



# SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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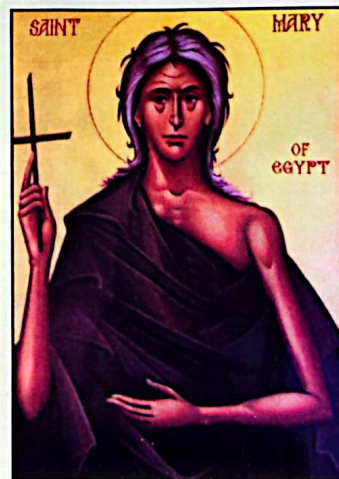
## SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

### 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.

- Apr. 6** Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt  
5th Sunday of Lent  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11-14, pg. 186  
Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45, pg. 187
- Apr. 12** Saturday of Saint Lazarus  
Saturday
- Apr. 13** Palm Sunday  
Palm Sunday  
Divine Liturgy ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9, pg. 188  
Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18, pg. 189
- Apr. 18** Holy Friday  
Friday  
Lamentations Service ..... 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 20** Orthros Service ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Easter Sunday  
Resurrection Service ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Pascha  
Epistle Reading: Acts 1-8, pg. 99  
Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17, pg. 99
- Apr. 21** Renewal Week / No fasting all week  
Monday
- Apr. 23** Saint George, the Great Martyr  
Wednesday
- Apr. 25** Theotokos of the Holy Life-Giving Font  
Friday  
Saint Mark, the Apostle and Evangelist
- Apr. 27** No Service  
Sunday of Saint Thomas  
Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20, pg. 100  
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31, pg. 101
- May 4** No Service  
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
- May 11** Saints Methodios and Cyril, Equal to the Apostles  
Sunday of the Paralytic Mother's Day  
and Illuminators of the Slavs  
Divine Liturgy ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42, pg. 104  
Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15, pg. 105
- May 14** Mid-Pentecost  
Wednesday
- May 17** Armed Forces Day  
Saturday

- May 18** No Service  
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman  
Epistle Reading: Acts 11:19-30, pg. 106  
Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42, pg. 107
- May 21** Saints Constantine and Helen,  
Wednesday  
Equal to the Apostles
- May 25** Prayer Service ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday of the Blind Man  
Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 4:6-15, pg. 137  
Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38, pg. 110
- May 26** Memorial Day  
Monday
- May 28** Apodosis (Restitution) of Pascha  
Wednesday
- May 29** Ascension of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  
Thursday
- June 1** No Service  
Sunday of the Holy Fathers  
Epistle Reading: Acts 20:16-18; 28-36, pg. 113  
Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13, pg. 114
- June 7** Saturday of the Souls  
Saturday
- June 8** Holy Pentecost / Trinity Sunday  
Sunday  
Divine Liturgy ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Epistle Reading: Acts 2:1-11, pg. 115  
Gospel Reading: John 7:37-52; 8:12, pg. 116



**Saint Mary of Egypt**  
Feast Days: Saturday,  
March 30

#### Hymn of the Saint

"In you the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up your cross, you followed Christ; and by your deeds you taught us to overlook the flesh, for it passes away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Mary, your spirit rejoices with the Angels."

**Service Cancellations!** Although the Divine Liturgies, Prayer Services are offered a few times per month, services may be cancelled due to the weather condition or other extenuating circumstances. You are strongly encouraged to check your emails or text messages before heading out to a church service especially during the winter months. If you are unsure of a service cancellation, you may call or text Samuel Thomas at (315) 430-6747.



### Great Lent and Holy Week

Great Lent began on Monday, March 3. The Eastern Orthodox Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 13 and Easter / Holy Pascha will be celebrated on Sunday, April 20. The Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy will be held at 10:30 a.m. Blessed palms will be distributed at the conclusion of the service. There will be no services on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday. The sanctuary will be open from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on those days.

Father Peter Irfan will be traveling from Buffalo, New York, and he will be conducting services only on Palm Sunday and Pascha / Easter. There will be an abbreviated Lamentations Services on Holy Friday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. This will be led by the members of congregation. At the conclusion of the service flowers will be distributed to those present. The service will last about 45 minutes and should conclude by 6:45 p.m.

The Easter / Holy Pascha Sunday Services will begin with Orthros at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Resurrection Service at 10:00 a.m. The Divine Liturgy will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. Following the services, a coffee hour will take place in the church hall. Should you desire Holy Communion in your home, please contact Samuel Thomas at (315) 430-6747

### General Assembly Meeting

A General Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. in order to discuss future services and other matters of business. A prayer service will precede the meeting at 11:00 a.m. As stated earlier there is a shortage of Greek Orthodox priests in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Canada. Other alternatives will be explored later in the spring and will be discussed at the General Assembly Meeting. The financial statement for the year 2024 will be reviewed, and you are very much encouraged to participate at this meeting.

### Holy Week Donations

Each year monetary donations for flower arrangements are collected for the Epitaphios (a representation of Christ's Burial Tomb), and flowers consisting of carnations and leather leaves will be placed in front of the altar. Floral arrangements will also be placed in the sanctuary on Pascha / Easter Sunday. If you choose, you may forward your contribution to:

**Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church**  
c/o Floral Fund 516  
Franklin Street  
Watertown, New York

### Paschaltide

We say the Paschal Greeting, "Christ is Risen" (Greek: "Christós Anésti") from Pascha (Easter Sunday) until the day before the Ascension of Christ. This season is called the "Paschaltide" and lasts 40 days.

### Parish House Renovations

The interior ceiling in the garage suffered water damage prior to the repairs of the exterior garage roof and now needs fixing. The roof above the house or attic also should be replaced. It has reached its maximum usefulness and is deteriorating. It was last replaced in the year 2000, and it was covered over with new shingles which significantly reduced costs at that time. Lastly, the hot water heater in the Parish House needs to be replaced. At least 30 years have past since a new hot water heater was installed. Estimates are being sought for these repair projects and will be presented in the next newsletters.

### Saint Mary of Egypt

**Feast Days: Saturday, March 30 &**

**The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday, April 6**

Saint Mary of Egypt was an Egyptian grazer saint dwelling in Palestine in the Early Middle Ages. She is highly venerated as Desert Mother in the Eastern Orthodox and Coptic Churches as well as the Roman Catholic Church. She was born in the year 344 and died about 422. She was a prostitute for many years and then received the Holy Eucharist; thereafter, she chose life as a hermit. At one time she was a great sinner and then became a pure and righteous woman. Her sins were confessed and without excuses she found a new life. Her past life became non-existent and her sins were forgiven. Saint Mary of Egypt had repented most of her life and was a desert ascetic. When she reposed, she entered heaven with the pure and the righteous.





### Rain Gutters

On Thursday evening, February 27, a neighbor had reported that rain gutters on the left southeast side of the church building had fallen to the ground. It had pulled away all of the aluminum and wood which was at the roof line of the church. The aluminum and wood were immediately replaced so that birds and squirrels were prevented from entering the attic of the church. The cost for these repairs were \$480.00 and were completed by Chris Warner of Watertown. New rain gutters will be replaced in either the spring or summer. The damaged gutters are not repairable. We were fortunate that there was no damage to the sanctuary or basement windows. Below are some pictures of the fallen rain gutters and the roof line. These photographs were taken by Ali Jassem.



### Church Boiler

The church boiler which is located in a room at the rear of the basement is not producing enough heat in the sanctuary. The registers have to be drained daily in order to allow for some flow of heat from the boiler. A representative from Fletcher's Contracting, Watertown, examined the boiler and indicated that most likely it will need a replacement before the next heating season. The boiler was installed over 50 years ago and it operates on hot water. Estimates will be sought in order that a suitable replacement is decided upon by the Parish Council.

### Yard Clean-Up

It was a long hard winter which began Thanksgiving Weekend. It did allow for much time to complete some last minute yard clean-up details around the church and parish house. Therefore on **Saturday, April 26 at 10:00 a.m. until noon**, volunteers are needed to assist with some outdoor maintenance duties. Please bring a rake and a pair of gloves and dress according to the weather conditions. Brown paper leaf bags will be supplied to the volunteers. The Rain date will be on Saturday, May 2 beginning and ending at the same times. Thank you in advance.

### In Appreciation

Thank you to Robert Lawry, and his children, Heidi, Daniel, Owen and Martha for thoroughly cleaning the sanctuary on February 8th. Thank you to Helen Papyanakos and Christina Thomas for decorating the Church hall. Appreciation is extended to Kristina Ronson Robbins for supplying the church with de-icer for the sidewalks. There was significant shortage of salt, sand and ice remover during the month of February requiring one to make visits to many hardware stores in order to find a suitable product.

### Winter 2024-2025

The months of late November, December and January were snowy and cold. February was windy, very cold with large amounts of snow. During the winter there were also times that the temperatures hovered around freezing producing some freezing rain events which created hazardous driving conditions. As of March 1, approximately 150 inches of snow had fallen in the City of Watertown since late November. Hopefully, this is to be forgotten until the next winter season.



# IN MEMORIAM

**Shawn M. Baker** of Watertown, New York died unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, February 23. He was 72 years old. Shawn is survived by his wife JoAnn Carlos Baker and children, Kelly (Dan) Daugherty and Kyle (Santina) Baker of Watertown and his sister, Claudia (Roger) Draper also of Watertown and their three children. He is also survived by five grandchildren. He was born on February 16, 1953 and was the son of the late Kenneth and Wilma Baker. He was married at Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church on June 23, 1979.

Shawn began teaching physical education in 1975 at the Union Academy at Belleville. He was the K-12 building principal for the combined Belleville Henderson Central School District. He was a school administrator for 32 years. For many years, Shawn coached baseball and soccer leaving a lasting impression on many students and parents. Shawn volunteered and help organized the Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) Booster Club Golf Tournament and served on the IHC Hall of Fame Committee.

He volunteered at the Salvation Army Old Newsboys Days, was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 61, the Italian American Civic Association, a member of the Watertown Catechetical Board, and a communicant and usher at Holy Family Church. He was the proud president of the Moore Avenue Drive Association.

Donations may be directed to the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601 and designated for either the Shawn M. Baker Memorial Scholarship Fund or the Glenwood Cemetery Revitalization Campaign. *"Eonía i mními."* "Eternal be his memory."

Trisgion prayer service was held on December 22 for **Gregory Gagas** (51 years), **Ernestine Gagas** (29 years), **Costa Karatzou** (37 years), **Harikila Karatzou** (45 years), **Despina Karatzou Maglaras** (11 years), **John Maglaras** (7 years), and **Maria Gagas Vamvas** (3 years) *"Eonia i mnimi"* "Eternal be their memory"



*In Our Thoughts and Prayers*



We pray for **peace and the end of the war in Ukraine.**

We pray for the **Israelis and Palestinians and the end of the war** between the Israelis and Hamas.

We pray for the end of **anti-semitic attacks** against all people, cultures and religions.

We pray for the victims of **the violent acts which continue to plague our country.**

We pray for all those who **are the victims of the horrific acts of terrorism and brutality, and for the innocent people who suffer from conflict and corruption throughout the world.**

We pray for the safety and well-being of the **10th Mountain Army Division**, who are stationed at Fort Drum, New York and Fort Polk, Louisiana, and the **United States Armed Forces and Military Units** who are stationed throughout the world.

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

Condolences are extended to the **family and friends of Shawn Baker.**

Remember the following in your prayers: **Eugene Anemojanis, Father John Demos, Presvytera Roula Matos, Travis Northrop, Nick, Mary and John Politis, Abbe Theodore, Chris and Margaret Theodore and Eleni Valtadoros.**

*If you have a prayer request or wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact Samuel Thomas or a parishioner.*

The deadline for the submission of items for the Summer 2025 Newsletter is Sunday, June 15.

Information may be emailed to [samuelthomas422@yahoo.com](mailto:samuelthomas422@yahoo.com)