Orthros.....11:30 p.m.

Holy
Saturday

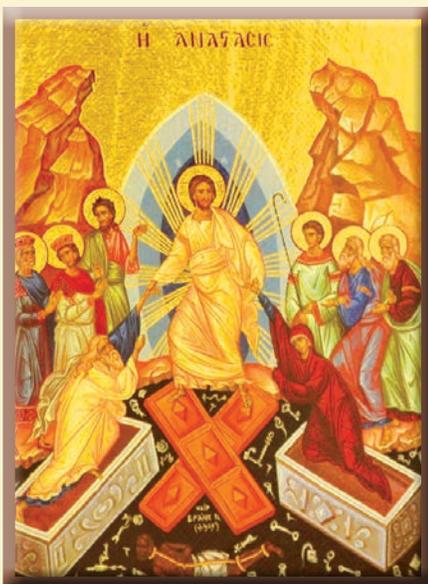
Apr. 8 Resurrection Service Midnight
Divine Liturgy12:30 a.m.

Epistle Reading: Acts 1:1-8, pg. 99
Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17, pg. 99

Great Vespers Agape Service..... Noon*

The Epistle and Gospel readings noted above can be located in The Orthodox Liturgy (black-covered book) found in the pew rack.

**During the Great Vespers Agape Service on Holy Pascha, the Gospels are read in Greek, English, Italian, Latin, French, Romanian, Arabic, and Hebrew. If there is another language you would like to read, please see Father Philip Yanulis.*



Great Lent and Holy Week

Great Lent began on Monday, February 19. Please see the listing of Holy Week Services to the left of this page. Although there are no listed services for Salutations to the Theotokos including the Akathist Hymn during Great Lent, the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 5:30 p.m. through 7:30 p.m.

The Kouvouklion (funeral bier) that will hold the Epitáphios (icon of Christ's body) will be decorated on Holy Friday, April 6 at 11:00 a.m. On Holy Saturday, April 7 at approximately 11:00 a.m., Father Philip will be making home visits for those who wish to receive Holy Communion and prayer. Should you desire an appointment, please contact Father Philip at (315) 468-4814 or you may leave a message on the church answering machine by telephoning (315) 788-4920.

During the past several years, revisions to the Holy Week Services have been made in order that they are conducted within a reasonable amount of time without comprising the sanctity of the service

Holy Week Donations

Each year monetary donations are collected for the Epitáphios and Easter lily plants. If you choose, you may forward your contribution to:

Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church

c/o Floral Fund • 516 Franklin Street • Watertown, New York

The traditional hard-boiled, red dyed Easter eggs are needed for distribution following the Holy Pascha Divine Liturgy and Great Vespers Agape Service. In order to assure that there is an adequate supply of Easter eggs, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the church hall. ***It is suggested that each person or family who volunteers to prepare the eggs, donate at least one dozen.*** The eggs will be blessed at the conclusion of each service. Please leave them in the church kitchen refrigerator no later than Holy Saturday morning. Thank you for your contributions.

General Assembly Meeting

A General Assembly meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 15 at 12:30 p.m.** in the church hall. The purpose of this meeting is to review the financial statement for the year ending 2017. Other items of information for discussion will consist of future repair and renovation projects. ***You are strongly encouraged to attend this annual meeting so that you are aware of the present accomplishments and future needs of the parish.***

Winter 2017–2018

There have been significant temperature changes from mid - January and during February with some days averaging well above normal temperatures. On February 21 a record high temperature of 66 degrees was recorded at the Watertown Filtration Plant. This broke the previous record of 63 degrees recorded on the same date in 1997.

Heating Problems: In early January the furnace located in the rear of the church basement did not function efficiently. The air temperature in the building had dropped to 52 degrees, even though the thermostat was set at 62 degrees. Many of the hot water heat registers in the basement and sanctuary required cleaning and draining which provided more consistent heating.

Service cancellations: Frontal systems have produced subzero temperatures and very heavy lake effect snow in the snow belt areas south of Watertown and north of Syracuse. This led to many Sunday service cancellations from December through mid-February. The snowfall this winter in the City of Watertown is approaching 120 inches, while Redfield, New York in Oswego County has received more than 26 feet of snow from heavy lake effect snowstorms.



Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

FEAST DAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 25

The Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is the revelation by Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would become the Mother of God. According to the tradition handed down by the fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph for four months. The archangel came to Joseph's house and declared, "Rejoice, thou full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." The Theotokos believing that all things are possible through God answered in humility, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word." The Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of God overshadowed the womb, and the Son and Word of God, who existed before all ages, was conceived and became flesh in her immaculate body. (Luke 1:26-38)

The blessed Virgin Mary went in haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, to the home of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. Elizabeth, her kinsman, had conceived in old age, and was to give birth to Saint John the Baptist. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord. She said with a great voice, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." The Virgin Mary was also moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God, my Savior". (Luke 1:39-55)

Greek Independence Day also coincides with the feast day of the Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary and is celebrated on March 25. Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 25, a brief Greek Independence Day program will be held in the church hall. The flag of Greece will be raised in front of City Hall on Monday, March 26. There will be no formal ceremony.

Potsdam, New York

On Sunday, May 20, the Divine Liturgy will take place 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 service in Watertown on Sunday, May 20. The sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.**

In Appreciation

Thank you to the following who contributed refreshments for coffee hours during January and February: Pota Yianoukos Davis, Kalamaras family and the Thomas family.

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, 421 State Street, Carthage, New York had pipes from the hot water heating system burst in five places during the 40 below zero weather that occurred on December 28. The interior of the sanctuary floor was covered in ice, and the air temperature in the building was at 30 degrees, which froze the water in the sacramental vessels that were located on the altar. Down in the basement of the church, ceiling tiles were damaged, water covered the floor, and the paint on the cement floor was loosened. This area of the church building is used for both parish and community events. The heating system did remain intact except for the burst pipes.

Although compensation is being provided by the church's insurance company to assist with repairs, church officials plan on holding fundraisers to defray the cost of the restoration project. The church also sustained damage from excessive rainfall and those repairs are also being incorporated into their renovation projects. Until recently, the congregation was unable to hold worship services in their sanctuary.

Prior to the construction of Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in 1949, many Greek Orthodox and Eastern Orthodox Christians who resided in Carthage worshiped at Grace Episcopal Church. They sang in the choir, attended Sunday School and participated in parish activities. For many of these people it was their first experience worshipping in the United States, and they often recalled the warmth and kindness extended to them by the clergy and parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church. The Parish Council of Saint Vasilios Church recently approved a \$300.00 donation for their restoration fund.

Greek Easter Pastry & Bread Sale

The sale is scheduled for **SATURDAY, MARCH 31 at 9:00 a.m. - Until Sold Out**

The following pastries will be prepared on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on the dates listed below:

Kourabiethes:
Saturday, March 3
Saturday, March 10

Fenekia:
Saturday, March 17

Flutes:
Tuesday, March 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Baklava:
Friday, March 23 at 9:00 a.m.

Pastry Cupping of Kourabiethes:
Saturday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Pastry Display:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
March 27, 28 and 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Baklava cutting and pastry cupping

FLYERS announcing the sale are available in the church hall for posting and distribution.

MEMORIAM



Elnora ("Ellie") Mesires, a resident of Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania and former resident of Watertown, New York, died peacefully on Saturday, January 27, 2018, after suffering a stroke. Her children, Christina Mesires Fournaris and George Mesires, were by her side at the time of her death. She was 80 years old.

Ellie was born on January 13, 1938. She had attended the University of Buffalo Nursing School where she met her husband, Robert G. Mesires ("Bob"), a student at the University of Buffalo Dental School. They moved to Watertown where they raised their children and for many years resided at 241 Flower Avenue West.

Ellie was a committed volunteer in the Watertown community and was one of the first women to serve on the Board of Trustees of the House of the Good Samaritan Hospital, now Samaritan Medical Center. She returned to nursing and worked many years at the hospital where she had previously served on the Board of Trustees. She was also a Sunday School teacher at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown during the 1970s.

Ellie and her family spent the summers at their home on the Saint Lawrence River near Alexandria Bay, New York in the Thousand Islands. Following the death of her husband Bob in 2015, Ellie moved to Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania where her daughter, Christina and her family reside and was an active participant at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.

Ellie is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Christina and Constantine Fournaris and their children, Thomas and Helena; a son and daughter-in-law, George and Stuart Dyer Mesires, and their son, Xander; a sister-in-law, Maria Kaltsounis and a brother-in-law, Tony Mesires. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held this summer in the Thousand Islands. Contributions in Ellie's memory may be made to the Northern New York Community Foundation,

Inc. c/o the Robert and Elnora Mesires Community Fund, 131 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601 (<https://www.nnycf.org>) or to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 22 East Chestnut Hill Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118. (<http://stpaulchestnuthill.org/>). "*Eonia i mnimi.*" "Eternal be her memory."

Mary Agnes Mesires, Cape Vincent, New York passed away on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at her home. She was under the care of Hospice of Jefferson County and was surrounded by her family at the time of her death. Mary was 71 years old. She is survived by her husband, Tony G. Mesires, Cape Vincent; a son and a daughter-in-law, Nicholas and Kristin Mesires and their children, Jack and Naia, Gorham, Maine; a daughter, Maria Mesires, Watertown, New York; three sisters, Patricia Dziok, Virginia, Elizabeth Mooney, Sackets Harbor, New York and Teresa Gaffney, Dexter, New York and a sister-in-law, Maria G. Kaltsounis, Seattle, Washington. A complete obituary will be published in the May/June Newsletter. "*Eonia i mnimi.*" "Eternal be her memory."

Reverend Monsignor Robert J. McCarthy died on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at the Sisters of Saint Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown, New York. He was 99 years old. Monsignor McCarthy was the pastor of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Watertown for 21 years until his retirement in 1993. For many years, Monsignor McCarthy was often seen walking through the neighborhoods on his way to visit parishioners, and he greeted everyone with a cheerful smile and words of inspiration. He was appointed by the Vatican's Pontifical Commission for the pastoral care of itinerant people as the official chaplain of carnivals in the United States of America, and he continued this work well after his retirement from Holy Family Church. "*Eonia i mnimi.*" "Eternal be his memory."

A Mnimósino service was held on January 21 for **Gregory Eliopoulos** (40 days). "*Eonia i mnimi.*" "Eternal be his memory."



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 and the **United States Armed Forces**, who are stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq and in other regions throughout the world.

We pray for **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 all those that were **killed and injured in the violent and evil attack** at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in

Parkland, Florida. We also pray for the **bereaved who are in pain and suffering at this time.**

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Elnora "Ellie" Mesires.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of Mary Mesires.

Sympathy is extended to the **Roman Catholic Community of Northern New York** in the death of Monsignor Robert J. McCarthy.

Remember the following in your prayers: **Florence Bajjaly, Gheorghe Berea, Father John Demos, Karl Kissman, Lynn Kissman, Isaac Lichtenstein, Father Chris and Presvytéra Roula Matos, John Penree, Patricia Phillips, Anna Pialoglous, Nick, Mary and John Politis, Helen Thomas and Eleni Valtadoros.**

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

The deadline for submission of information for the May/June 2018 Newsletter is Sunday, April 22.