

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](http://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](http://www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch)

We also accept Zelle as a form of payment! Through your bank's Zelle system, input [treasurer@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto: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**

**December 14, 2025**

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

 **Fast Day | Wine and oil are allowed.**  
**Refrain from meat, fish, dairy, and eggs.**



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](http://www.saintsophiachurch.org) email: [office@saintsophiachurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:frkonstantinos@saintsophiachurch.org)

Metropolis of New Jersey



**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**  
**Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, and Callinicus of Asia Minor, and**  
**Philemon, Apollonius, and Arian of Alexandria**

# December 14, 2025



## ENTRANCE HYMNS

### Resurrectional Apolytikion – Ote Katilthes (“When Thou Descended”)

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

### Apolytikion for the Forefathers – En pisti tous Propatoras (“In faith You justified the Forefathers”)

*By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save 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 ἡ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δι’ α γώνων εὐαγῶν, Ἀγάπην τε καί 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 martyis 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 – I Parthenos simeron ton proeonion Loghon (“On this day the Virgin Maid”)

*On this day the Virgin Maid \* goes to the grotto to give birth \* to the pre-eternal Word \* in an ineffable manner. \* Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. \* Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds \* Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn Child, \* the pre-eternal God.*



*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](http://www.focusphiladelphia.org) to learn more or use our SignUpGenius (link below).



*Link to SignUpGenius*

# 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](mailto: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 Colossians 3:4-11

***Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.***

***Verse: For you are just in all you have done.***

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Κολοσσαεῖς 3:4-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

***Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.  
Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.***

Ἀδελφοί, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῇ, ἡ ζωὴ ἡμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακὴν, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν, ἧτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρεία, δι' ἃ ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας· Ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς περιεπατήσατέ ποτε, ὅτε ἐζήτε ἐν αὐτοῖς. Νυνὶ δὲ ἀπόθεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ πάντα, ὀργὴν, θυμὸν, κακίαν, βλασφημίαν, αἰσχρολογίαν ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν· μὴ ψεύδεσθε εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν νέον, τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν· ὅπου οὐκ ἔστι Ἕλλην καὶ Ἰουδαῖος, περιτομὴ καὶ ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης, δοῦλος, ἐλεύθερος· ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν Χριστός.

## GOSPEL READING

### The Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

## ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

### Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 14:16-24 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησε δεῖπνον μέγα καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δοῦλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δεῖπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά ἐστι πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες. ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἄγρὸν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἐλθεῖν. καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ δοῦλος ἐκείνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ· ἔξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δοῦλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστί. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ κύριος πρὸς τὸν δοῦλον· ἔξελθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον εἰσελθεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκος μου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεταί μου τοῦ δεῖπνου. Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσιν κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί.

**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

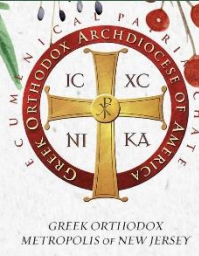
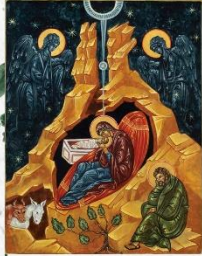


**HOPE/JOY Dance Parents:** Do you have children in Kindergarten – 6th grade who would like to learn to dance Greek dances? Wondering when practice or performances take place? Please join our BAND App for communications, events, calendar, and more...

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

ST. SOPHIA HOPE/JOY DANCE GROUP BAND





*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*

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  
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 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

## St. Sophia's Angel Tree



## Pajamas for Mamas Collection Drive Help Bring Joy to Mothers This Christmas!

Join us in our heartfelt mission to make this Christmas extra special for mothers in our community. We are collecting **wrapped** pajama gifts to be donated to a local food community bank, where children will have the wonderful opportunity to pick out a present to give to their mothers.

### How You Can Help

- Donate **Wrapped** Pajamas: All sizes are needed, especially large and extra-large. Please ensure each gift is wrapped and includes a tag with the size labeled.
- All donations should be brought back to church by **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** and left under the Christmas Tree in the Cultural Center

Your contribution will bring immense joy to both mothers and their children. The kids get very excited to pick out a present for their mothers, and your donation will make that moment possible. Imagine the smiles and warmth your gift will bring to a family in need this holiday season!

Any questions please contact Marina Good at [mdgood05@gmail.com](mailto:mdgood05@gmail.com) or call/text 484-431-6149.

### Thank You!

Thank you for your generosity and kindness. Together, we can make this Christmas a magical time for mothers and their children in our community.

## December 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 December will benefit the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry in Collegeville ([www.dailybreadcommunityfoodpantry.org](http://www.dailybreadcommunityfoodpantry.org)) Their mission is to eliminate hunger in the Perkiomen area by providing residents in need with programs that provide food, promote the value of nutrition, increase self-sufficiency, and instill hope.

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.*

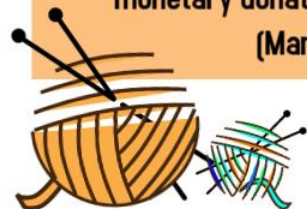
*Master Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my judgment because I am unworthy, but rather for the purification and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the life and Kingdom to come. It is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in Him the 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](mailto: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



## December 14, 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.***

**Memorial:** Today's memorial is chanted for the souls of:

- ✘ **Anastasios Tzivekis (9 months)**, beloved husband of Sofia and father of Christodulos (Aglia), and Pantelis (Donna); and papou to Anastasios, Elena, Paul, Christopher, and Michael. May his memory be eternal.
- ✘ **Beloved family members of the Tspiras & Tatsis families.** May their memory be eternal.

**Coffee Hour:** Thank you to Vasili & Sofia Tatsis for offering today's coffee hour.

**2026 Ecclesiastical Calendars:** To save the Parish resources, 2026 Church calendars are available for pickup in the Narthex of the church and in the Cultural Center on the table right outside of the Parish office. The calendars are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. **We respectfully request that each stewarding family take only 1 calendar per household.** Thank you!

**Senior Citizen Ministry:** St. Sophia's Senior Parea is open to all senior citizens of the community. The meetings take place on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12 noon.

**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!

**JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**  
The Christmas Story Pageant & Parish Sing-Along

Join us Sunday, December 21st  
for a joyful celebration of the Christmas story,  
featuring our parish children, choir,  
and community sing-along!

Sign up child(ren) by December 5th to participate. <https://m.signuppage.us.com/#/showSignUp/10C0B4DABA22A1FBC52-50740943-christmas>

The poster features a silhouette of the Three Kings on camels and a shepherd with a staff, set against a night sky with a star and a distant town.

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!**

The poster features a silhouette of the Nativity scene with three camels and a manger.

**Spanakopita Take & Bake:** We are selling frozen trays of spanakopites for your holiday entertaining! These are the large size (full tray) for \$90. If you are interested, please see Sofia Tatsis or John Papadimitriou.

## Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

### Services for Christmas

Christmas Eve Morning – Wednesday, 12/24/25

8:00 am Orthros; Great Hours

10:00 am Great Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Christmas Eve Evening – Wednesday, 12/24/25

6:00 pm Orthros

7:00 pm Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
followed by the singing of Kalandá

Christmas Day, Thursday, 12/25/25

Merry Christmas! - **Καλά Χριστούγεννα!**

No Services Today

Sunday, 12/28/25

Sunday after Nativity

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

No Sunday school; No Greek school

### Services for New Year's & Theophany

New Year's Day, Wednesday, 1/1/26

Happy New Year! - **Καλή πρωτοχρονιά!**

Feast of St. Basil the Great

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Sunday, 1/4/26

Sunday before Theophany

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Monday, 1/5/26 – Eve of Theophany

8:00 am Orthros; Great Hours

10:00 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Great Agiasmos

Tuesday, 1/6/26 – Holy Theophany

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Great Agiasmos

Blessing of the Schuylkill River

(at Betzwood Park), weather permitting

Wednesday, 1/7/26

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

### Blessing of the Homes at Theophany

If you wish to have your homes and/or businesses blessed after the Feast of Theophany, please contact the Parish office **beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>** to schedule a visitation.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! Parish Council Elections are TODAY in the church hall during coffee hour. VOTING ENDS AT 1 PM**

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, and the candidates are: **Chris Altum, Lucy Pappas Kline, John Papadimitriou, John Pogas, David Poloway, and Nikolaos Tsouros**

The **2025 Election Guide is available at the Pangari**. The Election Guide 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.

**All stewards in good standing are invited to vote.** Under the rules of the Uniform Parish Regulations, only stewards in good standing can participate in voting. You must be Orthodox Christian and in financial good standing with the Parish.

**Stewardship:** 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 Parish website. In addition, by whatever method you pay, 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. Payments may also be made using PayPal, Venmo ([www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch](http://www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch)), or Zelle (through your banking app). Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office, or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson.

**Mortgage Reduction Campaign:** As of November 1, 2025, our mortgage balance is **\$238,775.46**. 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.

**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!**

### **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! The application deadline is 1/31/2026.

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/105586-Pan-Hellenic-Scholarship-Foundation>



**SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

Sun. Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke Christmas Pageant rehearsal during Sunday School Parish Council Elections in the Cultural Center after Liturgy
Mon. Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 pm	Greek School (Adults)
	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Eleutherios the Holy Martyr, Bishop Illyria and his mother Anthia
	4:45 pm	Little Angels
	5:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Thurs. Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Greek School (Adults)
	6:00 pm	Annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Open House at the Metropolis Headquarters, Westfield, NJ (6pm – 9pm)
Fri. Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	Final Christmas Pageant rehearsal in the church
	6:30 pm	HOPE/JOY Dinner & Game Night with Fr. Konstantinos
Sat. Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Vespers
Sun. Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday before Nativity Christmas Pageant followed by Youth Ministries Christmas Party
Sun. Dec. 21, 2025 through Sun. Jan. 4, 2026		No Greek School – Christmas/New Year's Recess

**Christmas, New Year's and Theophany services are listed on enclosed schedule**

Sun. Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday after Nativity No Sunday school
Thurs. Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great St. Basil the Great
Sun. Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Sunday before Epiphany Sunday school resumes No Greek school

**Theophany services are listed on enclosed schedule**

Mon, Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>	4:45 pm	Little Angels
	6:00 pm	Greek School (Children)
Wed. Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
Thurs. Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Sat. Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Vespers

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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS

# VASILOPITA BREAKFAST

JANUARY 4, 2026



FRENCH TOAST CASSEROLE

SCRAMBLED EGGS

SAUSAGE LINKS

MUFFINS

FRESH FRUIT

GREEK YOGURT

COFFEE \* JUICE

DONATION  
\$15

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IN GARRISON, NY

PAGEANT  
PRACTICE

5:30  
PM

IN CHURCH

YOUTH  
GAME

with

Night

Fr. Konstantinos to follow

LIGHT DINNER PROVIDED

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAME!

DEC 19