

St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church
January 12, 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 12, 2025
Sunday after Epiphany
Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
Tatiana the Martyr of Rome
Basil and John the Hieromartyrs



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Apolytikion for Post-Theophany – En Iordhani (“As You were baptized”)

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

Resurrectional Apolytikion – To Fedhron Tis Anastaseos (“The Joyful News of Your Resurrection”)

The joyful news of your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with his great mercy.

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

Greek

Ὁς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνταῖς 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 – Epefanis simeron (“On this day You have appeared”)

*You appeared today to us * on earth, O Master, * and Your light was signed on us * who cry aloud to You and say * with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.*

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

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

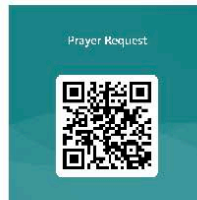
"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22

"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/rkMx49JdptM> **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 Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:7-13 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ λέγει, Ἀναβὰς εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δέ, Ἀνέβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτός ἐστιν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ· μέχρι καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:12-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλῶν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλῶν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθήμενος ἐν σκότειϊδε φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρᾳ καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρῦσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

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".



**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](#)



**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**

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
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
μη εἰσενέγκης ἡμᾶς εἰς
πειρασμόν, ἀλλά ῥύσαι 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-óú-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.

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

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)

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!

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@myisolutions.com. Thank you!

Godparen^t's Sunday February 2, 2025

Godparents and Godchildren are encouraged to come to church together to worship and receive Holy Communion



Plan to spend this day with your Godparents, Godchildren & Κουμπάροι, renewing your unity in Christ

Pick up an invitation from the Pangari or your child's classroom to invite their Godparent(s)

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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 Tatiana the Martyr of Rome
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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.

Memorial: Today's memorial is chanted for **Michael Culkin (40 days)**, beloved father of Megan (Alex) Lousos; **Yiayia Ekaterini (4 years)** and **Yiayia Irene (9 years)**, beloved grandmothers of Alex (Megan) Lousos; and several other members of the Lousos family who have fallen asleep in the Lord. May their memory be eternal.

Coffee Hour: Thank you to Alex and Megan Lousos for offering today's coffee hour in memory of their loved ones.

Parish Council Affirmation of Office: Today after the Divine Liturgy, we will have the Swearing-In Ceremony for the new Parish Council.

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!

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sat. Jan. 11 th	5:00 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Jan. 12 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
		Sunday after Theophany
	12:15 pm	Greek School (adults)
Wed. Jan. 15 th	5:00 pm	HOPE & JOY – Lesson led by Fr. Symeon
Thurs. Jan. 16 th	4:30 pm	Greek School (children)
Sat. Jan. 18 th	5:00 pm	Great Vespers
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)
Fri. Jan 24 th	7:30 am	National March for Life – depart St. Sophia at 7:30 am
	6:30 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall
Sun. Jan. 26 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
		15th Sunday of Luke
		Stewardship Appreciation Sunday
	12:15 pm	Greek School (adults)
	4:00 pm	Greek Letters Day Celebration at St. Demetrios, Upper Darby
Thurs. Jan 30 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
		Three Hierarchs
Fri. Jan 31 st	6:30 pm	Adult Catechism (led by Fr. Symeon) – in the church hall

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 to schedule a visitation (office@saintsophiachurch.org or 610-650-8960.)

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

January 26, 2025

Stewardship Appreciation Sunday

In appreciation for the tremendous support of our stewards,
 the Parish Council invites you to a complimentary luncheon on
Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately following Divine Liturgy.
 We hope you can join us in fellowship!

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

ST. SOPHIA PRESENTS

TRIVIA NITE

FEBRUARY 8, 2025

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM - TRIVIA BEGINS AT 6PM
REGISTRATION/PAYMENT DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 7th

\$25 per person
Coffee & Dessert Included - BYOB

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
900 S TROOPER RD, JEFFERSONVILLE, PA 19403

REGISTRATION DETAILS ON:
www.saintsophiachurch.org/trivianite

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Patrician Society
& receive a special raffle ticket