

St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church
August 31, 2025



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

900 South Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA, 19403

Tel.: (610) 650-8960 • Fax: (610) 650-8961

www.saintsophiachurch.org email: office@saintsophiachurch.org

Sunday Worship: 8:45 am - Orthros: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Office Hours - 10 am to 4 pm

Rev. Fr. Symeon Williams
frsymeon@saintsophiachurch.org
Metropolis of New Jersey



August 31, 2025
12th Sunday of Matthew
The Placing of the Honorable Sash of the Most Holy Theotokos
Cyprian the Hieromartyr & Bishop of Carthage
Gennadius Scholarus, Patriarch of Constantinople



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Effrenestho ta Ourania (“Let the Heavens Above Rejoice”)

Let the heavens above rejoice, and all those here on the earth, on the earth, be glad. A mighty feat of strength has been wrought by the arm of the Lord. O Death has he trampled down with his own death. First-born among the dead has He become, from the womb of Hades has He delivered us and has granted to the world His Great Mercy.

Festal Apolytikion – Theotoke aiparthene (“Ever-virgin Theotokos”)

Ever-virgin Theotokos, the shelter of mankind, you have given to your City as a protective wall the clothing and garment that you wore on your immaculate body. By your seedless childbirth, they have remained incorrupt. For in you both nature and time are made novel. Therefore we implore you, grant peace to your commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.

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 ἠδύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, διὰ τῶν γόνων εὐαγῶν, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθῶν δυσώπει υπέρ 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 – Tin theodhochon ghastera sou (“Your sacred belt (encircling the God-carrying womb”)

The precious garment that you wore about your body * that hosted God, O all-blessed Theotokos, * truly is power unassailable * for your City and a treasure whose blessings are perpetual, * O only Ever-virgin who bore a child.

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." Philipians 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.

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/LZAHY16LSZ> **OR**
4. Use the QR form below (also found on the box in the narthex) which takes you to the anonymous form.



SUNDAY SCHOOL
2025-2026
YOUTH
MINISTRIES
REGISTRATION

ST. SOPHIA/SS. FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 7th
FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL &
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILDREN
BRING THEIR SCHOOL BACKPACK
TO LITURGY TO BE BLESSED



PLEASE SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH MINISTRIES.
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER
CHILDREN OF **ALL AGES!**
KINDLY REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN
BY **AUGUST 30, 2025**



Parish Welcome Back Picnic: We are excited to invite you to our Welcome Back Picnic on **Sunday, September 7th**, after Divine Liturgy, as we come together in fellowship to begin a new church year. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share a meal, and enjoy time with our parish family.

To make this day a success, we kindly ask all St. Sophia parishioners and ministries to help by signing up to bring a food item. Your contribution will ensure a joyful and abundant celebration for everyone.

Please use the following SignUpGenius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4AA4A828A4F85-57980693-welcome>

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a day of fun, food, and fellowship together!

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:1-7

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Verse: For he has regarded the humility of his servant.*

BRETHREN, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 9:1-7 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον, καὶ ἠγαλλίασε τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτήρί μου.

Στίχ. Ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπείνωσιν τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ.

Ἀδελφοί, εἶχεν ἡ πρώτη σκηνὴ δικαιώματα λατρείας, τό τε ἅγιον κοσμικόν. Σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη, ἐν ἧ ἦ τε λυχνία καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων, ἣτις λέγεται ἅγια. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ δεύτερον καταπέτασμα σκηνὴ ἡ λεγομένη ἅγια ἁγίων, χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα θυμιατήριον, καὶ τὴν κιβωτὸν τῆς διαθήκης περικεκαλυμμένην πάντοθεν χρυσίῳ, ἐν ἧ στάμνος χρυσεῖ ἔχουσα τὸ μάννα, καὶ ἡ ῥάβδος Ἀαρὼν ἡ βλαστήσασα, καὶ αἱ πλάκες τῆς διαθήκης· ὑπεράνω δὲ αὐτῆς Χερουβὶμ δόξης κατασκιάζοντα τὸ ἱλαστήριον· περὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔστιν νῦν λέγειν κατὰ μέρος. Τούτων δὲ οὕτως κατεσκευασμένων, εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίσαιεν οἱ ἱερεῖς, τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες· εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἅπαξ τοῦ ἑνιαυτοῦ μόνος ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, οὐ χωρὶς αἵματος, ὃ προσφέρει ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἀνομημάτων·

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 19:16-26 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, νεανίσκος τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ, γονυπετῶν αὐτόν, καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε ἀγαθέ, τί ἀγαθὸν ποιήσω ἵνα ἔχω ζωὴν αἰώνιον; Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· τί με λέγεις ἀγαθόν; οὐδεὶς ἀγαθὸς εἰ μὴ εἷς ὁ Θεός. εἰ δὲ θέλεις εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ζωὴν, τήρησον τὰς ἐντολάς. λέγει αὐτῷ· ποίας; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε· τὸ οὐ φονεύσεις, οὐ μοιχεύσεις, οὐ κλέψεις, οὐ ψευδομαρτυρήσεις, τίμα τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴν μητέρα, καὶ ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ νεανίσκος· πάντα ταῦτα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου· τί ἔτι ὑστερῶ; ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· εἰ θέλεις τέλειος εἶναι, ὑπάγε πώλησον σου τὰ ὑπάρχοντα καὶ δὸς πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἔξεις θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ δεῦρο ἀκολουθεῖ μοι. ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ νεανίσκος τὸν λόγον ἀπήλθε λυπούμενος· ἦν γὰρ ἔχων κτήματα πολλά. Ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι δυσκόλως πλούσιος εἰσελεύσεται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν. πάλιν δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν, εὐκοπώτερόν ἐστι κάμηλον διὰ τρυπήματος ῥαφίδος διελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν. ἀκούσαντες δὲ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐξεπλήσσοντο σφόδρα λέγοντες· τίς ἄρα δύναται σωθῆναι; ἐμβλέψας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· παρὰ ἀνθρώποις τοῦτο ἀδύνατόν ἐστι, παρὰ δὲ Θεῷ πάντα δυνατά ἐστι.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Sun. Aug. 31 st | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12 th Sunday of Matthew |
| Mon. Sept. 1 st | | Labor Day – The Parish office is closed |
| Sat. Sept. 6 th | 10:00 am | Blessing of the Animals (Community Event) |
| Sun. Sept. 7 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday Before Holy Cross Blessing of Backpacks & Sunday School Begins Parish Welcome Back Picnic after Liturgy |
| Mon. Sept. 8 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Nativity of the Theotokos |
| Sat. Sept. 13 th | 5:00 pm | Vespers – Elevation of the Cross |
| Sun. Sept. 14 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross |
| Mon. Sept. 15 th | 5:00 pm | Greek School Begins/Agiasmos (Children) |
| Tues. Sept. 16 th | 6:30 pm | Great Vespers & Artoklasia St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Dessert reception to follow |
| Wed. Sept. 17 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape |
| Sun. Sept. 21 st | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday after Holy Cross 12:30 pm Greek School Begins/Agiasmos (Adults) |
| Mon. Sept. 22 nd | 5:00 pm | Greek School (Children) |
| Thurs. Sept. 25 th | 6:00 pm | Greek School (Adults) |
| Sun. Sept. 28 th | 8:45 am | Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1 st Sunday of Luke 12:30 pm Greek School (Adults) |



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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.

Standing versus kneeling on Sundays: Each Sunday is a joyful celebration of Pascha – of Christ's victory over death and sin. We experience the Resurrection from Pascha until Pentecost by standing in prayer during all liturgies and do not kneel; kneeling and prostrations are demonstrations of repentance. As every Sunday is a "little Pascha", we are reminded that the Church teaches us to remain standing on Sundays during the invocation (Ἡ Ἐπίκλησις) of the Holy Spirit (the Consecration of the Body and Blood of our Lord). In contrast, during weekday services throughout the year it is customary to kneel during the Consecration. *In lieu of kneeling on Sundays, please bow your heads reverently and pray along with the choir.*

Coffee Hour: Thank you to **Leo and Bonnie Koletas** for offering today's coffee hour.

Register for Greek Language Classes: Registration packets are available in the Narthex and on our website: <https://www.saintsophiachurch.org/greeklanguageschool>.

Register for Youth Ministries: Registration is now open for Sunday School and Youth Ministries. For more information about Sunday School please visit www.saintsophiachurch.org/sundayschool. Kindly sign up your children for Sunday School and Youth Ministries by **August 30th**. The first day of Sunday School (and blessing of the backpacks) is **September 7th**. Please have your children bring their school backpack to Divine Liturgy that day to be blessed.

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.

Mortgage Reduction Campaign: As of August 1, 2025, our mortgage balance is **\$268,819.81**. Thank you to our Stewards and friends who participated this month, and please help us continue to reduce the mortgage to \$0 in the near future.

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

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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-fí-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

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
μη εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς
πειρασμόν, ἀλλά ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπό
τοῦ πονηροῦ.

ST. SOPHIA GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

FOOD & CRAFT FAIR

Nov. 7 – Nov. 9, 2025
Open from Lunch through Dinner!!

Hours:

Fri., Nov 7: 11AM – 8PM
Sat., Nov 8: 11AM – 8PM
Sun., Nov 9: Noon – 6PM

Serving Authentic Greek Food Daily

Area's Best Greek Food & Pastries

Moussaka, Pastitsio, Galaktoboureko, Baklava, Gyro, Souvlaki,
Spanakopita & many other fine Greek favorites.

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

For more information visit: www.saintsophiachurch.org or call: (610) 650-8960

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

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΣΟΦΙΑΣ



MODERN GREEK FOR ALL LEVELS

ΜΑΘΑΙΝΩ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ

FALL 2025

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

CHILDREN AND ADULT CLASSES

- BEGINNERS
- INTERMEDIATE
- ADVANCED



For more information contact Mrs. Klapakis at
623-363-0980 or via email dimitraklapakis19@gmail.com
OR visit www.saintsophiachurch.org/greeklanguageschool



Facing the needs of our neighbors, together.

FOCUS North America exists to serve the poor by bringing together Orthodox Christian churches and community partners to provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, Shelter, and other assistance to address the needs of local communities.

FOCUS Philadelphia – based out of Saint Sophia and led by John Pogas as Center Director – is committed to understanding and addressing the needs of our neighbors. As Christ said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me” - Matthew 25:40

We serve hot meals in

- Norristown every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM
- Philadelphia every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM

Discover how you can support this vital ministry either by volunteering, donating food, funding or simply spreading the word. Visit www.focusphiladelphia.org to learn more or use our SignUpGenius (link below).



Link to SignUpGenius

ST. SOPHIA PRESENTS

TRIVIA NITE

OCTOBER 4, 2025


DOORS OPEN AT 5PM - TRIVIA BEGINS AT 6PM
REGISTRATION/PAYMENT DEADLINE - OCTOBER 1st

\$25 Adults / \$20 Students
Coffee & Dessert Included - BYOB

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
900 S TROOPER RD, JEFFERSONVILLE, PA 19403

REGISTRATION DETAILS ON:
www.saintsophiachurch.org/trivianite

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Patrician Society & receive a special raffle ticket



venmo

Carve out a
new tradition.

Give Blood!



Interfaith Blood Drive

to address the nation-wide blood shortage

Joint effort of congregations from:

Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

1:30 pm – 6:30 pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
2530 Stinson Lane
Norristown, PA 19403

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Search using code: **PAinterfaith**
Or call **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2015 The American National Red Cross



The Greater Philadelphia Committee of IOCC invites you to the
14TH ANNUAL BANQUET TO BENEFIT IOCC
Sunday, October 26, 2025

3:30pm Hors d'Oeuvres & Silent Auction • 5:00pm Dinner & Program

Come and learn about IOCC's programs around the world and how your support makes a difference in places like Ethiopia, Greece, the Holy Land, Ukraine, and the US.

Adelphia Restaurant, Pan Athenian Grand Ballroom
1750 Clements Bridge Rd., Deptford, NJ 08096

To reserve your place and for **sponsorships**, see your parish rep or visit

iocc.org/philadelphia

Or make checks out to IOCC and mail to
IOCC | 110 West Road, Suite 360 | Baltimore, MD 21204

Tickets: \$85 per person

Questions? E-mail Theodora Veronis at TVeronis@iocc.org

ST. SOPHIA PARISH REPS: Tina Coutavas 215-518-0192 and Tom Cox 215-859-1009



The following sponsorship opportunities are available:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Benefactor (\$5,000+) - includes 10 guests | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500) - includes 4 guests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Benefactor (\$2,000) - includes 8 guests | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (\$250) - includes 2 guests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000) - includes 6 guests | |

Sponsorships received by Oct. 17 will be recognized in the program.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Authentic Greek Food

FOOD & CRAFT FAIR

Nov. 7-9

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP GENIUS ▶▶



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

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
10 AM**



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

All pets welcome!
(on a leash or in a carrier please)

Pet food donations gratefully accepted for the Conshohocken SPCA

The DVYC Presents:

SAVE THE DATE!



Metropolis of
New Jersey

**2025 GOYA
FALL RETREAT**

NOVEMBER 14-16, 2025


**INNABAH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER
SPRING CITY, PA**

Registration opens September 28th!

«οικολογικής μετανοίας», πέραν τῆς κλήσεως σὲ μεταμέλεια γιὰ τὴν οικολογικὴ ζημιὰ ποῦ ἔχει ἐπιτελεσθεῖ καὶ σὲ ριζικὴ ἀλλαγὴ νοοτροπίας καὶ συμπεριφορᾶς ἐναντι τῆς δημιουργίας, ἀναφέρεται καὶ στὴν ἀνάγκη ὑπέρβιας τῆς σφαιλερῆς τοποθέτησης, ἢ ὅποια στηρίζει τὴ θεώρηση τῆς καταστροφικῆς γιὰ τὸ φυσικὸ περιβάλλον «ιδιονομίας τῆς οικονομίας» ὡς μονόδρομου πρὸς τὴν ἀνάπτυξη, καὶ τροφοδοτεῖ τὴν ἀφελή πίστη στὴ δυνατότητα τῆς φύσης νὰ ἀναζωογονεῖται ἀφ' ἑαυτῆς στὸ διηλεκτὸν, παρὰ τὶς ἀνθρωπογενεῖς ἐπιβαρύνσεις τῆς, ὅπως ἡ ἐντεινόμενη κλιματικὴ ἀλλαγὴ καὶ οἱ καταστροφικὲς πλανητικὲς συνέπειές τῆς. Σὲ ὅλα αὐτὰ προστίθεται σήμερον τὸ πανδαιμόνιο τῶν πολεμικῶν ἰαχῶν, τῶν βομβαρδισμῶν, τῶν πυρῶν καὶ τῶν ἐκρήξεων, τὸ ὅποιο ἐπικαλύπτει τὴν κραυγὴ τῶν ἀθῶων θυμάτων τῆς ἀνελέτητος βίας καὶ τοῦ στεναγμοῦ τῆς δημιουργίας. Τὸ μέλλον τῆς ζωῆς στὸν πλανήτη μας ἢ θὰ εἶναι οικολογικὸ καὶ εἰρηνικὸ ἢ ἀνύπαρκτο.

Τὸ Οἰκουμένικὸ Πατριαρχεῖο, μαζί μὲ τὸν ἀγῶνα γιὰ τὴν εἰρήνην, τὴ δικαιοσύνη καὶ τὴν ἀλληλεγγύη, θὰ συνεχίσει νὰ πρωτοστατεῖ στὴν προστασία τῆς φύσεως, στὴν ἀνάδειξη τῆς οικολογικῆς θεματικῆς σὲ κεντρικὸ ζήτημα τοῦ διαχριστιανικοῦ καὶ τοῦ διαθρησκευτικοῦ διαλόγου, στὴν προβολὴ τῆς σημασίας τῶν χριστιανικῶν οἰκοφιλικῶν ἀρχῶν καὶ παραδόσεων στὸ πλαίσιο διεθνῶν θεσμῶν, οικολογικῶν ὀργανώσεων, ἐπιστημονικῶν ἰδρυμάτων καὶ τῆς κοινωνίας τῶν πολιτῶν. Εἴμαστε βέβαιοι ὅτι ἡ σύμπραξη στὸν τομέα τῆς οικολογίας ἐνισχύει τὴν αἴσθησι τῆς κοινῆς εὐθύνης γιὰ τὴν πορεία πρὸς τὸ μέλλον καὶ δημιουργεῖ νέες εὐνοϊκὲς προοπτικὲς.

Ἐπανερχόμενοι σὲ ὅσα ἀναφέραμε σὲ παλαιότερο Μήνυμά μας, καλοῦμε ἐκ νέου τὶς ἀνὰ τὴν οἰκουμένη Ἐπαρχίες τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας, τὶς ἐνορίες καὶ τὶς ἱερῆς Μονῆς, νὰ ἀναπτύξουν συντονισμένους δράσεις καὶ συγκεκριμένους παρεμβάσεις γιὰ τὴν κινητοποίηση τῶν πιστῶν, μὲ ἔμφαση στὴ διαπαιδαγώγησι τῆς νέας γενιᾶς. Ἡ ἐφαρμογὴ τῶν οικολογικῶν συνεπειῶν τῆς πίστεώς μας στὴν πράξη ἀποτελεῖ καθοριστικὴ διάστασι τῆς Ὁρθόδοξῆς μας ἰδιοπροσωπίας.

Στὸ πνεῦμα αὐτό, εὐχόμενοι πρὸς ὅλους σας αἰσιο καὶ πολυκαρπο σὲ ἔργα ἀγαθὰ καὶ θεάρεστα τὸ νέο ἐκκλησιαστικὸ ἔτος, καλοῦμε τὰ ἀνὰ τὴν ὑψήλιο τέκνα τῆς Ἁγίας τοῦ Χριστοῦ Μεγάλῆς Ἐκκλησίας νὰ ζοῦν οἰκοφιλικά καὶ φιλάδελφα, νὰ προσεύχονται γιὰ τὴν κτίσι καὶ τὴν εἰρήνην, νὰ ἀγωνίζονται γιὰ τὴν ἀκεραιότητα τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος καὶ τὴν ἀειφορία, καθὼς καὶ γιὰ τὴν ἐμπέδωσι τοῦ πολιτισμοῦ τῆς ἀλληλεγγύης, καὶ ἐπικαλούμαστε σὲ σᾶς, μὲ τὴν μεσιτεία καὶ τὴν προστασία τῆς Παναγίας Θεοτόκου τῆς Παμμακαρίστου, τὴ ζειδωρη χάρι καὶ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος τοῦ πανσθενοῦς Κτίστη τῶν ἀπάντων καὶ παντελεῖμονος Θεοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης.

Εὐλογημένο ἐκκλησιαστικὸ ἔτος, ἀδελφοὶ καὶ τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ!

2025, Σεπτεμβρίου 1^η

Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως

διάπυρος πρὸς Θεὸ εὐχέτης ὄλων σας

Prot. No. 605

† BARTHOLOMEW

By the Mercy of God

Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch

Grace, Peace, and Mercy unto the Plenitude of the Church

From the Fashioner of All Creation

Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

By the good pleasure of God the giver of all, we embark today upon a new ecclesiastical year, glorifying His heavenly name for the uninterrupted and bounteous fruitfulness of the initiatives of His Holy Great Church in the field of creation's protection. The Ecumenical Patriarchate not only highlighted the seriousness of environmental issues from an early stage, but also focused attention on their foundational causes—which are inner, spiritual, and moral—and proposed solutions based on an Orthodox eucharistic and ascetic ethos.

Orthodoxy, in her faith, divine worship, and witness to the world is, one could say, the eco-friendly form of Christianity. Thus, the proclamation of the Feast of the Indiction as a day of prayer for the protection of the natural environment was not merely a reaction to the contemporary ecological crisis, but a natural extension of the Church's life as "applied ecology." From the beginning, we declared the inseparability of respect for creation and the human person, revealing the common root and interconnection of environmental and social problems. Alienation from God breeds a possessive and exploitative attitude and behavior toward creation and fellow human beings, while life in and according to Christ is a source of environmental sensitivity and philanthropic action. As the Lord said: "Every good tree bears good fruit, but a corrupt tree bears evil fruit. A good tree cannot bear evil fruit, and a corrupt tree cannot bear good fruit" (Matthew 7:17–18).

Respect for spiritual values sharpens our discernment of what is good and what must be done. Indifference toward the Transcendent and the "anthropomorphism" that follows lead to the entrapment of the human being in the earthly, that is, to a shrinking of his freedom into pragmatic choices and decisions, always intertwined with superficial views of reality and with the identification of the good with "what happens to be useful." The timely call for "ecological repentance"—beyond the call to remorse for the ecological damage already inflicted—and to a radical change in mindset and behavior toward creation, also points to the need to transcend the erroneous stance that upholds the view of the environmentally destructive "self-regulating economy" as the only path to development. This stance further fuels the naive belief in nature's alleged ability to regenerate itself indefinitely, despite the human-induced burdens it suffers, such as the intensification of climate change and its devastating global consequences. Today, in addition to all this, is added the pandemonium of war cries,

bombings, missiles and explosions, which drowns out the cry of the innocent victims of merciless violence and the groaning of creation. The future of life on our planet will either be ecological and peaceful—or nonexistent.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate, alongside its struggle for peace, justice, and solidarity, will continue to lead in protecting nature, upholding ecological themes as central issues in inter-Christian and interfaith dialogue, and promoting the significance of Christian eco-friendly principles and traditions within international institutions, environmental organizations, scientific foundations, and civil society. We are confident that cooperation in the field of ecology strengthens our sense of shared responsibility for the future and opens up new and favorable prospects.

Returning to what we stated in a previous Message, we once again call upon the Metropolises of the Mother Church around the world, parishes, and monasteries to develop coordinated actions and specific interventions to mobilize the faithful, with emphasis on educating the younger generation. Applying the ecological implications of our faith in practice is a defining aspect of our Orthodox identity.

In this spirit, we wish you all a blessed and fruitful ecclesiastical year in good and God-pleasing works. We call upon the children of the Holy Great Church of Christ across the globe to live in a true eco-friendly manner and in brotherly love, to pray for creation and for peace, to strive for the integrity of the natural environment and sustainability, and to cultivate a culture of solidarity. Through the intercession and protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Pammakaristos, we invoke upon you the life-giving grace and great mercy of the Almighty Creator and All-Merciful God of love.

Blessed Ecclesiastical Year, brothers and children in the Lord!

September 1, 2025

† Bartholomew of Constantinople
Fervent supplicant for all before God

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 605

† Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ
ΕΛΕΩΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ
ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ-ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΣΕ ΟΛΟ ΤΟ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΧΑΡΗ, ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΕΟΣ
ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΟ ΠΑΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΤΙΣΕΩΣ
ΚΥΡΙΟ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟ ΚΑΙ ΣΩΤΗΡΑ ΜΑΣ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟ
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Τιμιώτατοι ἀδελφοὶ Ἱεράρχες καὶ τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ εὐλογημένα,

Μὲ τὴν εὐδοκία τοῦ πανδώρου Θεοῦ, εἰσερχόμεστε σήμερα στὸ νέο ἐκκλησιαστικὸ ἔτος, δοξολογούντες τὸ ὑπερουράνιο ὄνομά Του γιὰ τὴν ἀδιάσπαστη δαψιλὴ καρποφορία τῶν πρωτοβουλιῶν τῆς Ἁγίας Του Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας στὸ χῶρο τῆς προστασίας τῆς κτίσεως. Τὸ Οἰκουμενικὸ Πατριαρχεῖο ὄχι μόνον ἐπισήμανε ἐγκαίρως τὴ σοβαρότητα τῶν περιβαλλοντικῶν προβλημάτων, ἀλλὰ ἔστρεψε τὴν προσοχὴ στὰ αἰτία τους, στὶς ἐσωτερικὲς, πνευματικὲς καὶ ἠθικὲς καταβολές τους, καὶ πρότεινε λύσεις ἐπὶ τῆ βάσει τοῦ Ὁρθοδόξου ευχαριστιακοῦ καὶ ἀσκητικοῦ ἤθους.

Ἡ Ὁρθοδοξία ὡς πίστη, θεία λατρεία καὶ ἐγκόσμια μαρτυρία εἶναι ἡ οἰκοφιλικὴ μορφή τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ. Μὲ τὴν ἐννοια αὐτή, ἡ ἀνακήρυξη τῆς ἐορτῆς τῆς Ἰνδίκτου σὲ Ἡμέρα προσευχῆς ὑπὲρ τῆς προστασίας τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος δὲν ὑπῆρξε ἀπλῶς ἀντίδραση στὴ σύγχρονη οἰκολογικὴ κρίση, ἀλλὰ συνέπεια καὶ προέκταση τῆς ζωῆς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ὡς «ἐφαρμοσμένης οἰκολογίας». Ἐξ ἀρχῆς διακηρύξαμε καὶ τὸ ἀδιαίρετο τοῦ σεβασμοῦ τῆς δημιουργίας καὶ τοῦ ἀνθρώπινου προσώπου καὶ ἀναδείξαμε τὴν κοινὴ ρίζα καὶ τὴν ἀλληλουχία περιβαλλοντικῶν καὶ κοινωνικῶν προβλημάτων. Ἡ ἀπομάκρυνση ἀπὸ τὸ Θεὸ γεννᾷ τὴν κτητικὴ καὶ ἐκμεταλλευτικὴ στάση καὶ συμπεριφορὰ ἐναντι τῆς κτίσεως καὶ τοῦ συνανθρώπου, ἐνῶ ἡ ἐν Χριστῷ καὶ κατὰ Χριστὸν ζωὴ εἶναι πηγὴ περιβαλλοντικῆς εὐαισθησίας καὶ φιλόανθρωπης δράσης. Σύμφωνα μὲ τὸ λόγο τοῦ Κυρίου, «κάθε καλὸ δένδρο κάνει καρπὸς καλοῦς, ὅμως τὸ σάπιο δένδρο κάνει πονηροῦς καρποῦς. Ἐνα καλὸ δένδρο δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ κάνει πονηροῦς καρποῦς, οὔτε μπορεῖ ἓνα σάπιο δένδρο νὰ κάνει καλοῦς καρποῦς»¹.

Ὁ σεβασμὸς τῶν πνευματικῶν ἀξιών, ὀξύνει τὸ αἰσθητήριό μας γιὰ τὸ ἀγαθὸ καὶ τὸ πρακτέο. Ἡ ἀδιαφορία γιὰ τὸ Ὑπερβατικὸ καὶ ὁ συνακόλουθος «ἀνθρωπομοניσμός» ὀδηγοῦν σὲ ἐγκλωβισμό τοῦ ἀνθρώπου στὰ γεῶδη, σὲ συρρικνώση τῆς ἐλευθερίας του σὲ πραγματιστικὲς ἐπιλογές καὶ ἀποφάσεις, συνυφασμένες πάντοτε μὲ ἐπιφανειακὲς θεωρήσεις τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ μὲ τὴν ταύτιση τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ μὲ τὸ «περιστασιακὰ χρήσιμο». Ὁ ἐπίκαιρος λόγος περὶ

¹ «πᾶν δένδρον ἀγαθὸν καρποῦς καλοῦς ποιεῖ, τὸ δὲ σαπρὸν δένδρον καρποῦς πονηροῦς ποιεῖ. Οὐ δύναται δένδρον ἀγαθὸν καρποῦς πονηροῦς ποιεῖν, οὐδέ δένδρον σαπρὸν καρποῦς καλοῦς ποιεῖν», (Ματθ. ζ', 17 – 18).