

## HEROES OF THE EARLY CHURCH

In the Orthodox calendar, our Holy Church honors the memory of 3 of her greatest saints together: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN & JOHN CHRYSOSTOM. These Holy Hierarchs are rightly referred to as “giants” of faith, courage, holiness and learning. They were well-known in the early Church as teachers, preachers, liturgists & administrators.

There is an interesting story behind why the Church elected to honor these 4th century saints on the same day. Up until the 11th century, a dispute existed among the faithful as to who was the greatest of these three Church Fathers. All three had unique qualities, and no one could agree on who deserved primacy of honor. By God’s divine providence,

however, the issue was finally resolved in a dream that Bishop John of Galatia had one evening in 1081 A.D. While deep in sleep, the bishop had a vision of Basil, Gregory and John together in all of their glory. In unison, they greeted Bishop John with these words: “WE ARE ONE IN GOD, AND THERE IS NO DISPUTE AMONG US . . . NEITHER IS THERE A FIRST OR SECOND AMONG US.”

Awaking from sleep, Bishop John viewed this as a sign that these three saints should be honored equally with one common feast. Thus ended centuries of controversy. From that day forth, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian & John Chrysostom were commemorated together, with all of their many accomplishments noted by the Church.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.



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

900 South Trooper Road  
Jeffersonville, PA, 19403

Tel.: (610) 650-8960 • Fax: (610) 650-8961

[www.saintsophiachurch.org](http://www.saintsophiachurch.org) email: [office@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:frpeter@saintsophiachurch.org)

Metropolis of New Jersey





January 28, 2024  
15th Sunday of Luke  
Ephraim the Syrian

Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Ninevah ❖ James the Righteous

## ENTRANCE HYMNS

### Resurrectional Apolytikion – Tou Lithou Sfrayisthentos (“The Stone Had Been Sealed”)

*The Jews had sealed the stone that was set before Your Tomb and around Your Grave soldiers guarded Your Pure and Sacred Body, yet Savior You arose the third day and granted to the world Your gift of Life. For this do the powers of Heaven acclaim You the Life bestower. Glory to Your Resurrection and glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O only Friend of man.*

### Apolytikion for Righteous Ephraim the Syrian – Tes ton dhakrion sou roes (With the rivers of your tears”)

*With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Ephrem, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.*

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

#### Greek

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

#### English Phonetics for Greek

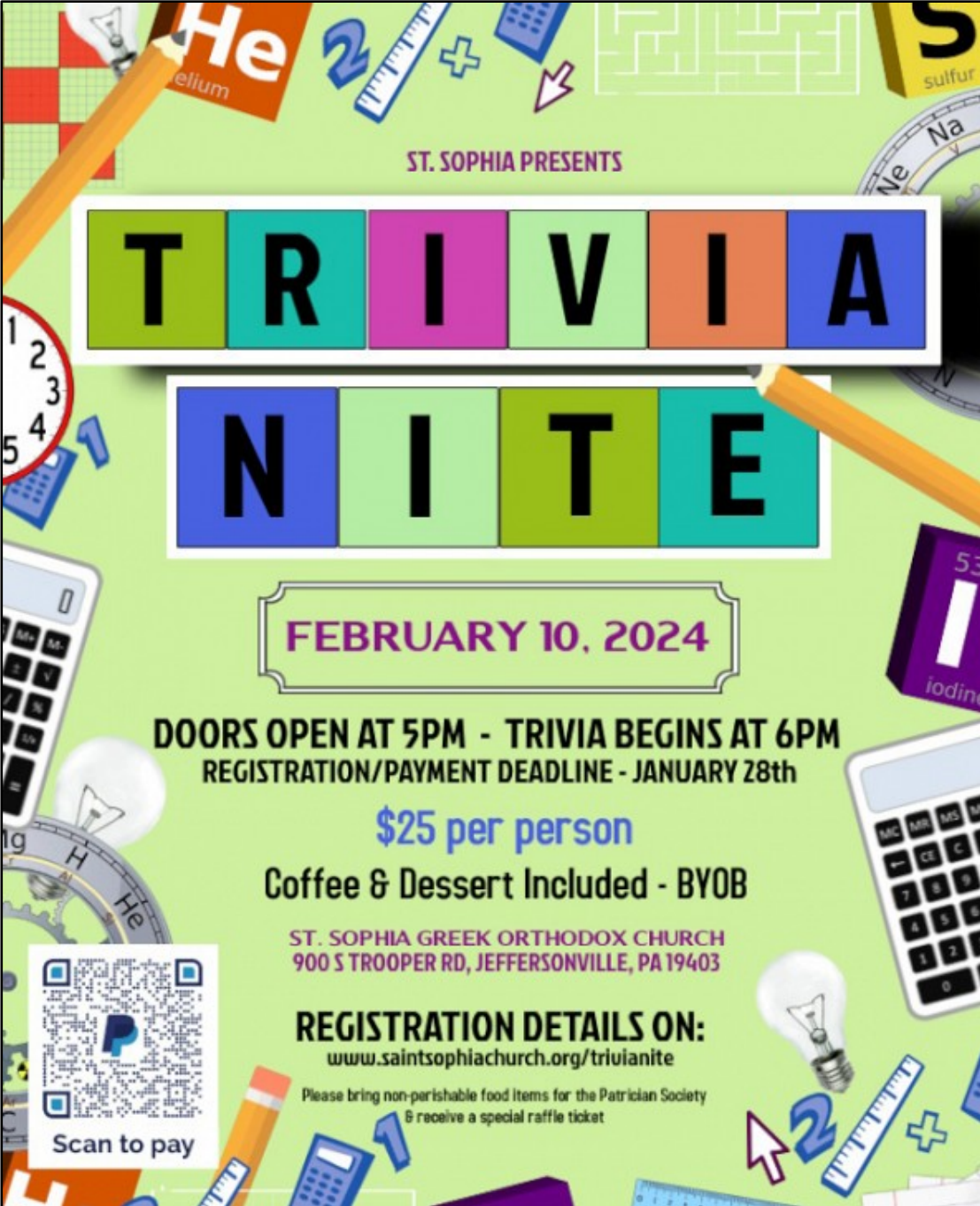
*Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyriou Sofia martyis semni, ke prosigages Christu karpon idytaton, tus tis nidyos su vlastus, di' agonon evagon, Agapin te ke Elpida, syn ti theofroni Pisti; meth' on dysopi yper pandon imon.*

#### 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 – O mitran parthenikin (“The womb of a virgin”)

*You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.*



ST. SOPHIA PRESENTS

# TRIVIA

# NITE

**FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

**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](http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/trivianite)

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

Scan to pay

ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS  
PRESENTS

# DONUTS and COCOA



**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 4** Join us with your Godparent, Godchild or Koumbari  
and enjoy donuts, cocoa, coffee, tea or juice  
with your fellow parishioners

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHARITIES OF THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

## Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15

*Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.*

*Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

## Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' 4:9-15

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

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος. Εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ ὄνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶν σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνείᾳ. Ἔως ἔρχομαι, πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοὶ διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ πρεσβυτέρου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπὴ φανερὰ ᾖ ἐν πᾶσιν.

**GOSPEL READING**  
**The Gospel According to Luke 19:1-10**

At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

**ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ**

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 19:1-10 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο τὴν Ἰεριχώ· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ἦν. καὶ προδραμῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι ἐκείνης ἡμέλλε διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατάβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μεῖναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἀμαρτωλῶ ἀνδρὶ εἰσῆλθε καταῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον· ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάνησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν. ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολωλός.

**2024 Ecclesiastical Calendars:** To save the Parish resources, 2024 Church calendars are available for pickup in the Narthex of the church and on the table outside of 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 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	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	1	2	3

www.GrabCalendar.com



The Valley Forge Chapter 432 of AHEPA is sponsoring a Super Bowl Block Pool with proceeds to benefit the establishment of a local chapter scholarship fund.

Each block is \$10 – Please visit URL via browser.

<https://superbowlpoolsite.com/contest/515370?p=ahepavfc432>

Payments for each \$10 block can be made by cash or check made payable to – AHEPA VFC 432

Please, contact Chapter President – Matt Stolarczyk – [mattstolarczyk@cs.com](mailto:mattstolarczyk@cs.com) – (215)740-8841 - to purchase blocks and to make payment.



## 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 Marvin's Home of Lansdale, which works with youth and young adults who have been homeless or have aged out of the foster care system. You can learn more about this worthwhile nonprofit at <https://www.marvinshome.org>. Please pray for the youth and young adults who have been helped by Marvin's Home as well as those who work on their behalf.

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!

## MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

We would like to thank the following stewards and friends of St. Sophia for contributing to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign for December. **The total for December was \$9,464.**

Each month we will list the Mortgage Reduction collections for the previous month.

Mr. Chris Altum	Mrs. Effie Liacouras	Mr. & Mrs. John Pogas
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bannon	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lowry	Mr. & Mrs. David Poloway
Mr. Roy Baulch	Mr. & Mrs. Edward McAdoo	Mr. & Mrs. Rami Richie
Mr. & Mrs. Engelos Bellos	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Migdalias	Mr. & Mrs. John Samaras
Mr. & Mrs. George Coutavas	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moses	Mrs. Shirley Tripolititis
Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Dankmyer	Dr. Marianne & Mr. Alexander Nikas	Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Trontsiros
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diccianni	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nikolaou	Ms. Katherine Tsipras
Ms. Eleni Evangelopoulos	Mr. Harry Papadakes	Mr. & Mrs. Socratis Tsipras
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Karagiannopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vail
Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis	Dr. & Mrs. James Peoples	Mr. Gregory Zarcone
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline	Dr. & Mrs. Peter Patukas	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zarcone
	Mrs. Harriet Podotas	Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zerefos

## THE NICENE CREED (The Confession of Faith)

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages;

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the age to come.

Amen

## PRAYER MINISTRY



*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:6-7*

*"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22*

*"For with God, nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:37*

Clearly, there is nothing more powerful than the power of prayer. Imagine someone struggling or suffering and then having multiple people praying for them daily! Our "Prayer Warriors" do just that. They will pray for individuals added to the list daily for a period of 6 months.

If you know of someone in need, you can add them to our prayer list using one of the following methods:

1. Fill out a request form at the box found in the church narthex **OR**
2. Send an email to [Prayers@SaintSophiaChurch.org](mailto:Prayers@SaintSophiaChurch.org) **OR**
3. Use the anonymous online form (the link is found under Prayer Ministry on our website), or you can use this link <https://forms.office.com/r/kMx49JdptM> **OR**
4. Use the QR form below (also found on the box in the narthex) which takes you to the anonymous form.



### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### ENGLISH

Our Father, who art in heaven;  
hallowed be Thy name, Thy  
Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as  
we forgive those who trespass  
against us; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from  
evil.

#### ENGLISH PHONETICS

Pá-ter i-món o en tis ou-ra-nís  
a-gi-as-thí-to to o-no-má Sou,  
el-thé-to I va-si-lí-a Sou,  
ge-ni-thí-to to thé-li-má Sou, os  
en ou-ra-nó ke e-pi tis ghis.

Ton ár-ton i-món ton  
e-pi-ou-si-on dos i-mín  
sí-me-ron ke á-fes i-mín ta  
o-fe-lí-ma-ta i-món, os ke i-mís  
a-fi-e-men tis o-fi-lé-tes i-món ke  
mi i-se-nég-kis i-más is  
pi-ras-món, al-la rí-se i-más a-pó  
tou po-ni-roú.

#### GREEK

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς  
ἀγιασθήτω τό ὄνομά σου,  
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,  
γενηθήτω τό θέλημά σου, ὡς  
ἐν οὐρανῷ καί ἐπί τῆς γῆς.

Τόν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τόν  
ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν  
σήμερον καί ἄφες ἡμῖν τά  
ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καί ἡμεῖς  
ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν καί  
μη εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς  
πειρασμόν, ἀλλά ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπό  
τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Phonetics by Dr. Christine Kerxhalli,  
[orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com](http://orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com)

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sun. Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	<b>Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</b> Philoptochos Vasilopita & St. Basil Breakfast Fundraiser
	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Wed. Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>	5:00 pm	Little Angels
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed – <b>“Our Sacramental Duty”</b> – in the church
Thurs. Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Fri. Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:45 am	<b>Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</b> <b>Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple</b>
Sun. Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	<b>Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</b> Godparent Sunday – <i>Philoptochos Donuts &amp; Cocoa</i>
	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Wed. Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Little Angels
Thurs. Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Sat. Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	JOY/HOPE Bible Bowl hosted by St. Sophia
	6:00 pm	Trivia Nite (Doors open at 5:00 pm)
Sun. Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	<b>Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</b> Stewardship Sunday – <i>Complimentary Luncheon</i>
	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Wed. Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Little Angels
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed – <b>“St. Polycarp of Smyrna”</b> – in the church
Thurs. Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Sun. Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	<b>Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</b>
	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Wed. Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:00 pm	Little Angels
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed – <b>“The Epistle to the Philippians”</b> – in the church
Thurs. Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Sun. Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	<b>Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</b> After Liturgy Parish St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
Wed. Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Little Angels
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed – <b>“The Martyrdom of St. Polycarp”</b> – in the church
Thurs. Feb. 29 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)

## 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 28, 2024  
15th Sunday of Luke  
Ephraim the Syrian

Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Ninevah ❖ James the Righteous



**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.

**Cutting of the Vasilopita:** This morning Fr. Peter will bless and cut 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 St. Basil's Breakfast in the New Year!

**Girl Scout Cookies Have Arrived!** It's that wonderful time of year again for our local Girl Scout Troops to sell their delicious cookies! Please support our local Girl Scouts that belong to our parish. Don't delay... the cookies will only be here until March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Blessing of the Homes at Theophany:** If you wish to have your home and/or business blessed, please call or email the Parish office to put your name on the list for a visitation.

### SAVE THE DATE!

February 11, 2024

Stewardship Appreciation Sunday

In appreciation for the tremendous support of our stewards, the Parish Council invites you to a complimentary luncheon on Sunday, February 11, 2024, immediately following Divine Liturgy. We hope you can join us in fellowship!

**HELP WANTED!** We are looking for friendly, welcoming faces to be part of our Pangari Team. You do NOT need to be a member of the Parish Council to serve Pangari duty. What you do need to do is welcome fellow parishioners, make change when they purchase candles, help with passing the collection tray, etc. It's a great way to serve the Parish and to learn more about how the Parish operates as you'll be serving next to existing Parish Council members. If you are interested, then please reach out to either Elaine Piligian (Parish secretary) or John Pogas.

**The Choir is Looking for New Members:** Can you sing? Do you play piano? The choir is looking to expand our membership. All are welcome to sit in on our rehearsals and/or Liturgies to learn more about our music and to see if the choir is right for you. Please call Tom Cox with questions ([215-859-1009](tel:215-859-1009)) or email him at [tc Cox@mysolutions.com](mailto:tc Cox@mysolutions.com). Thank you!



**Adult Ed:** The fourth and final adult catechism class in the "Growing in Faith" series will take place **this Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm in the nave of the church.** This is a beautiful opportunity to learn more about our Orthodox faith and how it can be applied to our daily life. In session 4 we will discuss Our Sacramental Duty - Confession, Holy Communion, Marriage (between a Man and Woman), Chrismation, Baptism, etc., What are the duties of the God Parents, etc.

The next series of Adult Education classes will begin on **Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, in the nave of the church:**

***Saint Polycarp: Bishop, Martyr, and Teacher of Apostolic Tradition***

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-8 pm - *St. Polycarp of Smyrna: The Man and His Epistle*

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 7-8 pm - *The Epistle to the Philippians: Exhortations unto Righteousness*

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 7-8 pm - *The Martyrdom of St. Polycarp: The Text, Its Contents, Theology and Literary Format*



DVYC  
JOY/HOPE

# BIBLE BOWL

FEBRUARY 10TH  
10AM

JOIN US FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDLY  
COMPETITION SHOWING OUR SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE



Kindly bring laundry soap, dish soap, baby wash or baby ointment  
for donation to support the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry



St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church  
900 S. Trooper Road  
Jeffersonville, PA 19403



anniep31@gmail.com  
kari0827@gmx.com



RSVP BY 2/7/24

ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS  
PRESENTS

# St. Basil BREAKFAST JANUARY 28, 2024

PANCAKES  
SCRAMBLED EGGS  
SAUSAGE LINKS  
BACON  
CEREAL VARIETY  
COFFEE - JUICE - MILK

**\$12 Donation**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IN GARRISON, NY

**FOCUS**  
NORTH + AMERICA

**KICK-OFF MEETING**  
FOOD PANTRY & FEEDING MINISTRY

**JANUARY 30, 2024 @ 6:30PM**

Annunciation Church  
7921 Old York Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Help us address the needs of our neighbors.  
Join us as we develop a food pantry & feeding ministry.  
We'll (i) review the plan, (ii) build our team, and (iii) get  
to work!

**Dinner will be served. All are invited.**

RSVP BY JANUARY 23: [SCHRISTOFOROU@FOCUSNA.ORG](mailto:SCHRISTOFOROU@FOCUSNA.ORG)

FOCUS is The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS), a national organization with programs and centers across the US designed to address poverty in America. You can learn more on the website, <https://focusnorthamerica.org>.

## Project Mexico 2024



The photo above (on the left) shows Carlos, Lucera and their children standing in front of their new home. Prior to July 2023, they had to endure winters in a makeshift home that included a dirt floor. The photo on the right shows their sons celebrating the fact that they will not have to endure another winter of mud in their home during the winter rainy season.

Everything changed when we handed the keys to Carlos and his family. While they thanked us for the home, WE thanked them for opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and put our Faith in the Lord to work for this very beautiful family.

Our parish has once again committed to fielding a group of volunteers to help Project Mexico build a house for a needy family in Rosarito, Mexico. This deeply rewarding experience has now become a regular ministry for our Parish. Our team has committed to building a home from July 5 – 11, 2024, but we need your help. We have 7 people on our team and need at least 3 more. If you would like to learn more, join the team, or learn how you can help sponsor our team, please email John Pogas, the group leader, at [johnpogas@gmail.com](mailto:johnpogas@gmail.com).





## OVC SUNDAY - JANUARY 28



For more info email OVC staff  
Michael Sider-Rose and Kyra  
Limberakis at:

[info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org](mailto:info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org)



[www.orthodoxvolunteercorps.org](http://www.orthodoxvolunteercorps.org)

### LIVE YOUR FAITH. SERVE FOR A YEAR.

Orthodox Volunteer Corps (OVC) is a yearlong domestic service program for Orthodox young adults and an official Agency of the Assembly of Bishops. We offer young adults from across the country an immersive year of service in Pittsburgh and Boston, working at homeless shelters, after-school programs, free medical clinics, and more. In addition, Corps Members receive weekly formation & training in Orthodoxy and community-based leadership development, live in community with other Orthodox young adults, and engage local parishes. Housing, transportation, and food are 100% covered.

OVC began in Pittsburgh in 2022 and is expanding to Boston this fall. To learn more, scan the QR code. Application deadline for Fall 2024 is February 22. *Applicants must be 21-29 years old.*

Nominate a young adult or apply yourself today!