

Sunday 17th of August 2023

**MARTYR SOPHIA AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS AT
ROME**

Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-2; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1 and Matthew 22:35-46

Troparion – Tone 5

**You blossomed in the courts of the Lord / as a fruitful olive
three, / holy martyr Sophia; / in your contest you offered to
Christ the sweet fruit of your womb, / your daughters Faith,
Hope, and Love. / Together with them intercede for us all.**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protosynergos Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Matushka Svetlana, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and Irene.
Amen!!!

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461

Father Michael - Priest-in-charge
(848)228-1563

holyspiritwantage@gmail.com

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

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The Weekly Bulletin
**HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

September 17th, 2023

MARTYR SOPHIA AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS AT ROME - The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone. An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding. Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them. The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith. They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword. In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters. The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 16th of September

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 17th of September

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 23rd of September

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 24th of September

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 30th of September

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 1st of October

PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Applefest from 9 am – 5 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshment in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation and ask any questions you may have.

Archpastoral Visit of Archbishop Michael – 9/11 Commemoration

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael made a visit to Holy Spirit Orthodox Church on Monday, September 11th and worshiped with us at Memorial Service. Co-serving with His Eminence were Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Protopresbyter Chris Talleos, Hieromonk Ieremia Berbec, Protopresbyter Iakovos Fitzpatrick, Archpriest George Kevorkian, Father Michael Pejovic and Deacon Christopher McCoy. The memorial service was in honor and remembrance of the firefighters, police, first responders, and all who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001, at World Trade Center, Pentagon and Pennsylvania. Parishioners of Holy Spirit Orthodox Church welcomed members of the Unionville, NY Volunteer Fire Department to worship with us. Following the Memorial Service was a blessing of fire engines and other fire equipment. A light dinner followed the service.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Awareness Sunday

September 24th has been designated as Youth and Youth Adult Awareness Sunday by the Assembly of Bishops. For more information, please check the flyer which is display at Church.

Applefest 2023

It is almost time for the Applefest in beautiful Warwick, NY. HSOC will again participate in this one-day fundraising event. This is your opportunity to volunteer. Sign-up sheet will be available during the coffee socials. For more information, speak with Nadine Olsen and/or Mark Benda. **On that day, October 1st, Divine Liturgy will be served at 9 am.**

Christian Education Workshop

Attached is an updated poster for the Christian Education Workshop, taking place in all three Deaneries on Saturday, October 21st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. If you would like to know the current needs of the Sussex Help Center, please talk with Dan Taylor. God Bless!

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com