

# Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

September 2017 Monthly Bulletin

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*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."*

## Our Parish's Mission: To Be Disciples and to Make Disciples

by Fr. Michael Tervo



Here are Jesus' final instructions to His disciples in the Gospel of Matthew, which the Church calls "The Great Commission":

*"Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

**Our Lord has called all members of our parish, both you and me, not only to be disciples— but also to make disciples.** The most important thing in my life and work as a priest is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ also calls every parishioner of St. Sophia church to become His disciple. An Orthodox Christian parish that truly follows Jesus Christ is made up of disciples who make disciples.

**Everything we say or do at this parish must serve to fulfill this calling to discipleship.** Whatever we say or do that does NOT serve to fulfill this calling must be questioned. This is the Lord's very command.

**What do disciples do?** Disciples yearn to know Christ and to be known by Him. They study Him, his commandments, wisdom, teaching and actions, and try to imitate Him as best as they can. They are Christ-

obsessed. They hang on Jesus' every word. They seek His will and desires. They serve others and sacrifice for others. They try to understand the mind of the Church and the reasons for its acts, decisions, councils, and teachings. They knowledgeably participate in the Liturgical life... not just performing the correct actions, but knowing how they reveal the Father, Son and Holy Spirit's presence in our lives and how they draw us to life in the Trinity. Disciples understand in their hearts and minds that they are privileged to be Christians. Disciples imitate their Teacher by forgiving others "up to seventy times seven."

**Jesus clearly commands that His disciples, including St. Sophia parishioners, receive His Body and Blood whenever His Church offers it.** They never made excuses for their absence. Attendance is non-negotiable. Yes, showing up to Liturgy is also a commandment from Christ Himself- see John 6:53-58:

*Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me,*

Continued on page 2...

*even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*

**Receiving Communion and partaking of the Sacraments is neither optional nor based on "when one feels like it."** It is a duty and an obligation for disciples to prepare and receive. An Orthodox Christian feels like missing the Eucharist is spiritual starvation. Orthodox disciples not only show up to every service, they show up as walking, talking, repenting, maturing, honest, faithful, trustworthy, patient, forgiving, humble, pure, innocent, harmless images of Christ. Christ's mind is their mind. The Lord's will is their will.

**We must look out for each other and protect those who are vulnerable.** Every Orthodox Christian man is a father and brother to fellow parishioners and those who desire to become disciples. Likewise, every Orthodox Christian woman is a mother and sister who welcome, cherish, serve and protect each visitor that shows up at our door. We must all recognize that Christ Himself sent that visitor to our parish and has entrusted their souls to our care.

**Jesus Christ directs us to go out and invite people of "all the nations" to become Orthodox disciples.** This means those beyond our own community, to invite each and every person in Bellingham, Ferndale and Whatcom County and make them disciples as well. By "the nations" Jesus means peoples of all races, as St. Paul adds, whether they are "*Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free.*" We must reach out to all people who are living apart from God in darkness and bring them to the light of Jesus Christ. We are to go to those who are yearning for an illumined, light-filled life, and offer it to them by inviting them to become disciples with us.

**We are to teach... and be taught.** We are to become students, which is what word disciple means.

**We have a job to do, and one job only: to become ourselves and to make others into disciples... as many as we possibly can.** We are to imitate Christ by serving, not expecting to be served. We are faithful to Christ, the Orthodox Church and this parish to the end, no matter what. If we do not always get what we want, we persevere and serve anyway. If a person thinks "I don't get anything out of our parish, so I am not going to come back," that person is wrong-headed and doesn't understand the goals and objective of Christ's Church.

**Our Lord has blessed us with our Community of St. Sophia.** Jesus Christ Himself has given each of the faithful of St. Sophia a holy calling and great responsibility. If we drive people away, either intentionally or unintentionally, we will answer to our Lord on Judgment day, both as individual members and as a community.

**However, if we fulfill our mission to make disciples, we stand to gain so much as a parish!** Your faith will be deeper and more rich. Christ will award us as "good and faithful servants" if we grow in our faith, repent, forgive each other and bring new people to share the holy life in Christ as offered by our Greek Orthodox Church.

In Christ's Service,

***Fr. Michael Tervo***  
***Disciple and Priest***

*Dear St. Sophia parishioners and Festival Volunteers,*

*I am grateful to God for all of our faithful leaders, organizers and volunteers who put together our Bellingham Greek Festival 2017. Many, many hours were dedicated to making making our festival successful and to open our doors to offer rich hospitality to our local community. I am also moved by the sacrifices of time, talent and treasure made for this festival. God is so good to our Community as is shown by His bringing such faithful stewards in our midst. This work enables the various ministries of our parish to take place, including the work of the priest. Thank you. May God bless them and the Holy Community of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church.*

*In Christ,*



*Thank you. May God bless them and the Holy Community of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church.*

# Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church  
Bellingham, Washington

# SEPTEMBER 2017

sun      mon      tue      wed      thu      fri      sat

1      2

**Indiction/  
Ecclesiastical New  
Year**  
8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy  
4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers  
  
Festival Tents  
installed

3      4      5      6      7      8      9

8:45 am Orthros  
10 am **Divine  
Liturgy**  
11:30 Coffee  
Fellowship

**BELLINGHAM GREEK FESTIVAL**

6pm Vespers

**Nativity of the  
Theotokos**  
8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy  
11:00 Festival opens  
  
11:00 Festival Opens 5:30 Great Vespers

**Ss. Joachim & Anna**  
8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy

10      11      12      13      14      15      16

**GREEK  
FESTIVAL**

8:15 am Orthros  
9:30 **Liturgy**  
  
11:00 am **Festival  
Opens**

Festival cleanup

Washington  
Orthodox Clergy  
Association at  
Vashon Island

6pm Great Vespers

**Elevation of the  
Holy Cross**

8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy

4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers  
for St. Sophia  
6:30 pm Reception  
offered by  
Philoptochos

17      18      19      20      21      22      23

**ST. SOPHIA &  
HER THREE  
DAUGHTERS**  
8:45 am Orthros  
10 am **Divine  
Liturgy**  
**BBQ & Potluck  
to follow**

6pm Vespers

9am St.Sophia  
Seniors Field Trip  
to 5Bs Bakery in  
Concrete

4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers

24      25      26      27      28      29      30

8:45 am Orthros  
10 am **Divine  
Liturgy**  
11:30 Coffee  
Fellowship  
12:15  
**Sunday School  
Parents' Mtg.**

**Falling Asleep of  
St. John the  
Theologian**

8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy

11:00 am Bible  
Study Resumes

6pm Vespers

4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers

# Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church  
Bellingham, Washington

# OCTOBER 2017

sun

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tue

wed

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fri

sat

1

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7

**St. Dionysios the  
Areopagite**

8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy

11:00 am Bible  
Study

6pm Vespers

**Feastday  
Celebration at St.  
Innocent  
Antiochian OC in  
Everson**  
5:15 Vespers  
6:00 pm Divine  
Liturgy

4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers

8

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14

8:45 am Orthros  
10 am **Divine  
Liturgy**  
11:15 **Sunday  
School**  
11:30 **Coffee  
Fellowship**  
12:15 **Theology 101**

11:00 am Bible  
Study

6pm Vespers

**7 am Men's  
Breakfast at  
Avenue Bread on  
James Street**

**3:00 Jr. GOYA  
Meeting at Nadia and  
Salim Boulos' Home  
Ages 5-10**

4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

8:45 am Orthros  
10 am **Divine  
Liturgy**  
11:15 **Sunday  
School**  
11:30 **Coffee  
Fellowship**  
12:15 **Theology 101**

11:00 am Bible  
Study

6pm Vespers

**St. Gerasimos**

8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy

4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers

22

23

24

25

26

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28

8:45 am Orthros  
10 am **Divine  
Liturgy**  
11:15 **Sunday  
School**  
11:30 **Coffee  
Fellowship**  
12:15 **Theology 101**

Washington  
Orthodox Clergy  
Association

11:00 am Bible Study

6pm Vespers at St.  
Demetrios in Seattle

**St. Demetrios**

8:45 am Orthros  
9:30 am Liturgy

**8am-11:00 am  
Mediterranean  
Breakfast Church  
Fundraiser**

4:30 Confessions  
5:30 Great Vespers

29

30

31

8:45 am Orthros  
10 am **Divine  
Liturgy**  
11:15 **Sunday  
School**  
11:30 **Coffee  
Fellowship**  
12:15 **Theology 101**

Fr. Michael attends Clergy Conference in  
Wash. D.C. Oct. 30-Nov. 4

The St. Sophia parish council along with Fr. Michael has decided that our parish will participate with other area churches in the "Family Promise" program, a program of the Interfaith Coalition that supports homeless families. Below is a thank you letter from its director, Laura Harker, that describes this ministry. If you would like to support and or participate in this holy ministry, please see Fr. Michael.



## Thank You for Supporting Family Promise of Whatcom County!

Many of us have had the delight of listening to a Sunday School Choir singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and we are familiar with the gospel stories in Matthew and Mark of Jesus blessing children, saying the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Yet not all of us have had the opportunity to show Jesus' love for the youngest among us outside of our own family and friends.

By agreeing to be a host congregation for Family Promise of Whatcom County, a program of Interfaith Coalition, your congregation is expressing the love of Jesus in a tangible, far-reaching way. You will be meeting the urgent needs of vulnerable homeless children and their families in our community for safety, shelter, and meals.

The premise of Family Promise is simple. Congregations open their facilities for one week quarterly throughout the year to 4 or 5 families, offering a place to have dinner, spend evening time together, sleep, and have breakfast. They are then transported to a centralized Day Center, where families have access to showers, laundry facilities and social services, and children get picked up for school. At dinner time, they are transported back to the congregation.

The process to implement the Family Promise program is progressing well under the auspices of Interfaith Coalition. So far, 10 congregations have signed on to be host congregations, and 4 have agreed to support them. An enthusiastic and energized core group of volunteers continues to recruit host and support congregations, work on finding a suitable Day Center, communicating the vision of the program, and raising working capital. The hope is to have the program up and running in early 2018.

Your help in embodying Jesus' love is a blessing. Thank you for your commitment to meet the needs of the growing number of homeless children in our community.

Laura Harker  
Executive Director, Interfaith Coalition  
Laura@interfaith-coalition.org  
(360) 734-3983

## A Prayer of St. Paisios the Athonite (+1994) "Guaranteed to Be Heard by God"

*O Lord Jesus Christ:*

*Do not abandon Your servants who live far away from the Church. May Your love convict them and bring them back to You. Lord have mercy on Your servants who are suffering from cancer.*

*On Your servants who suffer either from small or serious ailments.*

*On Your servants who suffer from physical infirmities.*

*On Your servants who suffer from spiritual infirmities.*

*Lord have mercy on our leaders and inspire them to govern with Christian love.*

*Lord have mercy on children who come from troubled homes.*

*On troubled families and those who have been divorced.*

*Lord have mercy on all the orphans of the world, on all those who are suffering pain and injustices since losing their spouses.*

*Lord have mercy on all those in jail, on all anarchists, on all drug abusers, on all murderers, on all abusers of people, and on all thieves. Enlighten these people and help them to straighten out their lives.*

*Lord have mercy on all those who have been forced to emigrate.*

*On all those who travel on the seas, on land, in the air, and protect them.*

*Lord have mercy on our Church, the bishops, the priests and the faithful of the Church.*

*Lord have mercy on all the monastic communities, male and female, the elders and eldresses and all the brotherhoods of Mt. Athos.*

*Lord have mercy on Your servants who find themselves in the midst of war.*

*On Your servants who are being pursued in the mountains and on the plains.*

*On Your servants who are being hunted like birds of prey.*

*Lord have mercy on Your servants who were forced to abandon their homes and their jobs and feel afflicted.*

*Lord have mercy on the poor, the homeless and the exiled.*

*Lord have mercy on the nations of the world. Keep them in Your embrace and envelope them with Your holy protection. Keep them safe from every evil and war. Keep our beloved country and city in Your protective embrace day and night. Embrace her with Your holy protection defending her from all evil and war.*

*Lord have mercy on those who have been abandoned and have suffered injustice. Have mercy on families that are going through trying times. Pour Your abundant love upon them. Lord have mercy on Your servants who suffer from spiritual and bodily problems of all kinds.*

*Lord have mercy on those who are despairing. Help them and grant them peace.*

*Lord have mercy on those that have requested that we pray for them.*

*Lord grant eternal rest to all those who have passed on to eternal life throughout the ages.*

*Amen.*



**Thanks to all our supporters and volunteers who make  
Camp Agape NW such an enormous success!**

We are grateful for the hard work of our Camp Agape NW Philoptochos board, led by co-chairs Andrea Gray and Jane Evancho.

Thank you to all who continue support Camp Agape NW with your time, talents and treasures. Your donations make a difference!

Each summer, the lives of cancer patients and their families are changed by the outpouring of love from all who serve at Camp Agape NW – a Philoptochos ministry of the Metropolis of San Francisco, St. Demetrios (Seattle) Church of the Assumption (Seattle)

St. Nicholas (Tacoma), Holy Apostles (Shoreline) and St. Sophia (Bellingham)

**THANK YOU!**

## ***A Friendly Reminder...***

*Please refrain from unnecessary talking during the Liturgy. Because of the architecture of our church, even whispers distract the priest and the lay people from the work of prayer. Sounds from the narthex are especially audible.*

***However, please do sing and praise God!  
Thank you.***

**Μια φιλική υπενθύμιση ...**

Μην μιλάτε κατά τη διάρκεια της Λειτουργίας. Λόγω της αρχιτεκτονικής της εκκλησίας μας, ακόμη και οι ψίθυροι αποσπούν τον ιερέα και τους λαϊκούς από το έργο της προσευχής. Οι ήχοι από το νάρθηκα ακούγονται ιδιαίτερα.

***Ωστόσο, φίλοι, παρακαλώ τραγουδήστε και επαινείτε τον Θεό! Σας ευχαριστώ.  
Ευχαριστώ.***



## **St. Sophia Feast Day Celebrations**

**Sat. Sept. 16th**

5:30 pm Great Vespers followed by light reception provided by Philoptochos

**Sun. Sept. 17th**

8:45 am Orthros  
10:00 am Liturgy, followed Parish BBQ & Potluck

**Please bring a dish to the potluck**

*The Parish Council will provide and cook meat and potatoes. Parishioners, please bring a potluck item to share.*

## **The 2017-2019 St. Sophia Philoptochos Board:**

President: Jane Costello Phone: (360) 739-3463

Vice President: Adrienne Hunter

Treasurer: position soon to be filled

Secretary: Kim Weil

At large members:

Mary Hulbush, Salome Wolters, Elizabeth Morgan

## **New Coffee Hour Ministry Policy**

*Based on feedback from many who have faithfully sponsored coffee hours over the years, at the July Philoptochos meeting it was decided that at future coffee hours sponsors should **provide only cookies and/or fruit offerings**. Other duties will be to set up the tables, turn on the coffee, clean up afterwards, take out the trash, put things away and finally to lock up the fellowship hall.*

**Needed: A Coffee Hour Coordinator.** Thank you to Dena Lien, who has faithfully organized the coffee hour sponsor list for the last five years! Because she is soon to be moving, a new coordinator is needed. If you are able to help organize the schedule, please contact Jane Costello, Philoptochos president.

## **Coffee Hour Offerings**

*Thank you for finding a substitute and notifying Fr. Michael if you are not able to provide for coffee hour on your scheduled day. If you would like to volunteer to offer a coffee hour reception in conjunction with a Memorial Service, please let Fr. Michael know that as well.*

Sept. 3, 10 No Coffee hour due to Festival  
Sept. 17 St. Sophia Feast Day BBQ and Potluck, parish council  
Sept. 24 Eleni Kyriazis, Tasia Tsoulouhas

Oct. 1 Christina Gholam, Nadia Boulos  
Oct. 8 Marina Polichronakis, Eleni Pantoleon  
Oct. 15 Memorial Reception for Al Stasinis (11 years) and Harry Stasinis (17 years)  
Oct. 22 Eleni Zourkos, Nia Zourkos, Tammy Stavropoulos  
Oct. 29 Effie Eisses, Kim Weil, Eleni Zobolas

Nov. 5 Voula Parks, Loree Foote, Jaimee Twining  
Nov. 12 Project Mexico Team: Brooksana Raney, Sue Moyer, Mason Clegg  
Nov. 19 Ibtissam Mansour, Angelina Moussi  
Nov. 26 Salome Wolters, Evelyn Lallas, Tula Trames

Dec. 3 Jane Costello, Amber Owen  
Dec. 10 Dorine Boulos, Marie Boulos  
Dec. 17 Francine Tsoulouhas, Kathy Tsoulouhas  
Dec. 24 Tervo Family  
Dec. 31 Effie Bachelor, Elizabeth Morgan

## **Prosporo Bakers**

Sept. 17 Dionysios Ingraham (4)  
Sept. 23 Sue Raney (4)  
Sept. 30 Tasia Tsoulouhas (4)

Oct. 1 Brooksana Raney (4)  
Oct. 8 Judy Moularas (4)  
Oct. 15 Tamara Mattson (4)  
Oct. 22 Kim Weil (4)  
Oct. 29 Presvytera Alexandra Diamant (4)

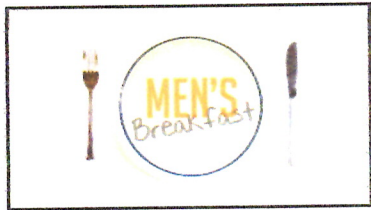
Nov. 5 Tasia Tsoulouhas (4)  
Nov. 12 Tervo Family (4)  
Nov. 19 Tammy Stavropoulos (4)  
Nov. 26 Brooksana Raney (4)

Dec. 3 Adrienne Hunter (5)  
Dec. 10 Christos Christoforou (5)  
Dec. 17 Sue Moyer (5)  
Dec. 24 BAKER NEEDED (4)  
Dec. 31 BAKER NEEDED (4)

# St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

510 E. Sunset Dr. Bellingham, WA 98225

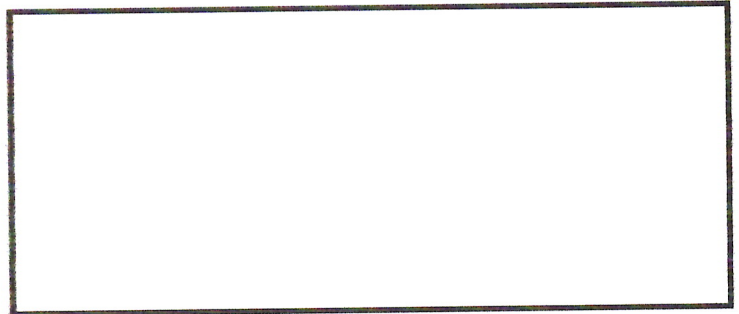
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## St. Sophia Mens' Breakfast

Thursday, October 12th  
7:00 am  
at Avenue Bread on James  
Street, Bellingham

**A chance for men to get together for Christian Fellowship.**



## St. Sophia Youth Events

**September 3rd:** Altar Server training, followed by lunch at Five Guys.

**Sunday School is coming!** Classes begin October 1st and run through spring. Children age 4-16 are welcome. To help teachers plan, please sign up. A quick parent meeting and student sign up is scheduled for Sunday, September 24, during coffee hour.

If you are unable to attend and would like your child to participate in Sunday School, please speak with one of the teachers (Christos Christoforou, Anne Williams, Tamara Mattson or Brooksana Raney) BEFORE this meeting date. Are you interested in getting involved? Please see one of the teachers. We'd love to have you!

**Jr. GOYA Gathering** at the Home of Nadia and Salim Boulos. Saturday, Oct. 14th. 3:00pm-4:30 pm. For Age 5-10.

**Sr. GOYA Field Trip to All Merciful Saviour Monastery and Fun in Seattle.** Grades 6-12. Sat., November 11th. Depart from the Church parking lot at 8:00 am. Return around 8:30 pm. Please rsvp to Fr. Michael. Two adult chaperones needed.



## Congratulations, Graduate!

Congratulations to **Diedrah Todd-Youssef**, who graduated from Ferndale High School. This Fall she will attend Seattle Pacific University. Diedrah is the daughter of Riad and Angelina Youssef. May God bless her studies!