

Liturgical Services are now streamed on YouTube. You DO NOT need a YouTube account to access the on-line services, nor do you need to subscribe. Simply click on the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/@stsophiaVF>

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.

Donate



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

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.



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



St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape
Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge
900 South Trooper Rd., Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Rev. Fr. Symeon Williams
Proistamenos

September 14, 2025

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Fast Day (Wine and Oil Allowed)
Refrain from meat, fish, dairy, and eggs.

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross
Commemoration of the 6th Ecumenical Council
Righteous Makarios the Younger of Thessalonika, Martyr

September 14, 2025
The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross
Commemoration of the 6th Ecumenical Council



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Apolytikion for the Elevation of the Cross – Sosen, Kyrie (“Save, O Lord, Your people”)

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

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 γῶνων εὐαγῶν, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθῶν δυσώπει ὑπὲρ πάντων ἡμῶν.

English Phonetics for Greek

Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyriou Sofia martys semni, ke prosigages Christo karpon idytaton, tus tis nidyos su vlastus, di' agonon evagon, Agapin te ke Elpida, syn ti theofroni Pisti; meth' on dysopi yper pandon imon.

English

As an olive tree laden with fruit you sprouted forth, in the courtyards of the Lord, Sophia martyr dignified, and you brought to Christ a fruit most sweet, Namely your womb's own sprouts, brought up by instructive deeds: your daughters Love and Hope, along with God-minded Faith; together intercede with God for us all.

Seasonal Kontakion – O Ipsothis en to Stavro (“You were lifted up on the Cross”)

*You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.*

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.

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.



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
FIRST DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025



MDF

2ND ANNUAL
MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026
OPENING CEREMONY FRIDAY EVENING

SHERATON DOWNTOWN
PHILADELPHIA



The DVYC Presents:



2025 GOYA
FALL RETREAT

NOVEMBER 14-16, 2025

INNABAH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER
SPRING CITY, PA

Registration opens September 28th!

Epistle Reading
The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:18-24

Exalt the Lord our God.
Verse: The Lord reigns; let the people tremble.

Brethren, the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς
Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 1:18-24 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ὑψοῦτε Κύριον τὸν Θεὸν ἡμῶν.
Στίχ. Ὁ Κύριος ἐβασίλευσεν, ὀργιζέσθωσαν λαοί.

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ λόγος γὰρ ὁ τοῦ σταυροῦ τοῖς μὲν ἀπολλυμένοις μωρία ἐστίν, τοῖς δὲ σωζομένοις ἡμῖν δύναμις θεοῦ ἐστίν. Γέγραπται γάρ, Ἀπολῶ τὴν σοφίαν τῶν σοφῶν, καὶ τὴν σύνεσιν τῶν συνετῶν ἀθετήσω. Ποῦ σοφός; Ποῦ γραμματεὺς; Ποῦ συζητητὴς τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου; Οὐχὶ ἐμῶρανεν ὁ θεὸς τὴν σοφίαν τοῦ κόσμου τούτου; Ἐπειδὴ γὰρ ἐν τῇ σοφίᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐκ ἔγνω ὁ κόσμος διὰ τῆς σοφίας τὸν θεόν, εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς διὰ τῆς μωρίας τοῦ κηρύγματος σῶσαι τοὺς πιστεύοντας. Ἐπειδὴ καὶ Ἰουδαῖοι σημεῖον αἰτοῦσιν, καὶ Ἕλληνες σοφίαν ζητοῦσιν· ἡμεῖς δὲ κηρύσσομεν Χριστὸν ἐσταυρωμένον, Ἰουδαίοις μὲν σκάνδαλον, Ἕλλησιν δὲ μωρίαν· αὐτοῖς δὲ τοῖς κλητοῖς, Ἰουδαίοις τε καὶ Ἕλλησιν, Χριστὸν θεοῦ δύναμιν καὶ θεοῦ σοφίαν.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

At that time, when the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. Then when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



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

MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

Following is the list of stewards and friends of St. Sophia who contributed to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign for August. The total for August was \$3,047.

We will continue to provide a monthly listing of Mortgage Reduction collections from the previous month.

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Altum	Mr. & Mrs. Alexandros Lousos	Mr. & Mrs. John Pogas
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Bannon	Mr. & Mrs. Edward McAdoo	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Swope
Mr. Roy Baulch	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moses	Mrs. Shirley Tripolitis
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Diccianni	Mrs. Bessie Neofotistos	Ms. Katherine Tsipras
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Kerns	Dr. Marianne & Mr. Alexander Nikas	Mr. & Mrs. Socratis Tsipras
Mrs. Evangelia A. Klapakis	Mr. Harry Papadakes	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vail
Mr. & Mrs. George Klapakis	Mr. & Mrs. John Papadimitriou	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Witt
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Kline	Dr. & Mrs. Peter Patukas	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zarcone
Mrs. Effie Liacouras	Mr. & Mrs. Aram Piligian	Church Box -- 8/31/25

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, συμβούιον ἐποίησαν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ ὑπηρέται, ἐκραύγασαν λέγοντες· σταύρωσον σταύρωσον αὐτόν. λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Πιλαῶτος· λάβετε αὐτὸν ὑμεῖς καὶ σταυρώσατε· ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐχ εὐρίσκω ἐν αὐτῷ αἰτίαν. ἀπεκρίθησαν αὐτῷ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι· ἡμεῖς νόμον ἔχομεν, καὶ κατὰ τὸν νόμον ἡμῶν ὀφείλει ἀποθανεῖν, ὅτι ἑαυτὸν Θεοῦ υἱὸν ἐποίησεν.

Ὅτε οὖν ἤκουσεν ὁ Πιλαῶτος τοῦτον τὸν λόγον, μᾶλλον ἐφοβήθη, καὶ εἰσηλθεν εἰς τὸ πραιτώριον πάλιν καὶ λέγει τῷ Ἰησοῦ· πόθεν εἶ σύ; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀπόκρισιν οὐκ ἔδωκεν αὐτῷ. λέγει οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Πιλαῶτος· ἐμοὶ οὐ λαλεῖς; οὐκ οἶδας ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχω σταυρῶσαί σε καὶ ἐξουσίαν ἔχω ἀπολυσαί σε; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς· οὐκ εἶχες ἐξουσίαν οὐδεμίαν κατ' ἐμοῦ, εἰ μὴ ἦν σοι δεδομένον ἄνωθεν· διὰ τοῦτο ὁ παραδιδούς μέ σοι μίζονα ἀμαρτίαν ἔχει. ὁ οὖν Πιλαῶτος ἀκούσας τοῦτον τὸν λόγον ἤγαγεν ἔξω τὸν Ἰησοῦν, καὶ ἐκάθισεν ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος εἰς τόπον λεγόμενον Λιθόστρωτον, ἐβραϊστί δὲ Γαββαθα·

ἦν δὲ παρασκευὴ τοῦ πάσχα, ὥρα δὲ ὤσει ἕκτη· καὶ λέγει τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις· ἴδε ὁ βασιλεὺς ὑμῶν. οἱ δὲ ἐκραύγασαν· ἄρον ἄρον, σταύρωσον αὐτόν. λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Πιλαῶτος· τὸν βασιλέα ὑμῶν σταυρώσω; ἀπεκρίθησαν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς· οὐκ ἔχομεν βασιλέα εἰ μὴ Καίσαρα. τότε οὖν παρέδωκεν αὐτὸν αὐτοῖς ἵνα σταυρωθῆ. Παρέλαβον δὲ τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἤγαγον· καὶ βαστάζων τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ ἐξῆλθεν εἰς τὸν λεγόμενον κρανίου τόπον, ὃς λέγεται ἐβραϊστί Γολγοθα, ὅπου αὐτὸν ἐσταύρωσαν, καὶ μετ' αὐτοῦ ἄλλους δύο ἐντεῦθεν καὶ ἐντεῦθεν, μέσον δὲ τὸν Ἰησοῦν. ἔγραψε δὲ καὶ τίτλον ὁ Πιλαῶτος καὶ ἔθηκεν ἐπὶ τοῦ σταυροῦ· ἦν δὲ γεγραμμένον· Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων. τοῦτον οὖν τὸν τίτλον πολλοὶ ἀνέγνωσαν τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ὅτι ἐγγὺς ἦν τῆς πόλεως ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἐσταυρώθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καὶ ἦν γεγραμμένον Ἑβραϊστί, Ἑλληνιστί, Ῥωμαϊστί.

Οἱ μὲν οὖν στρατιῶται ταῦτα ἐποίησαν. εἰστήκεισαν δὲ παρὰ τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἡ ἀδελφὴ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Κλωπᾶ καὶ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ. Ἰησοῦς οὖν ἰδὼν τὴν μητέρα καὶ τὸν μαθητὴν παρεστῶτα ὃν ἠγάπα, λέγει τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ· γύναι, ἴδε ὁ υἱός σου. εἶτα λέγει τῷ μαθητῇ· ἰδοὺ ἡ μήτηρ σου. καὶ ἀπ' ἐκείνης τῆς ὥρας ἔλαβεν ὁ μαθητὴς αὐτὴν εἰς τὰ ἴδια. Μετὰ τοῦτο εἰδὼς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι πάντα ἤδη τετέλεσται, ἵνα τελειωθῆ ἡ γραφή, λέγει· διψῶ. ὅτε οὖν ἔλαβε τὸ ὄζος ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε, τετέλεσται, καὶ κλίνας τὴν κεφαλὴν παρέδωκε τὸ πνεῦμα.

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

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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 & Artoklasia St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Followed by Fast-Friendly Luncheon
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)
Mon. Sept. 29 th	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Wed. Oct. 2 nd	1:30 pm -	Interfaith Blood Drive at The Church of Jesus Christ of 6:30 pm Latter-day Saints., 2530 Stinson Lane (see flyer)
Thurs. Oct. 2 nd	6:00 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Sat., Oct. 4 th	6:00 pm	Trivia Nite (Doors open 5:00 pm)

Register for Youth Ministries: Registration is **still** open for Sunday School and Youth Ministries. For more information about Sunday School please visit www.saintsophiachurch.org/sundayschool. **If you haven't yet done so, please sign up your child(ren) today!**

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.

Lost & Found: We have accumulated several items of clothing, umbrellas, glasses, etc. If you are missing an item, please visit the Lost & Found Table located in the lobby of the Cultural Center.

Saint Sophia Future Plan: Calling all parish stewards! Please participate by sharing your insights to help build upon our strong legacy while strengthening our parish in the future, creating a place where joy, peace, and love abound! You can help by completing the **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats (“SWOT” Analysis) document that was emailed to you on August 22nd (hard copies available at the Pangari). Please complete this BY SEPTEMBER 14, 2025, and either email it to FuturePlanning@saintsophiachurch.org or return printed copies to the Parish office.

Thank you in advance for sharing your input in this transformational process as we chart our bright future together!

Stewardship: Our fixed costs are ever present. Please remember to fulfill your pledges (or send in your pledge if you have not already done so) as we resume our ministries and activities this fall. If you have misplaced your form, just click on the following link [Commitment Form](#). **Thank you for your ongoing support of our parish!**

Mortgage Reduction Campaign: As of September 1, 2025, our mortgage balance is **\$263,150.82**. 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.



WE NEED YOUR HELP
Authentic Greek Food
FOOD & CRAFT FAIR
Nov. 7-9
VOLUNTEER SIGN UP GENIUS

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
ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου,
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,
γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς
ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

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

Ton ár-ton i-món ton
e-pi-óú-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 Kerxhali,
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.

September 14, 2025

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross Commemoration of the 6th Ecumenical Council



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.***

Great Vespers & Artoklasia for our Feast Day will take place on **Tuesday, September 16th, at 6:30 pm**. Our Philoptochos will be hosting a dessert reception after Great Vespers. We invite everyone to join us in celebration of our Feast Day.

Vespers Reception: For the dessert reception that Philoptochos is hosting following Great Vespers on **Tuesday evening, September 16th**, they are asking for donations of small pastries for the evening. Please bring your donation to the church kitchen that evening prior to the start of the Vesper Service. **Please bring only individual pastries that are easily handled without a fork!** Kindly contact Patty Cakridas if you have any questions pattycakridas@yahoo.com or 484-889-7903.

St. Sophia Feast Day: On **Wednesday, September 17th**, we will celebrate our Feast Day with **Orthros at 8:45 am** and **Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am** followed by Artoklasia. Following the Liturgy, everyone is invited to a fast-friendly luncheon offered by the Parish.

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

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

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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





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.

Δέν είναι τυχαίῳ ὅτι ἡ Θεολογική Σχολή μας φέρει τὸ ὄνομα «Τίμιος Σταυρός»! Διότι ὁ Σταυρός τοῦ Κυρίου ἀποτελεῖ ἕναν ἀπὸ τοὺς μεγαλύτερους διδασκάλους τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μέσα στὰ δύο χιλιάδες χρόνια τῆς ἱστορίας της. Ἔχουμε σοφοὺς καὶ ἐμπνευσμένους ἁγίους πατέρες, ὅπως ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος καὶ οἱ δύο Γρηγόριοι, τῶν ὁποίων τὰ συγγράμματα μελετῶνται καὶ ἀξιοποιοῦνται πλήρως στὴ Σχολή μας. Ὁ Σταυρός, ὅμως, διδάσκει χωρὶς λόγια· διδάσκει μὲ τὴν ἴδια τὴν παρουσία του καὶ μὲ τὴν ἔνδοξη φανέρωσή του. Ἔτσι, ὅταν ψάλλουμε «Χαίρε, Κριτοῦ δικαίου φανέρωσις», ἀντιλαμβανόμαστε ὅτι ὁ Κύριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Σταυροῦ φανερῶνεται ὡς ὁ Δίκαιος Κριτής.

Ἄς σταθοῦμε λίγο νὰ τὸ συλλογιστοῦμε. Ὁ μόνος ἀληθινὰ ἀθῶος ὑποφέρει τὸν θάνατο, παρέχοντας τὴ σωτηρία σὲ ὅλους τοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Ὄντως, «σημεῖον ἀντιλεγόμενον», ὅπως προφήτευσε ὁ θεοδόχος Συμεὼν (Λουκ. β', 34). Ἐπὶ τοῦ Σταυροῦ ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν κρίνει κανέναν· οὔτε τοὺς σταυρωτὲς του, οὔτε ἐκείνους ποὺ ἐπεδίωξαν τὸ θάνατό του, οὔτε ὄσους χλεύαζαν τὸ πάθος του. Ὁ Κύριος, ὡς ὁ κριτής τῆς οἰκουμένης, δὲν κατεδίκασε· ἀλλὰ πρόσφερε τὴ ζωὴ του, «ὑπὲρ τῆς τοῦ κόσμου ζωῆς», συγχωρώντας μὲ ἀπειρη ἀγάπη.

Αὐτὸ εἶναι τὸ μάθημα τοῦ Σταυροῦ καὶ γιὰ μᾶς. Νὰ συγχωροῦμε, ἀντὶ νὰ καταδικάζουμε. Νὰ ἀγαποῦμε, ἀντὶ νὰ μισοῦμε. Αὐτὲς εἶναι καὶ οἱ ἀρχὲς ποὺ ἀποτελοῦν τὸ θεμέλιο τῆς μορφώσεως καὶ τῆς διακονίας τῶν σπουδαστῶν μας στὸ Ἑλληνικὸ Κολλέγιο καὶ τὴ Θεολογικὴ Σχολὴ τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ. Σήμερα, ἡμέρα τῆς ἑορτῆς τους, ἄς μνημονεύσουμε αὐτὸ τὸ ζωτικὸ καθίδρυμα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας. Ἄς ὑποστηρίξουμε μὲ κάθε δυνατὸ τρόπο τὴν ἀποστολή του, καὶ ἄς ἐφαρμόσουμε καὶ ἐμεῖς τὴν διδαχὴ τοῦ μεγίστου παιδαγωγοῦ τῶν ψυχῶν μας, τοῦ τιμίου καὶ ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prof. No. 423/2025

Archepiscopal Encyclical for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross

September 14, 2025

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Χαίρε, Κριτοῦ δικαίου φανέρωσις... (Ἀκάθιστος τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ, Ν)
Hail, Manifestation of the Righteous Judge.... (Akathist of the Holy Cross, N)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today, we hail the Precious and Life-giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In many of our parishes, the Akathist to the Holy Cross is chanted in overflowing praise. Like so many of our magnificent liturgical texts, this Akathist contains glimpses and glimmers of the mystery of our salvation in Christ, which illumine our spiritual path and teach us the deep things of God.

It is not without purpose that our Theological School is named “Holy Cross,” because the Cross of our Lord is one of the greatest teachers in the two thousand years of the Church. We have amazing and erudite Saints, like Basil and the Gregorysts, whose writings endure through the ages, and who are studied intently at our Theological School. But the Holy Cross of our Lord teaches wordlessly. It teaches by example, and by sheer manifestation. Therefore, when we chant, “Hail, Manifestation of the Righteous Judge,” we come to the realization that the Lord, hanging upon the Cross, is being revealed to us as the Righteous Judge.

Let us all pause for a moment and consider the only truly innocent human being, put to death for the sake of every other human being. It is an unfeigned “sign of contradiction,” as the Prophet Simeon the Elder said (Luke 2:34). For from the Cross, the Lord delivers no judgment of anyone — not his crucifiers, nor the ones who clamored for His destruction, nor those who ridiculed Him in His agony. The Lord, the Judge of the Universe, judged no one; rather, He gave His life for the life of the world with forgiveness.

Such is the lesson for each of us, then, as we praise the Holy Cross. To forgive, rather than condemn. To love, rather than despise. These are the lessons that are at the core of our training of the good people studying at our beloved Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Today, on their Feastday, let us remember this vital Institution of our Church and support its mission, as we apply ourselves to the lesson of the Cross, the greatest teacher of our souls.

With paternal love in Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 423/2025

**Αρχιεπισκοπική Εγκύκλιος για την έορτή
της ύψωσης του τιμίου και ζωοποιού Σταυρού.**

14 Σεπτεμβρίου 2025

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρες καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλιῶν, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιατάτους Ἀρχόντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπάνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱεράς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

*«Χαίρε, Κριτοῦ δικαίου φανέρωσις...»
(Χαιρετισμοὶ εἰς τὸν Τίμιον Σταυρόν. 11^{ος} Οἶκος).*

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Σήμερα ὑψάνουμε καὶ τιμοῦμε τὸν τίμιον καὶ ζωοποιὸ Σταυρὸ τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Σωτήρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Σὲ κάποιες ἐνορίες μας ψάλλονται καὶ οἱ Χαιρετισμοὶ πρὸς τὸν Τίμιον Σταυρό. Αὐτὸς εἶναι ἕνας ὕμνος πλήρης δοξολογίας καὶ εὐγνωμοσύνης! Ὅπως καὶ ἄλλα λειτουργικὰ κείμενα, ὁ ὕμνος αὐτὸς ἀναδεικνύει τὸ μυστήριον τῆς σωτηρίας, φατίζοντας τὴν πνευματικὴν μας πορεία καὶ ἐξερευνώντας τὰ βάθη τοῦ Θεοῦ.