

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 Rd., Jeffersonville, PA 19403

**Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Loukas
Proistamenos**

November 23, 2025

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Today is a Fast Day (Fish Allowed) | Fish, oil and wine are allowed. Refrain from meat, dairy and eggs.

9th Sunday of Luke

Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium

Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum

Dionysios, Patriarch of Constantinople

Ischyron, Bishop of Egypt

Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

Sisinios the Confessor



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

**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. Konstantinos Loukas, Proistamenos

frkonstantinos@saintsophiachurch.org

Metropolis of New Jersey



November 23, 2025



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Katelisas to Stavro (“By Thy Cross Destroyed”)

O Death didst Thou destroy by Thy Cross. Thou opened Paradise to the Thief and the laments of the myrrhbearers didst Thou change and to Thine own Apostles command them to announce that Thou had risen O Christ our God, Who gives to the World Thy Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for Post-Presentation of the Theotokos – Simeron tis evdhokias (“Today is the prelude”)

Today is the prelude of God’s good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity’s salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: “Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.”

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 ἡ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δί᾽ α γώνων εὐάγων, 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 katharotatos Naos (“The Savior’s most pure and immaculate temple”)

The Savior’s most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Please complete this form and return it with your payment of \$30.00 to Saint Sophia Church by Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Saint Sophia Church
900 South Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA 19403

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE LIST MY NAME AS FOLLOWS: _____

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION AS REQUESTED AND PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

DO NOT CUT THIS FORM! DO NOT CUT THIS FORM! DO NOT CUT THIS FORM! DO NOT CUT THIS FORM!

GIVE POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

These plants, at \$25.00 each, may be donated in memory of, or in honor of, your loved ones.

Please complete this form and return it with your payment to Saint Sophia Church, by Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Saint Sophia Church
900 South Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Yes, I would like to donate _____ poinsettia plant(s) at \$25.00 each.

Please accept my gift:

in memory of _____

in honor of _____

donated by _____

If you participate in the Community Christmas Card AND give Poinsettias, you may pay for both with just 1 check or 1 electronic payment. When paying electronically, please indicate reason for payment.



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.



Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 2:14-22 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Κύριος ἰσχύϊν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστός ἐστιν ἡ εἰρήνη ἡμῶν, ὁ ποιήσας τὰ ἀμφότερα ἓν, καὶ τὸ μεσότοιχον τοῦ φραγμοῦ λύσας, τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν τῇ σαρκί αὐτοῦ, τὸν νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασιν, καταργήσας· ἵνα τοὺς δύο κτίση ἐν ἐαυτῷ εἰς ἓνα καινὸν ἄνθρωπον, ποιῶν εἰρήνην, καὶ ἀποκατάλλαξιν τοὺς ἀμφοτέρους ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀποκτείνας τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν αὐτῷ· καὶ ἐλθὼν εὐηγγελίσατο εἰρήνην ὑμῖν τοῖς μακρὰν καὶ τοῖς ἐγγύς· ὅτι δι' αὐτοῦ ἔχομεν τὴν προσαγωγὴν οἱ ἀμφοτέροι ἐν ἐνὶ πνεύματι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. Ἄρα οὖν οὐκέτι ἐστὲ ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι, ἀλλὰ συμπολίται τῶν ἁγίων καὶ οἰκείοι τοῦ θεοῦ, ἐποικοδομηθέντες ἐπὶ τῷ θεμελίῳ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ προφητῶν, ὄντος ἀκρογωνιαίου αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ᾧ πᾶσα οἰκοδομὴ συναρμολογουμένη αὕξει εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν κυρίῳ, ἐν ᾧ καὶ ὑμεῖς συνοικοδομεῖσθε εἰς κατοικητήριον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν πνεύματι.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 12:16-21 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπου τινὸς πλουσίου εὐφόρησεν ἡ χώρα· καὶ διελογίζετο ἐν ἑαυτῷ λέγων· τί ποιήσω, ὅτι οὐκ ἔχω ποῦ συνάξω τοὺς καρπούς μου; καὶ εἶπε· τοῦτο ποιήσω· καθελῶ μου τὰς ἀποθήκας καὶ μείζονας οἰκοδομήσω, καὶ συνάξω ἐκεῖ πάντα τὰ γενήματά μου καὶ τὰ ἀγαθὰ μου, καὶ ἐρῶ τῇ ψυχῇ μου· ψυχὴ, ἔχεις πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ κείμενα εἰς ἔτη πολλά· ἀναπαύου, φάγε, πίε, εὐφραίνου. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Θεός· ἄφρον, ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ τὴν ψυχὴν σου ἀπαιτοῦσιν ἀπὸ σοῦ· ἃ δὲ ἠτοίμασας τίνοι ἔσται; οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ, καὶ μὴ εἰς Θεὸν πλουτῶν.

HOPE/JOY Parents: Do you have children in Kindergarten-6th grade? Do you want to get them more involved with our St. Sophia youth? Would you like to keep up to date on DVYC and other calendared HOPE/JOY events? Please join our BAND App for communications, events, calendar, and more...

St. Sophia HOPE/JOY BAND, please scan the QR code **to the right** to join:

ST. SOPHIA HOPE/JOY BAND



Sunday School K-12 Parents: Do you wonder which Sundays we do not have Sunday School over the holidays? When is Sunday School Graduation? Or maybe what is new in Sunday School? Sunday School families please join our BAND App for our communications, calendar, and more...

St. Sophia Sunday School BAND, please scan the QR code **to the right** to join:

ST. SOPHIA SUNDAY SCHOOL BAND



HOPE/JOY Dance Parents: Do you have children in Kindergarten – 6th grade who would like to learn to dance Greek dances? Wondering when practice or performances take place? Please join our BAND App for communications, events, calendar, and more...

St. Sophia HOPE/JOY DANCE GROUP BAND, please scan the QR code **to the right** to join:

ST. SOPHIA HOPE/JOY DANCE GROUP BAND





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

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
ἀγιασθήτω τό ὄνομά σου,
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,
γενηθήτω τό θέλημά σου, ὡς
ἐν οὐρανῷ καί ἐπί τῆς γῆς.

Τόν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τόν
ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν
σήμερον καί ἄφες ἡμῖν τά
ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καί ἡμεῖς
ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν καί
μή εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς
πειρασμόν, ἀλλά ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπό
τοῦ πονηροῦ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ENGLISH PHONETICS

Pá-ter i-món o en tis ou-ra-nís
a-gi-as-thí-to to o-no-má Sou,
el-thé-to I va-si-lí-a Sou,
ge-ni-thí-to to thé-li-má Sou, os
en ou-ra-nó ke e-pi tis ghís.

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-fi-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



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

My name is Nicholas Zarynow, I will be hosting an **Adult Winter Coat Drive (new or gently used) now through St. Nicholas Day, Saturday December 6, 2025** for those in need to support FOCUS Philadelphia.

Two weeks ago, I helped serve dinner to those in need with FOCUS in Center City. It was a very humbling experience and it made me realize how truly blessed and fortunate many of us really are.

With the weather getting colder, I thought this would be a great opportunity to reach out to you to ask: **Do you have any new or very gently used- adult sized coats, winter hats, scarves, gloves, and/or warm blankets that you would be willing to donate to those in need?** I am happy to pick up locally or you can feel free to donate to the labeled tote in the cultural center near the ATM.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Nicholas

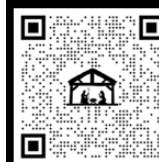
St. Sophia Youth Ministries

NATIVITY FOOD DRIVE

THE GIFT OF FOOD TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

To benefit The Daily Bread Community Food Pantry in Collegeville

NOV 15, 2025 - JAN 6, 2026



ACCEPTING UNEXPIRED CANNED AND NON-PERISHABLE FOODS OR
DONATE USING VENMO (ENTER "YM NATIVITY FOOD DRIVE" IN MEMO)
DONATION DROP-OFF IN LOBBY OF FR. JOHN A. LIMBERAKIS CULTURAL CENTER
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

November 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 to a specific charitable organization selected by Philoptochos.

Donations to the Philoptochos Poor Box during the month of November will benefit **Manna on Main Street** (www.mannaonmain.org). Manna on Main Street is committed to end hunger in the North Penn region by providing food, fulfilling social service and education needs, and conducting community outreach. Through a food pantry and soup kitchen, emergency financial aid, counseling and referrals, and education opportunities, they serve those in need with the hope "that everyone might be fed."

Please consider donating to this worthwhile charity at <http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html> or submit a check payable to St. Sophia Philoptochos, adding "poor box" to the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

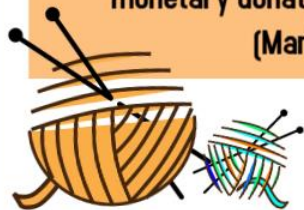
O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

Saint Sophia Knitting Guild

UPDATE

We're excited to announce that we've launched three new projects and are looking for volunteers and sponsors! If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, please consider joining us. You can also sponsor a project with a yarn or monetary donation. Please email or text Maria Swope for details

(MariaSwope5@gmail.com/610.291.0895).



Our membership is open to those outside our parish as well. So feel free to share with anyone you know who may be interested in joining us.

Knitting faithfully with hope and love, serving our Philoptochos mission through the donation of handmade knitted and crocheted items



November 23, 2025



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.***

Artoklasia: Today's artoklasia is offered by Thomas & Eleftheria Dickson and family in honor of their granddaughter Ekaterini.

Special Collection: Today's collection will benefit the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation (one tray only).

Youth Ministries Bake Sale: St. Sophia's Youth Ministries are having their annual bake sale today, the proceeds from which will help support the various Sunday school, Greek school, and children's programs of our parish.

Reminder: There will be no Adult Greek school or Sunday school classes next Sunday, November 30th.

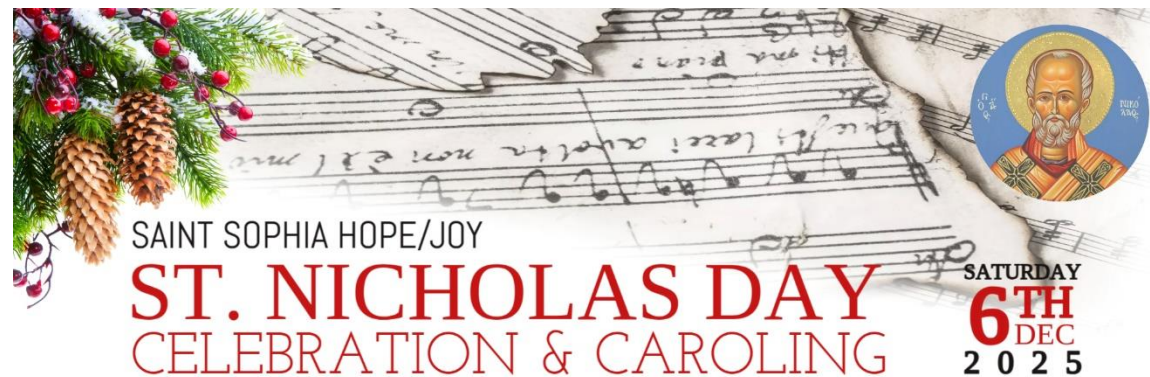
LAST CALL! Community Christmas Card/Poinsettias: If you would like to be included in this year's Christmas card and/or if you would like to donate a poinsettia, please complete the attached form, and mail or bring it with payment to the Parish office. **PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE FORM IN HALF.** Forms must be returned to the office (with payment) **TODAY.** The form can also be downloaded from our website – just click on the following link: [Christmas Card/Poinsettia.](#)



Peter & Alice Zavitsanos Scholarship: Each year, St. Sophia is pleased to offer the Peter & Alice Zavitsanos Scholarship. Last year's recipient was **John Cox**. Thanks to this generous sponsorship, we offer a \$4,000 scholarship to eligible college or university students. For questions, and to apply, please contact the Parish office at office@saintsophiachurch.org. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2025.

Pan-Hellenic Scholarship

Calling all exceptional undergraduate students of Hellenic descent -- consider becoming a PanHellenic Scholar! Do you or an exceptional undergraduate student you know qualify to be a PanHellenic Scholar? The 2025/2026 application is now open and accepting applications! Application deadline 1/31/2026. <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/105586-Pan-Hellenic-Scholarship-Foundation>



SAINT SOPHIA HOPE/JOY

**ST. NICHOLAS DAY
CELEBRATION & CAROLING**

SATURDAY
6TH
DEC
2025

Following Divine Liturgy, please join us for lunch and activities in the John A. Limberakis Cultural Center before we go caroling to spread some Christmas cheer!

Please RSVP and sign up to bring a shareable fast-friendly food item as noted on the SignUpGenius by Tuesday, December 2nd.





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
Web: www.saintsophiachurch.org E-mail: office@saintsophiachurch.org
Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Loukas, Proistamenos



Peter & Alice Zavitsanos Scholarship 2025

St. Sophia is pleased to announce that thanks to a generous sponsorship, we are able to offer a \$4,000 scholarship to eligible college or university students.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be registered in an accredited college or university in undergraduate, graduate, or professional programs
- Achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher
- Be a Steward in good standing of St. Sophia Church
- Submit an essay of 1000 words or less on “How the Greek Orthodox Faith has influenced my life and plans for the future.”
- Submit a resume outlining all church, community, service, and athletic activities
- Submit a statement of financial need if you wish that to be considered as part of the application
- Submit the name and mailing address of your university bursar

Application materials should be in MS Word format, labeled with name and contact information, and emailed to Fr. Konstantinos Loukas at kloukas21@gmail.com.

Deadline for submissions is December 1, 2025

Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed: Thank you to everyone who has sponsored coffee hour recently. There are several upcoming Sundays available. If you are interested in sponsoring 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. **The sponsor is responsible for bringing the food, but the church will supply the coffee, creamer, juice, and paper products to eliminate waste and clutter. We ask that the sponsors donate \$25 (made payable to St. Sophia Church) to offset these expenses.** Thank you!

Parish Council Elections: This year's Parish Council Elections will take place on **Sunday, December 14th**. We have an **uncontested** election; meaning, we have the same number of candidates for the same number of available positions. There are 6 incumbent candidates running for 6 positions. The candidates are Chris Altum, Lucy Pappas Kline, John Papadimitriou, John Pogas, David Poloway, and Nik Tsouros.

Voting in the Elections: Please note that to vote in the Parish Council Elections, you must have returned a 2025 Stewardship Commitment Form and be current in your commitment. Stewardship Commitment Forms can be found at the Pangari or on the table outside of the Parish office. In addition, when paying by check, it is imperative that you indicate “**Stewardship 2025**” on the memo line so that your account is properly credited. Also, if you make cash donations, please be sure to include your name either on the outside of the envelope or on a slip of paper attached to the cash. Should you have any questions, please see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson, or contact the Parish office.

Coming soon...the 2025 Election Guide! It contains a brief profile for each candidate and is a great way to “put a face with a name” if you are not familiar with the candidates.

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 November 1, 2025, our mortgage balance is **\$252,493.26**. 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.

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.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Fri. Nov. 21 st	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
	6:00 pm	AT ST. THOMAS, CHERRY HILL, NJ – Hierarchical Great Vespers, Acolyte Blessing and Dinner Reception for the Celebration of the Feast of St. Iakovos of Evia, Patron Saint of the Metropolis of New Jersey (see flyer)
Sat. Nov. 22 nd	9:00 am	AT ST. THOMAS, CHERRY HILL, NJ – Orthros, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and Reception for the Celebration of the Feast of St. Iakovos of Evia, Patron Saint of the Metropolis of New Jersey (see flyer)
Sun. Nov. 23 rd	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy & Artoklasia 9 th Sunday of Luke Youth Ministries Bake Sale (see flyer)
	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Mon. Nov. 24 th	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Tues. Nov. 25 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Katherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria
Thurs. Nov. 27 th		Happy Thanksgiving! NO Greek School (Adults)
Sat. Nov. 29 th	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy (Only) – St. Philoumenos
Sun. Nov. 30 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Andrew the First-Called Apostle No Sunday School or Greek School (Adults) No Greek School (Children)
Mon. Dec. 1 st	4:45 pm	Little Angels
Tues. Dec. 2 nd	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Porphyrios
	6:00 pm	Paraklesis to St. Porphyrios
Thurs. Dec. 4 th	6:00 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Fri. Dec. 5 th	Time TBD	AT ST. NICHOLAS G.O. CHURCH, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ Vespers for Feast of St. Nicholas the Great
Sat. Dec. 6 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas the Great
	11:30 am	HOPE/JOY St. Nicholas Day Celebration & Caroling (following Liturgy)
	9:30 am	GOYA Nativity Retreat at St. Thomas, Cherry Hill, NJ
Sun. Dec. 7 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 10 th Sunday of Luke
	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Mon. Dec. 8 th	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Tues. Dec. 9 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos
Thurs. Dec. 11 th	6:00 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Fri. Dec. 12 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous




BAKE SALE

Who: ST. SOPHIA YOUTH MINISTRY
When: TODAY!
(following Divine Liturgy)

**Breads, cakes, cookies, pies,
 holiday goodies, YUM!!**



Happy Thanksgiving!

Always rejoice, constantly pray, in everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

#MindfulMeditation www.God.com

Ladies Philoptochos of St. Sophia

Tradition of the *New Year*

VASILOPITA
St. Basil's Bread

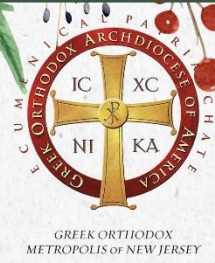
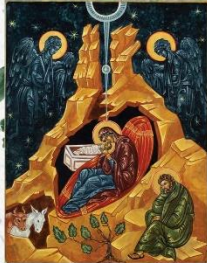
Pick up
Sunday
December 21
Must Pre-order
by: 12/14/25

Giving
St. Basil the Great,
the father of
Philanthropy

Luck
Blessings for the
new year to those
who find the coin

Complete the form and return with check payment to: St. Sophia Philoptochos, 900 S. Trooper Road, Jeffersonville, PA 19403.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
QUANTITY _____ @ \$20 each TOTAL PAID: \$ _____



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
Cordially invites all of the clergy
and the beloved faithful to the
ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING &
OPEN HOUSE
on Thursday, December 18, 2025
6:00-9:00pm
at the
Metropolis Headquarters
215 E. Grove Street
Westfield, NJ 07090



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 531/2025

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for Archon Sunday

November 23, 2025

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

*Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, one of the two who had heard what John said, followed Jesus. First, he went and found his brother, the aforementioned Simon.
(John 1:41-42)*

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

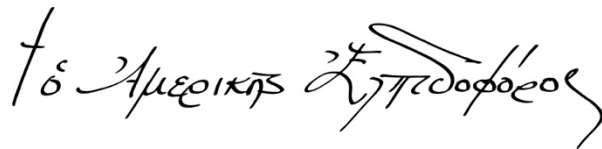
Last year, the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Sacred Archdiocese of America inaugurated "Archon Sunday," in order to recognize the esteemed Order of Saint Andrew the First Called Disciple, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and to honor the Feast of their Heavenly Patron.

In the days preceding the Feast of Saint Andrew on Sunday, November 30th, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV will visit Nicaea (modern İznik), the site of the First Ecumenical Council, together with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Their Beatitudes of the Elder Patriarchates – the full complement of the ancient Pentarchy – in order to commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Three Hundred and Eighteen Fathers gathered in Nicaea and the Creed, and their declaration of the Faith of the Apostles, which we recite at every Divine Service.

Following the Nicaean event, the Pope will be present for the Feastday Liturgy of Saint Andrew in the Patriarchal Cathedral of Holy Great-Martyr George the Trophy-Bearer, bearing witness to the enduring ecumenical progress that has been made over the last fifty years. There will be a special pilgrimage with many Archons for these most significant events, which signal real progress in the goal of a unified Christendom. Throughout, we shall manifest the love of Andrew for his brother Simon, who went first out of love to share with his brother (renamed Peter by the Lord), the good news of finding the Messiah.

Therefore, all parishes are urged to take time on this Sunday, November 23rd, to acknowledge the Archons of the Great Church of Christ, and to take full advantage of the many initiatives of the Order of Saint Andrew, which can be found on their website, <https://archons.org>. As children of the Mother Church of Constantinople, we all – Archon or no – have a responsibility to Her and Her spiritual mission, to share the Gospel of the Messiah, Who was found first by Saint Andrew, with all our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

With Blessings in our Lord Jesus Christ,



+ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



**ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ**

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 531/2025

**Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος
για την Κυριακή τῶν Ἀρχόντων.**

23 Νοεμβρίου 2025

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρους καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἀρχόντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἠγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Ἦν Ἀνδρέας ὁ ἀδελφὸς Σίμωνος Πέτρου εἷς ἐκ τῶν δύο τῶν ἀκουσάντων παρὰ Ἰωάννου καὶ ἀκολουθησάντων αὐτῷ. Εὐρίσκει οὗτος πρῶτος τὸν ἀδελφὸν τὸν ἴδιον Σίμωνα» (Ἰωαν. 1, 41-42).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Τὸ περασμένο ἔτος ἡ Ἱερὰ Ἐπαρχιακὴ Σύνοδος τῆς Ἱερᾶς μας Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς καθιέρωσε τὴν «Κυριακὴ τῶν Ἀρχόντων», ὡς ἡμέρα ἀφιερωμένη στὴν ἀναγνώριση τοῦ Τάγματος τῶν Ἀρχόντων τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου «Ἀπόστολος Ἀνδρέας ὁ Πρωτόκλητος», τιμώντας καὶ τὴν ἑορτὴ τοῦ προστάτου τους.

Τὶς ἡμέρες πρὸ τῆς ἑορτῆς τοῦ ἀποστόλου Ἀνδρέα, ἡ ὁποία ἐφέτος εἶναι ἡμέρα Κυριακὴ, ἡ Αὐτοῦ Ἀγιότης ὁ Πάπας Λέων ὁ ΙΔ΄ θὰ ἐπισκεφθεῖ τὴ Νίκαια, τὸν τόπο

ὅπου συνεκλήθη ἡ Πρώτη Οἰκουμενικὴ Σύνοδος, μαζί μὲ τὴν Αὐτοῦ Θειοπάτη Παναγιώτητα τὸν Οἰκουμενικὸν Πατριάρχην Βαρθολομαῖο καὶ τοὺς λοιποὺς Πατριάρχους τῶν Πρεσβυγενῶν Πατριαρχείων τῆς Ἀνατολῆς, οἱ ὅποιοι ἀποτελοῦν τὴν ἀρχαία Πενταρχία, γιὰ νὰ ἐορτάσουν τὴν χιλιοστὴ ἑπτακοσιοστὴ ἐπέτειο ἀπὸ τὴν σύγκληση τῆς συνόδου τῶν τριακοσίων καὶ δεκαοκτῶ Πατέρων τῆς Νικαίας καὶ τὴν σύνταξη τοῦ Συμβόλου τῆς Πίστεως, δηλαδὴ τῆς ὁμολογίας τῆς πίστεως τῶν ἀποστόλων, ποὺ ἀπαγγέλλουμε σὲ κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία.

Μετὰ τὶς ἐκδηλώσεις στὴ Νίκαια, ὁ Πάπας θὰ παραστειῖ στὴ θεία λειτουργία τῆς ἐορτῆς τοῦ ἁγίου Ἀνδρέα στὸν Πάνσεπτο Πατριαρχικὸ Ναὸ τοῦ ἁγίου μεγαλομάρτυρος Γεωργίου τοῦ Τροπαιοφόρου, ὡς μαρτυρία τῆς διαρκοῦς οἰκουμενικῆς προόδου ποὺ ἐπιτυγχάνεται τὰ τελευταῖα πενήντα χρόνια. Τὸ ἴδιο διάστημα θὰ πραγματοποιηθεῖ εἰδικὴ προσκυνηματικὴ ἐκδρομὴ στὴ Νίκαια καὶ τὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη μὲ τὴ συμμετοχὴ πολλῶν Ἀρχόντων, ἔτσι ὥστε νὰ παρευρεθοῦν σὲ αὐτὰ τὰ σημαντικώτατα γεγονότα, ποὺ σηματοδοτοῦν τὴ συνεχῆ πρόοδο πρὸς τὸν σκοπὸ τῆς μιᾶς ἐνωμένης Χριστιανοσύνης. Μὲ αὐτὸ τὸν τρόπο ἐκδηλώνουμε τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ ἀποστόλου Ἀνδρέα πρὸς τὸν ἀδελφὸ του Σίμωνα (τὸν Πέτρο ὅπως τὸν ὀνόμασε ὁ Κύριος), ὁ ὅποιος ἔσπευσε νὰ μεταδώσει στὸν ἀδελφὸ του τὸ χαρμόσυνο μήνυμα ὅτι «βρήκαμε τὸ Μεσσία».

Προτρέπουμε ὅλες τὶς κοινότητές μας νὰ ἀφιερῶσουν χρόνο τὴν Κυριακὴ 23 Νοεμβρίου, γιὰ νὰ τιμήσουν τοὺς Ἀρχόντες τῆς Μεγάλης τοῦ Χριστοῦ Ἐκκλησίας, ἀλλὰ καὶ νὰ ἐνημερωθοῦν γιὰ τὰ ποικίλα ἐγχειρήματα καὶ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Τάγματος τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέου, τὰ ὅποια μποροῦν νὰ ἀνευρεθοῦν στὴν ἴστοσελίδα τους. Ὡς τέκνα τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, ὅλοι μας, Ἀρχοντες καὶ μὴ, ἔχουμε χρέος πρὸς αὐτὴ καὶ πρὸς τὴν πνευματικὴ τῆς ἀποστολή, νὰ διαδώσουμε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Κυρίου, τὸν ὅποιο ὡς Μεσσία πρῶτος ἀνεγνώρισε ὁ ἀπόστολος Ἀνδρέας, στοὺς ἀδελφοὺς καὶ ἀδελφές μας ἀπανταχοῦ στὸν κόσμον.

Μετὰ πολλῶν εὐχῶν ἐν Κυρίῳ,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, reading "ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος" (The American Hopefuls).

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος,



November 23, 2025

Archon Sunday 2025

The Sunday before the Feast Day of St. Andrew

**Presentation on the Legal Identity and Property Rights of the
Ecumenical Patriarchate**

Who and What are the Archons? What do they do?

Our Purpose:

- We are the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - we have a singular and laser focus...
- To protect and defend religious freedom for all - and most especially for the Ecumenical Patriarchate - The historical spiritual center of the world's 300+ million Orthodox Christians.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate:

- Under attack by the Turkish government in five key ways.

Five Key Issues:

- 1) The Ecumenical Patriarchate has no legal identity or rights in Turkey. In the eyes of the Turkish government, the Ecumenical Patriarchate does not exist!
- 2) The Turkish government interferes with the election of the Patriarch by requiring that he must be a Turkish citizen and maintains the right to approve who is selected. This is clearly interference with the Apostolic succession of the Church's leadership.
- 3) We can no longer train our clergy in Turkey because they closed our beloved Halki Seminary in 1971 where we had trained more than 1000 clergymen (including over 300 bishops and even a few Patriarchs) for 127 years. Today, Halki remains closed. As a result, those who want to become clergymen must be sent elsewhere out of the country. The result is that we are experiencing a gradual asphyxiation of the Holy Mother Church in Turkey. The Greek Orthodox population of Constantinople is now only 2,000 to 2,500 people, down from 300,000 at the beginning of the twentieth century. With all of this said, there

have been recent positive discussions that could possibly lead to the opening of the seminary. We will remain cautiously optimistic.

- 4) The Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot own, inherit or pass along property. Not even our churches can be owned by the Patriarchate. In 1936, the church owned 8000 properties including monasteries, churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged, homes, and apartment buildings. Today most have been confiscated and we have less than 500 properties remaining.
- 5) The Turkish Government does not recognize the “Ecumenical” status of the Patriarch and Patriarchate. Turkish authorities do not allow the use of the term or title “ecumenical” for any religious activity – even though this title has been used since the 6th century and recognized throughout the world. As a matter of fact, the Turkish government only refers to the Patriarch as a local bishop of the Romii (the descendants of Roman Empire).

These are all serious issues, but the main thing I want to talk to you about today is how the lack of legal status leads to the loss of Church properties, and how this threatens the very existence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot own, inherit or pass along property. Not even our churches can be owned by the Patriarchate. In 1936, the church owned 8000 properties including monasteries, churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged, homes, and apartment buildings. Today most have been confiscated and we have less than 500 properties remaining.

Occasionally, the Turkish government allows the Ecumenical Patriarchate to regain control of one of these confiscated properties, but only under the most difficult of circumstances. The Girls and Boys Orphanage Foundation on the island of Prinkipos (which the Turks refer to as Buyukada), for which the Ecumenical Patriarchate has held a deed since 1902, is, like other properties, not legally recognized by the Turkish government as belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In this case, however, the European Court of Human Rights compelled the Turks to hand it over to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, but only in dilapidated condition.

And the confiscation of church properties is just one part of this problem. Another is that the Ecumenical Patriarchate doesn't actually own some of our Church's most cherished items.

The relics

Some of you may remember back in 2004, when one of the most momentous events in modern history of relations between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church took place.

- On November 27, 2004, Pope John Paul II handed over the sacred relics of two of our most important saints, Saints John Chrysostom and Gregory Nazianzen, to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.
- This was an important gesture toward unifying Roman Catholicism with Orthodox Christianity, the two largest Christian groups and the only two that were founded by the apostles.
- Yet because of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's lack of legal identity and property rights in Turkey, Pope John Paul II was actually handing over these relics not to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, but to the government of Turkey.

- The holy relics of Saints John Chrysostom and Gregory Nazianzen are now housed at the Patriarchal Church of St. George in the Phanar “Lantern,” the historic Greek district of Constantinople in the Ottoman period. Yet because the Turkish government denies the Ecumenical Patriarchate any actual legal status, these sacred relics and numerous other properties that have belonged to the Ecumenical Patriarchate from time immemorial technically belong to the government itself.
- This creates a situation in which, if the Turkish government decided to do so, it could demand the Ecumenical Patriarchate turn over these relics to it at any time, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate would have no legal recourse, because according to Turkish law, no such entity as “the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople” even exists.
- This is true despite the fact that the Ecumenical Patriarchate traces its presence in Constantinople back to the times of the Holy Apostle Saint Andrew the First-Called, while the Turkish presence in the city dates only from 1453, and the modern Turkish state was founded in 1923.

This lack of a legal identity:

- Obviously a major source of problems for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- Is not even limited solely to the Turkish government’s non-recognition of its ownership rights, although that creates enough problems in itself. The Ecumenical Patriarchate’s lack of a legal identity also means that “foreign,” that is, non-Turkish priests often encounter difficulty in obtaining the necessary residence and work permits that would allow them to work in the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- As essential as these priests are for the continuity and functioning of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Turkish government is often reluctant to issue such permits or extremely slow in issuing them, as it recognizes no such entity as the Ecumenical Patriarchate and so sees no need to ensure its continued functioning.
- The inability of “foreigners” who work at the Ecumenical Patriarchate to secure work permits often results in these individuals having to leave the country every three months to renew their tourist visas. This disrupts the operation and productivity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and discourages staffing from abroad.

What can be done:

- Because of the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s lack of legal identity, its vulnerability to the decisions of the Turkish state is all-pervasive.
- If the international human rights organizations such as the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations, among others, do not manage to compel the Turkish government to grant property rights to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual center of the world’s 300 million Orthodox Christians remains essentially defenseless, and perilously close to extinction in its historical homeland.
- The Ecumenical Patriarchate needs financial support, so that it is less subject to the will of the Turkish government: the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, founded by the Archons, is dedicated to providing financial stability for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- Please pray regularly for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Christians of Constantinople and consider a donation to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.