

Nepsis May 2020

St. Sophia's Greek Cultural Festival postponed

Rescheduled for August 13-16, 2020

After continuing to monitor evolving developments with the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Sophia's Greek Cultural Festival in Syracuse, N.Y. slated for June 11-14, 2020 has been postponed until later this summer. The new rescheduled dates of the Greek Festival are Thursday, August 13-Sunday August 16, 2020.

The Festival Committee is saddened to announce this news, as many patrons look forward to the start of summer with this premier cultural event. "We held out on making this decision as long as we could, but we realize the health and safety of our volunteers and patrons is our top priority." said St. Sophia's Greek Festival Committee Chairman Peter Lemonyades.

Your patience, understanding, and continued support are deeply appreciated. We eagerly hope to see all of you later this summer in August to celebrate our 47th Annual Greek Festival.

The Festival website – syracusegreekfest.com – will be updated accordingly as new information is announced.

Μείνε καλά (Stay Well),

The St. Sophia's Greek Cultural Festival Committee

From Philoptochos

Dear Members of Philoptochos, Parishioners and Friends of St. Sophia –
Christos anesti!

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

I'm hoping everyone had a blessed, albeit different Pascha! Thank you Father David, Presvytera Donna, George, those who served in the altar and the board members for one of the most beautiful and emotional Paschal services I can remember. When those candles were lit in the pews, my heart skipped a beat! BEAUTIFUL! THANK YOU ALL! In faith we pray that with the light of the Resurrection will come the light from the darkness of this pandemic.

I would like to remind all high school seniors that the scholarship application deadline has been extended to Friday, June 5th. Please contact Liz Steinberg at **(315) 447-4445** if you have any questions or concerns.

The Philoptochos Spring Luncheon previously scheduled for Saturday, May 16th and the Philoptochos Membership meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th have both been cancelled.

We will keep you posted of any future events as the COVID-19 precautions allow. If you have any questions regarding Philoptochos events, please feel free to give me a call at **(315) 558-4352**.

To protect the most vulnerable during the pandemic, the St. Sophia YAL group is happy to assist in delivering groceries and other essentials to the elderly. If you know someone in need or if you are interested in volunteering to deliver, please contact YAL via email at: yalstsophia@gmail.com or phone Father David at **(315) 269-4940**.

Rejoice! It is this exclamation that has become the crux of the strength of our faith and of Christianity. We pray that soon we will rejoice together again at our beloved St. Sophia's!

Yours in Christ,

Debbie Tzivani Politis

Ask Father

The Greek Orthodox Church applies the formula so that Easter always falls after Passover, since the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ took place after he entered Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

In the Western Church, Easter sometimes precedes Passover by weeks.

Why does the Western church not wait for Passover, as the scriptures say?

This is a good question, but it's not simply a matter that the Catholics are not doing it right and we are. The Catholic church has always followed a very early canon that says, "the date of Pascha will not be determined by the Judeans," that is, Christians are supposed to date Pascha on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, irrespective of the date the Jews celebrate Passover. The Orthodox Church disagrees, maintaining that we're not relying on the Jews, but we determine the date of Pascha based on our own calculations of the date of Passover, then celebrate on the Sunday after that. Because of the phases of the moon, that can mean a difference of up to five weeks. So - I guess we blame the moon.

Prayer in the time of the corona virus from Jerusalem

Almighty Master, forbearing, plenteous in mercy, benevolent, most gracious God, you brought our nature from non-existence into being through the abundance of your goodness. You inspired into us both an active soul and reason, and honored us with your image and godlike divine companionship. You disregarded not those who abrogated your commandment and faltered from your glory. But we once again transgressed these your divine commandments and, reverting to our appetites and volitions, we assiduously

commit every sin, day after day. We have been cast away from you and have been rejected from your boundless aid, and we, the wretched ones, have converted benevolence to indignation.

In our days, scourging pestilence has been imparted to us, so that through these afflictions you may visit us as you have visited the orphans, the widows, and the sick in their despair, O beneficent Lord. We are confounded, wherefore, loving Master, at the magnitude of this unbearable calamity and affliction; we are beside ourselves; confusion and loss have overtaken us, fear and overwhelming dreadfulness have come upon us, the shadow of death has covered us, and we have utterly failed and come to despair.

Benevolent Lord, neither disannul your covenant, which you gave to our fathers, neither make us small in number before all the nations. Contrast the abyss of your compassion with the multitude of our evil acts; against you only do we sin, but you only do we worship; we know no other God but you; before you alone do we stand with humble and contrite hearts, and with tears do we cry: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

O beneficent Lord, who cured the chronic and tormenting sufferings of mankind by your word alone, accept this our common contrition and heartfelt anguish as you accepted the tears of Hezekiah in the affliction of his heart and delivered him from death and granted him length of days, and as you healed the fever of Peter's mother-in-law, and the hemorrhaging woman, O you who are able to take away every illness and malady.

Remember loving Master, the Cross, Death, and voluntary Passion which you suffered on behalf of us the unworthy, lest at any time the enemy seize our soul as a lion. For you are the great and marvelous God who keeps your covenant with those who love you, showing your mercy to them, you grant deliverance from sins through your holy Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Have compassion on your children, O Lord of consolations; we are in no wise able to extend a helping hand to our fellow brothers and sisters with

whom we share Your image. Wherefore we take refuge in you, who made heaven and earth, who can do all things; to you alone do we make supplication and lift our eyes for help and release from our plight, the corona virus, for unto you alone are possible all things that are impossible to man, for you are blessed unto the ages. Amen.

Reminder

How to listen to services over the phone

Call the toll-free number **1-866-416-1721** then enter the Passcode **9458460#**

Special feature

Our oratorical contest winner for 2020 is Demo Mantalios

The Question of Wealth

– Demosthenes Mantalios (3/8/2020)

The question is “is it necessary to live in poverty in order to be a good Christian?” The answer is yes. And no. I say this because it is extremely difficult to live with wealth and still be an effective Christian. This is because there are a lot of dangers that often come with a materialized lifestyle. For example, greed, egocentricity, and distraction from faith. But, if we can overcome these challenges, wealth will most likely not be the downfall of our Christian lives.

But please. Don't take my word for it. Take examples from the Bible: Matthew 6:24. I quote, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.” Next, Matthew 19:24. “And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Finally, Luke 16:19-24, which is The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, in which a poor man, Lazarus,

dies and goes to Heaven, but the rich man dies and goes to a place of punishment. The rich man could have helped Lazarus in life, but he didn't.

I'll give some personal insight now, because I know if I were wealthy, I would do a lot of good with my money. I would give enough to St. Sophia's first so it is in a state of financial stability. Then, I would branch out, building churches throughout America, then our hemisphere, and then the world. The point of this isn't just to build churches, it's to give access to Orthodox Christianity. I would make it accessible in places where it hasn't spread yet, if such a place exists. And I wouldn't be the first to travel, building churches wherever I went. Let's look at people who did good with their money in the past that we, as Christians, believe to be in Heaven.

They may not have traveled building churches, but they are saints. The first example is Saint Kyriake. She was born the only child to wealthy parents, and because of this, people sought her hand in marriage. Many men attempted this, but were rejected because Kyriake wished to remain a virgin in service to Christ. Other examples include Saint Bassus, Saint Eusebius, Saint Euthychius, and Saint Basileides. These four Saints were senators who stepped above the comforts of their rich life and worshipped God as Christians. They were all brutally executed for their beliefs, but they did not let anything disrupt their faith that came from wealth. These five Saints prove that it is possible to be wealthy and still be good Christians.

I may not be an expert, but it is obvious that it is extremely difficult to live a powerful and wealthy life as a good Christian. But, if one decides to do so, I suggest they do it with guidance from the Bible and support from the Church.

Sunday School News

Christos Anesti! It saddens me to announce that we will not be able to complete our Sunday School 2019-2020 year.

We do look forward to starting back up in the Fall. Also, we do hope to be able to reschedule our BeeTreat event.

We have a wonderful Church Model project that Grades 1-8th grade were working on. The students were doing an amazing job. We will finish those projects up when we start back up. Please keep safe and healthy!

Liz Steinberg, Director

Our TV Schedule

On Spectrum channel 98

Sunday programs at 7 pm:

- - **May 3** – Creation History in Genesis, part 2
 - **May 10** – Creation History in Genesis, part 3
 - **May 17** – Creation History in Genesis, part 4
 - **May 24** – Creation History in Genesis, part 5
 - **May 31** – Creation History in Genesis, part 6

Monday programs at 7 pm:

- - **May 4** – Epistle to the Romans, part 2
 - **May 11** – Epistle to the Romans, part 3
 - **May 18** – Epistle to the Romans, part 4

- **May 25** – Epistle to the Romans, part 5

Family Classics TV sponsored by St. Sophia's:

- - **Sunday at 6 pm** – Sir Lancelot
 - **Sunday at 6:30 pm** – The Adventures of Robin Hood
 - **Sunday at 8 pm** – The Cisco Kid (2 episodes)
 - **Thursday at 8:30 pm** – Sherlock Holmes
 - **Friday at 8 pm** – Jim Bowie (2 episodes)

On Verizon FiOS channel 29

Sundays at 6:30 pm with a repeat on Thursdays at 8:30 pm:

- - **May 3** – St. Catherine
 - **May 10** – St. Demetrius
 - **May 17** – The Epistle of St. James, part 1
 - **May 24** – The Epistle of St. James, part 2
 - **May 31** – The Epistle of St. James, part 3

Sundays at 7 pm with a repeat on Thursdays at 9 pm ...

- - **May 3** – Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women
 - **May 10** – Sunday of the Paralytic
 - **May 17** – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
 - **May 24** – Sunday of the Blind Man
 - **May 31** – Rediscovering Rachmaninoff