

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION: A LOGICAL EVENT

The Orthodox world rejoices today as we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. While we bask in the radiance of this glorious day, however, we must be aware of the fact that much of the world remains hardened and unmoved by the observance of Pascha. Yes, there are those who would insist that the story of Christ's Resurrection from the dead is simply that: a story fabricated by His followers and handed down from generation to generation.

Is it preposterous for us to believe that Christ could have risen from the dead? No one denies that Jesus Christ actually walked this earth -- historians have been able to verify what the Gospels tell us. So if He lived, taught, preached, worked miracles, was arrested, put on trial and ultimately crucified, WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS BODY? Our Lord's tomb had a huge boulder placed in front of its entrance, and was sealed with the imperial seal of Rome. It was guarded by Roman soldiers, who were trained killers. Is it logical to believe that the Apostles -- who ran and hid when Jesus was arrested -- could have overpowered the guards and stolen their Master's Body? Highly unlikely! To suggest that the Myrrhbearing Women could have pulled off such a "grave robbery" is even more illogical. It is inconceivable to suggest that the guards may have failed to do their jobs. They would have paid for such a blunder with their lives.

In reality, the MOST LOGICAL explanation of what happened to Christ's Body is what we proclaim this morning: CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD! In 2000 years, no one has been able to prove otherwise. The truth of Christ's Resurrection, which is the cornerstone of our Holy Orthodox Faith, will continue to stand up to the scrutiny of skeptics and unbelievers. CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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

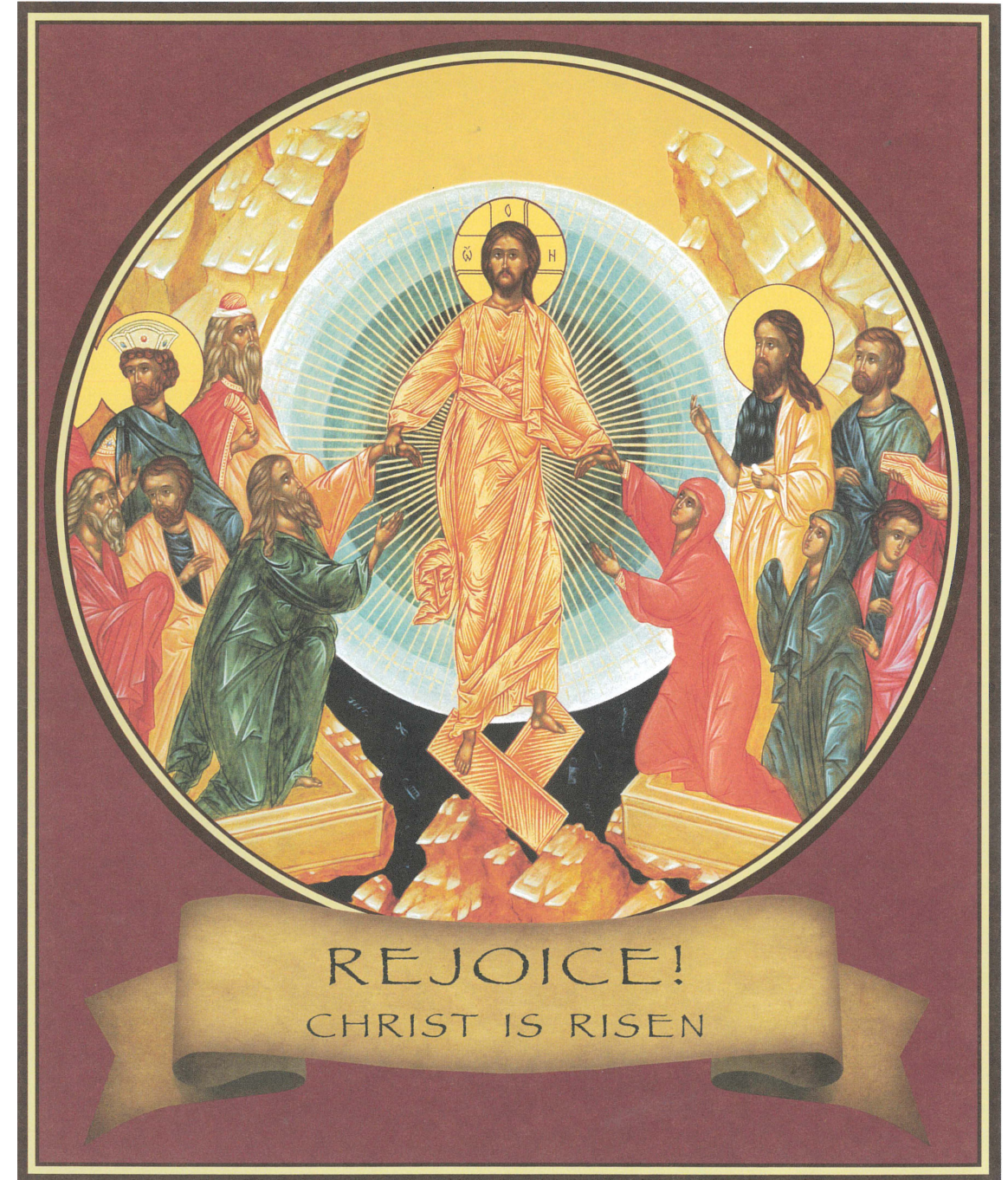
900 South Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA, 19403

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. Economos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos
frpeter@saintsophiachurch.org
Metropolis of New Jersey



Paschal Troparion: CHRIST IS RISEN – Χριστός ἀνέστη
From the Holy Eparchial Synod, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 2012
March 2013 Revision

Plagal of the First Tone. D.

Christ is ris - en from the dead, by death,
tram-pling down up - on death, and to
those in the tombs He has grant - ed life.

Ἦχος πλ. α'. Πα

Χρι - στός ἀ - νέ - στη ἐκ νε - κρῶν, θα - νά - τω
Chri - stos a - ne - sti ek ne - kron, tha - na - to
θά - να - τον πα - τή - σας, καὶ τοῖς
tha - na - ton pa - ti - sas, ke tis
ἐν τοῖς μνή - μα - σι, ζω - ἦν χα - ρι - σά - με - νος.
en tis mni - ma - si, zo - in cha - ri - sa - me - nos.

The Holy Eparchial Synod recommends teaching this melody and text so that when Orthodox faithful from various parishes and Metropolises gather, they will be able to sing this hymn as one.

*Icon of the Resurrection used with permission from
Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte, Montana.*

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.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back - it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 16:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Διαγενομένου τοῦ Σαββάτου, Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμη ἠγγόρασαν ἀρώματα, ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Καὶ λίαν πρῶτῃ τῇ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. Καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. Καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον, εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιῶς, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν· ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· Μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε, Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον, ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε, ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε, εἴπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ, ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. Καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ταχὺ ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχε δὲ αὐτάς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

EPISTLE READING

The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

*This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Verse: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures for ever.*

IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 1:1-8

*Αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος· ἀγαλλιασώμεθα καὶ εὐφρανθῶμεν ἐν αὐτῇ
Στίχ. ἔξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ*

Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποίησάμην περὶ πάντων, ὦ Θεόφιλε, ὧν ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν, ἄχρι ἧς ἡμέρας, ἐντειλάμενος τοῖς ἀποστόλοις διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου οὖς ἐξελέξατο, ἀνελήφθη· οἷς καὶ παρέστησεν ἑαυτὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τὸ παθεῖν αὐτὸν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι' ἡμερῶν τεσσαράκοντα ὀπτανόμενος αὐτοῖς, καὶ λέγων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ. Καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς, Ἥν ἠκούσατέ μου· ὅτι Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας. Οἱ μὲν οὖν συνελθόντες ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες, Κύριε, εἰ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνεις τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ; Εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶν γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὓς ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ. Ἀλλὰ λήψεσθε δύναμιν, ἐπελθόντος τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς· καὶ ἔσεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες ἐν τε Ἱερουσαλὴμ, καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ Σαμαρείᾳ, καὶ ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

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



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



KOSTANS
FILMS



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

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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.



GOSPEL READING

The Reading is from the Gospel of John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 1:1-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν. ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων. καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν.

Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ Θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν, ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσι δι' αὐτοῦ. οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός. Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθε, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα Θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, οἳ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐκ Θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν.

Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγε λέγων· οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον, ὃ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. Καὶ ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν, καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο.

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



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
DONNA CHRISTOU: 909-500-5697 donnachristou@gmail.com
LOU CHRISTOU: 856-296-2255 christoulou69@gmail.com

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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

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-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

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.

May 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 for a local charity.

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box for May benefit Lord's Pantry in Downingtown. You can learn more about this worthwhile organization at <https://www.lordspantryofdowningtown.org>. Please pray for those affected who are helped by Lord's Pantry 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 and thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to the following individuals who read the prayers during the Salutations to the Theotokos, Compline Services, Presanctified Liturgies and Holy Week:

Readers:

Elaine Piligian, Maria Richie, Vasilios Tatsis, Presv. Katherine Thornberg, Eleni Trontsios and Irene Tsokas

Chanters:

Thank you to Peter Balos, George Coutavas. Tom Cox, Brian Fitzgerald, Bob and Coleen Moses, Serafim Notaras, and Ilias Thomloudis for their service to our parish. Thank you also to our Altar Servers (readers)

Thank you to the following individuals/families who decorated or sponsored the icon of the Panagia for the Salutations to the Theotokos:

Georgiana Kane; Ana Sinoimeri and Maria Nasi; Sofia and Vasilios Tatsis; Nick and Eleni Trontsios; and Sofia Kalderemtzis, Sofia Tatsis, and Irene Tsokas.

Daffodils for Sunday of the Holy Cross were donated by Peggy Happas; Sofia Kalderemtzis; Peggy Kostomite; Despina Kourtidis; Maria Papadimitriou; Sofia Tatsis; and Irene Tsokas.

CALENDAR FOR BRIGHT WEEK

Sun. May 5th	12 Noon	Pascha Vespers of Agape followed by Easter Egg Hunt
Mon. May 6th		Renewal Monday – The Parish office will be closed
Wed. May 8th	5:00 pm	Little Angels
Thurs. May 9th	10:00 am	Senior Parea
	5:00 pm	Greek School (children)
Fri. May 10th	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy – Theotokos of the Life-Giving Font
Sat. May 11th	10:00 am	Spring General Assembly Meeting
	10:00 am	AHEPA Track and Field Meet at Drexel Hill Middle School
Sun. May 12th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy – Thomas Sunday
	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)



EASTER EGGS are fun, but do you know where they came from? The ancient idea of the egg as a symbol for new life was adopted by early Christians to become the symbol of Christ's resurrection. According to tradition, Mary Magdalene gained an audience in Rome with the emperor after the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. She denounced Pilate for his handling of Jesus' trial and then began to talk with Caesar about Jesus' resurrection. She picked up a hen's egg from the dinner table to illustrate her point about resurrection. Caesar was unmoved and replied that there was as much chance of a human being returning to life as there was for the egg to turn red. Immediately, the egg miraculously turned red in her hand! It is because of this tradition that Orthodox Christians exchange red eggs at Easter.



RESURRECTION HYMN

Χριστός Ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καί τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἡρισάμενος.

*Christos anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimas
zoin harisamenos.*

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

At the conclusion of each service during the Paschal season until the eve of Ascension, the following responses are made:

Priest: Christ is Risen!

Ιερεύς: Χριστός Ανέστη!
Christos Anesti

People: Truly, He is Risen!

Ο Λαός: Αληθῶς Ανέστη!
Alithos Anesti

Priest: Glory to His third-day Resurrection.

Ιερεύς: Δόξα τῆ Αὐτοῦ τριημέρῳ ἐγέρσει.
Doxa ti Aftou triemero egersei

People: We worship His third-day Resurrection

Ο Λαός: Προσκυνούμεν Αὐτοῦ τὴν τριήμερον ἐγερσιν.
Proskinoumen Aftu tin triemeron egersin.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Albanian: Krishti Ungjall! – Vertete Ungjall!

Armenian: Christos harjav i merelotz! – Orhniale harutjun Christosi!

French: Christ est Ressuscité! – En Vérité, Il est Ressuscité!

Georgian: Kriste aghsdga! – Cheshmaritad aghsdga!

Hebrew: Ha Mashiyach qam! – Ken hoo qam!

Hungarian: Krisztus feltámadt! – Valóban feltámadt!

Italian: Cristo è risorto! – È veramente risorto!

Latin: Christus resurrexit! – Vere resurrexit!

Polish: Khristus Zmartvikstau! – Zaiste Zmartvikstau!

Romanian: Hristos a înviat! – Adevărat a înviat!

Russian: Khristos voskres! – Voistinu voskres!

Serbian: Hristos Vaskrese! – Vaistinu Vaskrese!

Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! – Voistinu Voskrese!

Spanish: Cristo ha resucitado! – Verdaderamente ha resucitado!

Ukrainian: Kristos Voskres! – Voistinu voskres!

May 4-5, 2024
Holy Saturday – Easter Sunday
Resurrection Service of Our Lord Jesus Christ
The Divine Liturgy According to St. John Chrysostom



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.

Agape Service: The Agape Service will take place at 12 noon on Easter Sunday. As is tradition, the Gospel will be read in several languages. Please try to attend this beautiful service.

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.**

Easter Egg Hunt: The children of the parish are invited to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt following the Agape Service on Easter Sunday.

Office Closed for Bright Monday: In observance of Bright Monday, the Parish Office will be closed this Monday, May 6th.

Graduates Wanted: Is your son or daughter graduating from high school or college this year? If so, please email the Parish office TODAY so that we can acknowledge their achievements on Sunday, May 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.



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.**

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!**

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!!

**LENTEN
FOOD DRIVE**

**OUR GOAL OF 40 BAGS WAS
REACHED THANKS TO YOU!**



**Thank You to our Parishioners Who Generously Made Donations
to Beautify our Church for Holy Week and Easter**

Holy Week Item Sponsors

**James & Mary Caravoulias
Andrew & Georgiana Kane
Stephanie King
Lowry Family
Irene Malagari
Ed & Mary McAdoo**

**Mitses Family
Bessie Neofotistos
Zoe Nikolaou
John & Maria Papadimitriou
Aram & Elaine Piligian
Harriet Podotas**

**Poloway Family
Richie Family
Matt & Anne Sabia
Vasilios & Sofia Tatsis
Socratis & Rena Tsipras
Charles & Cathy Zarcone**

**Thank you to Christine Samaras for beautifying
our church grounds for Palm Sunday and Pascha.**

Easter Lily Donors

DONOR

**James & Mary Caravoulias
Art & Peggy Happas
Vela Hatzipavlidis
Evangelia Klapakis
Peggy Kostomite
Dean Laskaris
Irene Malagari
Ed & Mary McAdoo**

Kyriakos & Maria Mitses

IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF

**In memory of George & Minnie Alexiadis and Charles & Connie Caravoulias
For the health and salvation of our family, and for the health of our mother
In memory of Thomas & Maria Hatzipavlidis
In memory of our loved ones
In memory of Peter Kostomite
In honor of Nina Laskaris
In memory of John & Helen Christopher
In memory of Gordon & Helen Nichols, George & Mary Englezos,
Emanuel & Calliope Englesson, Francis & Ellen McAdoo,
and our Yiayiades and Pappoudes
In memory of Georgios Mereos**

DONOR

Patricia Nailon

Maria Nasi

Nazzaro Family

Bessie Neofotistos

The Nikas Family

Anthony & Katherine Pantazopoulos

The Papadakes Family –

Harry, Sophia, and Theodora

The Papadimitriou Family

David & Flora Poloway

Svein & Patty (Cakridas) Ryan

Anne & Matt Sabia

Matt & Melissa Stolarczyk

Vasilios & Sofia Tatsis

Linda Tripolitis

Katherine Tsipras

Irene Tsokas

The Tsouros Family

Nick & Pam Volakis

Jim & Annie Voutsinas and Family

Matt & Maria Williams

IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF

In memory of Mrs. Phidella Natale

In memory of Vangjush Nasi and Phidella Natale

In memory of Spiro G. Vanezalos *and* in honor of Stella I. Vanezalos

In memory of my beloved husband George and our son Steven *and*

In honor of my children and grandchildren

In memory of Ruth Andrews Nikas, Bill & Carolyn Ruhl, Alexandros & Despina Tsinikas,

Ralph & Alberta Andrews, Bruce Andrews, and Demetrios & Anna Manolis

In memory of Barbara & James Stamas

In memory of Pauline Papadakes

In memory of Nicholas Papadimitriou

In memory of Aris Podotas and Michael & Martha Poloway *and*

In honor of Harriet Podotas

In memory of George Cakridas

In memory of the Scandalios and Callipolites Families

In memory of Ernest & Marian Laskaris

In memory of our beloved family members

In memory of George Tripolitis, beloved father *and*

In honor of the Tripolitis, Ruser and Kreiser Families

In memory of Maria Tsipras, Speros & Olga Tsipras, and Elias S. Tsipras I

In memory of my loved ones who have passed away

In memory of Isidoros N. & Markella Tsouros, Phokion C. Lacas,

Fr. Stephen P. Theophilos, Isidoros C. & Zoitsa Costalas, Michael Rapitis and

Constantinos I. Costalas

In memory of the Volakis Family and the Georges Family

In memory of Stavros Pantelidis

In memory of Nicholas Carvelas



FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

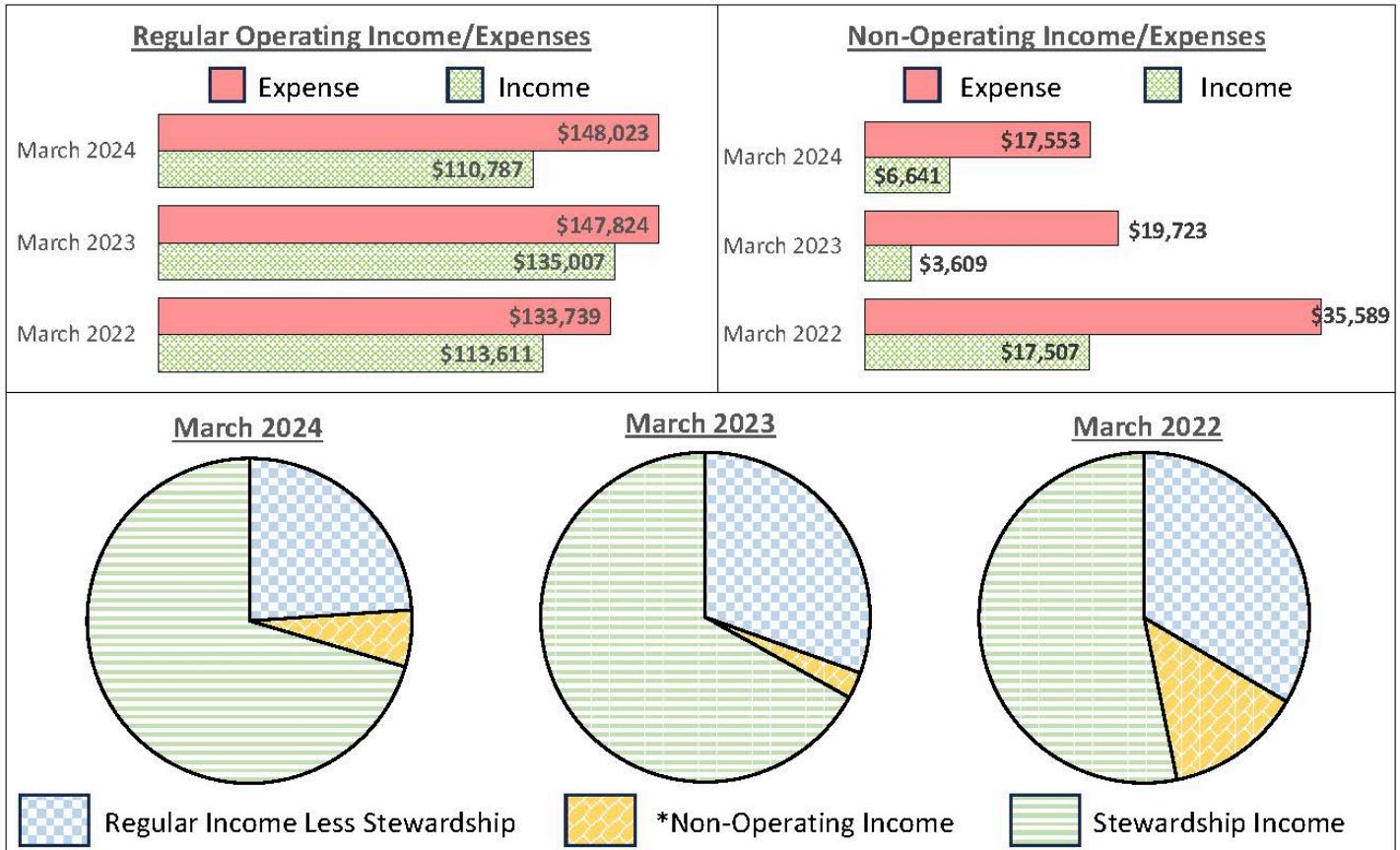
MARCH 2024

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.



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.

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
Mrs. Effie Liacouras	Mr. & Mrs. John Pogas	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zarcone