

St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church
September 1, 2024



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 email: office@saintsophiachurch.org

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

Rev. Fr. Symeon Williams
frsymeon@saintsophiachurch.org
Metropolis of New Jersey



September 1, 2024
Ecclesiastical New Year
Symeon the Stylite

Synaxis of the Recovery of the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Miasenae
The 40 Holy Ascetic Virgin Martyrs of Thrace and their Teacher Ammon the Deacon



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 the Indiction – O pasis dhimourghos (“O Maker of all creation”)

O Fashioner of all creation, who made seasons and years by Your own authority, bless the crown of the year with Your goodness, O Lord, and preserve our rulers and Your city in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.

Apolytikion for the Theotokos – Chere kai haritomeni (“ Rejoice, O Lady full of grace”)

Rejoice, Maiden full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos; a haven and protection are you for all of mankind. From you did the Redeemer of the world become incarnate, only you are both a Mother and a Virgin. O Lady ever blessed and ever filled with glory, intercede with Christ God, beseeching Him to grant peace to the universe.

Apolytikion for the Devout Man – Ypomonis stylos yeyonas (“You became the pillar of patience”)

You became a pillar of patience, O devout one, emulating the forefathers, Job in his sufferings and Joseph in his temptations, and the manner of the bodiless, though you were still in body. O devout father Symeon, intercede with Christ God, to save our souls.

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

Greek

Ὡς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καί προσήγαγες Χριστῷ καρπὸν ἡ δύπατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, διὰ τῶν γόνων εὐάγων, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθῶν δυσώπει ὑπὲρ πάντων ἡμῶν.

English Phonetics for Greek

Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyriou Sofia martysemni, ke prosigages Christo karpon idytaton, tus tis nidynos 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 ton eonon piitis (“The creator and master of all ages”)

You, the Creator and the Lord of the ages, O God of all, truly transcending all essence, we earnestly entreat, that You will bless the year, and, O tender-loving Lord, in Your infinite mercy, only Master, save us all who worship and serve You, O our Redeemer, and who cry with fear, “For all Your servants, make fruitful the coming year.”

St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church



REGISTRATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starts Sunday, September 15th

GREEK SCHOOL

START DATES

September 26th (children)

September 29th (adults)



Scan QR Code

For complete list of Youth Ministries for **ALL AGES** and to Register

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.

To Parents of Young Children: In case you are not aware, our church has a Cry/Bride Room in the Narthex. For those parents whose young children might understandably get fussy during a service, please feel free to take your youngster into that room for a short while. (There is a closed-circuit TV showing the service in the room as well as a bathroom/changing station). The intention is NOT to relegate you to another room; rather, this will enable you to attend to your child in a quiet environment before bringing him/her back into the church.

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) or email him at tcov@mysolutions.com. Thank you!



Communion wine as a church donation: Communion wine is always needed by the church. If you would like to donate wine, Fr. Symeon prefers the following wines: St. John Commandaria (of Cyprus), Nama Byzantino Sweet Red Wine, or Manischewitz Concord Grape.

September-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 September will be provided to the West Chester University Resource Pantry which assists students in minimizing food and basic need insecurity. You can learn more about this worthy organization here:
<https://www.wcupa.edu/services/civicEngagementSocialImpact/pantry/>.

We ask that you pray for those who benefit from their efforts, their families, 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 adding "Poor Box" to the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 2:1-7

*Great is our Lord, and great is his power.
Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

Timothy, my son, first of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' 2:1-7 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

*Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἰσχὺς αὐτοῦ.
Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.*

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρακαλῶ οὖν πρῶτον πάντων ποιεῖσθαι δεήσεις, προσευχάς, ἐντεύξεις, εὐχαριστίας, ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, ὑπὲρ βασιλέων καὶ πάντων τῶν ἐν ὑπεροχῇ ὄντων, ἵνα ἡρεμον καὶ ἡσυχίον βίον διάγωμεν ἐν πάσῃ εὐσεβείᾳ καὶ σεμνότητι. Τοῦτο γὰρ καλὸν καὶ ἀπόδεκτον ἐνώπιον τοῦ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Θεοῦ, ὃς πάντας ἀνθρώπους θέλει σωθῆναι καὶ εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἀληθείας ἐλθεῖν. Εἷς γὰρ Θεός, εἷς καὶ μεσίτης Θεοῦ καὶ ἀνθρώπων, ἄνθρωπος Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς, ὁ δοὺς ἑαυτὸν ἀντίλυτρον ὑπὲρ πάντων, τὸ μαρτύριον καιροῦς ἰδίους, εἰς ὃ ἐτέθη ἐγὼ κήρυξ καὶ ἀπόστολος, - ἀλήθειαν λέγω ἐν Χριστῷ, οὐ ψεύδομαι, - διδάσκαλος ἐθνῶν ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀληθείᾳ.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to Luke 4:16-22

At that time, Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 4:16-22 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς Ναζαρά, οὗ ἦν τετραμμένος, καὶ εἰσῆλθε κατὰ τὸ εἰθὸς αὐτῷ ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῶν σαββάτων εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν, καὶ ἀνέστη ἀναγνῶναι. καὶ ἐπέδότη αὐτῷ βιβλίον Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου, καὶ ἀναπτύξας τὸ βιβλίον εὔρε τὸν τόπον οὗ ἦν γεγραμμένον· Πνεῦμα Κυρίου ἐπ' ἐμέ, οὗ εἵνεκεν ἔχρισέ με, εὐαγγελίσασθαι πτωχοῖς ἀπέσταλκέ με, ἰάσασθαι τοὺς συντετριμμένους τὴν καρδίαν, κηρῦξαι αἰχμαλώτοις ἄφεςιν καὶ τυφλοῖς ἀνάβλεψιν, ἀποστεῖλαι τεθραυσμένους ἐν ἀφέσει, κηρῦξαι ἐνιαυτὸν Κυρίου δεκτόν. καὶ πύξας τὸ βιβλίον ἀποδοὺς τῷ ὑπηρέτῃ ἐκάθισε· καὶ πάντων ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ ἦσαν ἀτενίζοντες αὐτῷ. ἤρξατο δὲ λέγειν πρὸς αὐτοὺς ὅτι σήμερον πεπλήρωται ἡ γραφὴ αὕτη ἐν τοῖς ὠσίν ὑμῶν. καὶ πάντες ἐμαρτύρουν αὐτῷ καὶ ἐθαύμαζον ἐπὶ τοῖς λόγοις τῆς χάριτος τοῖς ἐκπορευομένοις ἐκ τοῦ στόματος αὐτοῦ.

St. Sophia Vespers: We are pleased to announce that His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey will be joining us on **Monday, September 16th, at 6:30 pm** for Hierarchical Great Vespers & Artoklasia for the Feast of St. Sophia/Ss Faith Hope and Agape. Philoptochos will be hosting a dessert reception after the Vesper Service. We invite everyone to be with us to join us in celebration as welcome His Eminence to our community.

Vespers Reception: Philoptochos will be hosting a reception on the evening of **Monday, September 16th**, following Hierarchical Great Vespers for the Feast Day of St. Sophia. **We are asking for donations of small pastries for the evening.** Please bring your donation to the church kitchen prior to the start of the Vesper Service. Please bring only individual pastries that are easily handled without a fork! Kindly contact Lucy Kline if you have any questions (lucyluwho@verizon.net or 215-206-8180).



**Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**

**Hierarchical Great Vespers
Monday, September 16, 2024
6:30 P.M.**

&

**Orthros, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

**SS. Sophia, Faith, Hope & Agape
Greek Orthodox Church
900 S Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA 19403**





COLOR YOUR FALL WITH KINDNESS.

Give blood.



Interfaith Blood Drive

Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
and

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Wednesday October 2nd, 2024

1:30PM – 6:30PM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Church Gym
2530 Stinson Lane
Norristown, PA 19403

Sign up at redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: **PAInterfaith**
SCAN TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT



Fall into donating!
Come to October for a \$10 e-gift card by e-mail.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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 **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-fí-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
ἁγιασθήτω τό ὄνομά σου,
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,
γενηθήτω τό θέλημά σου, ὡς
ἐν οὐρανῷ καί ἐπί τῆς γῆς.

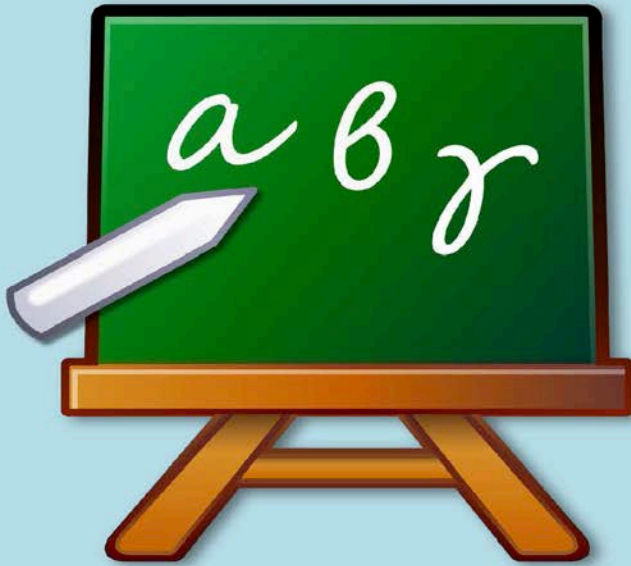
Τόν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τόν
ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν
σήμερον καί ἄφες ἡμῖν τά
ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καί ἡμεῖς
ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν καί
μή εἰσενέγκης ἡμᾶς εἰς
πειρασμόν, ἀλλά ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπό
τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Phonetics by Dr. Christine Kerxhalli,
orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com

Saint Sophia Greek School 2024-2025

Register Now!

Classes start September 26, 2024



For more information or to register,
please contact Dimitra Klapakis at [623-363-0980](tel:623-363-0980) or
dimitraklapakis19@gmail.com

Or visit www.saintsophiachurch.org/greeklanguageschool

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.

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Synaxis of the Recovery of the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Miasenae
The 40 Holy Ascetic Virgin Martyrs of Thrace and their Teacher Ammon the Deacon



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.

Coffee Hour: Thank you to the Richie Family for offering today's coffee hour in honor of Lukas' 23rd birthday.

Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed: Thank you to everyone who has sponsored coffee hour recently. There are still several upcoming Sundays available. If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour, please sign up on the Coffee Hour Sponsor Sheet on the window at the back of the hall near the coffee/refreshments table. **Please note that the church will supply coffee, creamer, juice, and paper products to eliminate waste and clutter. We ask that coffee hour sponsors donate \$25 (made payable to St. Sophia Church) to offset these expenses. Thank you!**

Ministries Sunday: Do you have questions on how to enroll your kids in GOYA, JOY/HOPE, Sunday School, Greek School, or Greek Dance? Are there requirements? What exactly does AHEPA do? Or Parish Council? And what does the Ladies Philoptochos Society do for the Parish and our community? Well, we've got answers! On Sunday September 8th, we will have a Ministries Fair in the hall during coffee hour. Think of a college fair but for the many ministries of our parish. Hope to see you there!

Register for Youth Ministries: We have now made it easy for you to register your child(ren) for any of the Youth Ministries using just one online registration form! Just click on the link that follows to register [REGISTER](#). You may also use your cell phone to register using the QR code located on the flyer on the last page of this bulletin.

Register for Greek Language Classes: Registration packets are available at the Pangari and on our website: <https://www.saintsophiachurch.org/greeklanguageschool>.

Senior Citizen Ministry: St. Sophia's Senior Parea is open to all senior citizens of the community. The meetings take place on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12 noon.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sun. Aug. 25 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 9 th Sunday of Matthew
Thurs. Aug. 29 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Sun. Sept. 1 st	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Ecclesiastical New Year
Mon. Sept. 2 nd		Labor Day – the Parish Office is Closed
Sun. Sept. 8 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Nativity of the Theotokos Ministries Sunday during Coffee Hour
Mon. Sept. 9 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim & Anna
Sat. Sept. 14 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross
Sun. Sept. 15 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday after Holy Cross Sunday school classes begin
		Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey for St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Feast Day
Mon. Sept. 16 th	6:30 pm	Hierarchical Great Vespers & Artoklasia St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Dessert reception to follow
Tues. Sept. 17 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Luncheon to follow
Sun. Sept. 22 nd	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1 st Sunday of Luke
Thurs. Sept. 26 th	4:30 pm	Greek school classes begin (children)
Sun. Sept. 29 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 2 nd Sunday of Luke
	12:15 pm	Greek school classes begin (adults)
Wed. Oct. 2 nd	1:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Interfaith Blood Drive at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints., 2530 Stinson Lane (see flyer)
Thurs. Oct. 3 rd		Bus Trip to Agia Skepi Monastery (more info to follow)
	4:30 pm	Greek school (children)
Sun. Oct. 6 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 3 rd Sunday of Luke; Holy Apostle Thomas
	12:15 pm	Greek school (adults)



Prot. No. 481

† B A R T H O L O M E W
BY GOD'S MERCY ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME
AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH
GRACE, PEACE AND MERCY FROM THE MAKER OF ALL CREATION
OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
* * *

Most reverend brother Hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

Thirty-five whole years have lapsed since the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate established September 1st, the Feast of the Indiction and opening of the ecclesiastical year, as a Day of Prayers for the Protection of the Natural Environment. This blessed initiative had a great resonance and borne bountiful fruit. The multidimensional ecological activities of the Holy Great Church of Christ today center around the phenomenon of climate change—or rather, the climate crisis—which has caused a “planetary state of emergency.”

We appreciate the contribution of the environmental movements, the international agreements for the environment, the related engagement on the part of scientists with this problem, the contribution of environmental education, the ecological sensitivity and mobilization of countless people and especially representatives of the younger generation. However, we insist that what is needed is an axiological “Copernican turn,” a radical change of mentality globally, a substantial revision of the relationship between humankind and nature. Otherwise, we will continue to treat the catastrophic consequences of the ecological crisis, while leaving intact and active the roots of the problem.

The environmental threat is a dimension of the extended crisis in contemporary civilization. In this sense, confronting the problem cannot be successful on the basis of the principles of the same civilization, of the rationale behind it, which created it in the first place. We have repeatedly expressed our conviction that churches and religions can contribute significantly to a vital spiritual and evaluative conversion for the sake of the future of humanity and the planet. Genuine religious faith dissolves the arrogance and titanism of humankind, inasmuch as it constitutes the embankment of its transformation into a “man-god,” who abolishes all standards, boundaries, and values, while declaring himself “the measure of all things” and instrumentalizing both his fellow human beings and nature for the satisfaction of his unquenchable needs and arbitrary pursuits.

The centuries-long experience teaches us that, without an “Archimedean” spiritual and evaluative support, humanity cannot avoid the risks of a nihilistic

“anthropologism.” This is the legacy of the classical spirit, as articulated by Plato through the principle that “God is the measure of all things for us” (*Laws* 716c). This understanding of humanity and its responsibility through its relationship with God is expressed through the Christian teaching about the creation of Adam “in the image of God” and “according to His likeness,” as well as about the assumption of human nature by the incarnate pre-eternal Word of God for our salvation and the renewal of all creation. The Christian faith recognizes the supreme value of humanity and creation alike. In this spirit, then, respect for the sacredness of the human person and the protection of the integrity of the “very good” creation are inseparable. Faith in the God of wisdom and love inspires and supports the creative forces of humankind, strengthening it in the face of challenges and trials, even when overcoming these appears humanly impossible.

We have struggled and still strive for an inter-Orthodox and inter-Christian collaboration for the protection of humanity and creation, as well as for the introduction of this subject in interfaith dialogue and common actions of religions. Moreover, we particularly emphasize the need to understand that the contemporary ecological crisis impacts first and foremost the poorer inhabitants on earth. In the document of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, entitled “For the Life of the World: Toward a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church,” this topic is underlined emphatically along with the essential concern of the Church in light of the consequences of climate change: “We must understand that serving our neighbor and preserving the natural environment are intimately and inseparably connected. There is a close and indissoluble bond between our care of creation and our service to the body of Christ, just as there is between the economic conditions of the poor and the ecological conditions of the planet. Scientists tell us that those most egregiously harmed by the current ecological crisis will continue to be those who have the least. This means that the issue of climate change is also an issue of social welfare and social justice.” (Paragraph 76)

In conclusion, we wish you, most honorable brothers and most beloved children, a new ecclesiastical year full of divine blessings and productivity, invoking upon you all, through the intercession of Panagia Pammakaristos, whose wondrous and miraculous icon we honor and celebrate on this day and humbly venerate, the life-giving grace and boundless mercy of the Creator of all and God of wondrous things.

September 1, 2024

† Bartholomew of Constantinople
Fervent supplicant for all before God

† Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ
ΕΛΕΩ: ΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ
ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΠΑΝΤΙ ΤΩ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΧΑΡΙΝ, ΕΙΡΗΝΗΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΕΟΣ
ΠΑΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΟΥ ΠΑΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΤΙΣΕΩΣ
ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

Τιμώτατοι αδελφοί Ιεράρχαι και τέκνα εν Κυρίω αγαπητά,

Τριακονταπενταετία ὄλη παρήλθεν ἀπό τῆς καθιερώσεως ὑπό τῆς Ἁγίας καί Ἱερᾶς Συνόδου τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου τῆς 1^{ης} Σεπτεμβρίου, ἑορτῆς τῆς Ἰνδίκτου καί ἐνάρξεως τοῦ ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ ἔτους, ὡς Ἡμέρας προσευχῶν ὑπέρ τῆς προστασίας τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος. Ἡ εὐλογημένη αὐτή πρωτοβουλία ἔσχε μεγάλην ἀπήχησιν καί ἐκαρποφόρησε πλουσίως. Αἱ πολυδιάστατοι οἰκολογικά δράσεις τῆς Ἁγίας τοῦ Χριστοῦ Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας ἐπικεντρώνονται σήμερον εἰς τό φαινόμενον τῆς κλιματικῆς ἀλλαγῆς, μάλλον δέ κρίσεως, τό ὁποῖον ἔχει δημιουργήσει μίαν κατάστασιν «πλανητικῆς ἐκτάκτου ἀνάγκης».

Ἐκτιμῶμεν τήν συμβολήν τῶν οἰκολογικῶν κινήματων, τās διεθνεῖς συμφωνίας διά τό περιβάλλον, τήν ἐνασχόλησιν τῶν ἐπιστημόνων μέ τό πρόβλημα, τήν προσφοράν τῆς περιβαλλοντικῆς ἐκπαιδεύσεως, τήν οἰκολογικήν εὐαισθησίαν καί στρατεύσιν ἀναριθμητῶν ἀτόμων καί ἐιδικώτερον ἐκπροσώπων τῆς νέας γενεᾶς. Ὅμως, ἐπιμένομεν ὅτι ἀπαιτεῖται μία ἀξιολογική «κοπερνίκεια στροφή», μία ριζική ἀλλαγὴ νοοτροπίας παγκοσμίως, μία οὐσιαστική ἀναθεώρησις τῆς σχέσεως τοῦ ἀνθρώπου μέ τήν φύσιν. Ἄλλως, θά συνεχίσωμεν νά θεραπεύωμεν τās καταστροφικὰς ἐπιπτώσεις τῆς οἰκολογικῆς κρίσεως, μέ ἀθίκτους καί ἐνεργούς τās ρίζας τοῦ προβλήματος.

Ἡ περιβαλλοντική ἀπειλή εἶναι μία διάστασις τῆς ἐκτεταμένης κρίσεως τοῦ συγχρόνου πολιτισμοῦ. Ἐν τῇ ἐννοίᾳ ταύτῃ, ἡ ἀντιμετώπισις τοῦ προβλήματος δέν εἶναι δυνατόν νά δοθῇ ἐπὶ τῇ βάσει τῶν ἀρχῶν αὐτοῦ τοῦ πολιτισμοῦ, τῆς λογικῆς δηλαδή ἢ ὁποῖα τό ἐδημιούργησε. Ἐχομεν ἐκφράσει κατ' ἐπανάληψιν τήν πεποίθησίν μας ὅτι εἰς τήν ζωτικήν διά τό μέλλον τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος καί τοῦ πλανήτου μας πνευματικήν καί ἀξιολογικήν μεταστροφήν δύνανται νά συμβάλουν μεγάλας αἱ Ἐκκλησίαι καί αἱ θρησκείαι. Ἡ γνησία θρησκευτική πίστις καταλύει τήν ἀλαζονείαν καί τόν τιτανισμόν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ἀποτελεῖ ἀνάχωμα εἰς τήν μετατροπὴν του εἰς «ἀνθρωποθεόν», ὁ ὁποῖος καταργεῖ μέτρα, ὄρια καί ἀξίας, αὐτοαναγορεύεται εἰς «πάντων μέτρον», ἐργαλειοποιεῖ τόν συνάνθρωπον καί τήν φύσιν διά τήν ἱκανοποίησιν τῶν ἀκορέστων ἀναγκῶν καί τῶν αὐθαιρέτων ἐπιδιώξεών του.

Ἡ πείρα τῶν αἰῶνων διδάσκει ὅτι, ἄνευ ἑνός «ἀρχιμηδείου» πνευματικοῦ καί ἀξιολογικοῦ στηρίγματος, ἡ ἀνθρωπότης ἀδυνατεῖ νά ἀποφύγῃ τούς κινδύνους ἑνός μηδενιστικοῦ «ἀνθρωπολογισμοῦ». Αὐτή εἶναι ἡ παρακαταθήκη τοῦ ἀρχαίου πνεύματος, ὅπως διετυπώθη ὑπό τοῦ Πλάτωνος διά τῆς ἀρχῆς «Θεός ἡμῖν πάντων

χρημάτων μέτρον» (Νόμοι 716c). Ἡ κατανόησις τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καί τῆς εὐθύνης του μέσα ἀπό τήν σχέσιν του μέ τόν Θεόν ἐκφράζεται διά τῆς χριστιανικῆς διδασκαλίας περί τῆς δημιουργίας τοῦ ἀνθρώπου «κατ' εἰκόνα Θεοῦ» καί «καθ' ὁμοίωσιν» Αὐτῶ, καθώς καί περί τῆς προσλήψεως τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης φύσεως ὑπό τοῦ σαρκωθέντος διά τήν σωτηρίαν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καί ἀνακαίνισιν τῆς ὄλης δημιουργίας προαιωνίου Λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἡ χριστιανική πίστις ἀναγνωρίζει ὑψίστην ἀξίαν τόσοσιν εἰς τόν ἀνθρώπον, ὅσον καί εἰς τήν κτίσιν. Ἐν τῷ πνεύματι τούτῳ, ὁ σεβασμός τῆς ἱερότητος τοῦ ἀνθρώπου προσώπου καί ἡ προστασία τῆς ἀκεραιότητος τῆς καλῆς λίαν δημιουργίας εἶναι ἀδιαίρετοι. Ἡ πίστις εἰς τόν Θεόν τῆς σοφίας καί τῆς ἀγάπης ἐμπνέει καί στηρίζει τās δημιουργικὰς δυνάμεις τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, τόν ἐνδυναμώνει ἐνώπιον τῶν προκλήσεων καί τῶν δυσκολιῶν, ἀκόμη καί ὅταν ἡ ὑπέρβασις τῶν ἐμφανίζεται κατ' ἀνθρώπον ὡς ἀνέφικτος.

Ἡγωνίσθημεν καί ἀγωνιζόμεθα διά τήν διορθόδοξον καί διαχριστιανικήν συνεργασίαν διά τήν προστασίαν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου καί τῆς κτίσεως καί διά τήν ἔνταξιν τῆς θεματικῆς αὐτῆς εἰς τόν διαθρησκευτικόν διάλογον καί τās κοινὰς δράσεις τῶν θρησκείων. Τονίζομεν δέ ἰδιαίτερος τήν ἀνάγκην νά κατανοηθῇ ὅτι ἡ σύγχρονος οἰκολογική κρίσις πλήττει πρωτίτως καί ἐντονώτερον τούς πτωχοτέρους κατοίκους τῆς γῆς. Εἰς τό κείμενον τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου «Ἵπέρ τῆς τοῦ κόσμου ζωῆς». Τό κοινωνικόν ἦθος τῆς Ὀρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας ὑπογραμμίζεται μετ' ἐμφάσεως τό θέμα αὐτό καί ἡ ἀναγκαία μέριμνα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἐνώπιον τῶν ἐπιπτώσεων τῆς κλιματικῆς ἀλλαγῆς: «Ἰπρέπει νά κατανοήσομε ὅτι ἡ διακονία τοῦ πλησίον καί ἡ διαφύλαξη τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος εἶναι ἄρρηκτα συνδεδεμένες. Παρόμοια ἄρρηκτα συνδεδεμένες μεταξύ τους εἶναι καί ἡ φροντίδα μας γιά τῇ δημιουργία καί ἡ διακονία μας πρός τὰ μέλη τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅπως εἶναι ἀλληλένδετες καί οἱ οικονομικῆς συνθήκες τῶν πτωχῶν μέ τίς οικονομικῆς συνθήκες τοῦ πλανήτη. Οἱ ἐπιστήμονες μᾶς λένε ὅτι ἐκεῖνοι πού ἔχουν πληγεῖ περισσότερο ἀπό τήν τρέχουσα οἰκολογική κρίσις εἶναι καί θά εἶναι ὅσοι κατέχουν ἐλάχιστα. Ἐπομένως, τό πρόβλημα τῆς κλιματικῆς ἀλλαγῆς ἀποτελεῖ καί ζήτημα κοινωνικῆς πρόνοιας καί κοινωνικῆς δικαιοσύνης» (§ 76).

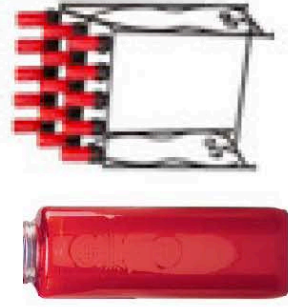
Περαίνοντες τόν λόγον, εὐχόμεθα πρός ὑμᾶς, τιμώτατοι ἀδελφοί καί προσφιλέστατα τέκνα, πλήρη θείων εὐλογιῶν καί καλλίκαρπον τόν νέον ἐκκλησιαστικόν ἐνιαυτόν, ἐπικαλούμενοι ἐπὶ πάντας ὑμᾶς, μεσιτεία τῆς Παναγίας τῆς Παμμακαρίστου, τήν θαυμαστήν καί θαυματουργόν εἰκόνα τῆς ὁποίας τιμῶμεν σήμερον ἑορτίως καί ταπεινοφρόνως κατασπαζόμεθα, τήν ζωήρτον χάριν καί τό ἀμέτρητον ἔλεος τοῦ Κτίστου τῶν ἀπάντων καί Θεοῦ τῶν θαυμασιῶν.

βκδ' Σεπτεμβρίου α' β.
Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
διάπυρος πρός Θεόν εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν

Regarding Red Votive Candles

Beloved Parish Family,

We ask that candles no longer be placed on the floor in front of the Iconostasis. Red votive candles should instead be placed in the candle stands in front of the first pews or in the Narthex. We understand that this change may be an inconvenience for some parishioners, but we are confident that everyone will appreciate our reasoning for this decision. This change is to ensure safety and reduce the risk of another fire, to comply with changes to our insurance policy, to prevent tripping when venerating icons on the Iconostasis, and to protect our beautiful Iconostasis from future soot damage as advised by the Iconographers. Any candles that are inadvertently placed in front of the Iconostasis will be promptly and respectfully moved to a candle stand by a Parish Council Member.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Fr. Symeon Williams and Parish Council

BUS TRIP

**THURSDAY
OCT 3, 2024**

**HOLY PROTECTION MONASTERY
OF THE THEOTOKOS**
WHITE HAVEN, PA

PICKUP LOCATION
ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
900 SOUTH TROOPER ROAD
JEFFERSONVILLE, PA 19403

**MEET 9AM
BUS DEPARTS 10AM
RETURNS 6PM**

**\$35
PER PERSON
INCLUDES LUNCH
AT MONASTERY**

**CONTACT LUCY (215) 206-8180 or ladies@saintsophiachurch.org
RSVP WITH PAYMENT BY SEP 24th TO RESERVE SEAT**