

December 24, 2024

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

PLEASE keep in mind that our fixed costs are still ever present.
We hope you can help us with an online donation. You can give by going to our website,
www.saintsophiachurch.org and clicking on the "Donate" button.



You can also donate using Venmo! Just search in Venmo or click www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch

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



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

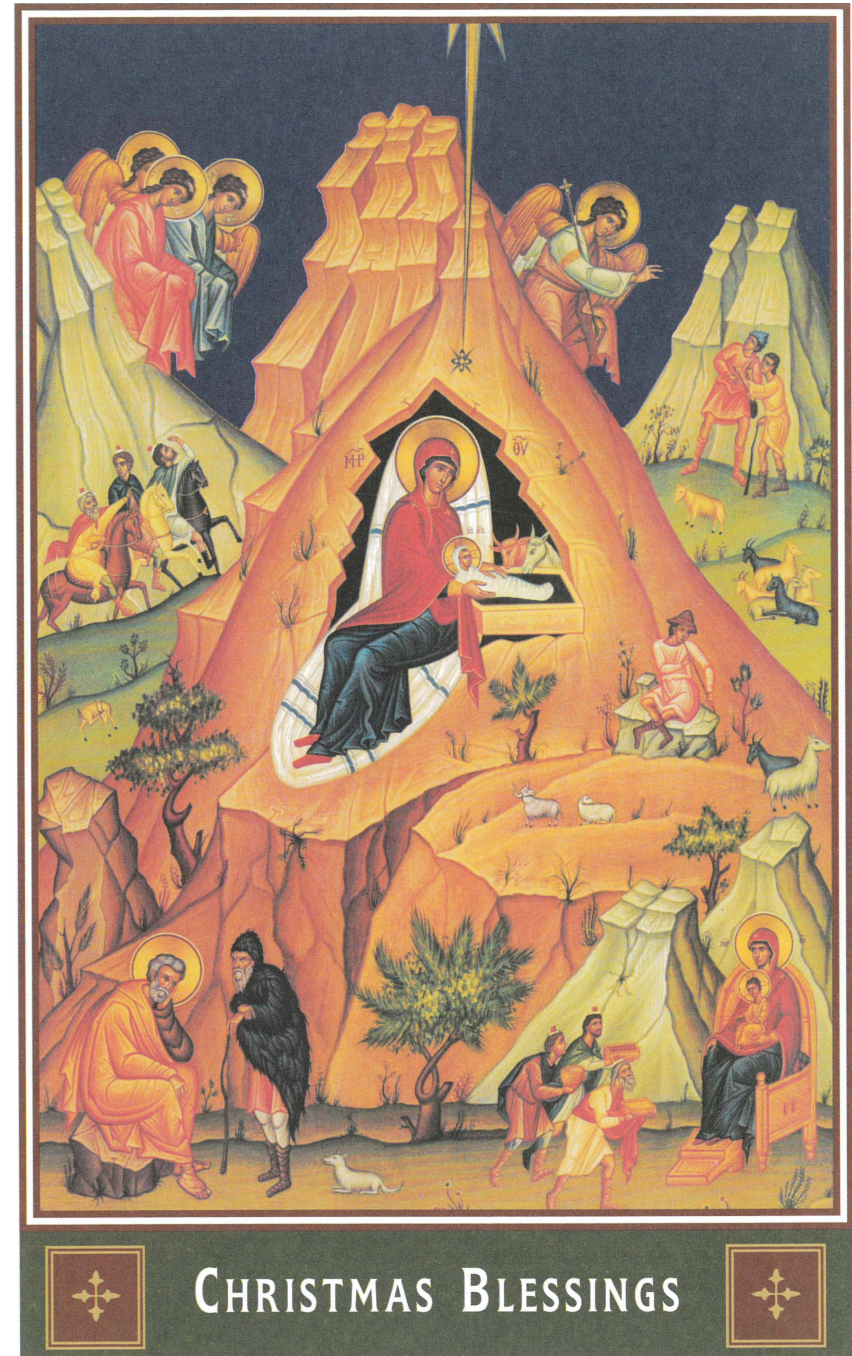
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Jeffersonville, PA, 19403

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

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

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



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Vigil

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, & Balthasar
The Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were
watching their flocks and came to see the Lord



This evening's service consists of
Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

ENTRANCE HYMNS

Apolytikion for the Nativity – I Ghennisis sou, Christe (“Your Nativity, O Christ”)

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. 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 ἠδύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δί' α γώνων εὐάγων, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθ' ὧν 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.

Kontakion for the Nativity – I Parthenos simeron ton iperousion tiktī (“On this day the Virgin gives birth to the Super-essential.

*On this day the Virgin gives *birth to the Super-essential. * To the Unapproachable, * earth is providing the grotto. * Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. * Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. * He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.*

Super Bowl Food Fundraiser
FEBRUARY 9, 2025

**Order Trays of your
Favorite Greek Food**

**Gyro - Pita Chips w/ Tzatziki - Dolmades
Greek Salad - Spanakopita - Baklava**



Scan QR Code for Order Form

Pickup at the St. Sophia Hall between 11 AM - 2 PM

Send Order Forms to Alex Tsioulfaidis - ALEXT9477@GMAIL.COM

MORE INFO: Contact Alex Tsioulfaidis

JOIN US!

Holy Theophany - **Monday, January 6, 2025**

9:00 am - Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Followed by Great Agiasmos & Blessing of the Schuylkill River
(at Betzwood Park), weather permitting.



2025 Ecclesiastical Calendars: To save the Parish resources, 2025 Church calendars are available for pickup in the Narthex of the church and on the table outside of the Parish office. The calendars are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. We respectfully request that each stewarding family take only 1 calendar per household. Thank you!

EPISTLE READING

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7

Let all the earth worship you, and sing praises to you.

Verse: Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

BRETHREN, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Γαλάτας 4.4-7

*Πᾶσα ἡ γῆ προσκυνησάτωσάν σοι καὶ ψαλάτωσάν σοι.
Στίχ. Ἀλαλάξατε τῷ Κυρίῳ πᾶσα ἡ γῆ.*

Ἀδελφοί, ὅτε δὲ ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικός, γενόμενον ὑπὸ νόμον, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον ἐξαγοράσῃ, ἵνα τὴν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπολάβωμεν. Ὅτι δὲ ἐστε υἱοί, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὰς καρδίας ἡμῶν, κρᾶζον, Ἀββα ὁ πατήρ. Ὡστε οὐκέτι εἶ δοῦλος ἀλλὰ υἱός· εἰ δὲ υἱός, καὶ κληρονόμος διὰ θεοῦ.

GOSPEL READING

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
The Reading is from Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



2024 Stewardship Program: Thank you to everyone who has supported our 2024 Stewardship Program. If you have not yet returned your 2024 Stewardship Commitment Form, please do so today! Forms are available at the Pangari.

If you have not yet finished paying your pledge, please do so before the end of the year so that your payment is posted in 2024. In addition, by whichever method you make your payment (cash, check, PayPal, Zelle, Venmo), it is imperative that you indicate "Stewardship 2024" with your name so that your account is properly credited.

Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson. The 2025 campaign will be starting shortly, so it is imperative that we are able to finalize our stewardship rolls for this year. Thank you!



ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS
PRESENTS

ΕΒΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 2.1-12



BREAKFAST

JAN 5

FOLLOWING
DIVINE LITURGY

\$12

DONATION

**BELGIAN WAFFLE - SCRAMBLED EGGS
YOGURT - FRUIT CUP - MUFFIN
COFFEE - JUICE - MILK**

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT MARIA PAPADIMITRIOU - MARIA@PAPAD5.COM**

Τοῦ Ἰησοῦ γεννηθέντος ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἐν ἡμέραις Ἑρῳδου τοῦ βασιλέως, ἰδοὺ μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμαλέγοντες, Ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; εἶδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ καὶ ἦλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτῷ. Ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς Ἑρῳδης ἐταράχθη καὶ πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα μετ' αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναγαγὼν πάντας τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ γραμματεῖς τοῦ λαοῦ ἐπυνθάνετο παρ' αὐτῶν ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς γεννᾶται. Οἱ δὲ εἶπαν αὐτῷ, Ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας· οὕτως γὰρ γέγραπται διὰ τοῦ προφήτου· Καὶ σύ, Βηθλεὲμ γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ἐλαχίστη εἶ ἐν τοῖς ἡγεμόσιν Ἰούδα· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἐξελεύσεται ἡγούμενος, ὅστις ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαὸν μου τὸν Ἰσραήλ. Τότε Ἑρῳδης λάθρα καλέσας τοὺς μάγους ἠκρίβωσεν παρ' αὐτῶν τὸν χρόνον τοῦ φαινομένου ἀστέρος, καὶ πέμψας αὐτοὺς εἰς Βηθλεὲμ εἶπεν, Πορευθέντες ἐξετάσατε ἀκριβῶς περὶ τοῦ παιδίου· ἐπὶ δὲ εὐρητε ἀπαγγείλατέ μοι, ὅπως κἀγὼ ἐλθὼν προσκυνήσω αὐτῷ. Οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπορεύθησαν, καὶ ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστήρ ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ προῆγεν αὐτοὺς ἕως ἐλθὼν ἐστάθη ἐπάνω οὗ ἦν τὸ παιδίον. Ἰδόντες δὲ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐχάρησαν χαρὰν μεγάλην σφόδρα. Καὶ ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν εἶδον τὸ παιδίον μετὰ Μαρίας τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πεσόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνοίξαντες τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν. Καὶ χρηματισθέντες κατ' ὄναρ μὴ ἀνακάμψαι πρὸς Ἑρῳδην, δι' ἄλλης ὁδοῦ ἀνεχώρησαν εἰς τὴν χώραν αὐτῶν.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S AND THEOPHANY SERVICES ARE LISTED ON A SEPARATE SCHEDULE.

Thurs. Jan. 2 nd		No Greek School for Children
Sat. Jan. 4 th	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Jan. 5 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy; Great Agiasmos Eve of Theophany Sunday School resumes; NO Adult Greek School
Wed. Jan. 8 th	5:30 pm	HOPE & JOY – Lesson led by Fr. Symeon
Thurs. Jan. 9 th	4:30 pm	Greek School (children)
Sun. Jan. 12 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday after Theophany Philoptochos Belgian Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser
	12:15 pm	Greek School (adults)
Thurs. Jan. 16 th	4:30 pm	Greek School (children)
Sun. Jan. 19 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12th Sunday of Luke
	12:15 pm	Greek School (adults)
Thurs. Jan. 23 rd	4:30 pm	Greek School (children)

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, January 4, 2025**. ALL are invited and encouraged to attend!

Mortgage Reduction: Our mortgage balance is down to \$479,000! 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 **\$9,000**. Please consider a Mortgage Reduction contribution to help us meet the generous matching offer.



Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

Services for Christmas

Christmas Eve Morning – Tuesday, 12/24/24
8:00 am Orthros; Great Hours

10:00 am Great Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Christmas Eve Evening – Tuesday, 12/24/24
8:00 pm Orthros

9:00 pm Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Christmas Day, Wednesday, 12/25/24
Merry Christmas! - Καλά Χριστούγεννα!
No Services Today

Sunday, 12/29/24

Sunday after Nativity

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
No Sunday school; No Greek school

Services for New Year's & Theophany

New Year's Day, Wednesday, 1/1/25

Happy New Year! - Καλή πρωτοχρονιά!

PLEASE NOTE LATER START TIME FOR TODAY'S SERVICES

Feast of St. Basil the Great

9:45 am Orthros; 11:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Friday, January 3, 2025

8:45 am Orthros; Great Hours

Sunday, 1/5/25 – Eve of Theophany

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Great Agiasmos

Monday, January 6, 2025 – Holy Theophany

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Great Agiasmos

Blessing of the Schuylkill River

(at Betzwood Park), weather permitting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Blessing of the Homes at Theophany

If you wish to have your homes and/or businesses blessed after the Feast of Theophany, please call the Parish office **beginning January 8th** to schedule a visitation.