



# Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

## July-August 2016 Monthly Bulletin

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

### “Why I am Orthodox”

#### St. Sophia Parishioners Reflect on their Orthodox Christian Faith

##### How I Became an Orthodox Christian

by Kim (Katerina) Weil

I walked into a Greek Orthodox church for the first time about seven years ago. I had come to St. Sophia with Christos, who I had recently met, to learn more about him and his religion which I knew he loved dearly. I was baptized a Catholic, but my family had stopped going when I was 10 years old, so for about 40 years, I was a dormant Christian, as I was to discover.



So like I said, I started going to Liturgy with Christos and something very unexpected, and unplanned, happened. I started to feel a stirring inside. At the time, a portion of the Liturgy was in Greek and in addition to not understanding Greek, the

Orthodox traditions were completely unknown to me. But this turned out to a blessing at the time because I couldn't analyze or critique. I could, however, be present and enjoy the hymns and the homilies.



And then, over time, and few Lenten seasons later, I started to “wake” from my dormancy. I can't say I had ever known God as a child but little by little, this upwelling of awareness occurred and I realized God had been there the whole time. And then all of God's creation, heaven and earth, as it is said, made

sense to me!

Now I wanted to partake in the sacraments. Now I wanted to give glory to God through this beautiful religion, and so on September 16, 2012, I became an Orthodox Christian through the sacrament of Chrismation.

From what I know now, the Orthodox faith offers a lifetime of learning, service to others, and a deepening union with God.

I am an unexpected and unplanned but very grateful Orthodox Christian.



##### Pilgrimage to the Convent of St. John the Forerunner in Goldendale, WA

Save the Dates:  
Fri.-Sun. October 14-16.

Depart from St. Sophia at 8:00 am.  
Arrive Sun. Evening about 7:00 pm.  
More info to come.

Contact: Fr. Michael

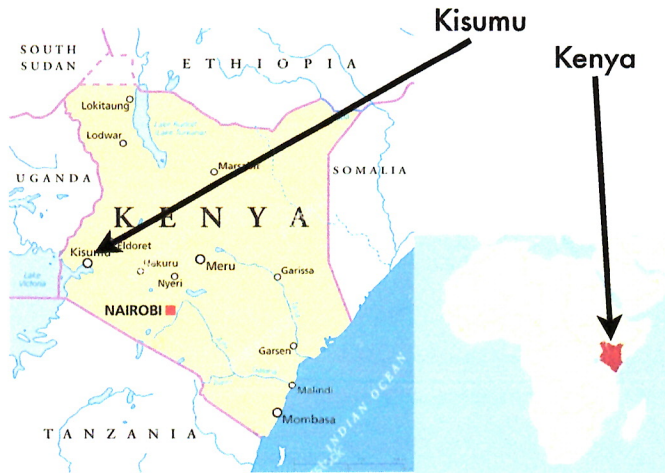
Monastery website, which includes visitor information:  
[stjohnmonastery.org](http://stjohnmonastery.org)





# Presvytera Elizabeth Tervo to Travel to Kenya

*Recent St. Sophia Visitor- Bishop Athanasios Akunda -Invites Her to Participate in Retreat with Clergy Wives in Western Kenya*



Dear St. Sophia Parish

This August I will be going on a missions trip to Kenya, at the invitation of his Grace Bishop Athanasios Akunda, who visited our parish on Lazarus Saturday.



I am very excited about this wonderful chance. I will be participating in a team sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Missions Center (OCMC):

The 2016 Kenya Mission Team has been invited by His Grace Athanasios Bishop of Kisumu and West Kenya to participate in a four-day retreat for

women and clergy wives from the Diocese of Kisumu. Over 800 women with from diverse backgrounds and different tribes will participate. Topics for the seminar include: Role of Women in the Orthodox Church, Spirituality, Women as custodians of family health, Empowering women for economic growth, and Church development. The “Mothers Union” and the women of Kenya have one common desire, to grow in Christ and in their ministry to their Church.

I will have a chance to speak at the retreat about some of these issues, and also about some issues in women's health (as a nurse-midwife).

Many of you have asked me if you can help with this project. The answer is yes. The trip, including airfare and living expenses, may cost as much as \$3500-4000. OCMC is collecting funds to cover these costs. Funds, which are tax-deductible, can be sent to:

Orthodox Christian Mission Center  
attn: Pres. Elizabeth Tervo  
Kenya Trip  
220 Mason Manatee Way,  
St. Augustine, FL, 32086

with a note that you are sponsoring Presvytera Elizabeth Tervo for the Kenya trip.

On The OCMC's website, [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org), there is more information and a button to make a donation online. Thank you all so much for sponsoring me! I will have a lot to tell you about when I return!

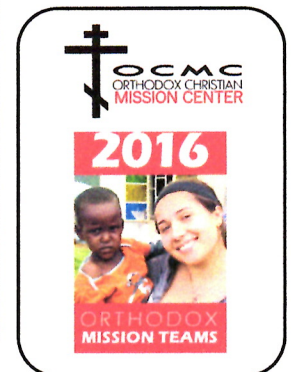
Sincerely,

**Presvytera Elizabeth Tervo**

*P.S. Thank you all for your support of the plant sale-- we made almost \$200 for the clergy family fund of the Kisumu Diocese, and this is just a beginning.*



*Photos: top left- His Grace with Fr. Michael; top right- His Grace at his enthronement as Bishop of Kisumu and Western Kenya; Left- His Grace with the youth of St. Sophia and St. Innocent parishes, April 22nd, 2016.*

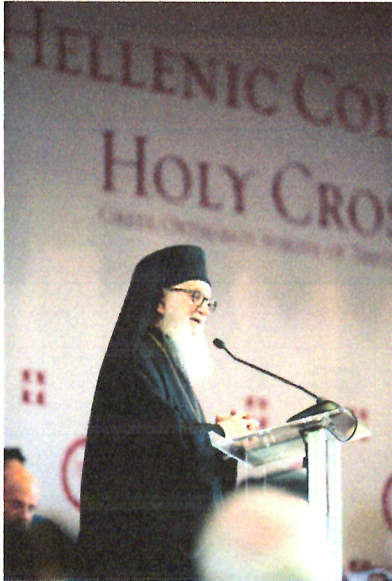




# The Destiny of the Church is Mission

by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios

*The following words were delivered by Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to the graduates of Hellenic College Holy Cross on Saturday, May 21st, 2016.*



You heard quite a number of important things today. So I would just like to repeat and emphasize something. You are leaving and think that you are in a mission—the theologians, but also the rest of the people. You know, we are in need of a very special kind of mission. This could be called “internal mission.”

I’ll give you an example. If you noticed what happened during Holy Week—especially Palm Sunday—you would see on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, the night of the Resurrection, you would see a big crowd. There are churches on Palm Sunday that they have to have two liturgies to accommodate the people. In New York, in two parishes, we had four liturgies on Palm Sunday, one in the main church and one in the community center next to the church simultaneously. 8 to 10, out. Then 11 to 1, the second group. On one occasion there was a fifth liturgy needed. I said, “Where are these people the rest of the year?”

Mission starts at home, my beloved people. This is internal mission. We have to connect, to bring all these people to the church.

There is a statistic—a very interesting statistic—what is the percentage of the population that goes at least once a week to church? It’s not for Orthodox only—it’s for all denominations and all religions. In the geographical zone that includes Maryland, Washington, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, the percentage of the population that goes once a week to the church is 37%. In other words, one third of the population goes once a week to the church. In the MidWest and the South, the percentage is 65%. Two thirds of the population goes to church at least once a week. Think about that. Where are we in this type of statistic? So,

the young generation of graduates and prospective priests and clergy and graduates of Hellenic College—because this is a collective effort, it’s not just a matter of the priests and the bishops, it’s everyone—we have to have a very, very high percentage of church attendance. It’s a mission. I don’t want to offer you easy words, I’m sorry. We have to help these people to share the treasures that we have. And then we have to invite the other people to share with us the beautiful things that we have.

I have a suggestion for you. Just open the New Testament and read the parts of the four Gospels that are after the Resurrection. They are just a few chapters, very few chapters. Read the chapters and look there what the Lord is talking about. These are his last words before Ascension. They have an extremely critical importance. What is He saying? In the Gospel of John: As the Father sends me, so I send you. We are sent by Him the way Christ was sent by the Father. It’s a very heavy theological statement, biblical statement. Gospel of Matthew: Go to the whole world. Gospel of Luke: Go to Jerusalem, and Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Look statistically at the amount of words that deal with just sending people to the mission. He was on a mission as the incarnate Son of God. The destiny of the Church is to be in Mission.

So, I would like to, on this occasion, renew this kind of core to be the voice of Christ and do the action of Christ in a world that is in terrible need of this action and this word. We live in a world that is oversaturated with words; the means of communication facilitate that. But this world needs Christ God’s Word that saves, renews, gives hope, gives perspective, and gives a future.



*The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Class of 2016*





## Thank you...

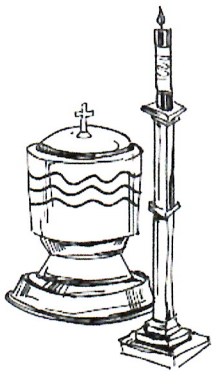
to those who have sent in their 2016 Parish Membership Cards...

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 Stasinos + 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 + Steven & Jean Talkington + Charles and Koula Margaritis + Brooksana Raney + George Mansour III + George & Ibtissam Mansour + Norma Mansour + Janine Mansour + Gabriella Boulos + Victor & Dorine Boulos + Wafa Gholam + Bassam & Yanolla Boulos + Alex & Hortance Youssef + Nahla Gholam + Cynthia Chahine + Matthew & Carrie Frederick Frost

as of 6/20/2016

## Baptisms at St. Sophia...

the Church and Our Parish  
Grows Person by Person

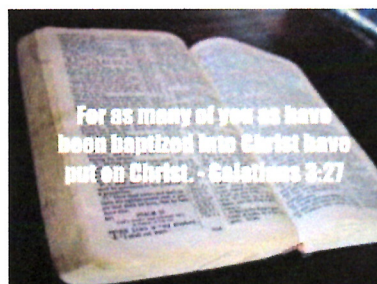


### The Condos Family is received into the Orthodox Church through Baptism!

On April 23rd, the Saturday of Lazarus, the Condos family- Michael & Gina and their daughters Cassidy and Cali were baptized. The godparents were: Christos Christoforou for Michael, Brooksana Raney for Gina, and Kim Weil for Cassidy and Cali.



On Saturday, May 14th, **Willard Wilder** was received into the Orthodox Church through Baptism. He took St. Zosimos as his patron saint. His godfather was Bryant Mattson. Willard will be married to Eva Jefferson at St. Sophia on July 2nd, 2016.





**Coffee Hour Offerings  
for July and August**

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 July and August**

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)

**PHILOPTOCHOS**



**PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

Summer is here and the Philoptochos convention begins July 3rd. in Nashville. This year your president did not attend, but the report from the convention will be available to us from the Philoptochos presidents of Seattle. There are many new procedures being introduced this year, one of them being the beginning of a Leadership program for teaching the younger women in our church to the importance and the meaning of Philoptochos in our community and the world. As we are the second largest women's philanthropic society in the world, this is important so as to carry on our good works.

There will be a Philoptochos meeting on Sunday July 17th following Liturgy.

There will be a Philoptochos tent during the festival as we had last year. We will have two tables..THIS AND THAT tables for items to sell; however, no clothing,shoes,handbags; the monies will go to the Kids n' Cancer fund and we will also

be selling tickets to our third annual fundraiser affair on October 22nd. We will discuss this at length during the July 17 meeting.

Thank you to all those who joined Philoptochos ; we are now 45 strong making a difference in our community. We are currently collecting small throw rugs, old clean towels to take to the animal shelter. In our donations to various places in our community, we are not only giving of our material things, but we are also sharing our Orthodox Christian faith. Please bring these items to the parish bookstore before Monday, July 18, they will be delivered on Tuesday, the 19th.

A most wonderful summer to everyone and looking forward to seeing you on the 17th.of July. Please come with your ideas and opinions as that is what makes us an important body in our parish; the ability to question and give suggestions makes us stronger, and as your president it is very important to me to hear these ideas and opinions in order for us to take action. Thank you.

In Christ, with love,  
 Harieklia Meras-Bryant

*Bellingham*  
**GreekFest**



**St. Sophia  
 Greek Orthodox Church**

510 E. Sunset Drive • Bellingham, WA • 360-734-8745  
 Take 1-5, ¼ mile West from the Sunset Exit

**September 8-11**

**Live Greek Music**

**FREE Admission  
 FREE & Easy Parking  
 Fun for all Ages  
 Desserts & Appetizers  
 Gyros  
 Beer Garden  
 Books & Gifts  
 Kids Games  
 Church Tours**



Thursday to Saturday  
 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday  
 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

[Bellinghamegreekfest.org](http://Bellinghamegreekfest.org)



**St. Sophia Choir**

Choir practice will take place on  
 July 10th and August 14th at 12:00 noon.

**Visits to Shut-ins**

*Sick & Shut-in*



Please let Fr. Michael know of any St. Sophia parishioners who are not able to come to church so that he can visit them and distribute the Sacraments.

**Save the Date...**

**Saturday, October 22nd**

**for St. Sophia Philoptochos'  
 Fundraising Dinner Dance  
 to Support**

**Kids n' Cancer  
 Camp Agape NW**





# Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church  
Bellingham, Washington

# JULY 2016

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1 2pm Wedding 5:30 Readers Vespers
3 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 Fellowship Hour	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Assembly in Nashville, TN</b>						
<b>All Saints Summer Camp: High School and Elementary School Sessions</b>						
		10:30 am Festival Cooking	5:30 Readers Vespers	10:30 am Festival Cooking		5:30 Readers Vespers
10 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 Fellowship Hour 12noon Choir Practice	11	12 10:30 am Festival Cooking	13	14 10:30 am Festival Cooking	15	16
<b>All Saints Summer Camp: Middle School Sessions</b>						
		5:30 pm Festival Planning Meeting	5:30 Readers Vespers			5:30 Readers Vespers
17 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 Fellowship Hour	18	19 10:30 am Festival Cooking	20 5:30 Readers Vespers	21 10:30 am Festival Cooking	22	23 5:30 Readers Vespers
24 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 Fellowship Hour	25 6pm Parish Council	26 10:30 am Festival Cooking	27 <b>St. Pantaleimon</b> 8:45 am Orthros 9:30 am Liturgy 5:30 Vespers	28 10:30 am Festival Cooking	29	30 4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
31 8:45 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 Fellowship Hour						



# Liturgical & Events Calendar

# AUGUST 2016

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church  
Bellingham, Washington

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9:30 am Paraklesis	9:30 am Paraklesis Service 10:30 am Festival Cooking	9:30 am Paraklesis  6:15 pm Vespers	9:30 am Paraklesis Service 10:30 am Festival Cooking	9:30 am Paraklesis Service  5:30 pm Great Vespers	<b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> 8:45 am Orthros 9:30 Liturgy and Blessing of the Grapes 4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
<b>Dormition Fast: August 1-14 Strict Fast</b>						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45 am Orthros 10 am <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 11:45 am Fellowship	9:30 am Paraklesis	9:30 am Paraklesis Service 10:30 am Festival Cooking	9:30 am Paraklesis  6:15 pm Vespers	9:30 am Paraklesis Service 10:30 am Festival Cooking	9:30 am Paraklesis	11am Baptism  4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45 am Orthros 10 am <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 11:45 am Fellowship 12 noon Choir Practice <b>6pm Great Vespers at Assumption</b>	<b>DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> 8:45 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	10:30 am Festival Cooking	6:15 pm Vespers	10:30 am Festival Cooking		4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45 am Orthros 10 am <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 11:45 am Fellowship		10:30 am Festival Cooking	6:15 pm Vespers	10:30 am Festival Cooking		4:30 Confessions 5:30 Great Vespers
28	29	30	31			
8:45 am Orthros 10 am <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 11:45 am Fellowship  5:30 pm Great Vespers	<b>BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</b> 8:45 am Orthros 9:30 am Liturgy  <b>Strict Fast</b>	10:30 am Festival Cooking	6:15 pm Vespers			





## All Saints Camp 2016

[www.allsaintscamp.com](http://www.allsaintscamp.com)

### High School Camp -

for teens entering Grades 10 - 12 and current Seniors:

**July 10 - 16, 2016**

**Advanced Camp -** for youth entering Grades 6 - 9:

**July 17 - 23, 2016**

**Elementary Camp -** for children entering Grades 3 - 5:

**July 10 - 16, 2016**

*Do you have bored kids or grandkids looking for something to do over the Summer?*

Do you want something else for them to do other than playing video games?

**Bring them to Festival Cooking!**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 am to 2:00 pm in the Church Hall



# CONGRATULATIONS

## TO ST. SOPHIA'S GRADUATES!

Congratulations to Juliana (JuJu) Gholam, who graduated from Ferndale High School and will attend the University of Washington.

Congratulations to Alicia Morgan who graduated from St. Paul's academy and will attend The School of the Art Institute in Chicago.

Congratulations to Elias Christoforou who graduated from Sehome High School and will attend the University of Washington

Congratulations to Stella Christoforou who graduated from Sehome High School and will attend Seattle University

Congratulations to Georgina Helen Eisses who graduated from Sehome High School with Honors and will attend the Gustavson School of Business at the University of Victoria

Congratulations to Mariam Wolters who graduated from Sehome High School and will attend Western Washington University.

Congratulations to Chadi Moussi who graduated yesterday with with a degree in Computer Science & Engineering from the University of Washington. He will be working this Summer at a 12 week program at Microsoft.

Congratulations to Samantha Raney, who graduated from the Pastry Arts Program at Bellingham Technical College.

## St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

510 E. Sunset Dr. Bellingham, WA 98225

**JULY-AUGUST**  
**2016**  
MONTHLY BULLETIN

**GREEK**  
**FEST**  
September  
8-11

