

“BRING ME THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST”

The words above send a shiver through every God-fearing Christian. Aside from Holy Friday, the commemoration of the BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST is the darkest and saddest day on our liturgical calendar.

John was a popular preacher, who captivated crowds that gathered to hear him along the banks of the Jordan River. For a people that longed for the coming of the Messiah, John brought hope and encouragement that the Saviour's arrival was imminent.

John the Baptist spoke with conviction, which brought about his imprisonment and ultimate death. Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, ruled Galilee at the time of John's preaching in the wilderness. A man as evil as his father, Herod Antipas had his own wife put away, and brought his brother Philip's wife to live with him in his royal palace. After vehemently denouncing the immorality of Herod and Herodias, John was cast into prison.

John's earthly life came to an untimely end after a birthday celebration for Herod. Herodias' daughter Salome, entertained the king and his guests by dancing for them. The pleased ruler promised to reward her with anything she wished, and at the urging and prompting of the wicked Herodias, Salome requested that the head of the Baptist be brought to her. Herod sadly complied rather risk "losing face" among his guests.

Fittingly, Herod, Herodias and Salome all suffered terrible deaths. After being exiled to Spain by the Roman Emperor for administrative failures in Galilee, Herod and Herodias were killed in an earthquake. Salome met her end by drowning.

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



August 28, 2022
11th Sunday of Matthew
Moses the Black of Scete
Diomedes & Laurence the Martyrs
33 Martyrs of Nicomedeia

ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrection Apolytikion – Ote Katilthes (“When Thou Descended”)

When You descended to the Realm of Death, You, the Life that is deathless, then did You Hades lifeless rend with the Lightning of Divineness. And when You did raise up those dead from deep within the earth, Then did all the powers that are in the Heavens above cry out, O Lifegiving Christ, You Who are our God, Glory to You.

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

Greek

Ὁς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καί προσήγαγες Χριστῷ καρπὸν ἡ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δι’ αὐτῶν 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 martyrs 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 – Joachim and Anna

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility’s stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality’s ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, “The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”



**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

**GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL
2022-2023**

REGISTER NOW!

For more information or to register,
please contact Maria Mitses
at (201) 294-7739 or kmmitses@gmail.com

OR VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:
WWW.SAINTSOPHIACHURCH.ORG/GREEKLANGUAGESCHOOL

**Saint Sophia Greek
Orthodox Church**

Little Angels

Children ages 2 through 6

promoting our culture, religion, traditions, building friendships,
all while having fun!!

Arts and Crafts
Music
Snacks
Storytime
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...and so much more!!

The group will run from September 2022 through May 2023

For more information or to register please contact:
Annie Voutsinas at (610) 906-5518 or annie31p@gmail.com
Maria Mitses at (201) 294-7739 or kmmitzes@gmail.com

WWW.SAINTSOPHIACHURCH.ORG

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12

*The Lord is my strength and my song.
Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.*

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

**Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς
Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 9:2-12 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

*Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.
Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.*

Ἀδελφοί, ἡ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ. Ἡ ἐμὴ ἀπολογία τοῖς ἐμὲ ἀνακρίνουσιν αὕτη ἐστίν. Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν φαγεῖν καὶ πιεῖν; Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν ἀδελφὴν γυναῖκα περιάγειν, ὡς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ ἀπόστολοι, καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοῦ κυρίου, καὶ Κηφᾶς; Ἡ μόνος ἐγὼ καὶ Βαρνάβας οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ μὴ ἐργάζεσθαι; Τίς στρατεύεται ἰδίῳ ὀψωνίῳ ποτέ; Τίς φυτεύει ἀμπελῶνα, καὶ ἐκ τοῦ καρποῦ αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐσθίει; Ἡ τίς ποιμαίνει ποίμνην, καὶ ἐκ τοῦ γάλακτος τῆς ποίμνης οὐκ ἐσθίει; Μὴ κατὰ ἄνθρωπον ταῦτα λαλῶ; Ἡ οὐχὶ καὶ ὁ νόμος ταῦτα λέγει; Ἐν γὰρ τῷ Μωϋσέως νόμῳ γέγραπται, Οὐ φιμώσεις βοῦν ἀλοῶντα. Μὴ τῶν βοῶν μέλει τῷ θεῷ; Ἡ δι' ἡμᾶς πάντως λέγει; Δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγράφη, ὅτι ἐπ' ἐλπίδι ὀφείλει ὁ ἀροτριῶν ἀροτριᾶν, καὶ ὁ ἀλοῶν τῆς ἐλπίδος αὐτοῦ μετέχειν ἐπ' ἐλπίδι. Εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῖν τὰ πνευματικὰ ἐσπείραμεν, μέγα εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῶν τὰ σαρκικὰ θερίσομεν; Εἰ ἄλλοι τῆς ἐξουσίας ὑμῶν μετέχουσιν, οὐ μᾶλλον ἡμεῖς; Ἄλλ' οὐκ ἐχρησάμεθα τῇ ἐξουσίᾳ ταύτῃ, ἀλλὰ πάντα στέγομεν, ἵνα μὴ ἐγκοπῆν τινα δῶμεν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 18:23-35 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

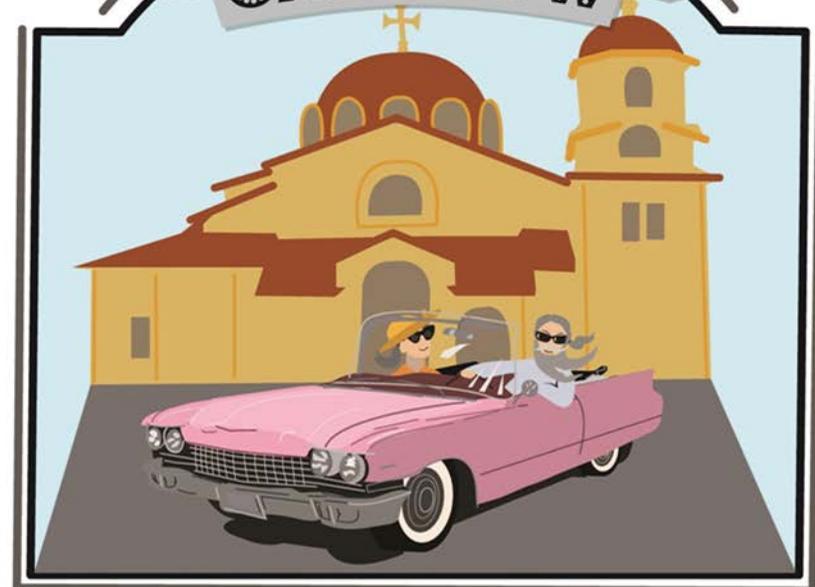
Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ὁμοιωθὴ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ, ὃς ἠθέλησε συναῖραι λόγον μετὰ τῶν δούλων αὐτοῦ. ἀρξαμένου δὲ αὐτοῦ συναίρειν προσήνεχθη αὐτῷ εἷς ὀφειλέτης μυρίων ταλάντων. μὴ ἔχοντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἀποδοῦναι ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ πρᾶθῆναι καὶ τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ καὶ τὰ τέκνα καὶ πάντα ὅσα εἶχε, καὶ ἀποδοθῆναι. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ δοῦλος προσεκύνη αὐτῷ λέγων· κύριε, μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ πάντα σοὶ ἀποδώσω. σπλαγχνισθεὶς δὲ ὁ κύριος τοῦ δούλου ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν καὶ τὸ δάνειον ἀφήκεν αὐτῷ. ἐξελθὼν δὲ ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος εὗρεν ἕνα τῶν συνδούλων αὐτοῦ, ὃς ὤφειλεν αὐτῷ ἑκατὸν δηνάρια, καὶ κρατήσας αὐτὸν ἔπιγε λέγων· ἀπόδος μοι εἴ τι ὀφείλεις. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ σύνδουλος αὐτοῦ εἰς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ παρεκάλει αὐτὸν λέγων· μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ ἀποδώσω σοι. ὁ δὲ οὐκ ἤθελεν, ἀλλὰ ἀπελθὼν ἔβαλεν αὐτὸν εἰς φυλακὴν ἕως οὗ ἀποδῶ τὸ ὀφειλόμενον. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ σύνδουλοι αὐτοῦ τὰ γενόμενα ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα, καὶ ἐλθόντες διεσάφησαν τῷ κυρίῳ ἑαυτῶν πάντα τὰ γενόμενα. τότε προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ λέγει αὐτῷ· δοῦλε πονηρὲ, πᾶσαν τὴν ὀφειλὴν ἐκείνην ἀφήκᾳ σοι, ἐπεὶ παρεκάλεσάς με. οὐκ ἔδει καὶ σὲ ἐλεῆσαι τὸν σύνδουλόν σου, ὡς καὶ ἐγὼ σε ἠλέησα; καὶ ὀργισθεὶς ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ παρέδωκεν αὐτὸν τοῖς βασανισταῖς ἕως οὗ ἀποδῶ πᾶν τὸ ὀφειλόμενον αὐτῷ. Οὕτω καὶ ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐπουράνιος ποιήσει ὑμῖν, ἐὰν μὴ ἀφήτε ἕκαστος τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν καρδιῶν ὑμῶν τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν.

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St. Sophia

CAR SHOW

ENTRY FEE:
\$15 Pre-Registration
\$20 Day of Show
Includes free soft pretzel
& beverage for each
registered vehicle



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

3 to 7 pm

Trophies / Door Prizes / Raffle / 50-50 Drawing

Bring non-perishable food items for the Patrician Society and receive a special raffle ticket for a gift card!

St. Sophia Church
900 S. Trooper Road, Jeffersonville, PA
Rt. 363 Exit on 422

For more information:
saintsophiachurch.org/carshow
stsophiaparish@saintsophiachurch.org

August 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 August benefits pancreatic cancer research through the Lustgarten Foundation. You can read more about them at <https://lustgarten.org/>

Memorial Wall: Philoptochos will be creating a tribute wall and we ask parishioners with any relatives or friends impacted by a pancreatic cancer diagnosis to provide a name and photo. Photos will be posted in the lobby of the cultural center in August.

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!

**Liturgical Services are streamed on Facebook each Sunday. Simply click on the link below.
You do NOT need a Facebook account to access the online services.**
www.facebook.com/saintsophiachurch

**PLEASE keep in mind that our fixed costs are still ever present.
We hope you can help us with an online donation. You can give by going to our website,
www.saintsophiachurch.org and clicking on the "Donate" button.**



You can also donate using Venmo! Just search in Venmo or click www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch

NEW! We also accept Zelle as a form of payment! Through your bank's Zelle system, input treasurer@saintsophiachurch.org as a recipient and you'll be ready to donate to St. Sophia Church.

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.

August 28, 2022
11th Sunday of Matthew
Moses the Black of Scete
Diomedes & Laurence the Martyrs
33 Martyrs of Nicomedeia



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.

Memorials: Today's memorials are being chanted for:

Eleftherios Tsioufaidis (40 days) – beloved father of Alex (Deanna) Tsioufaidis and Chris Tsioufaidis, and grandfather of Alerianna Bovell-Tsioufaidis. May his memory be eternal.

Konstantinos Misiriotis (6 mos) – beloved grandfather of Kosta (Marina) Misiriotis. May his memory be eternal.

Coffee Hour: Thank you to Kosta and Marina Misiriotis for offering today's coffee hour in memory of Kosta's papou.

Ministries Sunday: Do you have questions on how to enroll your kids in GOYA, Hope/Joy, Sunday School, Greek School, or Greek Dance? Are there requirements? What exactly does AHEPA do? Or Parish Council? And what does the Ladies Philoptochos Society do for the Parish and our community? Well, we've got answers!

On Sunday September 11th, we will have a Ministries Fair in the hall during coffee hour. Think of a college fair but for the many ministries of our parish. Hope to see you there!

The Choir is Looking for New Members: Can you sing? The choir is looking to expand our membership. All are welcome to sit in on our rehearsals to learn more about our music and to see if the choir is right for you. The next rehearsal is scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 7th, immediately following the Paraklesis service. Please see Tom Cox with any questions or call him at [215-859-1009](tel:215-859-1009). Thank you!

In Case of Emergency: If you are having an **extreme medical emergency ONLY** and are in need of an Orthodox priest, please call the Parish office at 610-650-8960.

Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed: Thank you to everyone who has signed up to sponsor coffee hour in the coming weeks. There are still many dates available through the end of the year. If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, don't forget to sign up on the Coffee Hour Sponsor Sheet on the door near the coffee/refreshments table. In addition, you may contact Elaine in the Parish office to sign up.

Pastoral Visits - A Request to All Parishioners: If you desire a pastoral visit in case of a hospitalization, or for someone who is homebound, in a nursing facility, or in prison, please have an immediate family member notify the Parish office at 610-650-8960 so that a visit can be arranged.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Mon. Aug. 29th	10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Wed. Aug. 31st	10:00 am – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Wed. Sept. 7th	6:00 pm – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal
Sat. Sept. 10th	3:00 pm – 7:00 pm – St. Sophia Car Show
Sun. Sept. 11th	Catechism classes begin (see enclosed flyer) Ministries Sunday – come to the Ministries "fair" during coffee hour
Wed. Sept. 14th	10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Elevation of the Holy Cross
Fri. Sept. 16th	7:00 pm – Vespers & Artoklasia for St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Reception to follow
Sat. Sept. 17th	10:00 am – Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia – St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Luncheon to follow
Wed. Sept. 21st	10:00 am – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos 5:00 pm – Greek school & Little Angels begin
Wed. Sept. 28th	6:00 pm – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Wed. October 5th	10:00 am – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Wed. Oct. 12th	2:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Interfaith Blood Drive at St. Sophia 6:00 pm – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Sat. Oct. 15th	Philoptochos "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" Costume Party
Wed. Oct. 19th	10:00 am – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Wed. Oct. 26th	6:00 pm – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Wed. Nov. 2nd	10:00 am – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Sun. Nov. 6th	Parish General Assembly
Nov. 11-13	Craft Fair & Food Festival
Sun. Nov. 20th	Youth Ministry Bake Sale
Sat. Feb. 11, 2023	Save the Date --Trivia Nite

ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS
 DINNER & A MOVIE

OPA!
 Authentic Greek
 Plate-Breaking

MY
 BIG
 FAT
 GREEK
 WEDDING

Join us
 Saturday, October 15, 2022
 Dinner: 5pm Movie: 6pm
 \$35

Complete
 Greek Cuisine Dinner
 Prizes for Best Costume
 Door Prizes
 Greek Themed Photo Booth
 BYOB

St. Sophia Church - Fr. John A Limberakis Cultural Center
 900 S. Trooper Road, Jeffersonville, PA 19403
 For tickets/information: ladies@saintsophiachurch.org
 Ticket Purchase Deadline 10/1/22

MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

We would like to thank the following stewards and friends of St. Sophia for contributing to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign for July. **The total for July was \$22,770.00.**
 Each month we will list the Mortgage Reduction collections for the previous month.

Great News! Take Advantage of it!

Your contributions to our Mortgage Reduction Fund can now be doubled. Through the kindness and generosity of an anonymous donor who is willing to match our donations up to \$30,000, we have put a serious dent in our mortgage principal.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Anonymous | Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline | Mr. & Mrs. John Pogas |
| Mr. Chris Altum | Mrs. Peggy Kostomite | Mr. & Mrs. David Poloway |
| Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bannon | Mr. & Mrs. George Limberis | Mr. George Prieston |
| Mr. & Mrs. George Coutavas | Mr. & Mrs. Edward McAdoo | Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Samios |
| Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Dankmyer | Mr. & Mrs. Kyriakos Mitses | Mr. & Mrs. Keith Swope |
| Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Dowzicky | Mr. & Mrs. George Neofotistos | Fr. Peter & Presv. Katherine Thornberg |
| Mr. & Mrs. George Evangelopoulos | Dr. Marianne & Mr. Alexander Nikas | Mr. & Mrs. Seraphim Tsipras |
| Ms. Eleni Evangelopoulos | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nikolaou | Mr. & Mrs. Socrates Tsipras |
| Mr. & Mrs. Art Happas | Mr. Thomas A. Novitski, Jr. | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vail |
| Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kane | Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pantazopoulos | Ms. Helene Vellios |
| Mr. & Mrs. Christos Karagiannopoulos | Ms. Sophia Papadakes | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Walsh |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Kerns | Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou | Mr. & Mrs. Roger Witt |
| Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis | Dr. & Mrs. James Peoples | Mr. Gregory Zarcone |
| Mr. & Mrs. George Klapakis | Dr. & Mrs. Peter Patukas | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zarcone |
| | Mr. and Mrs. Aram Piligian | |
| | Mrs. Harriet Podotas | |

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



Welcome Back

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2022-2023

Starting Sunday, September 11th

To Register
Scan Here



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For more information/questions please contact Presv. Katherine pkstfamily3@gmail.com

www.saintsophiachurch.org\catecheticalschool



a JOY/HOPE ministry

CRAYONS GLUESTICKS SCISSORS MARKERS

Backpack

DONATION DRIVE

Drop off NOW until Sept. 10th

SUPPLIES IN NEED:

- 10 Backpacks (K-6 grades)
- 10 Soft Pencil Cases
- Kids Scissors
- Crayons (24ct packs)
- Sharpened #2 Pencils (12ct packs)
- Glue Sticks (2-4ct packs)
- Colored Markers (10ct packs)
- Colored Pencils (12ct packs)

For Monetary donations, Venmo to Despina.

NOTE: Backpack Assembly Sept. 11
JOY/Hope Kids ages K-6th grade



For Questions:
Despina Raggousis (267) 980-0984
despinadesigns@hotmail.com
@Despina-Raggousis

NOV 26, 2022

11 AM

ADULTS \$85
KIDS 3-12 \$39

SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES

DAVID

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Ronks PA 17572

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ST SOPHIA CHURCH

TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT
PRESV. KATHERINE
PKSTFAMILY3@GMAIL.COM





St. Sophia

SS. Faith, Hope & Agape

Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge

900 South Trooper Rd., Jeffersonville, PA, 19403 • Tel.: (610) 650-8960 • Fax: (610) 650-8961
Web: www.saintsophiachurch.org E-mail: office@saintsophiachurch.org
Rev. Economos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos



July 12, 2022

Retiring the Fall Festival

Dear St. Sophia Parishioners:

Christ is In Our Midst!

One of the responsibilities of the Parish Council is to provide oversight of the church's expenses and how to fund the various expenses involved in operating the church. With current inflation and associated rising prices, St. Sophia's monthly expenditures are approximately \$35,000 per month. As we are all aware, we have held Grecian Festivals to fill the gap between monthly bills and what is received by parishioners. Unfortunately, rising food costs, equipment rentals, etc. have put us in a position where we are doing the same amount of work but yielding less revenue.

At the last Parish Council meeting, it was proposed we "retire" the Fall Festival. We are proposing this because frankly, we are simply exhausted, and we recognize you are, too. This proposal saves everyone from working three festivals (Spring, Fall & Craft Fair). FYI... we are the only Parish in the Metropolis to have three festivals, and we are one of the few churches in the country that leans so heavily on outside money to sustain our parish.

As many of you know, it takes a lot of effort to put on the Fall Festival: planning, baking, shopping, preparing the hall and tent, advertising and setting up yard signs -- and that's all before the festival begins! Typically, a parishioner will work three days at the festival, usually for a five-hour shift. If the current starting wage at many retailers is \$16/hour.

\$16/hour
x 15 hours
= \$240.00

Then, consider what you and your family spend on food at the festival. That's easily over \$20, for one day's worth of meals.

With approximately 220 families in our parish, if we all chip in to contribute \$260 towards our Parish, we can retire the Fall Festival.

To show our commitment to this plan, the Parish Council is committed to donating over \$20,000 towards this effort. That's thirteen people and their families' commitment towards our church. What are you willing to contribute? If we all chip in, we can eliminate the Fall Festival and enjoy the balance of our summer.

Please join us -- it's very easy! Look at the options below:

- Make one payment or set up recurring monthly payments on a credit card or via Venmo.
- Set up a one-time payment online by going to – <https://www.saintsophiachurch.org/donate>
- Call the Parish office and arrange for your donation via credit card, Venmo, cash or check.
- See one of the Parish Council Members and they will help you set up your donation.

A common church saying is, "The church should operate like a battleship instead of a cruise ship. "All hands to battle stations." If we all participate, we can focus our energies on ministries that serve our families as well as the entire community. More importantly, we can change the community mindset of St. Sophia as more than just "that pretty church with the Greek food and music".

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Ekonomos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos



John Pogas, Parish Council President