

HOLY THURSDAY is the day of the institution of the Last Supper. Most of the attention at the Church is focused on the evening service with the Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels. These contain the prayer of parting and the final address of Jesus to His apostles. It also contains the story of our Lord's arrest and trial, death and burial.



GOOD FRIDAY is a day of mourning. There is an aura of sadness, when little is eaten. Common joys are avoided. In Church, black coverings are on the altar. Sweet-smelling ointments are used. The winding-sheet, bearing the icon of the body replica of our Lord's tomb is set up. The service of Good Friday is a repetition of Christ's funeral. It is a burial service. Jesus has died. His body is taken from the cross and carried in procession around the church. It is finally placed in the tomb.

Lastly, SATURDAY is a day of anticipation and preparation. The faithful come to church to pray at the grave of our Lord, not unlike the visit they might make to a loved one who has died. They come to bid farewell, looking forward to the approaching brightness of Christ's Resurrection.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



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. Ekonomos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos

frpeter@saintsophiachurch.org
Metropolis of New Jersey



PREPARING FOR PASCHA

There is nothing that compares with the observance of PASSION WEEK. Both Church and home unite to reflect on the events that stir the soul. During these seven days, we re-live the suffering and death of our Lord.

PALM SUNDAY is a day of rejoicing. We proclaim that Jesus is King and welcome Him with the first flowers of Spring.

WEDNESDAY is the day Judas betrayed the Lord for 30 pieces of silver. What was the reason for this betrayal? No doubt Judas lost his faith in Christ and gave in to his greed. Beyond this, the enemies of the Lord had a need to get to Him when He was alone.



PASSION WEEK

April 28, 2024

Palm Sunday

The Holy Nine Martyrs of Cyzicus

John the Martyr of Romania ❖ Memnon the Wonderworker

ENTRANCE HYMNS

Apolytikion for the Feast - Tin Kinin Anastasin ("To confirm the general resurrection")

To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord."

Resurrectional Apolytikion - Sindafendes si ("We were buried with You")

We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the 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 ἢ δῦτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστοὺς, δι' ἀ 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 – To throno en ourano ("In heaven upon the throne")

*In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, * You were carried, O Christ our God; * and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, * "Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again."*

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

GRECIAN FESTIVAL 2024

May 30–June 2

Thursday to Sunday



- ✦ Music & Dance
- ✦ Indoor & Outdoor Dining
- ✦ Pick Up Available
- ✦ Same Great Food
- ✦ Made Locally by Volunteers

SaintSophiaFestival.com

Thursday to Saturday: 11am - 8pm
HOURS: Big Tent opens Fri. at 5pm
Sunday: 12 noon - 7pm

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 900 South Trooper Road, Jeffersonville PA 19403
From Rte 202, 422W to Trooper Road Exit (Rte 363N), on Right Side before Walmart

Project Mexico 2024



The photo above (on the left) shows Carlos, Lucera and their children standing in front of their new home. Prior to July 2023, they had to endure winters in a makeshift home that included a dirt floor. The photo on the right shows their sons celebrating the fact that they will not have to endure another winter of mud in their home during the winter rainy season.

Everything changed when we handed the keys to Carlos and his family. While they thanked us for the home, WE thanked them for opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and put our Faith in the Lord to work for this very beautiful family.

Our parish has once again committed to fielding a group of volunteers to help Project Mexico build a house for a needy family in Rosarito, Mexico. This deeply rewarding experience has now become a regular ministry for our Parish. Our team has committed to building a home from July 5 – 11, 2024, but we need your help. We have 7 people on our team and need at least 3 more. If you would like to learn more, join the team, or learn how you can help sponsor our team, please email John Pogas, the group leader, at johnpogas@gmail.com.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς

Πρὸς Φιλιππησίους 4:4-9 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.

Στίχ. Στίχ. Ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ ὅτι ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ

Ἀδελφοί, χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε· πάλιν ἐρῶ, χαίρετε. Τὸ ἐπιεικὲς ὑμῶν γνωσθήτω πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις. Ὁ κύριος ἐγγύς. Μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθε πρὸς τὸν θεόν. Καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἡ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν, φρουρήσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοήματα ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί, ὅσα ἐστὶν ἀληθῆ, ὅσα σεμνά, ὅσα δίκαια, ὅσα ἀγνά, ὅσα προσφιλή, ὅσα εὐφρημα, εἴ τις ἀρετὴ καὶ εἴ τις ἔπαινος, ταῦτα λογίζεσθε. Ἄ καὶ ἐμάθετε καὶ παρελάβετε καὶ ἠκούσατε καὶ εἶδετε ἐν ἐμοί, ταῦτα πράσσετε· καὶ ὁ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης ἔσται μεθ' ὑμῶν.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

April 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 Narthex. Each month 100% of the donations are designated for a local charity.

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box for April benefit Mitzvah Circle, which provides basic material goods, case management, coaching and referrals to those facing poverty, homelessness, serious illness, and difficult circumstances. They are located in Jeffersonville, near Walmart. You can learn more about Mitzvah Circle at www.mitzvahcircle.org. Please pray for those affected who are helped by Mitzvah Circle as well as those who work on their behalf.

Please consider donating to this worthwhile charity at:
<http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html> or submit a check payable to St. Sophia Philoptochos and indicate Poor Box on the memo line. God bless you!

HELP WANTED! We are looking for friendly, welcoming faces to be part of our Pangari Team. You do NOT need to be a member of the Parish Council to serve Pangari duty. What you do need to do is welcome fellow parishioners, make change when they purchase candles, help with passing the collection tray, etc. It's a great way to serve the Parish and to learn more about how the Parish operates as you'll be serving next to existing Parish Council members. If you are interested, then please reach out to either Elaine Piligian (Parish secretary) or John Pogas.

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!



 AHEPA Chapter 445 "Thermopylae" of Upper Darby, PA
James D. Tanos, - Theophilos Constantinidis

47th Annual

PAN-HELLENIC TRACK & FIELD MEET

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 - 10AM
RAIN DATE - SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 - 12 NOON

AGE 5 TO ADULT WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
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LOU CHRISTOU: 856-296-2255 christoulou69@gmail.com

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ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 12:1-18 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Πρὸ ἑξ ἡμερῶν τοῦ πάσχα ἦλθεν Ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς Βηθανίαν, ὅπου ἦν Λάζαρος ὁ τεθνηκώς, ὃν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν. ἐποίησαν οὖν αὐτῷ δεῖπνον ἐκεῖ, καὶ ἡ Μάρθα διηκόνει· ὁ δὲ Λάζαρος εἷς ἦν τῶν ἀνακειμένων σὺν αὐτῷ. ἡ οὖν Μαρία, λαβοῦσα λίτραν μύρου νάρδου πιστικῆς πολυτίμου, ἤλειψε τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἐξέμαξε ταῖς θριξίν αὐτῆς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ· ἡ δὲ οἰκία ἐπληρώθη ἐκ τῆς ὀσμῆς τοῦ μύρου. λέγει οὖν εἷς ἐκ τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, Ἰούδας Σίμωνος Ἰσκαριώτης, ὁ μέλλων αὐτὸν παραδιδόναι· διατί τοῦτο τὸ μύρον οὐκ ἐπράθη τριακοσίων δηναρίων καὶ ἐδόθη πτωχοῖς; εἶπε δὲ τοῦτο οὐχ ὅτι περὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ἔμελεν αὐτῷ, ἀλλ' ὅτι κλέπτῃς ἦν, καὶ τὸ γλωσσόκομον εἶχε καὶ τὰ βαλλόμενα ἐβάσταζεν. εἶπεν οὖν ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἄφες αὐτήν, εἰς τὴν ἡμέραν τοῦ ἐνταφιασμοῦ μου τετήρηκεν αὐτό. τοὺς πτωχοὺς γὰρ πάντοτε ἔχετε μεθ' ἑαυτῶν, ἐμὲ δὲ οὐ πάντοτε ἔχετε.

Ἔγνω οὖν ὄχλος πολὺς ἐκ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὅτι ἐκεῖ ἐστί, καὶ ἦλθον οὐ διὰ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον, ἀλλ' ἵνα καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον ἴδωσιν ὃν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν. ἐβουλεύσαντο δὲ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς ἵνα καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον ἀποκτείνωσιν, ὅτι πολλοὶ δι' αὐτὸν ὑπήγον τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ ἐπίστευον εἰς τὸν Ἰησοῦν.

Τῇ ἐπαύριον ὄχλος πολὺς ὁ ἐλθὼν εἰς τὴν ἑορτήν, ἀκούσαντες ὅτι ἔρχεται Ἰησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἔλαβον τὰ βαῖα τῶν φοινίκων καὶ ἐξῆλθον εἰς ὑπάντησιν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἔκραζον· ὠσαννά, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου, ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ. εὐρῶν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὄναριον ἐκάθισεν ἐπ' αὐτό, καθὼς ἐστί γεγραμμένον· μὴ φοβοῦ, θύγατερ Σιών· ἰδοὺ ὁ βασιλεὺς σου ἔρχεται καθήμενος ἐπὶ πῶλον ὄνου.

Ταῦτα δὲ οὐκ ἔγνωσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ τὸ πρῶτον, ἀλλ' ὅτε ἐδοξάσθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς, τότε ἐμνήσθησαν ὅτι ταῦτα ἦν ἐπ' αὐτῷ γεγραμμένα, καὶ ταῦτα ἐποίησαν αὐτῷ. Ἐμαρτύρει οὖν ὁ ὄχλος ὁ ὢν μετ' αὐτοῦ ὅτε τὸν Λάζαρον ἐφώνησεν ἐκ τοῦ μνημείου καὶ ἤγειρεν αὐτὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν. διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ὑπήνησεν αὐτῷ ὁ ὄχλος, ὅτι ἤκουσαν τοῦτο αὐτὸν πεποιθέναι τὸ σημεῖον.

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

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

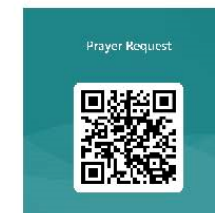
"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22

"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.





AN ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS FILM
SPONSORED BY GREEK AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

Film Screening and Panel Discussion

IN SUPPORT OF LIBERTY

PHILADELPHIA AND THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Eleftherios Kostans Director
Kostis Kourelis Historian/Consultant
Dr. Elias Anthony Iliadis President GAHSP



DATE: MAY 18, 2024 / TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
LOCATION: ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
900 S TROOPER RD, JEFFERSONVILLE, PA 19403

CONTACT: (610)-574-9873 OR (610) 650-8960

gahsp.org

SPONSORED BY: AHEPA POWER DISTRICT 4, CHAPTER # 432

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.

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.

GREEK

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς
 ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου,
 ἔλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,
 γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς
 ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν
 ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν
 σήμερον καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ
 ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς
 ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν καὶ
 μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς
 πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ
 τοῦ πονηροῦ.

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

PLEASE RSVP to mattstolarczyk@cs.com by Thursday, May 17th

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 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH/SS. FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE

SUNDAY - MAY 5th

Easter egg hunt



**12 NOON
- 1 PM**

**AFTER
AGAPE
SERVICE**

BRING YOUR FAVORITE BASKET & SNEAKERS

St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge
Jeffersonville, PA

Holy Week Service Schedule

2024



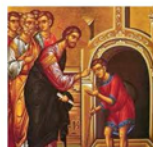
Saturday, April 27th – Saturday of Lazarus

8:45am Orthros; 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Pancake Breakfast after Liturgy followed by Palm Folding; Tsoureki pickup



Sunday, April 28th – Palm Sunday

8:45am Orthros; 10:00am Divine Liturgy
7:00pm Service of the Bridegroom



Monday, April 29th – Holy Monday

7:00pm Service of the Bridegroom

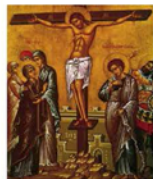
Tuesday, April 30th – Holy Tuesday

7:00pm Service of the Bridegroom



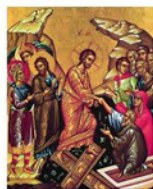
Wednesday, May 1st – Holy Wednesday

10:00am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy
3:00pm Sacrament of Holy Unction
7:00pm Orthros for Holy Thursday
(Anointing will also be done at the end of this service)



Thursday, May 2nd – Holy Thursday

10:00am Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: The Last Supper
(Holy Communion will be distributed at the proper place during the Divine Liturgy)
7:00pm The Twelve Gospels of the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Friday, May 3rd – Holy Friday

9:00am Great and Royal Hours of the Passion
12 Noon-2:45pm Children's Retreat
3:00pm Service of the Apokathelosis: The unnauling of Christ from the Cross and His placement into the tomb
7:00pm Service of the Lamentations: The procession of the Epitaphios

Saturday, May 4th – Holy Saturday

10:00am Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: Christ's descent into Hades
11:00pm Easter Vigil/Resurrection Service

Sunday, May 5th – Great & Holy Pascha

12 Noon Pascha Vespers of Agape
Easter Egg Hunt to follow

April 28, 2024

Palm Sunday

The Holy Nine Martyrs of Cyzicus

John the Martyr of Romania ❖ Memnon the Wonderworker



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.

14th Annual Antonio S. Thomas Palm Sunday Concert for the Youth: During today's luncheon we will see the talents of a few of St. Sophia's youth. This concert is dedicated to the memory of Antonio S. Thomas. Antonio was a child of this parish who died from leukemia several years ago and he had a great love for music and the arts.

Exciting Mortgage Reduction News! An anonymous donor has come forward to match donations made to the mortgage reduction fund **up to \$100,000** for 2024. This is a great opportunity to reduce our mortgage by **one-third**. With your help, we will make a huge difference in our mortgage expenses. For more details about our mortgage, please see the Financial Dashboard insert in this bulletin.

School Excuse Letters: Letters to excuse the children from school on Holy Wednesday and Good Friday have been prepared and are available at the Pangari.

Readers for Agape Service: We are looking for readers for the Agape Service. As tradition, the Gospel is read in several languages. We have the Gospel available in Latin, French, German, Spanish and many, many more languages. If anyone would like to read in any other language, the specific Gospel reading is John 20:19-25. **Please contact Fr. Peter or Tom Cox if you are interested.**

Altar Servers Needed: We will need your help for Holy Week. Families, if you have young men who serve in the Altar, please make it a priority for them to be here in church during Holy Week. We need their help. School excuse letters are available at the Pangari.

Graduates Wanted: Do you have a son or daughter who is graduating high school or college this year? If so, please call the Parish office OR send an e-mail TODAY so that we can acknowledge their achievements on Sunday, 19th. Please provide the following information: Name of graduate; Name of school from which he/she is graduating (high school, vocational-tech school, or college/university); Diploma/Degree received; Where attending college in the fall; Will be studying/ majoring in? This information **MUST** be received by **MONDAY, MAY 6th** to be acknowledged in church on May 19th.

Good Friday Luminarias: Once again, our PTO is selling Good Friday Luminarias. During the Good Friday Retreat, our GOYAns will prepare them and set them out around the church for the Good Friday Evening Service. The Luminarias will line the walkways around the church along the path of the Epitaphio. Each Luminaria can be personalized with the name(s) of loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord. You may donate as many as you like.



To participate, please send an email to Cathy Cox at catcox1@verizon.net by **May 1st** with the exact spelling of the names you would like on each Luminaria. Please consider making a \$5 candle donation to St. Sophia for each Luminaria using the donation options on our website (PayPal, Venmo or Zelle). If you do not have email, just write the names you would like on each Luminaria on a piece of paper and place it in the candle basket in the Narthex with your donation.

Please Update Your Contact Information: Have you moved recently? Are you receiving our weekly emails and occasional phone calls? If any of your contact information has changed (emails, phone numbers, address) please send an email to the Parish office at office@saintsophiachurch.org to update this information. 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. **The next meeting of the Senior Parea will take place on Thursday, May 9, 2024. There will be no meeting on Holy Thursday, May 2nd.**

Spring General Assembly: The Spring General Assembly meeting will take place on **Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 10:00 am** in the Fr. John A. Limberakis Cultural Center.

Please note that to vote in the General Assembly, you must have returned a 2024 Stewardship Commitment (Pledge) Form and be current in your commitment. For your convenience, pledge forms are available at the Pangari and on our website <https://www.saintsophiachurch.org/stewardship>.

AHEPA Track & Field: The **47th Annual AHEPA Track and Field Meet** will take place on **Saturday, May 11th** (rain date Sunday May 12th) at 10:00 am at Drexel Hill Middle School. All children ages 5 and up are welcome to participate and no experience is necessary! There will be races and field events starting at 50 meters and up. Adults are welcome to participate as well!

If you'd like to join "Team Saint Sophia", please email Coach Donna or Coach Lou (donnachristou@gmail.com or christoulou69@gmail.com) with your child's name and birthdate and they will be added to the roster. We are looking forward to having a great team again this year!!

Sponsor Coffee Hour! If you are interested in hosting 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. We need sponsors for the coming weeks. **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 (payable to St. Sophia Church) to offset these expenses. Thank you!**

A promotional flyer for St. Sophia Philoptochos. At the top, it says "ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS". The main title is "Tiropites & Spanakopites" in a large, elegant script font. Below the title, an orange box contains the text "Frozen 6-packs - \$25" and "With Cooking Instructions". Underneath, it says "LIMITED SUPPLIES". Further down, it states "We accept Zelle (ladies@saintsophiachurch.org) and Venmo payments". At the bottom left, it says "FOR ORDERS: Kathy T. 610.539.5413". On the bottom right, there is a QR code and the Venmo logo.

Tiropites and Spanakopites – We have a limited supply of packages of frozen Tiropites and Spanakopites that we will continue to sell each Sunday until our inventory is depleted.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

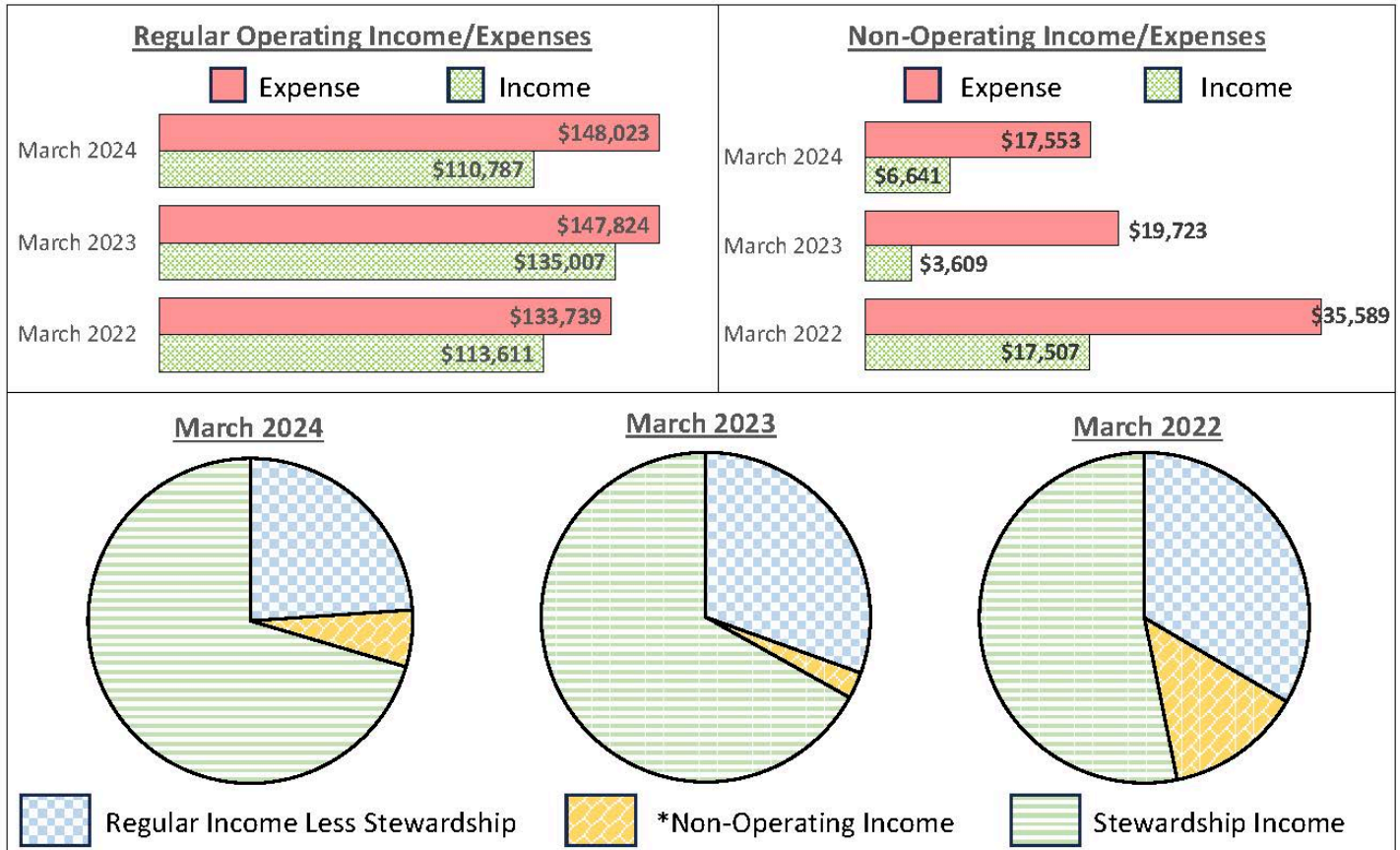
MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD FOR MARCH 2024

	March 2024	March 2023	March 2022
Regular Operating Income	\$110,787	\$135,007	\$113,611
Regular Operating Expenses	\$148,023	\$147,824	\$133,739
Net Regular Operating Income or (Loss)	(\$37,236)	(\$12,817)	(\$20,128)
*Non-Operating Income	\$6,641	\$3,609	\$17,507
**Non-Operating Expenses	\$17,553	\$19,723	\$35,589
Non-Operating Net Income or Loss	(\$10,912)	(\$16,114)	(\$18,082)
Stewardship Income	\$82,696	\$92,729	\$69,729
% of Regular Operating Expenses Covered by Stewardship	56%	63%	52%
Number of Stewarding Families	152	120	107
Median Stewardship Pledge	\$600	\$500	\$400
Total Expenses Invested in parish chosen charities and ministries	\$3,057	\$4,865	\$4,711
% of Regular Operating Expenses invested in parish chosen charities and ministries	2%	3%	4%

*Non-operating income includes insurance payments, Festival and other fundraising events, church beautification and investment gains.

**Non-operating expenses include Capital, beautification, and disaster recovery expenses and mortgage interest.



MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

We would like to thank the following stewards and friends of St. Sophia for contributing to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign for February. The total for February was \$2,036.67

Each month we will list the Mortgage Reduction collections for the previous month.

Mr. Chris Altum	Mrs. Bessie Neofotistos	Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Thornberg
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bannon	Dr. Marianne & Mr. Alexander Nikas	Mrs. Shirley Tripolitis
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diccianni	Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou	Ms. Katherine Tsipras
Ms. Eleni Evangelopoulos	Dr. & Mrs. Peter Patukas	Mr. & Mrs. Seraphim Tsipras
Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis	Mr. & Mrs. John Pogas	Mr. & Mrs. Socratis Tsipras
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline	Mr. & Mrs. Rami Richie	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vail
Mrs. Effie Liacouras	Fr. Peter & Presv. Katherine Thornberg	Mr. Gregory Zarcone
Mr. & Mrs. Edward McAdoo		Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zarcone
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moses		

MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

We would like to thank the following stewards and friends of St. Sophia for contributing to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign for March. The total for March was \$1,146.67.

Each month we will list the Mortgage Reduction collections for the previous month.

Mr. Chris Altum	Mr. & Mrs. Edward McAdoo	Mr. & Mrs. Rami Richie
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bannon	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moses	Mrs. Shirley Tripolitis
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diccianni	Mrs. Bessie Neofotistos	Ms. Katherine Tsipras
Ms. Eleni Evangelopoulos	Dr. Marianne & Mr. Alexander Nikas	Mr. & Mrs. Socratis Tsipras
Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis	Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vail
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline	Dr. & Mrs. Peter Patukas	Mr. Gregory Zarcone
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