



St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape  
Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge

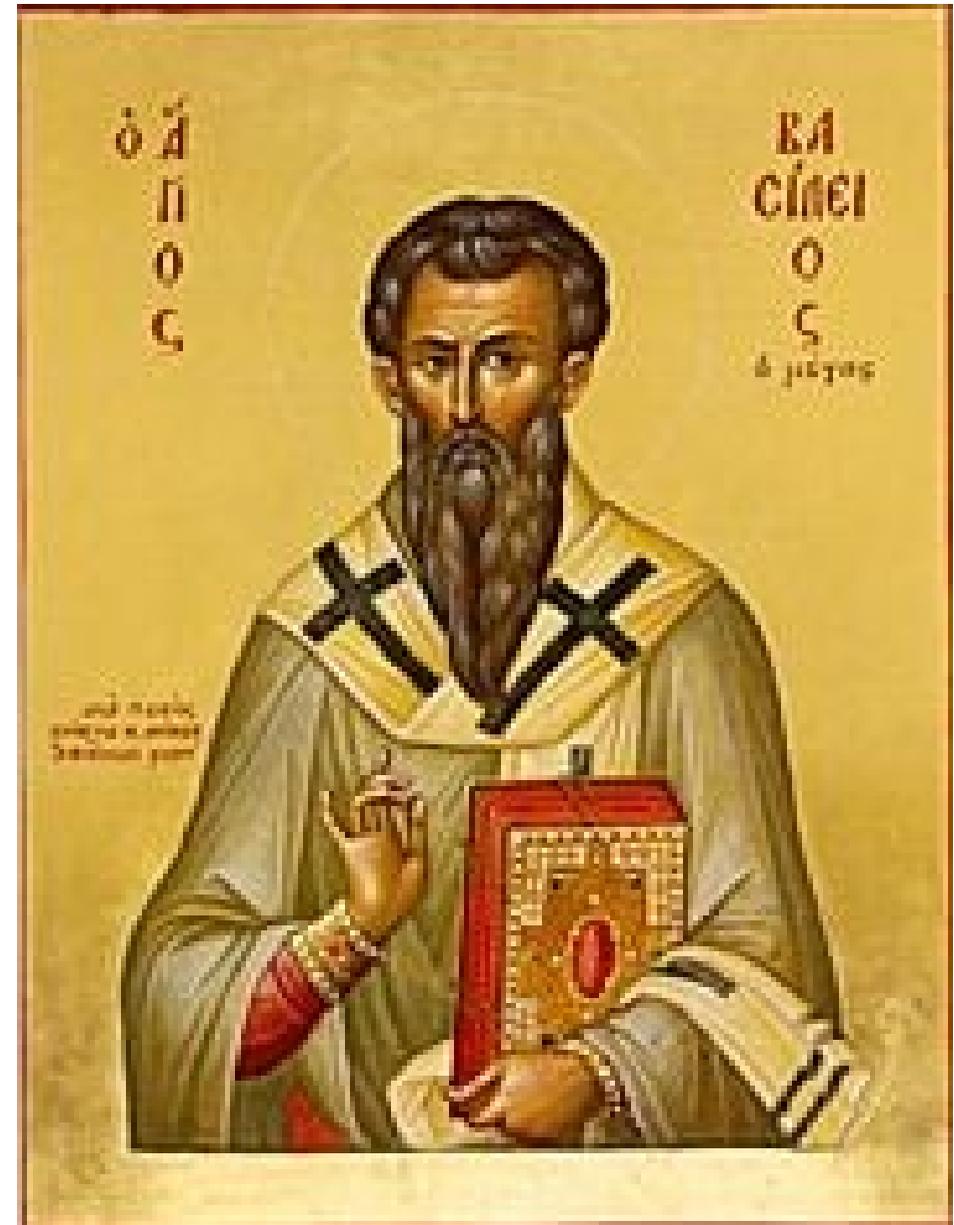
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Sunday Worship: 8:45 am - Orthros: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Office Hours - 10 am to 4 pm

Rev. Ekonomos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos  
[frpeter@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto:frpeter@saintsophiachurch.org)  
Metropolis of New Jersey



January 2, 2022  
Sunday before Epiphany  
Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  
Sylvester, Pope of Rome  
Cosmas, Archbishop of Constantinople



## ENTRANCE HYMNS

### Resurrectional Apolytikion - Effrenestho ta Ourania ("Let the Heavens Above Rejoice")

*Let the heavens above rejoice, and all those here on the earth, on the earth, be glad. A mighty feat of strength has been wrought by the arm of the Lord. O Death has he trampled down with his own death. First-born among the dead has He become, from the womb of Hades has He delivered us and has granted to the world His Great Mercy.*

### Apolytikion for Pre-Theophany – Etimazou, Zavoulon ("O Zabulon, prepare")

*O Zabulon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim. \* Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive \* the Master who is coming to be baptized. \* Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. \* No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; \* for having seen you naked He has appeared \* to clothe you in your former vesture. \* The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew \* the entire creation.*

### Apolytikion of St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape

#### Greek

*Ὁς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καί προσήγαγες Χριστῷ καρπὸν ἡ δῦτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δι' ἀ γώνων εὐαγών, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθων δυσώπει υπέρ πάντων ἡμῶν.*

#### English Phonetics for Greek

*Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyriou Sofia martys semni, ke prosigages Christu karpon idytaton, tus tis nidyos su vlastus, di' agonon evagon, Agapin te ke Elpida, syn ti theofroni Pisti; meth' on dysopi yper pandon imon.*

#### English

*As an olive tree laden with fruit you sprouted forth, in the courtyards of the Lord, Sophia martyr dignified, and you brought to Christ a fruit most sweet, Namely your womb's own sprouts, brought up by instructive deeds: your daughters Love and Hope, along with God-minded Faith; together intercede with God for us all.*

### Seasonal Kontakion – En tis rithris simeron ("Today in the waters of the Jordan")

*In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.*

## **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

### **New Year's Day, Saturday 1/1/22**

**PLEASE NOTE LATER START TIME FOR TODAY'S SERVICES**

#### **Feast of St. Basil the Great**

**9:45 am** Orthros; **11:00 am** Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
Vasilopita Cutting

### **Services for Theophany**

#### **Wednesday, January 5, 2022 – Eve of Theophany**

**8:45 am** Orthros, Royal & Great Hours;  
**10:00 am** Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
Great Agiasmos

#### **Thursday, January 6, 2022 – Holy Theophany**

**8:45 am** Orthros; **10:00 am** Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
Great Agiasmos and Blessing of the Schuylkill River  
(at Betzwood Park), weather permitting

### **Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**

#### **Friday, January 7, 2022**

**9:00 am** Orthros  
**10:00 am** Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

### **Blessing of the Homes at Theophany**

If you wish to have your homes and/or businesses blessed after the Feast of Theophany, please call the Parish office **beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>** to schedule a visitation.

## St. Sophia Give-a-Brick Program Update

The third phase of the brick program is now being started. We thank all those who took part in this program. Please check out the installation area under the flags to see previously sponsored bricks and pavers. This program has been very successful and has helped to raise money for our church needs.



If you did not have a chance to be a sponsor of this program previously, please fill out a Brick Form (available at the Pangari) and bring it to the Parish office, or see Peter Patukas. We will be ordering more in the next few months once we have enough sponsored pavers and bricks for the factory to produce. A minimum of 10 is needed.



**2022 Ecclesiastical Calendars:** To save the Parish resources, 2022 Church calendars are available for pickup in the Narthex of the church and on the table outside of the Parish office on a first come, first serve basis. We respectfully request that each stewarding family take only 1 calendar per household. Thank you!

**40th Anniversary Commemorative Mugs:** The mugs are still available at the back of the Cultural Center, and the suggested donation is \$10 each. Please indicate the number of mugs you wish to order and/or any donation you wish to make using the SignUpGenius. Please use this link to order yours today:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044CA4AC29A20-40th>

Payment may be made by check or by using the donation options found at the bottom of the SignUpGenius page.



**In Case of Emergency:** If you are having an extreme medical emergency ONLY and are in need of an Orthodox priest, please call the Parish office at 610-650-8960.

## Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

*O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.*

*Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.*

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

## Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

*Σῴσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.  
Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.*

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτῆς· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

## GOSPEL READING

### The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

### Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 1:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἰκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society has a designated Poor Box in the Narthex to help fund its mission to aid those in need.*

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box for the month of January benefits the Jefferson Fire Company No. 1 in West Norriton, the township where St. Sophia resides. Jefferson Fire is primarily a volunteer fire company with only one paid driver on staff. They rely mainly on donations to fund the purchase of new equipment.

You can learn more about the Jefferson Fire Company at <https://jeffersonfireco.com/>.

You may send checks to the church to the attention of Philoptochos/Poor Box Donations or donate at <https://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html>

Thank you for your support!



During the COVID-19 crisis, all Liturgical Services have been available on-line. Simply click on the link below. You do NOT need a Facebook account to access the on-line services.

[www.facebook.com/saintsophiachurch](http://www.facebook.com/saintsophiachurch)

PLEASE keep in mind that our fixed costs are still ever present. We hope you can help us with an on-line donation. You can give by going to our website, [www.saintsophiachurch.org](http://www.saintsophiachurch.org) and clicking on the "Donate" button.

Donate



You can also donate using Venmo! Just search in Venmo or click [www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch](http://www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch)

NEW! We also accept Zelle as a form of payment! Through your bank's Zelle system, input [treasurer@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto:treasurer@saintsophiachurch.org) as a recipient and you'll be ready to donate to St. Sophia Church.

**Stewardship:** Thank you to everyone who supported our 2021 Stewardship Program. If you have not yet finished paying your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. In addition, when paying by check, it is imperative that you indicate "Stewardship 2021" or "Stewardship 2022" on the memo line so that your account is properly credited. Also, if you make cash donations, please be sure to include your name either on the outside of the envelope or on a slip of paper attached to the cash.

Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson. The 2022 campaign will be starting shortly, so it is imperative that we are able to finalize our stewardship rolls for last year. Thank you!

January 2, 2022  
Sunday before Epiphany  
Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  
Sylvester, Pope of Rome  
Cosmas, Archbishop of Constantinople



### **SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

See enclosed schedule for New Year's & Theophany Services

Tues. Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm – Philoptochos Meeting via Zoom
Fri. Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>	4:45 pm – Little Angels Ministry resumes
Sun. Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup>	St. Sophia Philoptochos - St. Basil Breakfast Fundraiser
Fri. Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	March for Life Pilgrimage – Washington D.C.
Sat. Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Trivia Nite

**Philoptochos Meeting:** The next Philoptochos meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend! The Zoom link was previously sent to all members. If you need the link to attend, call or text Lucy Kline at 215-206-8180.



**JOIN US!**

**Holy Theophany  
Thursday, January 6, 2022**

**8:45 am** – Orthros

**10:00 am** – Divine Liturgy of  
St. John Chrysostom

Great Agiasmos & Blessing  
of the Schuylkill River (at Betzwood Park),  
weather permitting



**GOYA Food Drive:** Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has increased in the United States. This is true for households with young children as well as the elderly. Food insecurity occurs when a household has difficulty providing enough food due to a lack of resources. While our tables will be full of delicious food this Thanksgiving and Christmas, there are many, many people who have nothing to eat. **Our fall and winter food drive has begun and will run through Theophany.**

We continue to collect non-perishable food to be donated to the local food pantries. Please place your donations on the table in the lobby of the Cultural Center or in the bin located in the alcove **OUTSIDE** of the **OFFICE ENTRANCE**.

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Breakfast foods (hot & cold cereals, bars, oatmeal)
- Canned or plastic jarred proteins like peanut butter, beans, canned stews and chili
- Macaroni & cheese
- Pasta, rice & dry mixes
- Juice & juice boxes

**Please DO NOT donate** expired food, open packages, perishable food, or glass jars.

**ST. SOPHIA PRESENTS**

# TRIVIA NITE

**JANUARY 22, 2022**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6PM - TRIVIA BEGINS AT 7PM**

**\$25 per person**

**Coffee & Dessert Included - BYOB**

**ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
900 S TROOPER RD, JEFFERSONVILLE, PA 19403

**REGISTRATION DETAILS ON:**  
[www.saintsophiachurch.org/trivia-nite.com](http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/trivia-nite.com)  
[ladies@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto:ladies@saintsophiachurch.org)

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Patrician Society and receive a special raffle ticket

2022 2022 2022 2022

St. Sophia Philoptochos

# St. Basil Breakfast

January 9, 2022

*Scrambled Eggs*  
*Breakfast Sausage*  
*Home Fries*  
*Fruit Cup*  
*Coffee - Juice - Milk*

**ONLY \$10**

Proceeds benefit the Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, NY

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS OF ST SOPHIA

COATS  
JACKETS  
PARKAS







## COAT DRIVE

**DEADLINE**  
**SUNDAY**  
**JAN 30TH**

**DROP OFF LOCATION**  
ST SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
Fr John A Limberakis Cultural Center  
900 S Trooper Rd  
Jeffersonville, PA 19403  
questions: ladies@saintsophiachurch.org

Bring in your new or gently used men's, women's and children's coats.  
Donations will provide assistance to individuals and families facing adversity.

# SAVE THE DATE!



**Friday, January 21, 2022**

Did you know?

- 8 in 10 Americans believe abortion should have real, legal limits
- 2/3 of Americans oppose tax dollars paying for abortion
- Planned Parenthood aborts over 320,000 unborn babies every year
- 56% of Americans believe that healthcare providers should not be forced to perform abortions against their conscience.

Bottom line - every abortion ends a unique life - fully human and unrepeatable – regardless of his/her ability to thrive outside of the womb. The teaching of the Apostles and witness of the Saints through the ages does not try to lighten the sting of what happens in an abortion.

**St. Basil writes, “Those who give potions for the destruction of the child conceived in the womb are murderers, as are those who take potions which kill the child.” (Letters, CLXXXVIII, Canon 8)**

The voice of Orthodoxy has been a whisper when it comes to this very important cause. We can and must change that! Please join us in Washington, DC on Friday January 21<sup>st</sup> for the March for Life Rally. **A bus has been chartered and paid for by an anonymous donor.** This FREE event features a live concert and inspiring speeches from pro-life leaders – sharing how to stay involved in the pro-life movement all year long. More importantly, it shows the leaders of our government that we care about life inside and outside the womb. The Rally will begin at 12 pm ET on the National Mall. The bus will be departing the Saint Sophia Parking Lot earlier in the morning.

SEATING IS LIMITED! Please contact John Pogas if you would like to participate in this important ministry -- [johnpogas@gmail.com](mailto:johnpogas@gmail.com) 215-896-1963 (cell)



## Project Mexico

Imagine if you didn't have a home, or home was a makeshift shelter constructed from discarded pallets, tin, cardboard, or tarps. Unfortunately, this is the reality for countless families around the world -- including families in Mexico.

By God's grace, volunteers with Project Mexico have been making a difference. Since 1988, Project Mexico has been building safe, secure, and weather-tight homes for some of the most impoverished families in Northern Mexico. Every home is constructed over the course of four days and built entirely with volunteer labor.

Our parish has committed to fielding a group of 10 volunteers to help Project Mexico build a house between June 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and we need your help. So far, 5 people have answered the call. We still need 5 more people to join our team. If you would like to learn more, please chat with John Pogas, the group leader, Presvytera Katherine or Chris Altum.