



Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

February-March 2019

www.saintsophias.org

email: stsophia.bellingham@gmail.com (360) 734-8745
510 East Sunset Drive Bellingham, Washington 98225

A Memory of Bishop Athanasios Amos Akunda

by Presvytera Elizabeth Tervo



Bishop Athanasios...

Na kumbukumbu yake iwe milele!
May his memory be eternal!



Father Michael and I first met Bishop Akunda in 1998, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, in Boston. At that time he was a deacon. The first class I had with him was Orthodox Missions, and one of our topics was the spread of Orthodoxy in his homeland. His father was a graduate of St. Tikhon's Seminary in Pennsylvania, and is still a pillar of the community of Orthodox Christians in Kenya. But we did not know this because it was very rare for Bishop Akunda to speak about himself.

I remember sitting with him in class, with Fr Michael on my right and our 'Father Deacon,' as we called him, on my left. And I remember sitting with him, Father Michael, and another classmate of ours, Father Panteleimon Dalianis, on the 'holy hill' as we called the slope up to the Seminary, looking out at the city of Boston. Our second-to-last year in seminary was coming to an end, and we were each wondering what the future held for us.

Sometimes we Americans would say or do things that were puzzling to him in a cross-cultural sense, and I believe that sometimes the way we do things was even offensive to him, but he bore everything with kindness and never upbraided anyone. He was very humble: learning and listening to everything, though in many ways he knew much more than we did. His Greek language skills were spectacular. As well as finishing the Master of Divinity

course, he earned a certificate from another college in Boston at the same time, working twice as hard as anyone else.

He was very well-informed about history, politics, and the literature of many countries, as well as the African-American experience. His struggle was also for the freedom and elevation of his people, and healing the bitter legacy of British colonialism in Africa. After he graduated from seminary, he earned his PhD in South Africa and worked for the church there, until he was recalled to Kenya in 2015 and was consecrated a Bishop. His diocese included his ancestral tribal area, which by the way, is the same area that President Obama's family came from. At that time the diocese of Kenya became divided into three dioceses, with Nairobi and the surrounding area under Archbishop Makarios, the eastern area (containing the city of Mombasa and the coast) under Bishop Neofitos, (who was also at the seminary, a couple of years after us) and the Western area under Bishop Akunda.

In less than three years he did as much work as anyone else in three lifetimes! He healed schisms, built churches, schools, wells, clinics, and restored the diocese center with conference and meeting rooms. He also ordained priests, deacons, organized his diocese into Vicariates, and provided continuing education for his 100 priests in subjects like confession and addiction,

organizing speakers from all over the world. He supported conferences for the youth and the mother's union (like our Philoptochos). I am sure that he accomplished many other things that I don't know about.

When he was our guest, it was difficult to host him, because he would never express a preference about what he might like to do or to eat. He would accept everything happily and gratefully. The only thing I was able to deduce was that he really liked pineapple, so I was careful always to have some for him.

Here are two specific pieces of advice from him that I remember:

About fasting: *"It is not true fasting if you eat a small meal and then fill up with snack foods."*

About pride: *"If it is about a job well done, God allows it."*

But with all his humility, and quietness, and calmness, he was full of jokes and laughter. In fact, we were always laughing together! And as these jokes continued over the years, we enjoyed them over and over.

I would meet him I would say "Give me your blessing!" And he would joke, "No! You give me YOUR blessing!" I have seen him have this dialogue even with tiny children. It always made us laugh, and it showed the great humility of the man, that he was able to laugh and be merry with people of any level, and acknowledge that he needed our blessings and prayers, although though he was the one with the rank of Bishop. He always put the other person above himself. I have known him to deal with people of every level, and every kind of person- no matter how difficult- with peacefulness, grace, and acceptance.

These conversations always ended with him giving the blessing, not me, but I always felt cheered and uplifted. We thought we had many years to enjoy him- we thought we would see him with white hair as an old man. Now that he is gone, I remember specially poignantly that the 'Give me your blessing!' dialogue comes from the meeting of the monk Zosimas and St. Mary of Egypt,

when they struggled over who should bless who. You might say that these two saints had an argument!

We often do not pay much attention to Zosimas, when we read St. Mary's life. His story is this: he was experiencing despair. He had been a monk for a long time and he felt that he had learned everything and that God did not have anything more for him. Then God brought him to meet Mary in the desert and Zosimas learned something totally new and unexpected which transformed his life: the power of a totally repentant soul. He was awed by Mary's long experience of solitude and struggle in the desert, her complete repentance, and the miracles she did. This was the cure for his despair. We will read aloud the Life of St Mary of Egypt on Sunday, April 14 after church and I hope you will come and be edified by this strange and wonderful story.

In my despair at the loss of our beloved friend, this conversation about the blessing, which we began so many years ago, and which he had with many people, is almost a coded message for us. It is not just a joke between friends. It is not just about receiving a blessing. It is as if Akunda himself is saying to us, *do not despair like Zosimas, instead follow God and he will bring you transcendence and revelation.*

I will close with a quote from the Chilean poet Neruda about Bishop Bartolomé de las Casas, who reminds me of our dear Bishop Athanasios Akunda because both of them were tireless workers for their flock.

*In the unity of time, in the courses of life,
Your outstretched hand was a star in the sky,
The symbol of the nation.*

...

*And so that I won't fall, to affirm me on earth,
So that I can continue fighting,
Leave in my heart the errant wine
And implacable bread of your sweetness.*

(From the Spanish, my translation)





Come to a Traditional
*Apokriatiko
Glendi*



**Saturday
February 23rd, 2019**

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church - McIntyre Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm

\$25/person

(includes dinner and dancing)

\$5 glass of wine

Children 12 and under free

Everyone is welcomed
and
Encouraged to come in costume!

Great Lent Begins

on Monday, March 11th

The traditional "Forgiveness Vespers" will be celebrated at the end of the Liturgy on Sunday, March 10th at 12:00 noon



Join us at the
**Sunday of
Orthodoxy
Pan-Orthodox
Vespers**

**St. Innocent
Orthodox Church**
7431 Goodwin Road,
Everson
**Sunday, March 17th
5:00 pm.**

Parishioners from St. Sophia, St. Innocent (Everson), Abbotsford,

Surrey, Arlington and Snohomish will come to celebrate the the victory of the Orthodox & restoration of the veneration of the holy icons.

Please be sure to bring an icon from your home for the procession!

BOOKSTORE NEWS

Spring into the Lenten season on March 11 with these books on your reading list.

1. Fasting as a Family: planning and preparing delicious Lenten meals
2. Food, Faith and Fasting: a sacred journey to better health
3. Meditations for Great Lent; reflections on the Triodion
4. Great Lent: journey to Pascha
5. Blueprints for the Little Church; creating an Orthodox Home(Bjeletich and Schoemaker)
6. In the Eyes of Your Creator: truly valuing yourself and others (by Fontes)
7. Truly Human: recovering your humanity in a Broken World (by Scherer)

Visit your Parish Bookstore for more book titles, icons, greeting cards, incense , prayer bracelets, and other items. We are open each Sunday following Liturgy or by contacting +Father Michael for an emergency purchase. Thank you for supporting your Parish Bookstore.

**SERVICES TO BE CELEBRATED AT ST. SOPHIA
DURING GREAT LENT**

Monday Evenings: Great Compline 7:00 pm

Wednesday Evenings: 9th Hour, 5:30; Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:00 pm

Friday Mornings: 9th Hour, 9:00 am; 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy

Friday Evenings: Salutations Service, 7:00 pm

Saturday Evenings: Great Vespers, 6:00 pm

St. Sophia's 2019 Parish Council

Fr. Michael Tervo, Priest

President of the Parish Council: Christos Christoforou

Vice President: Dino Monioudis

Treasurer: Ben Amundgaard

Secretary: Elizabeth Morgan

At Large Members: Nadia Boulos, Bryant Mattson



The Choir

will meet to practice on...

- Sun. Feb 10th after coffee hour

- Thurs. March 7th at 7:00 pm

- Sun. March 10th after coffee hour

Bible Study

Meets most

Wednesdays

at 11:00 am in the Church's McIntyre Fellowship Hall.

Holy Week Services to be Celebrated at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church April 20th - 28th, 2018

Sat. April 20th Saturday of Lazarus

8:45 am Orthros; 9:30 Divine Liturgy
10:30 am Palm cross tying, church decoration
6:00 pm Great Vespers for Palm Sunday

Sun. April 21st PALM SUNDAY

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Fish luncheon sponsored by the Parish Council
7:00 pm First Bridegroom Service

Mon. April 22nd Holy Monday

9:00 am 9th Hour
9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm Second Bridegroom Service

Tue. April 23rd Holy Tuesday

9:00 am 9th Hour
9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm Third Bridegroom Service

Wed. April 24th Holy Wednesday

9:00 am 9th Hour
9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
4:00 pm 4th Bridegroom Service
7:00 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction & Anointing

Thu. April 25th Holy Thursday

9:30 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Last Supper)
Easter egg dyeing after Liturgy
7:00 pm Matins of the Holy Passion of our Lord (with 12 Gospels)

Fri. April 26th Holy Friday

9:30 am Royal Hours
10:30 am Decoration of the Epitaphios
3:00 pm Great Vespers of the Descent from the Cross
7:00 pm Orthros with the Lamentations

Sat. April 27th Holy Saturday

9:30 am Vespers Liturgy (1st Resurrection)
11:00 pm Pre-Paschal Canon
12:00 am Resurrection Service & Orthros, followed by Divine Liturgy
After Liturgy- Pascha Potluck Celebration!

Sun. April 28th GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

11:00 am Agape Vespers at Church
1:00 pm Community Picnic at Hovander Park, Ferndale.

Mon. April 29th Bright Monday - St. George

Liturgy at St. George Cathedral in Vancouver

Fri. May 3rd Bright Friday - Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring

9:00 am Orthros
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

+++

St. Sophia Easter Picnic

Sunday, April 28th 1:00 pm Hovander Park in Ferndale

You and your family are invited to join the St. Sophia Community to celebrate the Great Feast of Pascha with an potluck meal in our parish hall. Lamb and potatoes will be cooked by the parish council. If you are planning to attend, please either put your family name with number of adults and children in your party on the sign-up sheet in the church hall. You can also rsvp by contacting the church office (360-734-8745) or by emailing the church office at stsophia.bellingham@gmail.com. Please rsvp so the parish council can know how much food to order. There will be a charge at the door, to help offset the cost of the food costs.

Coffee Fellowship and Prosporo Baking Ministries

Thank you for finding a substitute if you are not able to provide for coffee hour on your scheduled day.

Coffee Hour Ministry March—May 2019

**Lenten dishes only, please no meat or dairy*

March 3 Voula Parks, Loree Foote, Jaimee Twining
March 10 Elizabeth Morgan, Salome Wolters (**Cheesefare Sunday**—dairy items and fish permitted, no meat)
March 17* Evelyn Lallas, Tula Trames, Harieklia Bryant
March 24 *Yanolla Boulos, Nahla Gholam
March 31 * Dorine Boulos, Marie Boulos
April 7 * Francine Tsoulouhas, Kathy Tsoulouhas
April 14 * Christine Gholam, Nadia Boulos
April 21 **Palm Sunday Luncheon**
April 28 **PASCHA**—no coffee hour
May 5 Marina Polichronakis, Effie Bachelor
May 12 Eleni Zourkos, Tammy Stavropoulos, Panagiota Andredakis
May 19 Voula Parks, Loree Foote, Jaimee Twining

May 26 Elizabeth Morgan, Salome Wolters

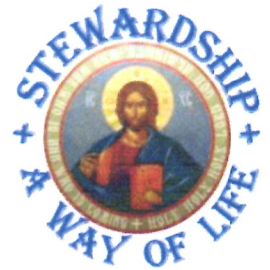
Prosporo Baking Ministry

Mar. 3rd Tammy Stavropoulos (4)
Mar. 10th Kim Weil (4)
Mar. 17th Adrienne Hunter (6)
Mar. 24th Jen Amundgaard (6)
Mar. 31st Christos Christoforou (6)
Apr. 7th Brooksana Raney (6)
Apr. 14th Judy Moularas (6)
Apr. 21st (Palm Sunday and Pascha) Tammy Stavropoulos (6); Kim Weil (6)
May 5th Tammy Stavropoulos (4)
May 12th Kim Weil (4)
May 19th Adrienne Hunter (6)
May 26th Jen Amundgaard (6)

Prosporo Bakers are needed! If you would like to learn how to bake them, please contact Fr. Michael.

*THANK YOU to those who have returned their
2019 Parish Membership Card...*

Fr. Michael & Presvytera Elizabeth Tervo + Christos Christoforou and Kim Weil + Elizabeth Morgan + Jason Morgan + Dino & Eleni Monioudis + Matt and Jenni Malyon + Ben & Jen Amundgaard + Niki Welton + George & Judith Moularas + Roger Hulbush + Zeina & Rich Evans + Tim & Voula Parks + Loree Foote + Kallee & Justin Dalton + Jaimee & Gabriel Twining + Helen Griffin + Thelma Stasinis + Charles and Koula Margaritis + Georgia Sentkowski + Mary Hulbush + Salim & Nadia Boulos + Dymond Nikon + Bassam "Sam" & Yanolla Boulos + Bassam Najib Boulos + Anastasia Salam Boulos + Matt & Carrie Frost + Irvin & Beverly Richardson + Joyce Piantes + Chris + Eleni Pantoleon + Salome & Curt Wolters + Emmanouel & Marina Polichronakis.



A
**JOURNEY
TO FULLNESS**

**"A Journey to Fullness"
Video Series**

**Shown during most coffee hours,
beginning at 12:15 pm.**

This is a 16-video series designed to help introduce the richness and fullness of the Orthodox Christian Faith to the serious-minded Christian. Each video is about 15 minutes long.

Topics for March and April

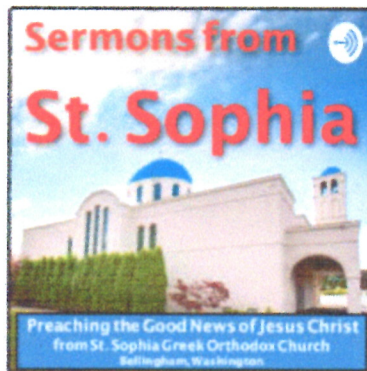
"What do Orthodox Mean When We Say "God"? + God With Us + Our Ultimate Purpose + Salvation as Participation + Orthodox Worship + A Beautiful Rhythm + The Journey Continues

Donations Request

\$75 for case olive oil for church candles (approx. 6 month supply); \$35 for case of censer charcoal; \$100 for incense; \$55 for palms for Palm Sunday; \$300 for case of vigil candles for Holy Friday and Saturday; lamb for Easter picnic- please ask Georgia Sentkowski. *If you have any questions, or to make a donation, please contact Fr. Michael. Thank you!*

St. Sophia Parent Meeting

Sunday, March 24th, during coffee hour. Topics: Youth Catechism program, Summer Program, Vacation Bible School, youth protection policies, and more. Contact: Matt Owen (360) 595-4349



**Subscribe
Today**

and Tell Your Family and Friends...

Fr. Michael's Sermons are available on Apple itunes, Spotify, or wherever you download podcasts.

To find the complete list of podcasting platforms, visit:

anchor.fm/saint-sophia-greek-orthodox-church--of-bellingham-wa

Church Greeters are needed to help welcome new visitors to our parish. To join the volunteer schedule, please see Dino Monioudis.

St. Sophia Men's Breakfast, Thur. Feb. 21st 7:00 am at Birch Door Cafe

Greek Dance Schedule Change:

Beginning in February, Greek Dance will meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

6:30 pm Kids 7:00 pm Adults

Contact: Eleni Zobolas 847.226.9797 or Star Vagelaras 610.999.7827

Our Condolences...

To the Family of Anna Southas, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 24th.

To Bryant Mattson on the passing of his mother Geraldine, who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, February 8th.

To Fr. Mel Gimmaka, whose mother reposed on February 12th.

Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, Washington

FEBRUARY 2019

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

1 **PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE - YPAPANTI**
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

5:00 Confessions by Appointment
6:00 pm Great Vespers

16th Sunday of Matthew 3
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Youth
Catechism
11:30 Coffee
Fellowship
12 noon
Philoptochos/
Friends of the Poor

Greek Dance
6:30 pm Kids
7:00 pm Adults

St. Photios the Great 6
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

11:00 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Studies of the Faith at the Amundgaard Home

5:00 Confessions by Appointment
6:00 pm Great Vespers

Canaanite- St. Haralambos 10
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Youth
Catechism
12:15 **Choir Practice**

No Bible Study

6:00 pm Readers Vespers

6:00 pm Readers Vespers

Publican and the Pharisee- Tridion Begins 17
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Youth
Catechism
11:30 Coffee
Fellowship
11:30 Philoptochos Luncheon Fundraiser

Greek Dance
6:30 pm Kids
7:00 pm Adults

11:00 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Vespers
7:00 pm Studies of the Faith at the Amundgaard Home

7:00 am **St. Sophia Men's Breakfast** at Birch Door Cafe

6:00 pm **APOKREATIKO GLENDI**

Sunday of the Prodigal Son 24
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Youth
Catechism
11:30 Coffee
Fellowship
12:00 noon "**Journey to Fullness**" Video
12:15 **St. Sophia Parent Meeting**

11:00 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Vespers

Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, Washington

MARCH 2019

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

1

2

6:00 pm Readers
Vespers

Judgment Sunday
Meatfare 3
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Youth
Catechism
11:30 Coffee
Fellowship

Metropolis Clergy Laity & Clergy Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch

2nd Sat. of Souls 9
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy &
Triasagion
10:15 am Potluck
11:15 am Trisagion at
Bay View Cemetery
5:00 Confessions

7 pm Choir Practice

Forgiveness
Sunday 10
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Youth
Catechism
11:30 Coffee Fellowship
12:00 **Forgiveness**
Vespers

GREAT LENT
BEGINS 11
Clean Monday
Office Closed
7:00 pm Great
Compline - Canon of
of Saint Andrew

Clean Week 12
7:00 pm Great
Compline - Canon of
of Saint Andrew

Clean Week 13
5:30 pm 9th Hour
6:00 pm
Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm Lenten
Potluck

Clean Week 14
7:00 pm Great
Compline - Canon of
of Saint Andrew

Clean Week 15
9:00 am 9th Hour
9:30 am
Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm 1st
Salutations

3rd Sat. of Souls 16
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy &
Triasagion
10:15 am Potluck
6:00 pm Great
Vespers

Sun. of Orthodoxy 17
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Catechism
11:30 Coffee Hour
12:30 Choir Practice
5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox
Vespers at St.
Innocent, Everson

18
7:00 pm Great
Compline

19 20
5:30 pm 9th Hour
6:00 pm
Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm Lenten
Potluck

21 22
9:00 am 9th Hour
9:30 am
Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm 2nd
Salutations

23

Sunday of 24
St. Gregory Palamas
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Youth
Catechism
11:30 Coffee
Fellowship
6:00 pm Great Vespers

Annunciation - 25
Evangelismos
Greek Independence
Day
8:30 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy &
Doxology for
Independence Day
7:00 pm Great
Compline

26 27
5:30 pm 9th Hour
6:00 pm
Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm Lenten
Potluck

28 29
9:00 am 9th Hour
9:30 am
Presanctified
Liturgy
7:00 pm 3rd
Salutations

30
5:00 Confessions by
Appointment
6:00 pm Great
Vespers

Sunday of 31
the Holy Cross
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
& Elevation of the
Cross
11:15
Catechism
11:30 Coffee

Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, Washington

APRIL 2019

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			5:30 pm 9th Hour 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Lenten Potluck	7:00 pm Choir practice	9:00 am 9th Hour 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 4th Salutations	5:00 Confessions by Appointment 6:00 pm Great Vespers
St. John Climacus 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 Youth Catechism 11:30 Coffee Fellowship	8 7:00 pm Great Compline	9	10 5:30 pm 9th Hour 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Lenten Potluck	11 7:00 pm Akathist Hymn	12 9:00 am 9th Hour 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy	13 5:00 Confessions by Appointment 6:00 pm Great Vespers
St. Mary of Egypt 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 Youth Catechism 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 12:15 Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt	15 7:00 pm Great Compline	16	17 5:30 pm 9th Hour 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Lenten Potluck	18 9:00 am 9th Hour 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy	19 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy	20 Saturday of Lazarus 8:45 Orthros 9:30 am Liturgy 10:15 Palm Cross Tying Church Cleaning 6:00 pm Great Vespers
Palm Sunday 21 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy & Procession with Icon 11:30 Palm Sunday Luncheon 7:00 Bridegroom Service	HOLY MONDAY 22 9 am 9th Hour 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy 7 pm Bridegroom Service	HOLY TUESDAY 23 9 am 9th Hour 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy 7 pm Bridegroom Service	HOLY WEDNESDAY 24 9 am 9th Hour 9:30 am Presanct. Liturgy 4 pm Bridegroom Service 7 pm Holy Unction	HOLY THURSDAY 25 9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Egg dyeing 7 pm 12 Gospels	HOLY FRIDAY 26 9:30 am Royal Hours 10:30 am Epitaphion Decoration 3:00 pm Unnailing Vespers 7:00 pm	HOLY SATURDAY 27 9:30 am Vesperal Liturgy 11pm Vigil for the Resurrection 12 Midnight Anastasis Service & Liturgy; potluck to follow
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA 28 11:00 Agape Vespers 1:00 Community Picnic at Hovander Park in Ferndale	BRIGHT MONDAY 29 St. George the Trophy Bearer Liturgy @ St. George Cathedral, Vancouver, BC	BRIGHT TUESDAY 30				

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church - 2019 Pledge

510 East Sunset Drive - Bellingham, WA - 98225 www.saintsophias.org

I/We pledge for the year 2019:

\$600 (\$50/month or \$12/week) \$1200 (\$100/month or \$25/week) \$2000 (\$167/month or \$38/week)
 \$3000 (\$250/month or \$57/week) \$4000 (\$333/month or \$76/week) \$6000 (\$500/month or \$115/week)
 Other: \$ _____

We plan to give:

weekly - monthly - yearly
(please circle one)

Name (s) _____

*This pledge may be increased or decreased throughout the year according to your circumstances.
Pledge envelopes are available upon request.*

Are you interested in giving via

Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank? Yes: No:

OR **PayPal?** Yes: No:

If you answered "yes" to either of these, a separate form is required.

Do you wish to pledge online instead?

Please visit www.saintsophias.org/online-pledge-form.html

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENVELOPE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 1ST, 2019

Thank you!

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PLEASE RETURN THIS ENVELOPE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 1ST, 2019

Thank you!

**EFT — Electronic Funds Transfer
DIRECT PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM**

FOR ANNUAL PLEDGE

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

We are pleased to offer you a new service: the Direct Payment Plan. Now you can have your payment deducted automatically from your checking or savings account. And you won't have to change your present banking relationship to take advantage of this service.

The Direct Payment Plan will help you in several ways:

- It saves time — fewer checks to write
- Helps pay your pledge in a convenient manner — even if you're on vacation or out of town
- Your payment is always on time
- It's easy to sign up for, easy to cancel
- No guessing if payment was made

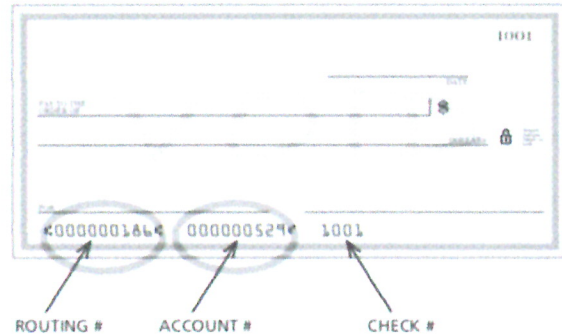
Here's how the Direct Payment Plan works:

You authorize monthly scheduled payments to be made from your checking or savings account. Then just sit back and relax. Your payments will be made automatically on a specified day and proof of payment will appear on your bank statement.

The authority you give to charge your account will remain in effect until you notify us in writing to terminate the authorization. If the amount of your payment changes, we

will notify you at least 10 days before the effective payment date. The Direct Payment Plan is dependable, flexible, convenient and easy.

To take advantage of this service, complete the attached authorization form and return it to us.



All you need to do is:

1. Indicate whether your payment will be deducted from your checking or savings account.
2. Fill in the amount of monthly pledge.
3. Fill in financial institution name and location, and your name. Sign and date the form.
4. Attach a voided check for verification of all financial institution information. If you are unable to attach a voided check, please fill in your bank account number and routing number.

NOTE: Be sure to sign and date the form!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW

I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law. This authority will remain in effect until I have canceled it in writing.

I authorize St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church to initiate electronic debit entries to my:

Checking Account \$ _____ monthly

Savings Account \$ _____ monthly

for payment of my St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Annual Pledge

Financial Institutions's **Name** (please print) _____

Financial Institutions's **Routing #** _____

Financial Institution's **Account #** _____

Financial Institution's **City and State** _____

Your Name (please print) _____

Your Signature _____ **Date** _____

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

510 E. Sunset Dr. Bellingham, WA 98225

