

Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church May-June 2016

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

Christ is Risen!



Paschal Encyclical of Metropolitan Gerasimos 2016

*“You, O Christ, Who has destroyed Hades
and raised up
mankind by your Resurrection, make us
worthy
with pure heart to praise and glorify
You.”*

—From the Praises of Pascha

Dearly Beloved,

We have completed our Lenten journey and very soon we will find ourselves at the tomb of Christ where He has rested for three days. In this upcoming Holy and Great Week we will have journeyed with Him to Jerusalem and we will witness His

Passion. We will see Him extend His arms to accept the life giving Cross. We will hear Him pardon those who crucified Him. We will hear Him grant entry to Paradise to the repentant thief crucified next to Him. And then early in the morning we will, like the women who went to anoint Him, experience His triumphant emergence from the tomb. He has destroyed death and granted life to the world.

In the icon of the Resurrection, our Lord and Savior reaches out to Adam and Eve and lifts them out of their tombs. When they saw Him in Hades, they extended their hands towards Him and the Risen Lord gave them new life. In one ancient text He says to them, “Arise!”. In the Exapostilarion of Pascha

Continued on page 2...

A Prophecy...

*Thus says the Lord God:
Behold I will open your
graves, and raise you
from your graves, O my
people ... And you shall
know that I am the
Lord, when I open your
graves, and raise you
from your graves, O my
people. And I will put
my Spirit within you,
and you shall live.*

*Prophecy of Ezekiel 37:12-14
Written circa 570 BC*

we hear how Christ raised up Adam, the first man, from corruption. All of this reminds us that we are celebrating two resurrections in this Feast of Feasts, that of the Lord Jesus from His three days in the tomb and our own. We, the descendants of Adam, experience resurrection because we have joined ourselves to Christ. We have reached out to Christ and He has taken us by the hand to give us life. Christ has conquered death so that we may be free from its power. His conquest emboldens us to mock the darkness and chains of the Evil One with the words of St. Paul, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:54-55). The lit candles that we will hold up in middle of night on Pascha are symbols of that victory and we will carry them through the streets into the night to our homes to proclaim the news to all that Christ is Risen!

And the joy we will experience on the day of Pascha and through this season of resurrection must be proclaimed and shared. We will greet one another with a joy-filled "Christ Is Risen!". We will remember the words of the hymn of Holy Saturday "Arise, O God, and judge the earth; for You shall have an inheritance in all of the nations." The Resurrection banishes sadness in a tragedy-filled world and offers meaning and purpose in an age that feel adrift. The Resurrection shows us that the love and mercy of God knows no boundaries. The Resurrection gives life to the world, to all humanity, with no barriers. In the sermon of St. John Chrysostom we hear, "Let all enter into the joy of the Lord." The words of joy, life, mercy and forgiveness are easy to say, but their meaning and implications for the world are not so easy to put into practice. We see the outstretched hands of the suffering in the Middle East, the refugees fleeing Syria, and all those who yearn for peace, security and freedom from persecution. We see the outstretched hands of the poor and the suffering in our own cities and among our neighborhoods. We, like Christ in the icon, must extend our hands to those who seek to experience the power of the Resurrection and receive the gift of the new life that Christ has granted to the world. The Risen Christ who has granted the world great mercy and new life, calls us to extend that mercy and love and new life to all.

Dearly beloved, may the power of the Resurrection fill your hearts with the power of God's infinite mercy and love.

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

With Love in Our Risen Lord,

+ GERASIMOS
Metropolitan of San Francisco

The Church Dome needs to be cleaned...

...so it can be the Beacon of Orthodoxy in our city we want it to be! Donations would be appreciated to offset the cost. For more information, please see Yanni Gholam.

"I am Orthodox"

St. Sophia Parishioners Witness to their Orthodox Christian Faith

"Finding a Banquet in a Drive-Thru World"

by Brooksana Raney



As a Southern gal, I come from a Jesus-loving-bible-belt-wearing family. But, for most of my life I lived without the guidance of God. I always knew there was something, but just couldn't place it or get past the portrait of Charlton Heston and his cohort band of Hollywood disciples.

I attended Pentecostal and Four Square churches with friends. I went to Lutheran catechism classes. I went to Roman Catholic school. I tried looking under rocks and 'communing with nature'. I sang Dion Warwick songs that were adapted to be more 'prayerful' with the Unitarians. I even studied philosophy thinking I needed more cerebral stimulation. Nothing seemed genuine and I was often left with more questions than when I started. If there was something, it was elusive. For now Sundays were relegated to sleeping in and watching football.

One day my mom told me about this church she'd started attending. She just couldn't stop talking about it. She learned about it from a co-worker, Ben. Ben exuded the kind of selfless love for God and commitment to a firm foundation in Apostolic tradition. For weeks - maybe more like months - she hounded me to go with her. "Just come and see." she said. How can you say no to your mom? So I finally went.

From the moment I walked in, I knew I had found the oasis; the banquet in a drive-thru world. I was overcome and stumbled in awe. I heard - actually heard - the gospel read in a church. Without the politics and personal slants of the day, but as the Disciples wrote. I was instantly surrounded by genuine love. It was the presence of God, and I was standing in His living room.

But, I'm a skeptic and a researcher by trade. I'd tried so many other things, how could I be sure? For nearly five years I read everything I could get my hands on. I watched the colors change with the liturgical calendar and saw the connection between scripture and the humble gifts we humans could offer. I saw my mother Chrismated; she was the first of what would now become four generations of Orthodox Christians in our family.

Many of my friends thought I'd had a mental break and distanced themselves from me, but I knew I had to continue on. I followed and fact checked the documentation. I spoke with cradles, converts and clergy; but mostly I spoke to God. When it all came down to it, all the research didn't matter as much as the faith I had come to believe. Like air we can't see, but know it's there and vital to our being, so was God...all this time...waiting for me to find Him.

Thank you...to those who have sent in their 2016 Parish Membership Cards...

Fr. Michael and Elizabeth Tervo + Christos & Kim Christoforou + Georgia Sentkowski + George & Judith Moularas + Areti Moularas + Pete Barbas + Gebran Gholam + Yanni & Ana Cristina Gholam + Kris Freeberg + Joyce Piantes + Roger Hulbush + Dimitrios & Terpsithea Totskas + Vasile & Iona Aluash + Sue Moyer + Alicia Morgan + Elizabeth Morgan + Jim & Eleni Zourkos + Bryant & Tamara Mattson + Anthony & Partena Rodriguez + Niki & Raymond Welton + The Cretu Family + Forest & Holly Grow + Harieklia Meras-Bryant + Douglas & Dena Lien + Thelma Stasinis + Paul & Ann Richardson + John & Natalie Koenig + Manoli & Anna Chondroyannis + Chris & Eleni Pantoleon + John Harriman + Adrienne Hunter + Dimitrios & Georgia Damianos + Dan & Effie Eisses + Anastasia Zervas + Nadim & Angeline Moussi + Pete & Matina Primbas + Rich & Zeina Evans + Panagiota Andredakis + Mioara & Cristian Cretu + John & Roni Walsh + Louis & Evelyn Lallas + Mary Hulbush + Marco & Marie Boulos + Pete Besas + Emmanouel & Marina Polichronakis + Eleni & Demetrios Soteriou + Curt & Salome Wolters + Maria Ilvanakis + Dalene Piantes + Nikitas & Tasia Tsoulouhas

As of 4/26/2016

Parish Visit of His Grace Bishop Athanasios of Western Kenya



Presiding at the Liturgy for the Saturday of Lazarus with Fr. Michael



“Kisumu Diocese Self-Reliance Project”

Some have asked how to support Bishop Akunda’s work in Kenya. Presvytera Elizabeth has worked with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, located in St. Augustine FL, to set up an account to specifically support the work in his diocese of Kisumu.

Please make checks payable to: “OCMC.” In the memo line: “Kisumu Diocese Self-Reliance Project” and mail them to

OCMC
220 Mason Manatee Way
St. Augustine, FL 32086

THANK YOU!



Bishop Athanasios and the Youth of St. Sophia and St. Innocent Parishes

Look for the “Orthodox Church Diocese of Kisumu and Western Kenya” on Facebook to follow Bishop Athanasios Akunda’s activities and the progress of the Orthodox in his diocese.

GREEK
INDEPENDENCE
DAY!



St. Sophia parishioners celebrate Greek Independence Day at the the entrance of Bellingham City Hall. March 25th, 2016.



Doxacon is a conference about Orthodox Christianity and Science Fiction/fantasy.

Doxacon Seattle 2016 will be held June 24-26, 2016 at South Seattle College in Seattle, WA and will be sponsored by Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church (OCA) in Tacoma, WA.

Presvytera Elizabeth will speak on the topic: "Temptation in Narnia, Middle-Earth and the Church Fathers: What It Is and How to Resist It"

For more information, visit doxaicon.org/seattle

A Way to Help Your Parish...

The St. Sophia Stewardship Committee respectfully asks that you please consider remembering the St. Sophia Church in your estate planning and consider leaving a bequest to your parish.

Festival Preparation...

Festival Baking begins Tuesday May 24th at 10:30. Come join the fun and the fellowship as we work for a holy cause. Will meet weekly in May and June and weekly, Tuesdays and Thursdays in July and August. Meat preparation is scheduled for the afternoon of August 8, 9 and 10. Contact: Joyce Piantes (360) 224-5211.

Bellingham
GreekFest 2016

September 8-11

Thursday-Saturday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

St. Sophia

Greek Orthodox Church

510 E. Sunset Drive
Bellingham, WA

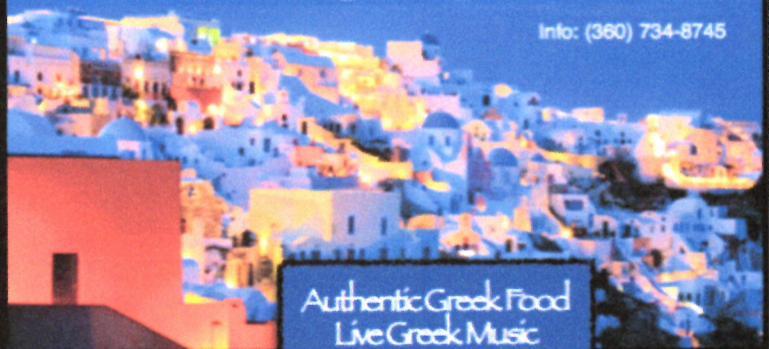
1/4 mile West of I-5
Sunset Dr. Exit

**FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING**



www.bellinghamgreekfest.org

Info: (360) 734-8745



Authentic Greek Food
Live Greek Music
Desserts & Appetizers
Beer Garden
Books & Gifts
Kids Games
Church Tours



Bellingham GreekFest 2016

September 8-11

**Coffee Hour Offerings
for May, June, July and August**

May 1st--Easter Picnic
 May 8th-- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**...please see Fr. Michael
 May 15th--Evelyn Lallas and Tula Trames
 May 22nd--Yanolla Boulos and Nahla Gholam
 May 29th--Salome Walters and Elizabeth Morgan
 June 5th--Effie Bachelor and Francine Tsoulouhas
 June 12th--Ibtissam Mansour and Angelina Moussi
 June 19th--Dorine Boulos and Marie Boulos
 June 26th--Mary Hulbush, Dena Lien, and Cherie Webster
 July 3rd--Georgia Sentkowski and Cheryl Lallas
 July 10th--Cristina Gholam and Nadia Boulos
 July 17th--Marina Polichronakis and Eleni Pantoleon
 July 24th--Nia Zourkos, Eleni Mistry, and Tammy Stavropoulos
 July 31st--Effie Eisses and Joyce Piantes
 August 7th--Voula Parks, Loree Foote, and Jaimee Twining*
 August 14th--Roni Walsh and Mary Walsh*
 August 21st--Cristina Falkner and Ioana Aluash
 August 28th--Evelyn Lallas and Tula Trames

*Dormition Fast, no dairy or meat please.

**Prosporo Baking Volunteers
for May, June, July and August**

May 1st Adrienne Hunter (4)
 May 8th Tamara Mattson (4)
 May 15th Christos Christoforou (4)
 May 22nd Sue Moyer (4)
 May 29th Tasia Tsoulouhas (4)
 June 5th Kim Weil (4)
 June 12th Brooksana Raney (4)
 June 19th Harieklia Bryant (4)
 June 26th Adrienne Hunter (5)
 July 3rd Christos Christoforou (4)
 July 10th Sue Moyer (4)
 July 17th Tasia Tsoulouhas (4)
 July 24th Tamara Mattson (4)
 July 31st Brooksana Raney (4)
 August 7th Kim Weil (4)
 August 14th Adrienne Hunter (6)
 August 21st Harieklia Bryant (4)
 August 28th Christos Christoforou (4)

**ADDITIONAL
PROSPHORA
BAKERS NEEDED**

If you would like to bake prospora and/or would like to learn how to do so, please see Fr. Michael.

**ST. SOPHIA BOOKSTORE NEWS
FOR MAY/JUNE 2016**

1. **“WORDS FOR OUR TIMES; The Spiritual Words of Matthew the Poor”** also known as Abba Matta of Egypt, and widely regarded as the greatest Egyptian elder. Most of his work is in Arabic, and this book is one of the few translated into English \$17.00
2. **THE GREEK EAST AND LATIN WEST** by Philip Sherrard (1922-1995) This is a reprint from 1959; along with Palmer and Ware he helped translate and edit the “Philokalia” \$24.00
3. **“ASCETIC LIVES OF MOTHERS”** a Prayer Book for Orthodox Christian Moms \$13.00
4. **THE GREAT FIRE**..one American’s mission to rescue victims of the 20th century’s first genocide. By Lou Ureneck. This October the book will be printed in Greek. The movie rights were recently sold. \$29.00

CHILDREN BOOKS

1. THE ILLUSTRATED LIFE OF THE THEOTOKOS FOR CHILDREN \$15.00
2. MIRACLE OF THE RED EGG \$19.00

We have a nice selection of children’s books at this time.

THE ST. SOPHIA BOOK CLUB...

will meet at 7:00 pm on May 18 to discuss **“BEGINNING TO PRAY”** by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom. For more information, please contact Presvytera Elizabeth.

We also have the Liturgy available on CD format for those who cannot physically attend Liturgy. Available in English or Greek.

Visit your parish bookstore for incense, cards, icons, coffee, tea, prayer rope necklaces and bracelets, car magnets, and much more. We are open each Sunday following Liturgy until 1 p.m. or by appointment. Please call 360-483-8200 or

**PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS
MAY/JUNE 2016**



Thank you to our tsourekia bakers, Presvytera Alexandra, Eleni Kipelides and Koula Margaritis.

The *tsourekia* baking and selling was a success and we are now looking forward to upcoming events.

May 8 is Mother’s Day and we will be giving roses to the mothers in our parish following Liturgy.

May 22 there will be a Philoptochos meeting following Liturgy in which we will be discussing our philanthropic endeavors for the next four months.

There will not be a patio sale this summer, but we will have a ‘THIS AND THAT’ table in the Philoptochos tent during the festival. There will be more information to follow.

We will also be selling our Kids’n’Cancer fundraiser tickets at that time.

The fundraiser will be October 22 with Demetri from Vancouver, B.C. back again with his great musical repertoire. More information to follow.

Thank you to all who joined our Philoptochos this year. We have surpassed our membership goal and are looking forward to a most blessed philanthropic year. Philoptochos is now 83 years old and the second largest women’s philanthropic organization in the world, second to the Jewish women’s group Hadassah.

In Christ, with love,

Harieklia Meras-Bryant
Philoptochos President

Mark your calendars now...
for the October 22nd
Kids’n’Cancer Fundraiser
more information to come.

Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, Washington

APRIL 2016

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA (EASTER) 11 am Agape Vespers at Church 1:00 pm Community Easter Picnic @ Hovander Park, Ferndale	BRIGHT TUESDAY / ST. GEORGE Office Closed 9 am Liturgy at St. George in Vancouver	BRIGHT TUESDAY	BRIGHT WEDNESDAY	BRIGHT THURSDAY	BRIGHT FRIDAY Theotokos, the Life-Giving Spring 9:00 am Orthros 9:30 am Liturgy	BRIGHT SATURDAY No Vespers
THOMAS SUNDAY 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy 11:15 Sunday School 11:15 Fellowship		10 am Homeschol Coop	6pm Vespers	5 pm Washington Orthodox Clergy Assoc. Meeting at St. Paul's, Lynwood		4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
MYRRH BEARING WOMEN 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy 11:15 Sunday School 11:15 Fellowship		10 am Homeschol Coop	6pm Vespers 7 pm St. Sophia Book Group			Ss. Constantine & Helen 8:45am Orthros 9:30 am Liturgy 12pm Baptism 4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy 11:15 Sunday School 11:15 PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY		10 am Homeschol Coop 10:30 am Festival Cooking BEGINS	6pm Vespers			4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy 11:15 Sunday School 11:15 Fellowship		10 am Homeschol Coop 10:30 am Festival Cooking				

Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, Washington

JUNE 2016

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

1

2

3

4

4:30 Confessions
5:30 Great Vespers

6:15 pm Vespers

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

**SUNDAY OF THE
BLIND MAN**

8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine
Liturgy**
Sunday School
Fellowship Hour

**Leavetaking of
Pascha**

9:00 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

6:15 pm
Leavetaking and
Great Vespers

Holy Ascension

8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

5:30 Readers
Vespers

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

**FATHERS OF THE
1ST COUNCIL**

8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine
Liturgy**
Sunday School
Fellowship Hour

10 am LAST
Homeschol Coop of
the year
10:30 am Festival
Cooking

6:15 pm Vespers

St. Sophia Mission Trip
to Project Mexico

Saturday of Souls

8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy &
Memorial Service
4:30 Confessions
5:30 Great Vespers

Project Mexico 19

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

**HOLY
PENTECOST**

8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine
Liturgy**
Sunday School
Fellowship Hour
12pm Kneeling
Vespers

**Monday
of the Holy Spirit**
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

10:30 am Festival
Cooking

6:15 pm Vespers

Doxacon- Seattle

4:30 Confessions
5:30 Great Vespers

Doxacon in Seattle

26

27

28

29

30

Doxacon

ALL SAINTS

8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine
Liturgy**
Sunday School
Fellowship Hour

10:30 am Festival
Cooking

Ss. Peter & Paul

8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

6:15 pm Great
Vespers

Holy Apostles

Liturgy at Holy
Apostles Church in
Shoreline

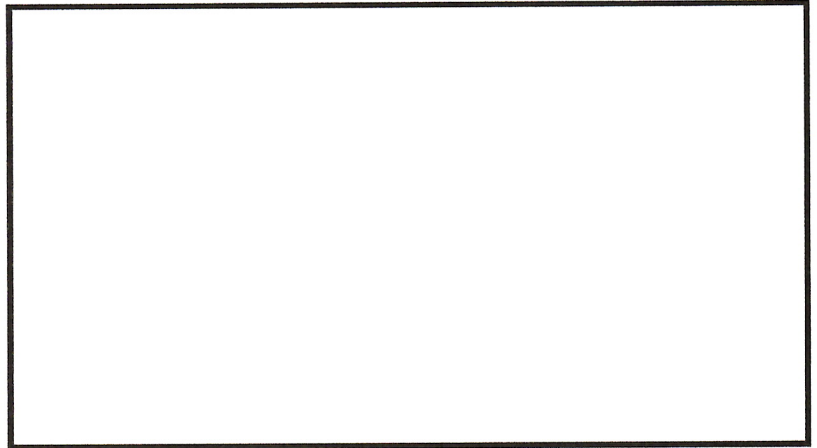
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

510 E. Sunset Dr. Bellingham, WA 98225

MAY-JUNE

2016

MONTHLY BULLETIN



**THANK YOU to our
2016 St. Sophia Oratorical Festival participants!**

Thank You!

To our generous donors of the many liturgical items used for our Holy Week Services.

To our St. Sophia Parish Council and the many volunteers for organizing, preparing, cooking, setting tables and all the work that went in to hosting our recent Palm Sunday Luncheon and the Easter Picnic.

To our Ladies Philoptochos for supporting the recent parish retreat.

Summer Youth Ministry Cooperative

Attention Parents... What are your kids' Summer plans? A group of mothers is working on a parent-run program of children's activities at church this summer. Any parents wishing to help, please contact Presvytera Elizabeth at elizabeth.tervo@gmail.com

All Saints Camp

Raft Island, Washington

2016 SESSIONS

- High School Camp: July 10-16
For teens entering grade 10 to 12 and grade 13
- Advanced Camp: July 17-23
For youth entering grades 6 to 9
- Elementary Camp: July 10-17
For children entering grades 3 to 5

Find us on Facebook or visit www.allsaintscamp.com