

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



December 1, 2024
14th Sunday of Luke
Nahum the Prophet

Philaret the Merciful of Amnia ♦ Ananias the Persian



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Angelike Dinamis (“Angelic Powers”)

Angelic Powers were in Your Sepulchre and those who guarded You became as men long dead. And standing there was Mary by Your Tomb seeking Your pure and sacred Body, O You despoiled Hades yet tempted not by him were You. You did meet the Virgin O Life Bestower, O You Who rose from the dead, Glory to You O Lord.

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 ἢ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δι’ 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 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 – I Parthenos simeron ton proeonion Loghon (“On this day the Virgin Maid”)

*On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God.*

YOUTH MINISTRIES
HOLIDAY
FOOD DRIVE

Food insecurity continues to be a problem 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. We continue to collect non-perishable food to be donated to the local food pantries.

Our Holiday Food Drive has begun and will run through Theophany

WHAT WE NEED:

Juice, Peanut Butter, Beans, Lentils, Nuts, Rice, Pasta, Canned Meat, Stews, Vegetables & Fruit, Tomato Paste/Sauce, Soup, Rice, Pasta, Instant Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Crackers, Breakfast Foods and Personal Care Items (Diapers, Soap, Laundry Detergent & Feminine Hygiene Products)

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

DROP OFF LOCATION: CULTURAL CENTER LOBBY

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 tcox@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: Nama Byzantino Sweet Red Wine OR St. John Commandaria (of Cyprus).

Sponsor Coffee Hour: Thank you to everyone who has sponsored coffee hour recently. 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!**



Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

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

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 2:4-10 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

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

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ θεός, πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεζωποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ - χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι - καὶ συνήγειρεν, καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ· ἵνα ἐνδείξηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸν ὑπερβάλλοντα πλοῦτον τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ· τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι διὰ τῆς πίστεως, καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν· θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον· οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων, ἵνα μή τις καυχῆσθαι. Αὐτοῦ γὰρ ἐσμεν ποίημα, κτισθέντες ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἐπὶ ἔργοις ἀγαθοῖς, οἷς προητοίμασεν ὁ θεός, ἵνα ἐν αὐτοῖς περιπατήσωμεν.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:35-43 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίζειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεριχώ τυφλὸς τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν· ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῶ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

December 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 to a specific charitable organization selected by Philoptochos.

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box in December will be provided to CSF Buxmont Academy, which provides foster care and therapeutic services as well as private schooling for at-risk youth in the Delaware Valley. You can learn more about this worthwhile organization at <https://www.csfbuxmont.org/csf-services>. In your prayers, please remember those who are in the care of and who work for CSF Buxmont Academy.

Thank you for your generosity in support of St. Sophia Philoptochos's efforts in supporting organizations in our mission to "help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the church through fundraising efforts".

ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS
CHRISTMAS
Lunch
December 8th at 1:30pm

BLACK POWDER 1164 Valley Forge Road
TAVERN Wayne, PA

RSVP by Sunday, December 1st
Georgiana Kane (610)608-7974 or gbkanell9@gmail.com

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." Philippians 4:6-7

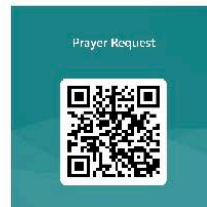
"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22

"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 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

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.

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
μή εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς
πειρασμόν, ἀλλά ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπό
τοῦ πονηροῦ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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-fí-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.

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



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
Web: www.saintsophiachurch.org E-mail: office@saintsophiachurch.org
Rev. Fr. Symeon Williams, Proistamenos



Peter & Alice Zavitsanos Scholarship 2024

St. Sophia is pleased to announce that thanks to a generous sponsorship, we are able to offer a \$4,000 scholarship to eligible college or university students.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be registered in an accredited college or university in undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs
- Achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher
- Be a Steward in good standing of St. Sophia Church
- Submit an essay of 1000 words or less on "How the Greek Orthodox Faith has influenced my life and plans for the future."
- Submit a resume outlining all church, community, service, and athletic activities
- Submit a statement of financial need if you wish that to be considered as part of the application
- Submit the name and mailing address of your university bursar

Application materials should be in MS Word format, labeled with name and contact information, and emailed to Fr. Symeon Williams at frsymeon@saintsophiachurch.org.

Deadline for submissions is December 1, 2024



St. Sophia Youth Ministry

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

**Following Divine Liturgy
Christmas Party in church hall
after the performances**

- Food, Fun, Fellowship
- Hot Cocoa Bar (dairy free)
- Drinks, sweets and much more!
- Games & Prizes
- Photoshoot with Santa
- All are welcome to join!




RSVP & Sign Up
by Dec. 15th

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.

December 1, 2024
14th Sunday of Luke
Nahum the Prophet

Philaret the Merciful of Amnia ❖ Ananias the Persian



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 Alex and Marianne Nikas for offering today's coffee hour for the Inaugural Archon Sunday.

Reminder: There are no Sunday school or Adult Greek school classes today.

Adult Catechism: Fr. Symeon will be holding adult catechism classes on Saturdays at 5:00 pm in the church hall. The next class is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7th**. **ALL** are invited and encouraged to attend!

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.

Mortgage Reduction: Our mortgage balance is down to \$500,000! To take full advantage of the \$100,000 match and reduce our mortgage balance below \$400,000, we only have two months left to collect the remaining **\$18,000**. Please consider a Mortgage Reduction contribution to help us meet the generous matching offer.



Vasilopita Sale: The Ladies' Philoptochos is having a Vasilopita sale once again. Order forms are available at the back of the Cultural Center and enclosed in this bulletin.

Order deadline is December 8th. Pickup is December 15th.



Archons
OF THE Ecumenical
Patriarchate®

Protecting the Future of Faith®

The Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate
Educational Global Initiative
Sunday School Sprout Program

Learning about
His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



IN CELEBRATION OF ARCHON SUNDAY

archons.org/sprouts





Save the Date

JANUARY 5
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
SAINT BASIL ACADEMY - GARRISON, NY

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals: This year's Christmas Pageant will take place on December 22nd. Rehearsals will take place immediately following Holy Communion on the following dates: November 24; December 8, 15. For more information, see Dr. Marianne Nikas, Mrs. Cathy Cox or Ms. Carla Johnson.

Parish Council Elections: This year's Parish Council Elections will take place on **Sunday, December 8th**. We have an **uncontested** election; meaning, we have the same number of candidates for the same number of available positions. There are 5 incumbent candidates and 2 new candidates running for 7 positions. The candidates are George Coutavas, Thomas J. Cox, Carla Johnson, Coleen Moses, Alexander A. Nikas, Maria Richie, and Alex Tsioulfaidis.

The 2024 Election Guide is available at the Pangari. It was also emailed on Tuesday, 11/26. The Election Guide contains a brief profile for each candidate and is a great way to "put a face with a name" if you are not familiar with the candidates.

Stewardship: Please note that to vote in the Parish Council Elections, you must have returned a 2024 Stewardship Commitment Form and be current in your commitment. Stewardship Commitment Forms can be found at the Pangari or on the table outside of the Parish office. In addition, when paying by check, it is imperative that you indicate "**Stewardship 2024**" 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 see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson, or contact the Parish office.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sat. Nov. 30 th	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Dec. 1 st	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 14th Sunday of Luke No Sunday school or Greek school (adults)
Wed. Dec. 4 th	4:30 pm	Little Angels
Thurs. Dec. 5 th	4:30 pm	Greek school (children)
Fri. Dec. 6 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
Sat. Dec. 7 th	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Dec. 8 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 10th Sunday of Luke Parish Council Elections after Divine Liturgy
	12:15 pm	Greek school (adults)
Wed. Dec. 11 th	5:30 pm	JOY/HOPE Meeting
Thurs. Dec. 12 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
	4:30 pm	Greek school (children)
Sat. Dec. 14 th	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Dec. 15 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11th Sunday of Luke Greek school (adults)
Thurs. Dec. 19 th	12:15 pm	Greek school (adults)
Sat. Dec. 21 st	4:30 pm	Greek school (children)
Sun. Dec. 22 nd	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday before Nativity Christmas Pageant followed by Youth Ministries Christmas Party
	12:15 pm	Greek School (adults)

SAVE THE DATE T R I V I A

FEBRUARY 8, 2025 N I T E

www.saintsophiachurch.org/trivianite

Save the Date

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey



Music & Dance Festival
Philadelphia: February 14-16, 2025

*President's Day Weekend (February 14 – 16, 2025) at the
Sheraton Hotel - Downtown Philadelphia.*

Categories include:

- Greek Folk Dancing
(JOY, GOYA and Young Adult Groups)
- &
- Parish Youth and Young Adult Liturgical Choirs

Registration Packets will be coming shortly

Ladies Philoptochos of St. Sophia

Tradition of the *New Year*

VASILOPITA
St. Basil's Bread

Pick up
Sunday
December 15

Must Pre-order
by: 12/8/24

Giving

St. Basil the Great,
the father of
Philanthropy

Luck

Blessings for the
new year to those
who find the coin

Complete the form and return with check payment to: St. Sophia Philoptochos, 900 S. Trooper Road, Jeffersonville, PA 19403.
Contact Kathy Tsipras (610-539-5413) or ladies@saintsophiachurch with any questions.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

QUANTITY _____ @ \$20 each TOTAL PAID: \$ _____

Τὸ Τάγμα τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέα εἶναι βέβαια ἓνας ἀξιολύβαστος ὀργανισμός, ἀφιερωμένος στὴν προστασία τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ μας Πατριαρχείου, ὅμως οἱ δράσεις του ἐπεκτείνονται καὶ σὲ πολλοὺς ἄλλους τομεῖς. Οἱ ἄρχοντες προστατεύουν τὰ συμφέροντα τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας, μὲ κάθε τρόπο, σὲ ὅλους τοὺς δημοσίους ἢ ἰδιωτικούς ὀργανισμούς. Μία ἀπλή ἐπίσκεψή σας στὴν ἰστοσελίδα τους (<https://archons.org>) ἀποκαλύπτει ἓναν ἀπίστευτο ἀριθμὸ ἀπὸ πρωτοβουλίες καὶ δράσεις ποὺ ἔχουν θετικὸ ἀντίκτυπο γιὰ τὴν Ἐκκλησία μας στὴν Ἀμερικὴ καὶ γιὰ τὴ διάδοση τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου. Οἱ Ἄρχοντες ἀσκοῦν παγκόσμια ἐπιρροή, ποὺ ἐπεκτείνεται τόσο στὴν Ἑλλάδα, ὅσο καὶ σὲ ὅλες τὶς ἐπαρχίες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Θρόνου, γιὰ τὴν προώθηση τῆς θρησκευτικῆς ἐλευθερίας, ἀναγνωρίζοντας καὶ τιμώντας ἐνάρετους ἡγέτες ποὺ προωθοῦν τὰ ἀνθρώπινα δικαιώματα, μέσω τοῦ ἐτήσιου βραβείου ἀνθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων «Πατριάρχης Ἀθηνᾶς». Πράγματι, «εἰς τὰ πέρατα τῆς οἰκουμένης ἐξῆλθον τὰ ῥήματα αὐτῶν»!

Πολλὲς κοινότητές μας ἔχουν μέλη ποὺ εἶναι Ἄρχοντες. «Ἄρχων» εἶναι ἓνα ὀφρῖκιο ἢ ἀξίωμα, τὸ ὁποῖο ἐγκρίνεται προσωπικὰ ἀπὸ τὸν ἴδιον τὸν Παναγιώτατο Οἰκουμενικὸ Πατριάρχη. Αὐτὴ τὴν Κυριακὴ, κατὰ τὴν ὁποία τιμοῦμε καὶ ἀναγνωρίζουμε τὰ μέλη τοῦ Τάγματος τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέα, δηλαδὴ τοὺς Ἄρχοντες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, ἄς δεσμευθοῦμε νὰ στρατευθοῦμε μαζί τους γιὰ τὴν υπεράσπιση τῶν δικαιωμάτων τῆς Μεγάλης τοῦ Χριστοῦ Ἐκκλησίας. Εἴμαστε ὅλοι μας τέκνα τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, καὶ ἐκφράζουμε τὴν ἐκτίμηση καὶ τὴν εὐγνωμοσύνη μας πρὸς τοὺς ἐξαιρετικούς καὶ ἀφοσιωμένους Ἄρχοντες, γιὰ ὅλα ὅσα ἐπιτυγχάνουν ἐκ μέρους της. Εὐχομαί νὰ ζήσουν ἔτη πολλὰ, μὲ υγεία καὶ πνευματικὴ εὐημερία.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

+ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐπιδοφόρος



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 399/2024

**Archepiscopal Encyclical for Archon Sunday
The Feast of Saint Andrew the First-Called Disciple**

November 30, 2024

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Their sound has gone forth unto all the earth, and the words unto the ends of the oikoumene.

(Psalm 18:4, LXX)

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

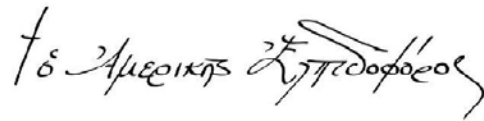
By unanimous decision of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Sacred Archdiocese of America, the honorable and most esteemed Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is to be recognized yearly for the Feast of their Celestial Patron, Saint Andrew the Apostle and First-Called Disciple of the Lord. This year, the commendation of our beloved Order of Archons will occur on Sunday, December 1, with the reading of this first-ever Encyclical.

The Order of Saint Andrew is a venerable organization dedicated to the defense and protection of our Venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate; but it is also so

much more. The Archons represent the interests of the Mother Church and our Archdiocese in all manner of public and private forums. A visit to their website (<https://archons.org>) would reveal an incredible number of initiatives that impact the Church in America in positive, Christ-affirming ways. The Archons exercise a worldwide reach that extends to Greece and the Eparchies of the Ecumenical Throne to promote religious freedom around the globe, and recognize virtuous, humanitarian leadership through the annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Indeed, their voices are heard throughout the oikoumene!

Many of our parishes have members who are Archons, an office (*offikion*) that is personally approved and bestowed by His All-Holiness himself. On this Sunday, when we take time to show our respect and esteem for the Archons of our Church who are the Members of the Order of Saint Andrew, let us resolve to stand with them in their spiritual phalanx in defense of the Holy Great Church of Christ. We are all sons and daughters of the Mother Church of Constantinople, and we express our gratitude and appreciation to Her brave and devoted Archons for all that they accomplish on Her behalf. May they enjoy many years of health and spiritual prosperity!

With paternal love in Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 399/2024

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος για την Κυριακή τῶν Ἀρχόντων.

30 Νοεμβρίου 2024

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρους καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἀρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὀργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν καὶ εἰς τὰ πέρατα τῆς οἰκουμένης τὰ ῥήματα αὐτῶν» (Ψαλμὸς 18:4).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Μὲ ὁμόφωνη ἀπόφαση τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἐπαρχιακῆς Συνόδου τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς μας, τὸ ἐξαιρετικὸ Τάγμα τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέα τῶν Ἀρχόντων τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, ἀναγνωρίζεται καὶ τιμᾶται ἐτησίως κοντὰ στὴν ἑορτὴ τοῦ προστάτου του, Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέα τοῦ Πρωτοκλήτου, ἀποστόλου καὶ μαθητοῦ τοῦ Κυρίου μας. Αὐτὸ τὸ ἔτος, ἡ ἐπαινετὴ ἀναγνώριση τοῦ προσφιλοῦς Τάγματος τῶν Ἀρχόντων πραγματοποιεῖται σήμερα, Κυριακὴ 1 Δεκεμβρίου ἐ.έ, μὲ τὴν ἐξαπόλυση τῆς παρούσης πρώτης ἐγκυκλίου.