



SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Choir Director and Organist



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 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.

Sept. 2 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
14th Sunday of Matthew
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 1:21-24;2:1-4, pg. 136
Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:2-14, pg. 136

Sept. 3 Labor Day
Monday

Sept. 8 Nativity of Our Most Holy, Glorious Lady and Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Saturday

Sept. 9 Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross Saints Joachim and Anna, the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God
Sunday
Divine Liturgy.....10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18, pg. 148
Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17*

Sept. 14 Universal Celebration of the Elevation of the Sacred and Life-Giving Cross
Friday

Sept. 16 Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross
Sunday
Divine Liturgy.....10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20, pg. 146
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1, pg. 184
The Service of the Elevation of the Holy Cross will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Sept. 23 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
1st Sunday of Luke
Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:22-27, *
Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11, pg. 143

Sept. 26 The Falling Asleep of Saint John, the Apostle, Evangelist and Theologian
Wednesday

Sept. 30 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Luke
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 9:6-11, pg. 139
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36, pg. 144

Oct. 1 Saint Romanos, the Melodist
Monday

Oct. 6 Saint Thomas, the Apostle
Saturday

Oct. 7 67th Anniversary of the Consecration of Saint Vasilios Church, Watertown, New York National Church Music and Choir Recognition Sunday
3rd Sunday of Luke
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 11:31-33;12:1-9, pg. 143
Gospel Reading: Luke 7:11-16, pg. 146

Oct. 8 Columbus Day (Observed)
Monday

Oct. 14 Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Trinity Episcopal Church, Potsdam, New York
4th Sunday of Luke
Divine Liturgy 2:00 p.m.
Epistle Reading: Titus 3:8-15*
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:5-15, pg. 147

Oct. 18 Saint Luke, the Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday

Oct. 20 Saint Gerasimos of Cephalonia
Saturday

Oct. 21 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
6th Sunday of Luke
Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20, pg. 146
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39, pg. 150

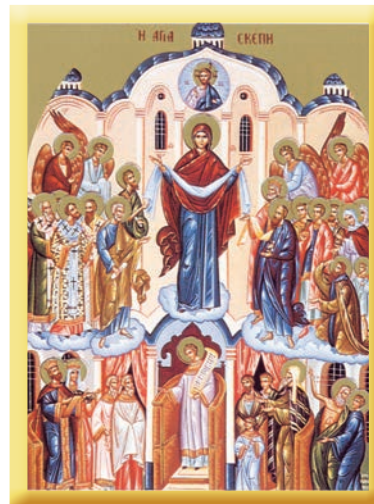
Oct. 23 Saint James (Iakovos), the Apostle, Brother of Our Lord
Tuesday

Oct. 26 Saint Demetrios, the Myrrhbearer and Great Martyr of Thessaloniki
Friday

Oct. 28 Holy Protection of the Theotokos / OXI Day
7th Sunday of Luke
Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:1-7*
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:41-56, pg. 152

Nov. 1 Saints Cosmas and Damianos, the Holy Unmercenary Physicians of Asia Minor
Thursday

Nov. 4 Divine Liturgy10:30 a.m.
5th Sunday of Luke**
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10, pg. 149
Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31, pg. 148



Hymn of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos

"Let us, the faithful, hasten to the Theotokos now and venerate her sacred veil, as we chant unto Her, singing hymns to praise and honor Her, as is fitting; for She shelters and preserves Her faithful flock unharmed from all calamities, as they cry to Her: Rejoice, Protection most radiant."

Feast Day, Sunday, October 28

* The reading is not available in the Orthodox Liturgy book.

** Please Note: The 5th Sunday of Luke does not follow in numerical order.

The Holy Protection of the Theotokos

Feast Day, Sunday October 28

The Feast of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos commemorates Her appearance in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the early sixth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew-the fool-for Christ. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful, spreading out Her veil over them, signifying Her unceasing protection of all Christians. Through the ages we have kept a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring Our Lady never to cease sheltering us in Her mighty prayers.

Oxi Day is also commemorated on October 28 and is a national secular holiday in Greece commemorating its resistance to Axis (Italian) forces during World War II. On October 28, 1940, Benito Mussolini, the dictator of Italy, demanded that Greece give free passage to Italian troops through Greek territory. The Greek Prime Minister, Ioannes Metaxas, responded with a resounding "Oxi!" (No! pronounced Óchi). Although outnumbered, the Greek forces fought valiantly for six months and the Italians retreated to Albania. The victory was the first Allied success against the Axis countries and aroused great ethnic pride. Winston Churchill said of the victory: "Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes but that heroes fight like Greeks."

A Message from Samuel Thomas

On Saturday, February 24, I fell exiting the church kitchen while completing preparations for the Easter Pastry and Bread Sale. In an attempt to protect my head from the metal railing which is attached to the stairwell, my right arm was injured. Initially, I was diagnosed with a bone bruise and bursitis, but an MRI revealed a tricep tear near the elbow. On March 29 I had surgery on my right arm. Fortunately, I am left handed. I continue to receive physical therapy, and my range of motion is slowly improving.

I was unable to publish the May/June and July/August Newsletters due to the lack of mobility in my arm and hand. The September/October Newsletter will provide updated information of the last six months. I would like to thank you for your cards and well wishes during this difficult and challenging time. "Yia sas!" "To your health!"

General Assembly Meeting

A General Assembly Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 30 at 11:45 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to review the financial status of the church, to discuss renovation projects and other matters of business. Unfortunately, attendance at Sunday services has significantly declined during the past year. A discussion will be held concerning this topic, and how it may possibly affect the scheduling of future services. Your presence and participation at this meeting are strongly encouraged.

Potsdam, New York

On Sunday, October 14, a Divine Liturgy will be held in the chapel of Trinity Episcopal Church, 8 Maple Street, Fall Island, Potsdam at 2:00 p.m. **There will be no service in Watertown, but the sanctuary will remain open from 10:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.**

Metropolis News

Metropolitan Nicholas' tenure of the Metropolis of Chicago ended in the spring. Welcome and Axios to Metropolitan Nathanael who was enthroned on April 24. Our parish is part of the Metropolis of Detroit which encompasses a vast territory and is led by Metropolitan Nicholas.

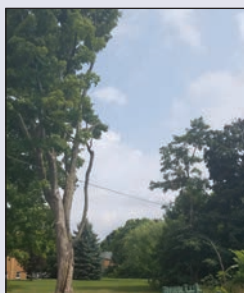
Tree Removal

A very large sugar maple tree that was owned by the church and was next to a home located at 344 Keyes Avenue was recently removed. The tree began declining last year, and there was very little foliage on the tree this year. BR Tree Experts, Black River, New York completed the work at a cost of \$1,600.00. This also included the cost of stump and debris removal. Next year a new tree will be planted near the location of the removed tree.

THE PHOTOGRAPH TO THE LEFT WAS TAKEN ON JUNE 3 BY MIHAI BICA, AND THE PHOTOGRAPH TO THE RIGHT WAS TAKEN ON AUGUST 26 BY STEPHANIEALEXANDRIA YANULIS.



BEFORE



AFTER



Exterior Stairwell Repairs

The exterior front stairwell leading to the upper front doors is in need of extensive repairs especially on the side walls, and some of the bricks at the top front wall of the church just below the parapet are also in need of replacement. The work is going to be completed by Evans Caulking, LaFargeville, New York and will be supervised by John Bauder, mason. If time permits and appropriate replacement bricks can be purchased, repairs to the brick will also be attempted. The cost of the front stairwell repairs including labor material and clean-up is approximately \$13,000.00.

The Easter Greek Pastry and Bread Sale

The annual Easter Greek Pasty and Bread Sale was held on Saturday, March 31.

All pastries and most of the bread were sold out by 11:30 a.m.

Thank you to everyone for their help either prior to and/or during the sale.

Holy Week and Pascha Services: Appreciation is extended to everyone who assisted with Holy Week and Pascha services.

Christmas Greek Pastry and Bread Sale

The Greek Pastry and Bread Sale is tentatively scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 7 & 8. Due to the health problems of particular volunteers, it may be necessary to either significantly reduce the amount of prepared pastries or cancel the sale. Therefore, your assistance with preparations is needed in order to assure that there is an adequate supply of pastries. A Saturday morning preparation schedule will be announced to see if there are enough volunteers to assist with this fundraiser. Thank you in advance for your support.

In Appreciation

Thank you to those who hosted coffee hours during the spring and summer months. The coffee hours hosts were: Bica family, Pota Yianoukos Davis, Lucy Hiotis, Daniel and Cristina Hopkins, Dr. Steven Kalamaras, Parish Council, Dr. Matthew and Megan Prionas, Thomas family and the Yanulis family.

Food Pantry



Since January 1, 208 items have been donated to the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry. This included food items and back to school supplies. Thank you for your contributions.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

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 other places throughout the world.

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

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 **victims of the wildfires** that have taken place in California, the western regions of the United States and in Greece and for the **victims of flooding** on the East Coast.

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

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of John Penree.

Sympathy is extended to the **relatives and friends** of James Calender.

Remember the following in your prayers: **Stavros Anthony, Florence Bajjaly, Gheorghe Berea, Father John Demos, Dolly Georgiade, Karl Kissman, Lynn Kissman, Isaac Lichtenstein, Father Chris and Presvytéra Roula Matos, 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 the submission of items for the November / December 2018 Newsletter is Sunday, October 21.

IN MEMORIAM



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. She was 71 years old.

Mary was born on March 27, 1946, to the late Frederick and Agnes Paul Johnson of Sackets Harbor, New York. She graduated from Sackets Harbor Central School District in 1964. After graduation she obtained her barber and beautician license. Mary worked as a barber in the Arcade Barber and Beauty Shop in 1966 and gained notoriety as one of the first female barbers in Watertown, New York. Thereafter, in 1970 Mary opened her own shop on Franklin Street in Downtown Watertown.

Mary married Tony Mesires on February 5, 1971. She began working in the family business, Watertown Appliance and TV Center, in the early 1980s. She was a bookkeeper for the store and later became the treasurer of the corporation, retiring in 2014.

Mary was a member of Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church and was very active with the preparations for the Greek Pastry and Bread Sales. She was noted for her delicious baklava and had prepared tens of thousands of pieces of baklava through the years. She also assisted the parish with treasury duties during the 1980s until 1996. Mary loved to read, quilt, work on crossword puzzles and to spend time with her children and grandchildren.

Mary 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 and her daughter, Maria Mesires, Watertown. She is also survived by her three sisters, Patricia Dziok, State of Virginia, Elizabeth Mooney, Sackets Harbor, Teresa Gaffney, Dexter, New York, a sister-in-law, Maria Kaltsounis, Seattle, Washington and many nieces and nephews.

Mary was predeceased by her parents, Frederick and Agnes Johnson, two brothers-in-law, Dr. Robert Mesires and Nicholas Mesires, and a sister-in-law, Elnora Mesires.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc., 135 Keyes Avenue, Watertown. Father Michael Gaffney officiated. Burial was at Brookside Cemetery, Town of Watertown. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to Hospice of Jefferson County, 1398 Gotham Street, Watertown, New York 13601. *"Eonia i mnimi."* *"Eternal be her memory."*



Lieutenant Colonel John W. Penree passed away unexpectedly at his home in Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia on Tuesday, March 27. He was 61 years old. A native of Utica, New York, he was born on December 26, 1956 to the late William and Sophie (Hula) Penree. Lieutenant Colonel Penree attended Frankfort-Schuyler Central High School, and he enlisted in the army on August 30, 1974 at Fort Dix, New Jersey at

the age of 17.

Lieutenant Colonel Penree received his Associate degree from City University of Seattle and went on to obtain his Bachelor of Engineering Degree from Columbia University. He joined the New

York State Army National Guard in 1981 and received his commission as an Ordinance Officer in 1984. He branched to the Signal Corps in 1988, where he was stationed in Fort Gordon, Georgia and later rejoined the Active Duty ranks in 1999 and was stationed at Fort Drum, New York.

Throughout Lieutenant Colonel Penree's time on Active Duty as Signal Officer in the United States Army, he held key duty positions both at home and abroad. He was stationed at Fort Drum with the 10th Mountain Division; served in Sarajevo and Bosnia with the Combined Joint Special Forces Task Force. He spent over three years in Larissa, Greece with the NATO Joint Command South Center as Deputy Commander of Communications Information Support Group and served in Poland as Branch Chief of CAX Division of NATO JFTC.

Lieutenant Colonel Penree's final overseas tour was with the NATO Rapid Deployment Corps as the G6 Deputy Plans Officer in Betera, Spain. He returned to the United States to serve his final duty station as the Deputy Commander of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in April 2015. After devoting 43 years to military service, he planned on retiring to his home in Upstate New York in November.

His deployments included two tours in Bosnia, three tours in Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq. Among his many military awards were the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Lieutenant Colonel Penree was deeply devoted to his family, his country and his Christian Orthodox faith and was a member of Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, New York. He was loved and respected by all those who knew him, both personally and professionally. He was known for his expansive knowledge of history, the military, communication and radios, and he also enjoyed story telling, antique collecting, playing the bass in local bands in Upstate New York, coaching wrestling, volunteering for the Boy Scouts and Library Service in Herkimer, New York and spending time in the woods.

Lieutenant Colonel Penree is survived by his wife, Patricia Penree, and six children: Jonathan (Karen), Justin Penree (Makoto), Emily Heise (Bowers), William Bowers, Elisabeth Penree and Madeleine Penree, six grandchildren and six siblings. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Patricia Ryan, several godchildren, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, close friends and comrades.

Funeral services with military honors were held on Tuesday, April 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, 305 Main Road, Herkimer with Father Thaddeus Franta, rector, and Father James Jadick, retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel co-officiated. Arrangements were under the care of Tillapaugh Funeral Service, Cooperstown, New York. *"Eonia i mnimi."* *"Eternal be his memory."*

James S. Calender died on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in Voorhees, New Jersey. He was 89 years old and was the brother of Helen Thomas. *"Eonia i mnimi."* *"Eternal be his memory."*

A Mnimosino service was held on July 29 for **Savas Calender** (61 years), **Olga Calender** (44 years), **Mary Calender** (7 years), **James Calender** (40 days), **William Tinsley II** (15 years), and **Anne Tinsley** (3 years). *"Eonia i mnimi."* *"Eternal be their memory."*