

INSPIRED BY THE WORD OF GOD

The highlight of the first part of every Diving Liturgy (the teaching portion), comes with the chanting of Sacred Scripture. Two lessons are provided: the first is the EPISTLE, consisting of a portion of the Acts of the Apostles or of the Letters of St. Paul; the second a portion of one of the 4 GOSPELS (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).

These lessons are from the WORD OF GOD, the inspired Scriptures, the Holy Bible. Thus they form the main source of Christian teaching and truth, the light which dispels the darkness of ignorance and unbelief. No wonder we are called upon to "be attentive" at this portion of the divine service.

The chanting is usually done by a lector, reader, cantor or server. Of course, the Gospel lesson is chanted by the Priest standing at the "ambo" before the icon screen, while the faithful stand in attention.

We should take a moment to acknowledge the time and commitment our young servers contribute to the Church. Some parishes call them "altar boys" who faithfully minister to the Priest, Sunday upon Sunday, assisting in the sanctuary. Theirs is a holy and worthwhile task, one to be undertaken in all seriousness. It is not unusual to find vocations to the Priesthood, and other positions in the Church, fostered among these servers. Those who serve today are following the long tradition in the Christian community, and they deserve our respect and support. Please commend them for their work in your Congregation!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



**St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape
Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge**

900 South Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA, 19403

Tel.: (610) 650-8960 • Fax: (610) 650-8961

www.saintsophiachurch.org email: office@saintsophiachurch.org

Sunday Worship: 8:45 am - Orthros: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Office Hours - 10 am to 4 pm

Rev. Fr. Symeon Williams
frsymeon@saintsophiachurch.org
Metropolis of New Jersey



August 4, 2024
6th Sunday of Matthew
Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Ton Sinanarchon Logon (“The Word Who Always Was”)

O, The Word Who always was with the Father and Spirit, who for us and our salvation was born of a Virgin let us faithful believers praise and adore, For it did please Him to ascend the Cross in the flesh and Death to endure. And to raise up the dead with Him through His own glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Aqape

Greek

Ὁς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καί προσήγαγες Χριστῶ καρπὸν ἡ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, διὰ γῶνων εὐαγῶν, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθῶν δυσώπει υπέρ πάντων ἡμῶν.

English Phonetics for Greek

Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyriou Sofia martys semni, ke prosigages Christo karpon idytaton, tus tis nidyos su vlastus, di agonon evagon, Agapin te ke Elpida, syn ti theofroni Pisti; meth' on dysopi yper pandon imon.

English

As an olive tree laden with fruit you sprouted forth, in the courtyards of the Lord, Sophia martyr dignified, and you brought to Christ a fruit most sweet, Namely your womb's own sprouts, brought up by instructive deeds: your daughters Love and Hope, along with God-minded Faith; together intercede with God for us all.

Seasonal Kontakion – Epi tou Orous metamorphosis (“Upon the mountain were You transfigured”)

Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance.

Names for the Paraklesis Service

During the first fifteen days of August the Church sets aside time for the Chanting of the Small Paraklesis Service. During the Service we honor the Theotokos and ask for her intercessions for those who are living.

If you would like to submit names to be read, please list the **BAPTISMAL FIRST NAMES ONLY (for example, Nicholas – not Niko)** of those living and return them to the Parish Office by August 15th.

Names of the Living

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TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME



SATURDAY AUGUST 17, 2024 - 6:05PM

\$65 PER TICKET - PAYMENT IN ADVANCE
SECTION 139 - ONLY 30 TICKETS AVAILABLE

FOR TICKETS: EMAIL STSOPHIAPARISH@SAINTSOPHIACHURCH.ORG OR TEXT/CALL 215.206.8180



Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-14

*You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.*

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Stewardship/Mortgage Reduction: PLEASE keep in mind that our fixed costs are ever present. Be sure to send in your stewardship and mortgage reduction payments before you leave for vacation. God bless you for your support of our parish!

Exciting Mortgage Reduction News! An anonymous donor has come forward to match donations made to the mortgage reduction fund **up to \$100,000** for 2024. This is a great opportunity to reduce our mortgage by **one-third**. With your help, we will make a huge difference in our mortgage expenses.

Please Update Your Contact Information: Have you moved recently? Are you receiving our weekly emails and occasional phone calls? If any of your contact information has changed (emails, phone numbers, address) please send an email to the Parish office at office@saintsophiachurch.org to update this information. Thank you!

To Parents of Young Children: In case you are not aware, our church has a Cry/Bride Room in the Narthex. For those parents whose young children might understandably get fussy during a service, please feel free to take your youngster into that room for a short while. (There is a closed-circuit TV showing the service in the room as well as a bathroom/changing station). The intention is NOT to relegate you to another room; rather, this will enable you to attend to your child in a quiet environment before bringing him/her back into the church.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 12:6-14 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

*Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκέλειπεν ὄσιος.*

Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες δὲ χαρίσματα κατὰ τὴν χάριν τὴν δοθεῖσαν ἡμῖν διάφορα, εἴτε προφητείαν, κατὰ τὴν ἀναλογίαν τῆς πίστεως· εἴτε διακονίαν, ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ· εἴτε ὁ διδάσκων, ἐν τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ· εἴτε ὁ παρακαλῶν, ἐν τῇ παρακλήσει· ὁ μεταδιδούς, ἐν ἀπλότητι· ὁ προϊστάμενος, ἐν σπουδῇ· ὁ ἐλεῶν, ἐν ἰλαρότητι. Ἡ ἀγάπη ἀνυπόκριτος. Ἀποστυγοῦντες τὸ πονηρόν, κολλώμενοι τῷ ἀγαθῷ. Τῇ φιλαδελφίᾳ εἰς ἀλλήλους φιλόστοργοι· τῇ τιμῇ ἀλλήλους προηγουμένοι· τῇ σπουδῇ μὴ ὀκνηροί· τῷ πνεύματι ζέοντες· τῷ κυρίῳ δουλεύοντες· τῇ ἐλπίδι χαίροντες· τῇ θλίψει ὑπομένοντες· τῇ προσευχῇ προσκαρτεροῦντες· ταῖς χρείαις τῶν ἁγίων κοινωνοῦντες· τὴν φιλοξενίαν διώκοντες. Εὐλογεῖτε τοὺς διώκοντας ὑμᾶς· εὐλογεῖτε, καὶ μὴ καταρᾶσθε.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 9:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐμβὰς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασε καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ προσέφερον αὐτῷ παραλυτικὸν ἐπὶ κλίνης βεβλημένον· καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν εἶπε τῷ παραλυτικῷ· θάρσει, τέκνον· ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου. καὶ ἰδοὺ τινες τῶν γραμματέων εἶπον ἐν ἑαυτοῖς· οὗτος βλασφημεῖ. καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν εἶπεν· ἵνα τί ὑμεῖς ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; τί γὰρ ἐστὶν εὐκοπώτερον, εἰπεῖν, ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι, ἢ εἰπεῖν, ἔγειρε καὶ περιπάτει; ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας - τότε λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· ἐγερθεὶς ἄρῃ σου τὴν κλίνην καὶ ὑπάγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου. καὶ ἐγερθεὶς ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ ὄχλοι ἐθαύμασαν καὶ ἐδόξασαν τὸν Θεὸν τὸν δόντα ἐξουσίαν τοιαύτην τοῖς ἀνθρώποις.

August Poor Box Donations Thank you for considering a gift!

Please consider supporting the philanthropic outreach of our Church through the Philoptochos Poor Box located in the Pangari. Each month 100% of the donations are designated for a local charity.

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box for August will be provided to the Media FreeStore, working to mitigate rising costs of living and recycling goods. You can learn more about this worthwhile organization at <https://transitiontownmedia.org/volunteer/working-groups/freestore>.

We ask that you pray for those who benefit from their efforts, their families, as well as those who work on their behalf. Please consider donating to this worthwhile charity at <http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html> or submit a check payable to St. Sophia Philoptochos adding "poor box" to the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

HELP WANTED! We are looking for friendly, welcoming faces to be part of our Pangari Team. You do NOT need to be a member of the Parish Council to serve Pangari duty. What you do need to do is welcome fellow parishioners, make change when they purchase candles, help with passing the collection tray, etc. It's a great way to serve the Parish and to learn more about how the Parish operates as you'll be serving next to existing Parish Council members. If you are interested, then please reach out to either Elaine Piligian (Parish secretary) or John Pogas.

ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS

Tiropites

Frozen 6-packs - \$25

With Cooking Instructions

ONLY 2 PACKS LEFT

We accept Zelle (ladies@saintsophiachurch.org)
and Venmo payments

FOR ORDERS: Kathy T. 610.539.5413



venmo

St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge

TAKE & BAKE

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Enjoy some of our beloved Greek delicacies for days and weeks to come. All entrees are frozen and come with complete baking instructions.

ENTREES

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| SPANAKOPITA (1/2 tray, 9 pcs) | \$45 |
| PASTITSIO (1/2 tray, 6 pcs) | \$45 |
| MOUSSAKA (1/2 tray, 6 pcs) | \$50 |

LIMITED SUPPLY!

CONTACT JOHN PAPADIMITRIOU



THE NICENE CREED (The Confession of Faith)

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages;

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come.

Amen

PRAYER MINISTRY



"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:6-7

"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22

"For with God, nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:37

Clearly, there is nothing more powerful than the power of prayer. Imagine someone struggling or suffering and then having multiple people praying for them daily! Our "Prayer Warriors" do just that. They will pray for individuals added to the list daily for a period of 6 months.

If you know of someone in need, you can add them to our prayer list using one of the following methods:

1. Fill out a request form at the box found in the church narthex **OR**
2. Send an email to Prayers@SaintSophiaChurch.org **OR**
3. Use the anonymous online form (the link is found under Prayer Ministry on our website), or you can use this link <https://forms.office.com/r/kMx49JdptM> **OR**
4. Use the QR form below (also found on the box in the narthex) which takes you to the anonymous form.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

ENGLISH

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

ENGLISH PHONETICS

Pá-ter i-món o en tis ou-ra-nís a-gi-as-thí-to to o-no-má Sou, el-thé-to I va-si-lí-a Sou, ge-ni-thí-to to thé-li-má Sou, os en ou-ra-nó ke e-pi tis ghis.

Ton ár-ton i-món ton e-pi-ou-si-on dos i-mín sí-me-ron ke á-fes i-mín ta o-fe-lí-ma-ta i-món, os ke i-mís a-fí-e-men tis o-fi-lé-tes i-món ke mi i-se-nég-kis i-más is pi-ras-món, al-la rí-se i-más a-pó tou po-ni-roú.

GREEK

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

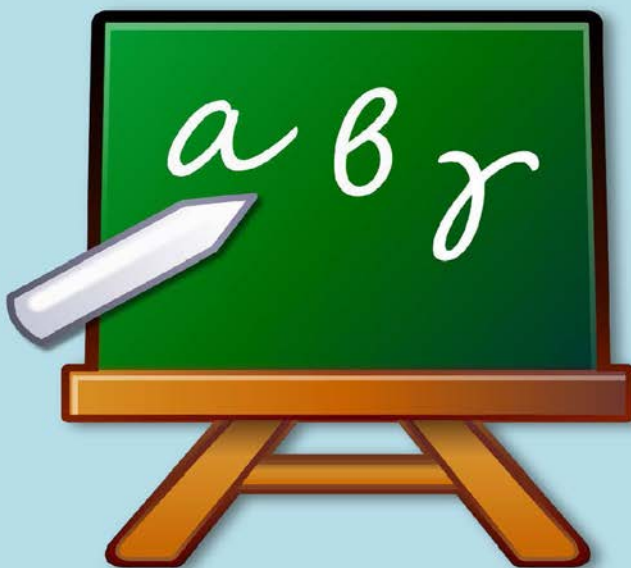
Τόν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τόν ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν σήμερον καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Phonetics by Dr. Christine Kerxhalli, orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com

Saint Sophia Greek School 2024-2025

Register Now!

Classes start September 26, 2024



For more information or to register,
please contact Dimitra Klapakis at [623-363-0980](tel:623-363-0980) or
dimitraklapakis19@gmail.com
Or visit www.saintsophiachurch.org/GreekLanguageSchool

Communion Prayers

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy, without condemnation, to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the remission of sins and for eternal life. Amen.

Behold, I approach for Divine Communion. O Maker, burn me not as I partake, For You are fire consuming the unworthy. But cleanse me from every stain.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

Tremble, O man, as you behold the divine Blood. It is a burning coal that sears the unworthy. The Body of God both deifies and nourishes me: It deifies the Spirit and wondrously nourishes the mind.

You have smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by Your divine eros You have changed me. But burn up with spiritual fire my sins, and grant me to be filled with delight in You, so that, leaping for joy, I may magnify, O Good One, Your two comings.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I should dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my vesture will condemn me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth of my soul, and save me, as You are the one Who loves mankind. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul, and save me.

Master Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my judgment because I am unworthy, but rather for the purification and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the life and Kingdom to come. It is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

August 4, 2024
6th Sunday of Matthew
Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus



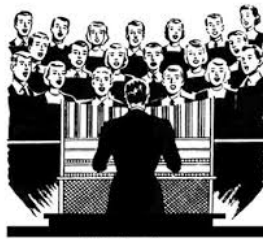
St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Vigil Candle: If you are interested in sponsoring a vigil candle, please see a Parish Council member at the Pangari – no advance signup necessary and several individuals or families can sponsor each week. The proceeds of these donations will go to our Mortgage Reduction Fund. Each vigil candle lasts one week; the asking donation is \$10.

Paraklesis Services: During the first fifteen days of August, the Church sets aside time for the chanting of the Small Paraklesis Service. During the service we honor the Theotokos and ask for her intercessions for those who are living. If you would like to submit names to be read, please list the **Baptismal First Names ONLY (for example, Nicholas – not Niko)** of those living, and return them to the Parish office by August 1st (form attached).

Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed: Thank you to everyone who has sponsored coffee hour recently. We still need coffee hour sponsors for upcoming Sundays. If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour, please sign up on the Coffee Hour Sponsor Sheet on the window at the back of the hall near the coffee/refreshments table. **Please note that the church will supply coffee, creamer, juice, and paper products to eliminate waste and clutter. We ask that coffee hour sponsors donate \$25 (made payable to St. Sophia Church) to offset these expenses. Thank you!**

Senior Citizen Ministry: St. Sophia's Senior Parea is open to all senior citizens of the community. The meetings take place on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12 noon.

The Choir is Looking for New Members: Can you sing? Do you play piano? The choir is looking to expand our membership. All are welcome to sit in on our rehearsals and/or Liturgies to learn more about our music and to see if the choir is right for you. Please call Tom Cox with questions ([215-859-1009](tel:215-859-1009)) or email him at tcox@mysolutions.com. Thank you!



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|--|
| Fri. Aug. 2 nd | 6:30 pm | Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos |
| Sun. Aug. 4 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6 th Sunday of Matthew |
| Mon. Aug. 5 th | 6:30 pm | Great Vespers for the Holy Transfiguration |
| Tues. Aug. 6 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ |
| Wed. Aug. 7 th | 6:30 pm | Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos |
| Thurs. Aug. 8 th | 6:30 pm | Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos |
| Fri. Aug. 9 th | 6:30 pm | Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos |
| Sun. Aug. 11 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 7 th Sunday of Matthew |
| Mon. Aug. 12 th | 6:30 pm | Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos |
| Tues. Aug. 13 th | 6:30 pm | Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos |
| Wed. Aug. 14 th | 4:30 pm | Decoration of the Kouvouklion - As usual, we will decorate the kouvouklion with flowers for Vespers and the Divine Liturgy for the Falling Asleep (Dormition) of the Theotokos. Everyone is welcome to bring flowers from their gardens and to stay and help decorate the kouvouklion. |
| | 6:30 pm | Great Vespers & Artoklasia – Dormition of the Theotokos |
| Thurs. Aug. 15 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia – Dormition of the Theotokos |
| Sat. Aug. 17 th | 6:05 pm | Parish Phillies Game |
| Sun. Aug. 18 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 8 th Sunday of Matthew |
| Tues. Aug. 20 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Samuel the Prophet |
| Sun. Aug. 25 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 9 th Sunday of Matthew |
| Thurs. Aug. 29 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Beheading of St. John the Baptist |