

**St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church**  
**February 23, 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](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





## 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*

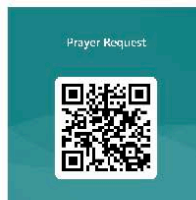
*"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22*

*"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.



## Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

*Great is our Lord, and great is his power.  
Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

## Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 8:8-13, 9:1-2 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

*Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἰσχὺς αὐτοῦ.  
Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.*

Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησιν τῷ θεῷ· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύομεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. Βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενοῦσιν. Ἐὰν γὰρ τις ἴδῃ σε τὸν ἔχοντα γινῶσιν ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακείμενον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οἰκοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθута ἐσθίειν; Καὶ ἀπολείται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῆι γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν; Οὕτως δὲ ἀμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς, καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν, εἰς Χριστὸν ἀμαρτάνετε. Διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος; Οὐκ εἰμι ἐλεύθερος; Οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν ἔώρακα; Οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ; Εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμι· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ.

**GOSPEL READING**  
**The Gospel According to Matthew 25:31-46**

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**February 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 February will be provided to the International Orthodox Christian Charities Emergency Response Network for its work in assisting those affected by the California fires. You can learn more about IOCC's efforts here: [www.IOCC.org](http://www.IOCC.org). In your prayers, please remember those suffering as a result of the devastation as well as the relief workers.

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".

**BETTER DAYS AHEAD**  
IN-NEED OUTREACH  
FOR SUBURBS & PHILADELPHIA

**FILL A BACKPACK DRIVE**

**Philoptochos is collecting items towards a backpack drive for Better Days Ahead of Phoenixville, PA.**






**For more information on this organization or to view donation needs, visit [www.saintsophiachurch.org/bda](http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/bda).**

**The deadline for donation dropoff is Saturday, March 22nd.**

**ASSEMBLED BACKPACKS WITH DONATED ITEMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO HOUSELESS INDIVIDUALS IN OUR AREA**

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 9th</b>	 <b>TRIDION WEEKS</b> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 16th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 23rd</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>MARCH 2nd</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <b>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</b> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 9th</b>	 <b>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</b> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 16th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 23rd</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <b>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</b> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 30th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 6th</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY <b>APRIL 13th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</b> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 18th</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <b>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</b> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 20th</b> NO FASTING!	 <b>BRIGHT WEEK</b> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

## ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 25:31-46 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅταν δὲ ἔλθῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι μετ' αὐτοῦ, τότε καθίσει ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναχθήσεται ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἀφοριεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ὡσπερ ὁ ποιμὴν ἀφορίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τῶν ἐρίφων, καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ, τὰ δὲ ἐρίφια ἐξ εὐωνύμων. τότε ἐρεῖ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ἐπείνασα γάρ, καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ περιεβάλετέ με, ἡσθένησα, καὶ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με, ἐν φυλακῇ ἦμην, καὶ ἤλθετε πρὸς με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ οἱ δίκαιοι λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα καὶ ἐθρέψαμεν, ἢ διψῶντα καὶ ἐποτίσαμεν; πότε δὲ σε εἶδομεν ξένον καὶ συνηγάγομεν, ἢ γυμνὸν καὶ περιεβάλομεν; πότε δὲ σε εἶδομεν ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ ἤλθομεν πρὸς σε; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐρεῖ αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. τότε ἐρεῖ καὶ τοῖς ἐξ εὐωνύμων· πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ. ἐπείνασα γάρ, καὶ οὐκ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ οὐκ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ οὐ περιεβάλετέ με, ἀσθενῆς καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ καὶ αὐτοὶ λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα ἢ διψῶντα ἢ ξένον ἢ γυμνὸν ἢ ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐ διηκονήσαμεν σοι; τότε ἀποκριθήσεται αὐτοῖς λέγων· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον οὐκ ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων, οὐδὲ ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

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



# ALTAR SERVER

# RETREAT

Led by His Eminence  
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 2 P.M.

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church  
900 S Trooper Road, Jeffersonville, PA 19403

[REGISTER HERE!](#)





# Interfaith Blood Drive

St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church  
and

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**1:30PM – 6:30PM**

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church – Hall  
900 S. Trooper Rd  
Norristown, PA 19403

Sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code:

**PAInterfaith**

SCAN TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT



Save lives and empower your health!

Give in March for a \$10 Gift Card by email & successful donations get A1C testing.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

©2019 The American National Red Cross

### 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 ρῦσαι 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-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](http://orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com)

## 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.*

St. Sophia Philoptochos

# PASTA CARNIVAL

SUN 12PM | MARCH 2ND  
AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

BAKED ZITI - SALAD - GARLIC BREAD  
DESSERT - BEVERAGE

\$12 DONATION





# PHILLY CHEESESTEAK LUNCH FEBRUARY 23

***Cheesesteak  
French Fries - Drink***  
**Only \$15**



**JOIN OUT LOCAL AHEPA CHAPTER  
FOR DETAILS**

**MATT STOLARCZYK mattstolarczyk@cs.com (215)740-8841**

**AHEPA THANKS YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

February 23, 2025

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

Polycarp the Holy Martyr & Bishop of Smyrna

Proterios, Archbishop of Alexandria

Gorgonia the Righteous, sister of Gregory the Theologian



**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 the souls of:

- ✘ **Andreas Tsipras (1 year)**, beloved father of Seraphim (Patricia) and papou to Alexandra and Jacob. He was predeceased by his wife Ekaterini and their son Demetrios. Andreas was survived also by his brothers Socratis (Ekaterini), Evangelos (Sofia), and Elias (Paraskevi); sisters, Roxani and Sofia (Vasilios); two sisters-in-law, Evridiki and Kalliope, and many nieces and nephews and their families. May his memory be eternal.
- ✘ **Melissa Anastasia Kourtidis (2 years)**, loving wife of Kiriakos and mother to Christos and Despina. She is also survived by her parents Lina and Alejandro, her brother Eric and wife Sue, nephew Brandon, her mother-in-law, Despina, sister-in-law and best friend Ourania, and her niece Christina and nephew Leandros. May her memory be eternal.

**Coffee Hour:** Thank you to the Kourtidis family for offering today's coffee hour (in memory of Melissa) in conjunction with Valley Forge AHEPA Chapter 432, who is having their annual Cheesesteak Lunch Fundraiser today.

**St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival:** The Parish Level of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will take place today immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

**Saturday of Souls:** The second Saturday of Souls is **Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Forms for the names of the departed are available at the Pangari (and attached). Please submit your names to the Parish office by February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. **Please DO NOT text the names or submit them via Facebook.** Please also remember your loved ones by not only submitting their names, but by making koliva and attending the holy services to offer your own prayers for their eternal rest. Please remember that the names you submit are read on all three Saturdays. Please **PRINT CLEARLY, AND ONLY BAPTISMAL FIRST NAMES ARE NECESSARY.**

**Readers for Salutations to the Theotokos:** The first Salutations to the Theotokos are on Friday evening, **March 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 pm.** We are looking for readers for the English and Greek for that Friday and the following four Fridays. **If you are interested in reading, please call the Parish office to put your name on the list.** Also, if you wish to decorate the icon of the Panagia with flowers on one of the Fridays, please call the Parish office to let us know which Friday you are choosing.

**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.

**The Choir is Looking for New Members:** Can you sing? Do you play piano? The choir is always 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 [tc Cox@mysolutions.com](mailto:tc Cox@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).

**SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

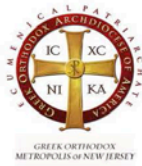
Fri. Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	Koliva class (in the Parish kitchen)
Sat. Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls #1
Sun. Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:00 pm 8:45 am	Vespers Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Judgment Sunday (Meatfare) Parish Oratorical Festival following Divine Liturgy AHEPA Cheesesteak Fundraiser
Thurs. Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 pm 4:30 pm	Greek School (Adults) Greek School (Children)
Sat. Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls #2
Sun. Mar. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) Philoptochos Fundraiser – Pasta Carnival
Mon. Mar. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:15 pm 5:00 pm	Greek School (Adults) Vespers of Forgiveness
Wed. Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Great Compline - <i>Great Lent Begins</i>
Thurs. Mar. 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Fri. Mar. 7 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Greek School (Children) Salutations to the Theotokos
Sat. Mar. 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm 8:45 am	Potluck & Lecture (in the church hall) Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls #3
Sun. Mar. 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday of Orthodoxy Daylight Saving Time Begins Stewardship Sunday
Mon – Wed., 3/10 – 3/12	12:15 pm 3:00 pm	Greek School (Adults) Youth Ministries Snow Tubing at Bear Creek Mountain Resort (If interested, see Kari Zarynow, Annie Voutsinas or Donna Christou)
Wed. Mar. 12 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Fr. Symeon Away - Metropolis Clergy Retreat Interfaith Blood Drive at St. Sophia Church (see flyer)
Thurs. Mar. 13 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 pm	Greek School (Children)
Fri. Mar. 14 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Salutations to the Theotokos Potluck & Lecture (in the church hall)
Sat. Mar. 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	District Oratorical Festival at Holy Trinity Church, Egg Harbor Township, NJ
Sun. Mar. 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy St. Gregory Palamas followed by Lenten Luncheon
Mon. Mar. 17 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Delaware Valley Altar Server Retreat at St. Sophia led by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
Wed. Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	Great Compline
Thurs. Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Fri. Mar. 21 <sup>st</sup>	4:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Greek School (Children) Salutations to the Theotokos Potluck & Lecture (in the church hall)

**MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN**

Following is the list of stewards and friends of St. Sophia who contributed to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign for January. **The total for January was \$3,792.**

We will continue to provide a monthly listing of Mortgage Reduction collections from the previous month.

- |                             |                                    |                               |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AHEPA Thermopylae           | Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kane             | Mr. Thomas A. Novitski, Jr.   |
| Mr. & Mrs. Chris Altum      | Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis         | Ms. Sophia Papadakes          |
| Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Bailey   | Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline              | Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou |
| Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bannon      | Mr. & Mrs. Leonidas N. Koletas     | Dr. & Mrs. Peter Patukas      |
| Mr. Roy Baulch              | Mrs. Effie Liacouras               | Ms. Katherine Tsipras         |
| Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diccianni | Mr. & Mrs. Edward McAdoo           | Mr. & Mrs. Socratis Tsipras   |
| Ms. Eleni Evangelopoulos    | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moses            | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vail       |
|                             | Mrs. Bessie Neofotistos            | Mr. & Mrs. Roger Witt         |
|                             | Dr. Marianne & Mr. Alexander Nikas |                               |



## 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](http://www.saintsophiachurch.org) E-mail: [office@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto:office@saintsophiachurch.org)

Rev. Fr. Symeon Williams, Proistamenos



### Announcing the Agape Society Planned Giving Program

#### Dear St. Sophia Stewards and Friends:

As we progress with our Strategic Planning process, we are excited to announce the launch of the St. Sophia planned giving program which we have named the **Agape Society**.

#### What is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving is a way that Stewards can make a lasting impact on the St. Sophia community by including the church in their estate plans with a meaningful gift after they fall asleep in the Lord. An easy way to do this is to name St. Sophia/Ss. Faith Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox church as a percentage beneficiary of a retirement account such as a 401(k) or IRA, or a life insurance policy. Another way is to include the Church in an Estate Plan.

#### What is an Estate Plan?

Estate planning is the process where you outline who gets your estate when you pass away in a planned manner to help with inheritance tax and other costs. Some of the tools used in estate planning are wills, trusts and related documents. It is something that everyone should do regardless of the size of the estate. You do not need to be rich to have an Estate Plan, but it is advisable to have an estate attorney assist you in creating Estate Plan documents. We are fortunate to have attorneys in our community who have volunteered to give estate planning advice free of charge to Stewards of St. Sophia to help us launch our Agape Society Planned Giving Program. Please contact the Church office for the current list of attorneys who support the program.

#### What is the Agape Society?

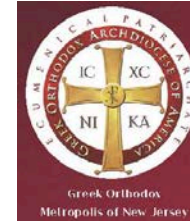
In addition to being the youngest daughter of St. Sophia and one of the martyred saints to which our Church is dedicated, *Agape* (Αγάπη) is also an ancient Greek word that means unconditional charitable love. What better way to show your unconditional charitable love for your Church than to participate in planned giving? Participants in this program will be acknowledged as a member of the Agape Society in church communications.

Please join us in the spirit of Agape and consider making a planned gift to ensure the long-term future of our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Symeon Williams  
Proistamenos

John Pogas  
Parish Council President



## Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

### Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 16, 2025  
9:00 A.M.

Ss. Sophia, Faith, Hope and Agape  
Greek Orthodox Church  
900 S Trooper Road  
Jeffersonville, PA 19403



## St. Sophia JOY/HOPE will be hosting



Your generous contributions will support A Baby's Breath. For those who prefer online shopping, scan the QR code below to access our Amazon Gift List. Items purchased will be shipped directly to the church OR items may be purchased and dropped off to our display in the lobby of the Fr. John A. Limberakis Cultural Center.

### KINDLY HELP US COLLECT:

- Diapers size: 4T, 5T, and 6T
- Boys and Girls Pants and Tops  
Size 6 months to 6 years
- Boys and Girls Spring/Summer Clothes  
Size 6 months to 6 years



The Baby Shower will run March 1st-31st. Our JOY/HOPE will drop off donations in early April. Thank you in advance for your support.



For questions, contact:  
Kari Zarynow kari0827@gmx.com  
Annie Voutsinas annie31p@gmail.com



ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS

Order by  
March 23  
Pickup  
April 12

# Tsoureki Sale

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each = Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_



Make checks payable to St. Sophia Philoptochos,  
pay with Zelle (ladies@saintsophiachurch.org) or Venmo



venmo