

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**

January 4, 2026

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Fast Free | No fasting restrictions

Sunday before Epiphany

Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles

Our Righteous Father Theoctistus, Abbot of Cucomo in Sicily

Nikephoros the Leper

Zosimos the Monk and Athanasios the Notary

Righteous Apollinaria the Senator ❖ Martyrs Chrysanthos and Euphemia

Righteous Euthymios the Younger ❖ New Martyr Onuphrios

Righteous Euthymios of Vatopedi ❖ Righteous John Scholarios

Eustathios Archbishop of Serbia



**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



January 4, 2026

ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Ton Sinanarchon Logon (“The Word Who Always Was”)

O, The Word Who always was with the Father and Spirit, who for us and our salvation was born of a Virgin let us faithful believers praise and adore, For it did please Him to ascend the Cross in the flesh and Death to endure. And to raise up the dead with Him through His own glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion for Pre-Theophany – Etimazou, Zavoulon (“Make ready, Zabulon)

*O Zabulon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim. * Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive * the Master who is coming to be baptized. * Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. * No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; * for having seen you naked He has appeared * to clothe you in your former vesture. * The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew * the entire creation.*

Apolytikion of St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape

Greek

Ὁς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καί προσήγαγες Χριστῶ καρπὸν ἡ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, διὰ γώνων 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 nidynos 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 – En tis rithris simeron (“Today in the running waters of the Jordan”)

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.



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

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 Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

***O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.***

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς
Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα**

***Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.
Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.***

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγγόνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 1:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἴδου ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφύν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἰκανὸς κύψαι λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

January 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.

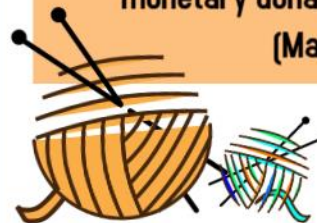
Donations to the Philoptochos Poor Box during the month of January will benefit **Autism Speaks** (www.autismspeaks.org). Autism Speaks is dedicated to creating an inclusive world for all individuals with autism throughout their lifespan. They do this through advocacy, services, supports, research and innovation, and advances in care for autistic individuals and their families.

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!

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



JOIN US!



**Holy Theophany
Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

8:45 am – Orthros

10:00 am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

and

Great Agiasmos

followed by

Blessing of the Schuylkill River (at Betzwood Park),

weather permitting

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 8th** to schedule a visitation (office@saintsophiachurch.org or 610-650-8960.)

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 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 Kerxhalli,
orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com

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

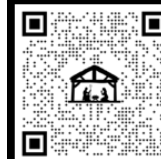
St. Sophia Youth Ministries

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!



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Services for New Year's & Theophany

New Year's Day, Thursday, 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 Vespereal 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 8th** to schedule a visitation.

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.

January 4, 2026



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 Επίκλησις) 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.***

Cutting of the Vasilopita: This morning Fr. Konstantinos will bless and cut the Vasilopita in the church, after which he will bless the food that has been prepared for the "Vasilopita Breakfast" that our Philoptochos is sponsoring today.

St. Basil's Academy Fundraising Breakfast: Each year, the local chapters of the National Philoptochos Society hold an event in January to raise funds for the operating expenses of St. Basil's Academy. Please join the Ladies' Philoptochos Society **TODAY** for St. Basil's Vasilopita Breakfast.

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!



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!

Mortgage Reduction Campaign: As of **December 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.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Thurs. Jan. 1 st	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great St. Basil the Great
Sun. Jan. 4 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday before Epiphany Sunday school resumes No Greek school
Theophany services are listed on the accompanying schedule		
Mon. Jan. 5 th	6:00 pm	Greek School Resumes (Children)
Wed. Jan. 7 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
Sat. Jan. 10 th	5:00 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Jan. 11 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday after Epiphany Greek School Resumes (Adults)
Mon. Jan. 12 th	12:30 pm 4:45 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Little Angels Greek School (Children) Paraklesis
Thurs. Jan. 15 th	6:00 pm	Greek School (Adults)
Fri. Jan. 16 th	6:00 pm	Great Vespers for Feast of St. Anthony AT St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church, Vineland, NJ
Sat. Jan. 17 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Anthony the Great

2025 Stewardship Program: Thank you to everyone who has supported our 2025 Stewardship Program. If you have not yet returned your 2025 Stewardship Commitment Form, please do so today! Forms are available at the Pangari.

If you have not yet finished paying your pledge, please do so before the end of the year so that your payment is posted in 2025. In addition, by whichever method you make your payment (cash, check, PayPal, Zelle, Venmo), it is imperative that you indicate "Stewardship 2025" with your name so that your account is properly credited.

Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson. The 2026 campaign will be starting shortly, so it is imperative that we finalize our stewardship rolls for this year. Thank you!