

**St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church**  
**December 8, 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](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. Fr. Symeon Williams**  
[frsymeon@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto:frsymeon@saintsophiachurch.org)  
Metropolis of New Jersey



December 8, 2024

10th Sunday of Luke

Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos

Patapius the Righteous of Thebes

Sosthenes, Apollo, Cephas, Tychikos, Epaphroditos, Caesar, & Onesiphoros,  
Apostles of the 70



### ENTRANCE HYMNS

#### Resurrectional Apolytikion – Katelisas to Stavro (“By Thy Cross Destroyed”)

*O Death didst Thou destroy by Thy Cross. Thou opened Paradise to the Thief and the laments of the myrrhbearers didst Thou change and to Thine own Apostles command them to announce that Thou had risen O Christ our God, Who gives to the World Thy Great Mercy.*

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

##### Greek

*Ὁς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καί προσήγαγες Χριστῷ καρπὸν ἡ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δι’ α γώνων εὐαγῶν, 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 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.*

Are you a high school junior or senior?

# Fill Your Summer With What Counts

**CROSSROAD INSTITUTE**

**EXPLORE WHAT'S NEXT**

**Application Deadlines**  
Priority: January 21, 2025  
Regular: February 18, 2025

**Four Sessions**  
Session 1 | Boston June 7-17  
Session 2 | Boston June 21-July 1  
Session 3 | New York July 5-15  
Session 4 | SoCal July 20-30

CrossRoad is a ten-day immersive summer program designed for **YOU** as you prepare to make big life decisions and start new adventures.

By connecting with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way, you will find a place to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.

APPLY TODAY:  
[CrossRoadInstitute.org](https://www.CrossRoadInstitute.org)



**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](mailto: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!**

**Operation Christmas Spirit**

**The St. Sophia Philoptochos has selected Orion Communities in Phoenixville for our 2024 Christmas Charity. Orion offers hope for individuals and families experiencing hardship due to poverty, disability or illness by building bridges that lead to self-reliance while working towards social justice for all.**

**We are collecting gift card donations towards this local worthy charity. Please mail gift cards to church or drop in the designated box located in the Fr. John A. Limberakis Cultural Center by 12/15. For more information visit [www.orioncommunities.org](http://www.orioncommunities.org).**

**GIFT CARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Giant, Acme, Redners, Walmart, Target or Wawa**

## Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

*The Lord will give strength to his people.*

*Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.*

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 2:14-22 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

*Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.*

*Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.*

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστός ἐστιν ἡ εἰρήνη ἡμῶν, ὁ ποιήσας τὰ ἀμφότερα ἓν, καὶ τὸ μεσότοιχον τοῦ φραγμοῦ λύσας, τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν τῇ σαρκί αὐτοῦ, τὸν νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασιν, καταργήσας· ἵνα τοὺς δύο κτίσῃ ἐν ἑαυτῷ εἰς ἓνα καινὸν ἄνθρωπον, ποιῶν εἰρήνην, καὶ ἀποκαταλλάξῃ τοὺς ἀμφοτέρους ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀποκτείνας τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν αὐτῷ· καὶ ἔλθων εὐηγγελίσατο εἰρήνην ὑμῖν τοῖς μακρὰν καὶ τοῖς ἐγγύς· ὅτι δι' αὐτοῦ ἔχομεν τὴν προσαγωγὴν οἱ ἀμφοτέροι ἐν ἐνὶ πνεύματι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. Ἄρα οὖν οὐκέτι ἐστὲ ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι, ἀλλὰ συμπολίται τῶν ἁγίων καὶ οἰκεῖοι τοῦ θεοῦ, ἐποικοδομηθέντες ἐπὶ τῷ θεμελίῳ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ προφητῶν, ὄντος ἀκρογωνιαίου αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ᾧ πᾶσα οἰκοδομὴ συναρμοσμένη αὖξει εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν κυρίῳ, ἐν ᾧ καὶ ὑμεῖς συνοικοδομεῖσθε εἰς κατοικητήριον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν πνεύματι.

**GOSPEL READING**  
**The Gospel According to Luke 13:10-17**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ**

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 13:10-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἦν δὲ διδάσκων ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἔξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραάμ οὖσαν, ἣν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

**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".



*Save the Date*

**JANUARY 5**  
**FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY**

**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE**  
**SAINT BASIL ACADEMY - GARRISON, NY**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2025**

**TRIVIA**  
**NITE**

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

## 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*

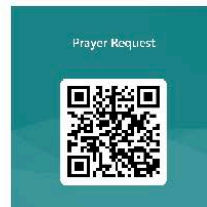
*"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22*

*"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](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 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

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY  
VOTING ENDS AT 1 PM  
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Parish Council Elections will take place **TODAY** immediately following the Divine Liturgy and will conclude at **1:00 pm**. The elections will take place **behind the Pipe & Drape** in the main hall of the Fr. John A. Limberakis Cultural Center.

This year 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 and on the Voter Sign-In tables in the Cultural Center.** It 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.

**All stewards in good standing are invited to vote.** Under the rules of the Uniform Parish Regulations, only stewards in good standing can participate in voting. You must be Orthodox Christian and in financial good standing with the Parish.

**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 Parish website. In addition, by whatever method you pay, 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. Payments may also be made using PayPal or Venmo ([www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch](http://www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch)). Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office, or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson.

**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.

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

**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 Kerxhalli,  
[orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com](http://orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com)

## *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*

### **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 8, 2024  
10th Sunday of Luke  
Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos  
Patapius the Righteous of Thebes  
Sosthenes, Apollo, Cephas, Tychikos, Epaphroditos, Caesar, & Onesiphoros,  
Apostles of the 70



**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.

**AHEPA Track Meet Trophies:** Trophies will be distributed to our parishioners who participated in the AHEPA Pan-Hellenic Track and Field Meet, which was held on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

**Memorial:** Today's memorial is chanted for the soul of **Archdeacon Euripides "Rip" Christulides**, (1 year), loving husband of the late Mary; father of Elpi (David) Altum and the late Fr. George (Rozalia) Christulides; grandfather of Mary (John) Ellison, Thespina Christulides, Christopher (Tori) Altum; great-grandfather of Elpi and James Ellison. May his memory be eternal.

**Coffee Hour:** Thank you to Chris & Tori Altum and family for offering today's coffee hour in memory of Papou Euripides Christulides.

**Vesper Service:** On **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a Vesper service in church at **5:00 pm** (instead of adult catechism). The next catechism is scheduled for **Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm** (in the church hall). **ALL** are invited and encouraged to attend!

**Mortgage Reduction:** Our mortgage balance is down to \$487,000! To take full advantage of the \$100,000 match and reduce our mortgage balance below \$400,000, we only have until December 31st to collect the remaining **\$16,000**. Please consider a Mortgage Reduction contribution to help us meet the generous matching offer.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive – 1000 lb. Challenge:** As of November 28<sup>th</sup>, we donated a total of **2,028 lbs.** of food!!! Thank you to everyone who donated! A special shout out to parishioners **Andy and Angie Kamaratos**, who made a particularly generous donation of food! Donated food was brought to Phoenixville Area Community Services as well as Daily Bread Pantry in Collegeville.



There's still time to donate food to help the many families who struggle every day to put food on their tables. Please place your donations on the table in the lobby of the Cultural Center or in the bin located in the alcove **OUTSIDE of the OFFICE ENTRANCE**.

The food drive continues through Theophany.



**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 TODAY, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Pickup is December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**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.

**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, by whatever method you pay, 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.





**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**

### SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sat. Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke Parish Council Elections after Divine Liturgy
	12:15 pm	Greek school (adults)
Wed. Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	JOY/HOPE Meeting
Thurs. Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
	4:30 pm	Greek school (children)
Sat. Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	<b>Great Vespers</b>
Sun. Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke
	12:15 pm	Greek school (adults)
Thurs. Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 pm	Greek school (children)
Sat. Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <b>Sunday before Nativity</b> Christmas Pageant followed by Youth Ministries Christmas Party
	12:15 pm	Greek School (adults)
Tues. Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve Morning)	8:00 am 10:00 am	Orthros; Great Hours Great Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Tues. Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve Evening)	8:00 pm	Orthros; Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Wed. Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Day - <b>Merry Christmas!</b> - <b>Καλά Χριστούγεννα!</b> No Services Today
Sun. Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday after Nativity No Sunday school; No Adult Greek school

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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*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



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of New Jersey

**10th Anniversary Gala**  
in Honor of the Episcopal Ordination of  
His Eminence  
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

**Monday, January 13, 2025**  
**5:30 P.M. Cocktail Hour**  
**6:30 P.M. Dinner**

**The Venetian**  
**546 River Drive, Garfield, NJ 07026**

**Tickets.....\$160.00 per person**

For more information contact the Metropolis at  
908-301-0500 or Email [10thAnniversaryNJ@gmail.com](mailto:10thAnniversaryNJ@gmail.com)

For Sponsorships, please complete and submit the  
Sponsorship Form

All ticket purchases and sponsorships are due by January 3, 2025

**Sponsorship Program Levels of Support**

Sponsor.....	\$1,250
	2 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program
Supporter.....	\$2,500
	4 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program
Patron.....	\$5,000
	6 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program
Benefactor.....	\$10,000
	10 Tickets for Dinner, Listing in Program
Grand Benefactor.....	\$20,000
	10 Tickets for Dinner, Full Program Insert

All net proceeds from sponsorships and tickets for the 10th Anniversary Gala  
will be restricted to solely benefit the Sacred Ministries of the Metropolis of New Jersey



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

In Honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of  
His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

## SPONSORSHIP FORM

Checks are to be made payable to the "Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey - Ministry" and sent together with this form to the Metropolis of New Jersey, Attn: 10th Anniversary Sponsorship, 215 E. Grove Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 For more information contact 908-301-0500 or [10thAnniversarynj@gmail.com](mailto:10thAnniversarynj@gmail.com). All Sponsorships must be submitted by Friday, January 3, 2025.

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

All Sponsorships Include a Listing in the Commemorative Program Booklet

<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Benefactor
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000.00	\$ \$20,000.00
+ 2 Tickets	+ 4 Tickets	+ 6 tickets	+ 10 Tickets.	+ 10 Tickets & Full Program Insert

## SPONSOR INFORMATION

Individual, Parish or Organization Name (As you wish to be listed in the Program Booklet)

Parish Name

Parish City & State

Sponsor Contact Phone #

Sponsor Contact Email

## TABLE FORM

Please fill out the full names of individuals using the tickets included with the Sponsorship Level

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_