



St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
1425-27 S. 10th St., Sheboygan, WI 53081
Church Phone 920-452-2296 Office Hours M-F 11:30 am to 4:30 pm
Fr's Home Phone 920-467-4924 Fr's Cell Phone 920-627-7735
Sunday Orthros 8:45 am, Holy Liturgy 10am
Fr. Leo Gavrilos' email: frleo@stspyridonsheboygan.org

DECEMBER 2017 BULLETIN

Wednesday, Nov. 29, Eve of the Feast Day of St. Andrew, the 1st Called Disciple

Evening Liturgy – 6:00 pm followed by Catechism Study at 7:00 pm

I Corinthians 4: 9-16

John 1: 35-52

Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 14th Sunday of Saint Luke

Ephesians 5: 8-19 Nick Karvelas

Luke 18: 35-43

Memorials for Metropolitan Iakavos, 6 months, Victor & Maria Toniolo, in-laws of Phyllio

Toniolo, and Phyllio's mother, Eleni

Prosfora and Coffee social: Phyllio Toniolo

Tuesday Evening, Dec. 5th, Eve of Feast Day of St. Nicholas

Evening Liturgy – 6:00 pm

Hebrews 13: 17-21, Nick Karvelas

Luke 6: 17-23

Sunday, Dec. 10th, 10th Sunday of Saint Luke

Ephesians 6: 10-17, Elene Rautmann

Luke 13: 10-17

Prosfora: Faye Sippel

Coffee Social: Susan Pulos Family in honor of Nick Pulos' name day

Monday Evening, Dec. 11th, Eve of Saint Spyridon

Great Vespers – 6:30 pm

Artous will be prepared and donated by Corina and Nick Stephani & son

Fr. Peter Pappademetriou, Fr. Ted Trifon, and Fr. Theologos Pandelis

will co-celebrate with Fr. Leo

Special Coffee Social to follow (see sign-up sheet on clipboard wall)

Tuesday, Dec. 12th, Feast Day of Saint Spyridon

Orthros – 9:00 am Holy Liturgy – 10:00 am

Ephesians 5: 8-19, Phyllio Toniolo

John 10: 9-16

Prosfora: Argie Revezoulis

Sunday, Dec. 17th, 11th Sunday of Saint Luke

Colossians 3: 4-11, Joshua Herr

Luke 14: 16-24

Prosfora: Carol Tsagarakis

Coffee Social: Drs. Paul & Nicole Mihalakakos for Grant & Riley's birthdays

Wednesday, Dec 20th, Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 24th, Sunday before the Nativity of Jesus

Hebrews 11: 9-10 and 32-40, Rob VandeVrede

Matthew 1: 1-25

Prosfora: Argie Revezoulis

Coffee Social: OPEN

Monday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Day

Orthros – 9:00 am Liturgy – 10:00 am

Galations 4: 4-7, Kathleen Luck

Matthew 2: 1-12

Prosfora: Argie Revezoulis

Coffee Social: Scott, Kathy, and Sara Wirtz

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!

Sunday, Dec. 31st, Sunday before Epiphany

II Timothy 4: 5-8, Dr. John Revelis

Mark 1: 1-8

Prosfora: Faye Sippel

Coffee Social: OPEN

❖ **“Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat.”**

Which means that we will need some special decorations that will enhance the beauty of our church during this wonderful season. We have ordered seven 6 ½ poinsettia plants to beautify our Solea area, and two smaller plants to place on the Altar Table. The two smaller plants have been donated by Kathy and Steve Rigas, and Joanne and I will donate one large poinsettia plant. If you would like to donate one of the six remaining large plants, the donation is \$10. That is our exact cost. The plants will be delivered in time for our Saint Spyridon celebrations. You can make your check out to St. Spyridon and make sure you indicate on the check that this is for Christmas poinsettias. Zoe and Emmanouil Kastanias and children will donate the decorated icons for Saint Spyridon, Saint Nicholas, and for Christmas. Thank you and God Bless!

❖ **Closing the 2017 Stewardship Books**

Any checks donated for your 2017 Stewardship Pledge should be dated no later than December 31st, to be counted in your 2017 donations (for tax purposes.) Any checks written after December 31st will be applied to 2018 Stewardship. The total amount that was pledged for 2017 was \$54,610. As of Nov. 15th, \$45,453 of that amount has actually been paid, which means we still have outstanding pledges of \$9,157. So you can see the importance of completing your pledge for 2017 by December 31st. I want to sincerely thank all of our St. Spyridon family for their generous giving in pledges. I hope that you will continue to support our wonderful parish, and, if you can, join Joanne and me by increasing your pledge for 2018. Thank you and God Bless!!

❖ Weather Closings

As we approach the blustery days of winter in Wisconsin, there may be Sundays when we awake to a lot of snowfall, and wonder if there will be church services. Here are some guidelines to follow:

- 1) First and foremost, if you feel unsafe trying to venture out, just remain at home.
- 2) If you want to attempt to get to church and aren't sure if Liturgy will be held, tune in to Channel 12 (WISN) on your television and see if St. Spyridon is listed in the closings. You should also do this if it is any other day of inclement weather besides Sunday morning, to see if services and/or any other activities are cancelled.
- 3) I will be in touch with John and Barb regarding whether or not to cancel, so you can always call Barb (920-254-6334), but please use that as a last resort. Let's just hope and pray we don't have too many of these days.

❖ In Closing...

As this is the final monthly bulletin for 2017, Joanne and I want to thank you, the wonderful Saint Spyridon Family, for the love, support and help that you have given our parish this past year. We had a very successful Taste of Greece last March, the most profitable and successful Greek Fest in the history of our parish, and the most successful Gyro Fry ever this past October. Our stewardship has almost doubled over previous years, attendance at Church has been tremendous, and that is all due to you. It is a pleasure, a privilege, and an honor to serve you and be able to tell people that I am the Pastor of this great parish. Thank you and God Bless always. Let's move onward and upward to another banner year in 2018.

THOUGHTS OF EACH DAY BY ST. THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE

As we come to the close of this year and prepare to enter the New Year 2018, I believe that the following thoughts of the good saint, relative to St. Luke's Gospel 17: 12-19, are very appropriate:

"Ten lepers were healed, but only one came to thank the Lord. Isn't there generally a similar proportion of people who are grateful after receiving benefactions from the Lord? Who has not received good things; or rather, what do we have in us, or whatever happens to us that is not good for us? Even so, is everyone grateful to God, and does everyone give thanks for everything? There are even those who permit themselves to ask, 'Why did God give us existence? It would be better for us not to exist.' God gave us existence so that we would be in eternal bliss; He gave us existence as a gift. He has furnished us with every means for attaining eternal bliss. The job depends on us: we need only to labor a bit for this. We say, 'but I have only sorrows, poverty, diseases and misfortunes.'; Well, these are also some of the ways to attain eternal bliss. Be patient. Our entire life is less than a moment compared with eternity. Even if we have to suffer unceasingly our entire life, against eternity, it is nothing; and we still have moments of consolation. Do not look at the present, but what is prepared for us in the future, and let us concern ourselves with making ourselves worthy of that; then we will not notice the sorrows. They will be swallowed up by unquestioning hope in eternal consolations, and our lips will never stop giving thanks."

Now and ever and to the ages of ages, Amen. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!