

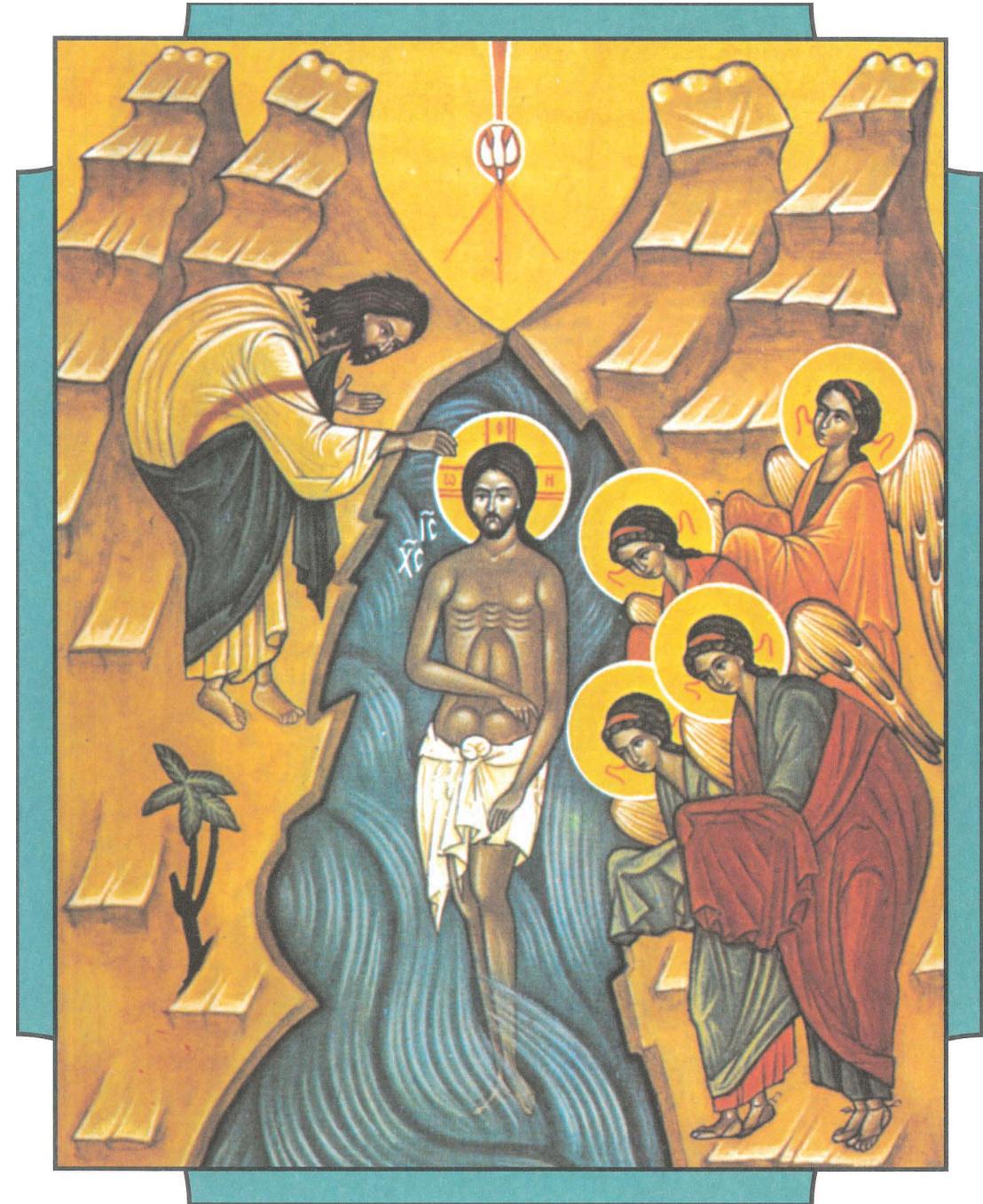
“FOR THE FATHER’S VOICE BORE WITNESS TO THEE . . .”

Τhe Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist — an event that is a large part of our celebration of the FEAST DAY OF THEOPHANY — was one of the most dramatic events in the history of mankind. On that awesome day, the Holy Trinity was revealed to the world as the Holy Spirit descended over our Lord in the form of a dove, and the voice of God the Father was heard from heaven, proclaiming: *“This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.”* (Matthew 3:17)

How old was Jesus when He was baptized? The Evangelist Luke tells us: *“Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age.”* (Luke 3:23) Up to this point, He lived in relative obscurity. Aside from the details of His Nativity, all the Gospels tell us about the early years of Christ is an incident when He was taken to Jerusalem by His parents for the celebration of the Passover when He was 12 years old.

According to Jewish tradition, there is great significance attached to the age of 30. This was the age when a man was truly viewed as an adult, having the knowledge and experience to teach others. If Christ were truly to be accepted as the Great Teacher that He was, and to be worthy of being called *“Rabbi”* by the people, He could not have been any younger than this. Yes, in all aspects of His life, our Lord carefully adhered to the religious customs and traditions of His time.

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

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www.saintsophiachurch.org email: office@saintsophiachurch.org

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

Rev. Economos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos

frpeter@saintsophiachurch.org

Metropolis of New Jersey



January 8, 2023
Sunday after Epiphany
George of Hozeva
Domnica the Righteous of Constantinople
Atticus and Cyrus, Holy Patriarchs of Constantinople

ENTRANCE HYMNS

Apolytikion for Post-Theophany – En Iordhani (“As You were baptized”)

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Ton Sinanarhon Logon (“The Word Who Always Was”)

O, The Word Who always was with the Father and Spirit, who for us and our salvation was born of a Virgin let us faithful believers praise and adore, For it did please Him to ascend the Cross in the flesh and Death to endure. And to raise up the dead with Him through His own glorious Resurrection.

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 δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστοὺς, δι’ ἀ γώνων εὐάγων, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σύν 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 Christo 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 – Epefanis simeron (“You appeared today to us”)

*You appeared today to us * on earth, O Master, * and Your light was signed on us * who cry aloud to You and say * with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.*



SWEET DELIGHTS

VARIETY OF DONUTS, MUFFINS & COFFEE CREAMER FLAVORS FOR YOUR DELIGHT



HOT CHOCOLATE ALSO AVAILABLE

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IN GARRISON NY

Please pray for me....

We hear this all the time and certainly offer prayers for those who ask. Liturgically, the Church offers a wonderful prayer service called the Paraklesis to the Theotokos.

For anyone who suffers from grief, depression, sorrow, or anxiety, the Paraklesis is a welcome salve to the soul. Although the gospel message of Jesus Christ is one of joy, the Paraklesis service recognizes that everyone, from time to time, experiences emotional and spiritual pain. Rather than isolating ourselves or feeling shame over our distress, the Paraklesis extends to us an invitation to share that pain with the Theotokos, asking for her prayers and comfort.

Did you know that our Paraklesis services are every Wednesday (they alternate morning and evening) and they last less than an hour?

One hour of prayers and petitions is better than any therapist and is truly the best medicine for all of us. Please join us for this beautiful service that is solely intended for our healing and asks the Mother of God for her intercessions.

Most Holy Theotokos save us!



During the service we honor the Theotokos and ask for her intercessions for those who are living.

If you would like to submit a list of names to be read, please list the BAPTISMAL FIRST NAMES ONLY of those living and give them to Fr. Peter when you come to church. Forms for this purpose are available at the Pangari.

It is NOT appropriate to just send the names in without attending the Paraklesis service. We are expected to be at the service to pray for our people.

EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

*Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:7-13 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

*Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ*

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ λέγει, Ἄναβας εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δέ, Ἄνεβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτός ἐστιν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ· μέχρι καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

ΕΒΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:12-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλῶν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ρηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλῶν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθημένος ἐν σκότεινῳ φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρῦσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

January Poor Box Donations
Thank you for considering a gift!

Please consider supporting the philanthropic outreach of our Church through the Philoptochos Poor Box located in the Pangari. Each month 100% of the donations are designated for a local charity.

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box for January benefit the Shane and Pepper Foundation in Lansdale, PA, which provides life and employment skills to disabled individuals. You can read more about them at <https://theshanepepperfoundation.org/>.

Please consider donating to this worthwhile charity at: <http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html> or submit a check payable to St. Sophia Philoptochos and indicate Poor Box on the memo line. God bless you!

Liturgical Services are streamed on Facebook each Sunday. Simply click on the link below. You do NOT need a Facebook account to access the online services.

www.facebook.com/saintsophiachurch

PLEASE keep in mind that our fixed costs are still ever present.

We hope you can help us with an online donation. You can give by going to our website, 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

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



JOY & HOPE

Lets Go

SKIING

Book Your Lift Tickets or Rentals at
SpringMountainAdventures.com

January 15th at Spring Mountain

Tickets sell out!

Join Us After Church! Prices will Vary.

Contact: Donna Christou • Call: (908) 500 - 5697

• Email: donnachristou@gmail.com

Discounts available if we get 10 or more commitments!!

Communion Prayers

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy, without condemnation, to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the remission of sins and for eternal life. Amen.

Behold, I approach for Divine Communion. O Maker, burn me not as I partake, For You are fire consuming the unworthy. But cleanse me from every stain.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

Tremble, O man, as you behold the divine Blood. It is a burning coal that sears the unworthy. The Body of God both deifies and nourishes me: It deifies the Spirit and wondrously nourishes the mind.

You have smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by Your divine eros You have changed me. But burn up with spiritual fire my sins, and grant me to be filled with delight in You, so that, leaping for joy, I may magnify, O Good One, Your two comings.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I should dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my vesture will condemn me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth of my soul, and save me, as You are the one Who loves mankind. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul, and save me.

Master Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my judgment because I am unworthy, but rather for the purification and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the life and Kingdom to come. It is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

January 8, 2023
 Sunday after Epiphany
 George of Hozeva

Domnica the Righteous of Constantinople
 Atticus and Cyrus, Holy Patriarchs of Constantinople



St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Vigil Candle: If you are interested in sponsoring a vigil candle, please see a Parish Council member at the Pangari – no advance signup necessary and several individuals or families can sponsor each week. The proceeds of these donations will go to our Mortgage Reduction Fund. Each vigil candle lasts one week; the asking donation is \$10.

Memorial: Today's memorial is chanted for the soul of **Catherine Calias (40 days)**, beloved mother of Stephanie Calias. She is also survived by one sister, Irene (Mark) Biel, as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends. May her memory be eternal.

Parish Council Affirmation of Office: Today after the Divine Liturgy, we will have the Swearing-In Ceremony for the new Parish Council.

Blessing of the Vasilopita: This morning Fr. Peter will bless the Vasilopita in the Cultural Center, followed by the blessing of the food.

St. Basil's Academy Fundraising Breakfast: Each year, the local chapters of the National Philoptochos Society hold an event in January to raise funds for the operating expenses of St. Basil's Academy. Please join the Ladies' Philoptochos Society **TODAY** for some "Sweet Delights" in the New Year!

Blessing of the Homes at Theophany: If you wish to have your homes and/or businesses blessed, please call or email the Parish office to schedule a visitation.

Pan-Hellenic Scholarship: Calling all exceptional undergraduate students of Hellenic descent -- consider becoming a PanHellenic Scholar! Do you or an exceptional undergraduate student you know qualify to be a PanHellenic Scholar? The 2022/2023 application is now open and accepting applications! The application deadline is 1/31/2023. <https://www.panhellenicsf.org/apply>.



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

- Sun. Jan. 8th St. Basil "Sweet Delights" Fundraiser
No Adult Greek School
- Wed. Jan. 11th 5:00 pm – Greek School & Little Angels resume
- Sun. Jan. 15th 12:00 noon – Adult Greek School resumes
Joy/Hope Ski Trip following Divine Liturgy
- Wed. Jan. 18th 5:00 pm – Greek School & Little Angels
- Fri. Jan. 20th March for Life – Washington, DC
- Sun. Jan. 22nd 12:00 noon – Adult Greek School
- Wed. Jan. 25th 5:00 pm – Greek School & Little Angels
- Sun. Jan. 29th Godparent Sunday & Luncheon
12:45 pm – Adult Greek School (delayed start)
- Wed. Feb. 1st 5:00 pm – Greek School & Little Angels
- Sat. Feb. 4th Joy/Hope Bible Bowl – St. Thomas G.O.C.
- Sun. Feb. 5th 12:00 pm – Adult Greek School
- Wed. Feb. 8th** 5:00 pm – Greek School & Little Angels
6:00 pm – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
7:00 pm – Church cleanup
- Sat. Feb. 11th Altar Boy Retreat – St. Luke G.O.C.
Trivia Nite
- Sun. Feb. 12th** **Parish visit by His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia;**
Luncheon to follow – all parishioners invited

2023 Ecclesiastical Calendars: To save the Parish resources, 2023 Church calendars are available for pickup in the Narthex of the church and in the Cultural Center on the table next to the Parish Office. The calendars are available on a first- come, first-serve basis. **We respectfully request that each stewarding family take only 1 calendar per household.** Thank you!

JANUARY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

St. Sophia's Joy/Hope Ski Trip: Join us after church next Sunday, Jan 15th for a ski trip. All ages welcome!! Contact Donna Christou at donnachristou@gmail.com or 908-500-5697 for more information (see enclosed flyer).



Calling all Girl Scouts from our Parish: If you have a daughter(s) who is actively involved in Girl Scouts and would like to participate in selling cookies at your own booth during coffee hour, please see Presvytera or contact her via email: pkstfamily@verizon.net. Please **respond to Presvytera no later than Sun., Jan. 22nd** to schedule and go over important guidelines.

ST. SOPHIA PRESENTS

TRIVIA

NITE

FEBRUARY 11, 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM - TRIVIA BEGINS AT 6PM
REGISTRATION/PAYMENT DEADLINE - JANUARY 28th

\$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/trivianite

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



Friday, January 20th 2022

Did you know?

- Even though Roe v Wade was overturned, the number of abortions annually is still well over 900,000 each year.
- We still live in a country that celebrates the wholesale slaughter of the unborn. We need to change the hearts and minds.
- 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 or beliefs.

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)

This is a FREE event. Transportation has been paid for by anonymous donors.

We have a simple ask –

- 1) Please join us on January 20th for this very peaceful and spiritually moving event. 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.
- 2) If you cannot join us, please pray for the unborn as well as the salvation of the parents who are considering this unthinkable act.

SEATING IS LIMITED! Please contact John Pogas if you would like to participate in this important ministry.

johnpogas@gmail.com

215-896-1963 (cell)