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 .......................... Versal, Cliffwood, New Jersey .......................... Lithos in U.S.A.

St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church

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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 – ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΙ
From the Holy Eparchial Synod, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 2012
March 2013 Revision

Plagal of the First Tone. D.

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

Ἠχος πλ. α. Πα

Χριστός ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ
θανάτῳ πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς
ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρίσας, μενος.

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.
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.

Our parish has once again committed to fielding a group of volunteers to help Project Mexico build a house for a needy family in Rosanto, 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.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκου 16:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἄναγνωσμα

Διαγενομένου τοῦ Σαββάτου, Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνή καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμη ἤγορασαν ἀρώματα, ἵνα ἔλθωσί ταῖς ἄλλοις τοῦ Ἱσσοῦν. Καὶ λίαν πρῶτῇ τῇ μείζονι τῶν σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἔπει τὸ μνημεῖον ἀναπτεῖλοντος τοῦ ἡλίου. Καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασιν θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκαλύπτεται ὁ λίθος· ἡ γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. Καὶ εἰσελθοῦσιν εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον, εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξίοις, περιβεβλημένον στολήν λευκήν, καὶ ἐξιθαμβήθησιν· ὅ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· Μὴ ἐκθαμβιζέσθε, Ἰσσοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρηνὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον, ἡγέρθη, οὐκ ἐστιν οὗτος· ἢ δὲ ὁ τὸν θεοῦ ἐθηκὼν αὐτόν, ἀλλ’ ὑπάγετε, ἐπίσης ταῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ, ὅτι προδέχαι ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἔκει αὐτὸν διασκεδάζει, καθὼς ἔπειν ὑμῖν. Καὶ ἐξιθαμβίζονται ταχὺ ἐφονοῦ ὕπο τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχε δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἐκστάσεις, καὶ ὤδεναι ὕπον ὕπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γὰρ.
IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilos, 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.”

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

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

Anاهγνωσις έπιστολής
Πράξεις Αποστόλων 1:1-8

Αὐτὴ ἡ ἡμέρα, ἢν ἐποίησαν ὁ Κύριος: ἁγιαλισσομέθα καὶ εὐφορβανθῶμεν ἐν αὐτῇ

Στίχ. ἐξομολογεῖσθαι τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι ἄγαθος, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ

Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποιησάμην περὶ πάντων, ὡς Θεόφιλε, ὃν ἴδος ὁ Ἰσραήλ ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν, ἵνα ἂς ἡμέρας, ἐντελείμονος τοῦ ἀποστόλου διὰ πνεύματος ἄγιοῦ οὕς ἔσχεσθαι, ἀνέλθῃ· οὕς καὶ παρέστησαν εὐαγγέλια μετὰ τὸ ποιθεῖν αὐτῶν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι’ ἡμέρων τεσσαράκοντα ὑπανάμονος αὐτοῖς, καὶ λέγων ταῖς τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ. Καὶ συναλλαγμένος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἰερουσαλήμ μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν ἐπὶ ἐπιταγήν τοῦ πατρὸς. "Ἡν ἡκουσάτε μοι· ὅτι ἰσραήλ μὲν έξαπταν ὑδατικός ὑπάρχει, ὅτι μὲν έξαπταν ὑπάρχει ὑπὸ πνεύματα ἄγιον, ὅτι μὲν έξαπταν ταύτης ἡμέρας, ὃς ἔμεν συναλλαγμένος ἐπιταγήν τοῦ πατρὸς, καὶ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνει τῆς βασιλείας τῆς Ἰσραήλ: Εἴπετε δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Οὐχ ὃς ὑμῖν ἔστω ὡς θάνειν χρόνως ἢ καιροὺς ὃς ἔστω ἐπὶ τῆς ἱδίας ἐξουσίας. Ἀλλὰ λήψετε δύναμιν ἐπιλείποντος τοῦ ἄγιον πνεύματος ἡγεῖτε ὑμᾶς· καὶ ἐστεθεῖτε μοι μάρτυρες ἐν τῇ ἱερουσαλήμ, καὶ ἐν τῇ τουδαία καὶ Σαμαρεία, καὶ ἐς ἐσχάτῳ τῆς γῆς.
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.
THE NICENE CREED
(The Confession of Faith)

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages;

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come.
Amen
ENGLISH
Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

GREEK
Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς ἁγιασθείτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ τιθήμα 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 ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

ENGLISH PHONETICS
Pá-ter i-món o en tís ou-ra-nís a-ji-as-thí-to to o-no-má Sou, el-thé-to i va-si-li-a Sou, ge-ni-thí-to to thè-li-ma Sou, os en ou-ra-nó ke e-pí tís ghí-s.

Ton ár-ton i-món ton e-pí-oú-si-on dos i-mín si-me-ron ke à-fés i-mín ta o-fe-li-ma-ta i-món, os ke i-mís a-fi-e-men tís o-fi-lé-tes i-món ke mi i-se-nég-ki s i-más is pi-rás-món, al-la ri-se i-más a-pó tou po-ní-rou.

Phonetics by Dr. Christine Kerdallis, orthodoctoday.wordpress.com
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!

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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.

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Commutation 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 yeaming, O Christ, and by Your divine ersons 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.
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.

**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 |
| Fri. May 10th | 10:00 am | Divine Liturgy – Theotokos of the Life-Giving Font |
| Sat. May 11th | 10:00 am | Spring General Assembly Meeting |
| Sat. May 11th | 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 |
| Sun. May 12th | 12:30 pm | Greek School (Adults) |

**RESURRECTION HYMN**

Χριστός Ανέστη έκ νεκρών, θανάσω θάνατου πατήσας και τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμοις, ζωήν χορησάμονος. 
Christos anesti ek nekron, thanatos thanaton patisa, ke tis en tois mnomis, zoiyn xorismounos.

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!
**Iera:** Χριστός Ανέστη!
Christos Anesti!

**People:** Truly, He is Risen!
**Iera:** Αληθῶς Ανέστη!
Alithos Anesti!

**Priest:** Glory to His third-day Resurrection.
**Iera:** Δόξα τῇ Τρίτῃ Θεραμπή Θεραμπῆς.
Doxa ti triitei therapei.

**People:** We worship His third-day Resurrection.
**Iera:** Προσκυνοῦμεν Τῷ ΤΡΙΤΕΡΟΝ ΘΕΡΑΜΠΗΝ.
Proskounomen Afti tin triiteron therapein.

**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

- **Albanian:** Kristi òngjali! – Vertete òngjali!
- **Amenian:** Christos harjav i mereloby! – Orhiouia harutjun Christos!
- **French:** Christ est Ressuscité! – En Vénité, Il est Ressuscité!
- **Georgian:** Krista aghshada! – Cheshmaritad aghshada!
- **Hebrew:** Ha Mashiyach gam! – Ken hoo gam!
- **Hungarian:** Krisztus felferdenedt! – Valóban felferdenedt!
- **Italian:** Cristo è risorto! – È veramente risorto!
- **Latin:** Christus resurrexit! – Vere resurrexit!
- **Polish:** Chrystus zmartwychwsta! – Zaszczyte zmartwychwsta!
- **Romanian:** Hristos a Iviat! – Adevărat a Iviat!
- **Russian:** Kristos voskresel! – Vosstun voskresel!
- **Serbian:** Hristos Vaskresel! – Vasutnu Vaskresel!
- **Slavonic:** Christos Voskresel! – Vosstun Voskresel!
- **Spanish:** Cristo ha resucitado! – Verdaderamente ha resucitado!
- **Ukrainian:** Kristos Voskresel! – Voistynu voskresel!
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!!

LEN T E N  
FOOD DRIVE
OUR GOAL OF 40 BAGS WAS REACHED THANKS TO YOU!

Кακό Πάσχα!
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
Vasiliou & 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

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<td>In memory of George &amp; Minnie Alexiadis and Charles &amp; Connie Caravoulias</td>
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<td>Art &amp; Peggy Happas</td>
<td>For the health and salvation of our family, and for the health of our mother</td>
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<td>Vela Hatzipavlides</td>
<td>In memory of Thomas &amp; Maria Hatzipavlides</td>
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<td>Peggy Kostomite</td>
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<td>Dean Laskaris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emanuel &amp; Calliope Englesson, Francis &amp; Ellen McAdoo,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and our Yiayiades and Pappoudes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyriakos &amp; Maria Mitses</td>
<td>In memory of Georgios Mereos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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

*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
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bannon
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diccianni
Ms. Eleni Evangelopoulos
Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline
Mrs. Effie Liacouras
Mr. & Mrs. Edward McAdoo
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moses

Mrs. Bessie Neofotistos
Dr. Marianne & Mr. Alexander Nikas
Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Patukas
Mr. & Mrs. John Pogas
Mr. & Mrs. Rami Richie
Fr. Peter & Presv. Katherine Thornberg

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Thornberg
Mrs. Shirley Tripolitis
Ms. Katherine Tsipras
Mr. & Mrs. Seraphim Tsipras
Mr. & Mrs. Socratis Tsipras
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vail
Mr. Gregory Zarcone
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zarcone

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. Matt Bannon
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diccianni
Ms. Eleni Evangelopoulos
Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline
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