

St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church
January 5, 2025



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



January 5, 2025
Sunday before Epiphany
Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas
Righteous Syncletike of Alexandria

ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Efrenesthō ta Ourania (“Let the Heavens Above Rejoice”)

Let the heavens above rejoice, and all those here on the earth, on the earth, be glad. A mighty feat of strength has been wrought by the arm of the Lord. O Death has he trampled down with his own death. First-born among the dead has He become, from the womb of Hades has He delivered us and has granted to the world His Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for the Forefeast – Apestrefeto pote (Jordan River once turned back”)

*Jordan River once turned back when Elisha struck its stream * with his mantle in the wake of Elias's ascent; * and the water was parted to the one side and to the other. * And thus the fluid stream became a dry way for him, * a symbol and truly a type of Baptism, * by which we now pass over the streaming passage of the present life. * And Christ appeared at the Jordan River * to sanctify the waters.*

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

Greek

Ὁς ελαία κατὰ καρπὸς ἀνεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνταῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καὶ προσήγαγες Χριστῷ καρπὸν ἠδύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, διὰ γόνων εὐάγων, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθὼν δυσώπει ὑπὲρ πάντων ἡμῶν.

English Phonetics for Greek

Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyriou Sofia martys semni, ke prosigages Christō 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 – En tis rithris simeron (“Today in the running waters of the Jordan”)

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

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 between 11 AM - 2 PM
Fr. John. A. Limberakis Cultural Center**

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

MORE INFO: Contact Alex Tsioulfaidis

ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

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.



Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

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

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

GOSPEL READING The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 1:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἴδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἑτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφύν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἰκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

January Poor Box Donations Thank you for considering a gift!

Please consider supporting the philanthropic outreach of our Church through the Philoptochos Poor Box located in the Pangari. Each month 100% of the donations are designated to a specific charitable organization selected by Philoptochos.

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box in January will be provided to **Good Works, Inc.**, a Chester County nonprofit that repairs homes for low income families at no cost. You can learn more about this worthwhile organization at www.goodworksinc.org. Please remember In your prayers those who are in the care of and who work for Good Works, Inc.

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".



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!

VASILOPITA BRUNCH

ΠΑΡΕΑ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΤΟ
SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH
AT 11AM | \$40 pre-sale

hosted by:



co-collaborators:



MONA PHILADELPHIA
1308 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA



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-fi-e-men tis o-fi-lé-tes i-món ke
mi i-se-nég-kis i-más is
pi-ras-món, al-la rí-se i-más a-pó
tou po-ni-roú.

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



His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
Cordially invites all the dedicated Faithful
of the Delaware Valley Region to the Annual

Greek Letters Day Celebration

Honoring the Three Hierarchs of our Orthodox Church



St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory the Theologian

Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 4:00 pm

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

229 Powell Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19082

Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 610-352-7212

by January 17, 2025

Orthodox Christians at the National March for Life Friday, January 24, 2025



A group of Orthodox Christians from various communities will attend the National March for Life in Washington, DC, this year on Friday, January 24. A bus taking a local group will leave from St. Sophia at 7:30 am and will return in the evening. There is no cost to go, thanks to a generous donor!

When: Friday, January 24, 2025 – departing at 7:30 am and arriving back in the evening

Where: Meet at St. Sophia for a day trip to Washington, DC

Cost: FREE!

Why: Join Orthodox Christians from around the country to pray the Service of Supplication for the End to Abortion, at the National Mall, led by Orthodox Hierarchs.

SEATING IS LIMITED! Please contact John Pogas to reserve your spot.
johnpogas@gmail.com -- 215-896-1963 (cell)

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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The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas
Righteous Syncletike of Alexandria



St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Vigil Candle: If you are interested in sponsoring a vigil candle, please see a Parish Council member at the Pangari – no advance signup necessary and several individuals or families can sponsor each week. The proceeds of these donations will go to our Mortgage Reduction Fund. Each vigil candle lasts one week; the asking donation is \$10.

Cutting of the Vasilopita: This morning Fr. Symeon will bless and cut the Vasilopita in the Fr. John A. Limberakis Cultural Center, followed by the blessing of the food.

St. Basil's Academy Fundraising Breakfast: Each year, the local chapters of the National Philoptochos Society hold an event in January to raise funds for the operating expenses of St. Basil's Academy. Please join the Ladies' Philoptochos Society **TODAY** for St. Basil's Belgian Waffle Breakfast in the New Year!

Mortgage Reduction Campaign: *We did it!* Our Mortgage Reduction Campaign raised \$133,712.11 in 2024, which secured us an anonymous matching gift of \$100,000. Along with our regular payments, our mortgage, which started in April 2012 at \$1,550,000, was reduced from \$654,115.57 on January 1, 2024 to \$329,426.20 on January 1, 2025. Thank you to our Stewards and friends who participated in 2024, and please help us continue to reduce the mortgage to \$0 in the near future.

Stewardship Program: Thank you to everyone who supported our 2024 Stewardship Program. If you have not yet finished paying your pledge, please do so now. 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 last year. Thank you!

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.

JOIN US!
Holy Theophany
Monday, January 6, 2025

8:45 am – Orthros

10:00 am – Divine Liturgy of

St. Basil the Great

and

Great Agiasmos

followed by

Blessing of the Schuylkill River

(at Betzwood Park),

weather permitting



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

Blessing of the Homes at Theophany: If you wish to have your homes and/or businesses blessed after the Feast of Theophany, please contact the Parish office beginning January 8th to schedule a visitation (office@saintsophiachurch.org or 610-650-8960.)

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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 Philoptochos Belgian Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser
Mon. Jan. 6 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great Holy Theophany Great Agiasmos; Blessing of the Schuylkill River (at Betzwood Park), weather permitting
Tues. Jan. 7 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
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
	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 12 th Sunday of Luke
	12:15 pm	Greek School (adults)
Thurs. Jan. 23 rd	4:30 pm	Greek School (children)

ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS
PRESENTS



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@PAPADS.COM

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).



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!



ST. SOPHIA SUPER BOWL GYRO LUNCH

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Immediately following Divine Liturgy

See Super Bowl Catering Menu for Other Greek Favorites

[Super Bowl Food Fundraiser](#) | [Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church](#)