

Church services are now live 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 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**

April 12, 2026

Fast Free | No fasting restrictions

Today we commemorate

Great and Holy Pascha

**Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium
Sergius II, Patriarch of Constantinople
Anthousa the Righteous of Constantinople
Akakios of Kavsokalyvia**



**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



Paschal Troparion: CHRIST IS RISEN – Χριστὸς ἀνέστη
From the Holy Eparchial Synod, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 2012
March 2013 Revision

Plagal of the First Tone. D.

Christ is ris - en from the dead, by death,
tram-pling down up - on death, and to
those in the tombs He has grant - ed life.

Ἦχος πλ. α'. Πα

Χρι - στὸς ἀ - νέ - στη ἐκ νε - κρῶν, θα - νά - τω
Chri - stos a - ne - sti ek ne - kron, tha - na - to
θά - να - τον πα - τή - σας, καὶ τοῖς
tha - na - ton pa - ti - sas, ke tis
ἐν τοῖς μνή - μα - σι, ζω - ῆν χα - ρι - σά - με - νος.
en tis mni - ma - si, zo - in cha - ri - sa - me - nos.

The Holy Eparchial Synod recommends teaching this melody and text so that when Orthodox faithful from various parishes and Metropolises gather, they will be able to sing this hymn as one.

*Icon of the Resurrection used with permission from
Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte, Montana.*

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

GRECIAN FESTIVAL 2026

May 28–31

Thursday to Sunday



- ✦ Music & Dance
- ✦ Indoor & Outdoor Dining
- ✦ Pick Up Available
- ✦ Same Great Food
- ✦ Made Locally by Volunteers

SaintSophiaFestival.com

Thursday to Saturday: 11am - 8pm
Hours: Big Tent opens Fri. at 5pm
Sunday: 12 noon - 7pm

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 900 South Trooper Road, Jeffersonville PA 19403
From Rte 202, 422W to Trooper Road Exit (Rte 363N), on Right Side before Walmart

Love in Action

a benefit dinner for

FOCUS

+ PHILADELPHIA +

Saturday, May 2nd | 6-9pm
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

Guest Speaker:

Steven Christoforou
Executive Director,
FOCUS North America



<https://focusphiladelphia.org/loveinaction/>

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back - it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 16:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Διαγενομένου τοῦ Σαββάτου, Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμη ἠγόρασαν ἀρώματα, ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Καὶ λίαν πρῶτὴ τῆ μιᾶ τῶν σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον ἀνατεῖλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. Καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. Καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον, εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν· ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· Μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε, Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον, ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε, ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε, εἴπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ, ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. Καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ταχὺ ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχε δὲ αὐτάς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

EPISTLE READING

The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

*This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Verse: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures for ever.*

IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 1:1-8

*Αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος· ἀγαλλιασώμεθα καὶ εὐφρανθῶμεν ἐν αὐτῇ
Στίχ. ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ*

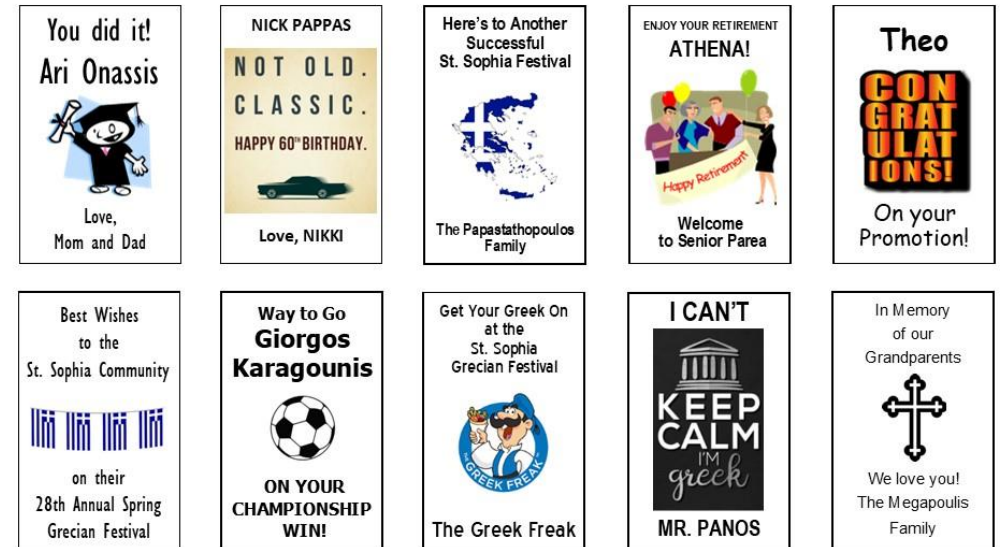
Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποίησάμην περὶ πάντων, ὦ Θεόφιλε, ὧν ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν, ἄχρι ἧς ἡμέρας, ἐντειλάμενος τοῖς ἀποστόλοις διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου οὖς ἐξελέξατο, ἀνελήφθη· οἷς καὶ παρέστησεν ἑαυτὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τὸ παθεῖν αὐτὸν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι' ἡμερῶν τεσσαράκοντα ὀπτανόμενος αὐτοῖς, καὶ λέγων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ. Καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς, ἣν ἠκούσατέ μου· ὅτι Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας. Οἱ μὲν οὖν συνελθόντες ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες, Κύριε, εἰ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνεις τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ; Εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶν γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὓς ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ. Ἀλλὰ λήψεσθε δύναμιν, ἐπελθόντος τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς· καὶ ἔσεσθε μοι μάρτυρες ἐν τε Ἱερουσαλὴμ, καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ Σαμαρείᾳ, καὶ ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

GRECIAN FESTIVAL MAGAZINE

CONSIDER PLACING A MESSAGE OR AD

The format offers an excellent opportunity for members of our community to send a message of love and support.

Magazine reaches thousands attending our annual festival.



Here are some examples of personal messages

For more information contact magazine@saintsophiachurch.org

DEADLINE: FRIDAY - MAY 1st


"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." Matthew 21:22

PRAYER MINISTRY

Do you know of someone in need?

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
2. Email to Prayers@SaintSophiaChurch.org
3. Use the anonymous online form (link is under Prayer Ministry on our website), or you can use this link <https://forms.office.com/r/LZAHY16LSZ>
4. Use the QR code which takes you to the anonymous form.



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.

April 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.

The April Poor Box collection is for Project C.U.R.E. (projectcure.org). Project C.U.R.E delivers life-saving medical equipment, supplies and services to meet the needs of people in poverty, disasters and violence. Project C.U.R.E. accomplishes their work through four primary programs. C.U.R.E. Cargo delivers semi-truck-sized containers of medical equipment and supplies. C.U.R.E. Kits provide basic medical supplies in 50-pound, airline friendly packaging for medical mission trips. C.U.R.E. Clinics are opportunities for medical professionals to travel with Project C.U.R.E. to work with doctors and nurses at Partner locations. C.U.R.E. College is a collection of training programs to educate medical providers around the world.

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!

GOSPEL READING

The Reading is from the Gospel of John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 1:1-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν. ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων. καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν.

Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ Θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν, ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσι δι' αὐτοῦ. οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός. Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθε, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα Θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, οἳ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐκ Θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν.

Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγε λέγων· οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον, ὃ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. Καὶ ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν, καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο.

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

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED
FOOD DRIVE

MAY 10

Most needed food items

- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Dried or canned beans
- Canned tuna, chicken or salmon
- Canned soups and stews
- Peanut butter
- Whole-grain rice or pasta
- Healthy cereal & oatmeal
- Protein bars & snack bars

Please drop off your food donations by 5/10 in the lobby of the Fr. John A. Limberakis Cultural Center

FOOD DONATIONS BENEFIT THE UPPER ROOM FOOD PANTRY IN NORRISTOWN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE GRECIAN FESTIVAL!

Be a volunteer and become an indispensable part of the Grecian Festival's team and success! Get to meet and know your fellow parishioners during the pre-festival planning and days of the festival. Many friendships are formed when we work together to help our church and community.



The Grecian Festival requires a lot of moving parts, and we rely on generous volunteers like you to make it run smoothly.

Simply scan the QR code to review all available volunteer slots on the Signup Genius and sign up wherever you are able to assist.

PA Track and Field Meet: 49th Annual AHEPA Track and Field Meet will take place on **Saturday, May 9th** (no rain date) at 10:00 am at Marple Newtown High School. All children ages 5 and up are welcome to participate and no experience is necessary! There will be races and field events starting at 50 meters and up. Adults are welcome to participate as well!

If you'd like to join "Team Saint Sophia", please email Coach Donna or Coach Lou (donnachristou@gmail.com or christoulou69@gmail.com) with your child's name and birthdate and they will be added to the roster. We are looking forward to having a great team again this year!!

2026 AHEPA District 4 VFC 432 Scholarship Grant Application:

Reach out to Chapter President, Matt Stolarczyk (215)740-8841 or mattstolarczyk@cs.com for application and qualifications. Qualified chapter members in good standing of the AHEPA VFC 432 for at least 2 prior calendar years with an eligible applicant that is a high school senior who will be entering an accredited institution of higher learning in Fall 2026 are eligible for this scholarship grant application.

Thank you to the following individuals who read the prayers during the Salutations to the Theotokos, Compline Services, Presanctified Liturgies and Holy Week:

Readers: Thank you to Zach Christou, Natalie Karagiannopoulos, Lucy Kline, Jenna Magas, Marilena Ristas, Vasilios Tatsis, as well as our chanters, who read the prayers during the Salutations to the Theotokos.

Chanters: Thank you to Panos Zournatzoglou, George Coutavas, Tom Cox, Brian Fitzgerald, Jeff Kerns, Bob and Coleen Moses, Matthew Christofidis and Nia Charalambides for their service to our parish. Thank you also to our Altar Servers (readers).

Decorating the icon of the Panagia for the Salutations to the Theotokos:

Thank you to members of the Parish Council, YAL, Senior Parea, GOYA and Ladies Philoptochos for beautifully decorating the icon of the Panagia for the Salutations to the Theotokos services.

Daffodils for the Sunday of the Holy Cross were donated by Art and Peggy Happas and John and Maria Papadimitriou & Family in memory of their parents, Panagioti (Peter) & Panagiota (Peggy) Kostomite.

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 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-óu-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

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.

ΠΙΣΤΙΣ • ΕΛΠΙΣ
ΑΓΑΠΗ

Family Game Night

APRIL 17 6-9 PM

- Board Games
- Crafts
- Video Games
- Bring your own games & crafts as well

DINNER PROVIDED

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!



Pascha Potluck



Please join in the Cultural Center following the Divine Liturgy on PASCHA for a potluck meal!

No fasting restrictions!

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Pascha egg hunt

**SUNDAY
APRIL 12th**

**AFTER AGAPE SERVICE
12 NOON - 1 PM**



BRING YOUR FAVORITE BASKET & SNEAKERS

RESURRECTION HYMN

Χριστός Ανέστη έκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, καί τοίς εν τοίς μνήμασι, ζώην χαρισάμενος.

Christos anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi zoin harisamenos.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

At the conclusion of each service during the Paschal season until the eve of Ascension, the following responses are made:

Priest: Christ is Risen!
Ιερεύς: Χριστός Ανέστη!
Christos Anesti

People: Truly, He is Risen!
Ο Λαός: Αληθώς Ανέστη!
Alithos Anesti

Priest: Glory to His third-day Resurrection.
Ιερεύς: Δόξα τή Αυτού τριημέρω εγέρσει.
Doxa ti Aftou triemero egersei

People: We worship His third-day Resurrection
Ο Λαός: Προσκυνούμεν Αυτού τήν τριήμερον έγερσιν.
Proskinoumen Aftu tin triemeron egersin



Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Albanian	Krishti u Ngjall!	Vertet u Ngjall!
Arabic	Al Massih Qam!	Haqan Qam!
Armenian	Krisdos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!
Bulgarian	Hristos Voskrese!	Vo Istina Voskrese!
Castilian	Cristo ha Resucitado!	En Verdad ha Resucitado!
English	Christ Is Risen!	Truly He Is Risen!
French	Le Christ est Ressuscite!	En Verite Il est Ressuscite!
Georgian	Kriste agsdga!	C'esmarit'ad agsdga!
German	Christus ist Erstanden!	Er ist Wahrhaftig Erstanden!
Greek	Christos Anesti!	Alithos Anesti!
Hebrew	Ha Mashiyach qam!	Ken hoo qam!
Hungarian	Krisztus feltámadt!	Valóban feltámadt!
Italian	Cristo `e Risorto!	Veramente `e Risorto!
Latin	Christus Resurrexit!	Vere Resurrexit!
Polish	Khristus Zmartvikstau!	Zaiste Zmartvikstau!
Romanian	Hristos a Inviat!	Adevarat a Inviat!
Russian	Khristos Voskrese!	Voistinu Voskrese!
Serbian	Hristos Voskrese!	Vaistinu Voskrese!
Slavonic	Christos Voskrese!	Voistinu Voskrese!
Spanish	¡Cristo ha resucitado!	¡En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili	Kristo Amefufukka!	Kweli Amefufukka!
Ukrainian	Khristos Voskres!	Voistinu Voskres!

Calendar for Bright Week

Mon. Apr. 13th	Renewal Monday – the Parish Office is Closed 4:45 pm Little Angels
Tues. Apr. 14th	8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Renewal Tuesday: The Commemoration of Ss Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, and the Other Newly-revealed Martyrs of Lesbos
Thurs. Apr. 16th	6:00 pm Greek School resumes – Adults
Fri. Apr. 17th	8:45 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Renewal Friday: Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring 6 – 9 pm Family Game Night (dinner provided; see insert)

Great and Holy Pascha



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.

Agape Service: The Agape Service will take place at **11 am** on Pascha. As is tradition, the Gospel will be read in several languages. Please try to attend this beautiful service.

Pascha Egg Hunt: The children of the parish are invited to join us for an Pascha Egg Hunt following the Agape Service on Pascha.

Office Closed for Renewal Monday: In observance of Renewal Monday, the Parish Office will be closed this Monday, April 13th.

Graduates Wanted: Is your son or daughter graduating from high school or college this year? If so, please call the Parish office OR send an e-mail TODAY so that we can acknowledge their achievements on Sunday, May 17th. Please provide the following information: Name of graduate; Name of school from which he/she is graduating (high school, vocational-tech school, or college/university); Diploma/Degree received; Where attending college in the fall; Will be studying/ majoring in? The **deadline** to submit this information is **Monday, May 4th** to be acknowledged in church on May 17th.

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.

Philoptochos Membership Drive: If you haven't already submitted your annual membership, please consider doing so now. Thank you to Maria Richie for her efforts as membership chair. For more information, reach out to Maria Richie at mariafafiliosrichie@gmail.com, or click on the following links for additional information: [Membership Letter](#) [Membership Form](#)





Thank You to our Parishioners Who Generously Made Donations to Beautify our Church for Holy Week and Pascha

Holy Week Item Sponsors

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Evangelia Klapakis
Leonidas & Athanasia Koletas
Fr. Konstantinos & Presv. Athanasia Loukas
Irene Malagari
Ed & Mary McAdoo
Maria Nasi

In Memory or In Honor

In memory of Nick Moukoulis and Bill & Judi Bannon
In memory of George & Minnie Alexiadis and Charles & Connie Caravoulias
In memory of John & Athena Cox
In memory of Fotios & Giannoula Davillas
In memory of Harry & Pauline Papadakes
In memory of Harry Papastrat and in honor of Demo Miras

In memory of Panagioti & Panagiota and Demetrios & Aphroditis
In memory of Thomas & Maria Hatzipavlidis
In memory of our parents, Ioannin & Efthemia Karagounis and Thomas & Vasiliki Raikos
In memory of Michael, Eleni, and Chrysostomos
In memory of our loved ones who have passed away
In memory of Nicholas, Athanasia, and Ernest
In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Demitri and Evelyn Loukas
In memory of John & Helen Christopher
In memory of Gordon & Helen Nichols and George & Mary Englezos
In memory of Vangjush Nasi and Phidella Natale

Donor

Bessie Neofotistos

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John & Maria Papadimitriou and Family

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Marlena Ruser

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Senior Parea

Matthew & Melissa Stolarczyk

Vasilios & Sofia Tatsis

Lawrence & Alexandra Tavlarides

Linda Tripolitis

Katherine Tsipras

Irene Tsokas

Tsouros Family

Sofia Tzivekis

Giorgio Vadarlis

Matt & Maria Williams

Charles & Catherine Zarcone

In Memory or In Honor

In memory of my beloved husband George and my dear son Steven *and*

In honor of my daughter Elaine and family

In memory of Ruth Andrews Nikas, Bill & Carolyn Ruhl, Alexandros & Despina Tsinikas,

Ralph & Alberta Andrews, Bruce Andrews, and Demetrios & Anna Manolis

In memory of Sergei & Tamara Pahomov, Daniel & Soledad Shepherd

In memory of James & Barbara Stamas and in honor of Stephen Stamas

In memory of Harry & Pauline Papadakes

In memory of Nicholas Papadimitriou

In memory of George and Steven Neofotistos *and*

In honor of our mom, Bessie Neofotistos

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Aris Podotas and Mr. & Mrs. Michael Poloway

In honor of my nouna, Linda Tripolitis

In memory of the Callipolites and Scandalios Families

In memory of Ernest & Marian Laskaris

In memory of our beloved family members who have fallen asleep

In memory of Hazel Carolas

In memory of George J. Tripolitis, beloved father *and*

In honor of Marlena Crowley and Kristen Tripolitis, beloved Goddaughters

In memory of Speros & Olga Tsipras, Elias S. Tsipras I., and Maria Tsipras

In memory of Chris Tsokas and Niki Hartzalas

In memory of Markella Tsouros, Isidoros N. Tsouros, Isidoros C. Costalas, Zoitsa Costalas,

Michael Rapitis, Phokion C. Lacas, Fr. Stephen P. Theophilos and

Constantinos I. Costalas

In memory of Anastasios Tzivekis

In memory of Georgio & Vaia Baxevanidis

In memory of Nicholas Carvelas and in honor of the Williams Family

In memory of our parents





**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 132/2026

Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the Great and Holy Pascha, 2026

April 12, 2026

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, 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 Holy Archdiocese of America

Yesterday I was buried with You, O Christ; today I arise with You in Your Resurrection

....

(Canon of Pascha, Ode Three)

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Christ,

Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

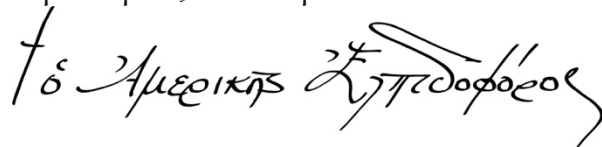
The difference in the Triduum (Gk. Τριήμερον) – the Three Days from the Death in the Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ to His Glorious Resurrection – may truly be the greatest span of time in the history of the world. It cannot be reckoned in mere seconds, minutes, or hours. It extends from the very beginning of time itself, and stretches all the way to the ages of ages. It is the Eternal Now that, as the Canon of Pascha reminds us, is also a timeframe into which we fit, in which we belong in virtue of our Baptism. As Saint Paul challenges the Christians at Rome: “Or do you not understand that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus, have been baptized into His death?” (Romans 6:3) [Gk. Ἡ ἀγνοεῖτε ὅτι ὅσοι ἐβαπτίσθημεν εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν, εἰς τὸν θάνατον αὐτοῦ ἐβαπτίσθημεν;]

And so, on the Night of the Holy Pascha, we sing in a first-person voice which includes everyone: “Yesterday I was buried with You, O Christ...” We are part of the story; we are living in the historical reality of the Death and Burial of our Lord. Our Baptisms may have occurred as infants, or as children, or as adults – in far-off churches and lands. It makes no difference. Our destiny has been forecast by our Immersion in the Waters of Re-Birth. In Holy Week, we embrace that moment anew and cry out, “Yesterday!”

But we do not remain in the past. We also affirm and sing: “... today I arise with You in Your Resurrection!” Here is the bridge between Earth and Heaven, between yesterday and the everlasting tomorrow, between the infinite space and timespan separating Creator and Created. This is our Eternal Now, when, as Saint Paul says, we can seize this day in order to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). It is the hour of our transformation by grace into the persons we were created to be. Therefore, beloved Christians, let us embrace the mystical moment offered to us in this Holy *Kairos*, and raise our voices to the skies, as we proclaim:

*Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death,
and to those in the tombs He has granted life!*

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!



†ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



**ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ**

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 132/2026

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος για τὸ Ἅγιο Πάσχα.

12 Απριλίου 2026

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.

**«Χθὲς συνεθαπτόμην σοι Χριστέ συνεγείρομαι σήμερον ἀναστάντι σοι»
(Ὡδὴ γ' τοῦ Πάσχα).**

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν τῷ ἀναστάντι Χριστῷ,

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

Ἐκείνη ἡ χρονικὴ περίοδος τῶν τριῶν ἡμερῶν ἀπὸ τὸ σαρκικὸ θάνατο τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μέχρι τὴν ἔνδοξη ἀνάστασή του, θὰ λέγαμε ὅτι εἶναι ἡ σπουδαιότερη χρονικὴ περίοδος στὴν ἱστορία τοῦ κόσμου. Δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ μετρηθεῖ μὲ δευτερόλεπτα, λεπτά ἢ ὥρες. Ἐκτείνεται ἀπὸ τὴν ἀρχὴ τῶν αἰώνων ἀτελεύτητα στὴν αἰωνιότητα. Ὅπως μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζει ὁ Κανὼν τοῦ Πάσχα, εἶναι ἐκεῖνο τὸ αἰώνιο

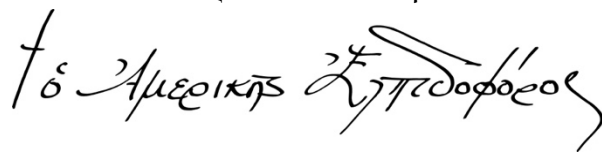
τώρα, τὸ χρονικὸ πλαίσιο μέσα στοῦ ὁποῖο ἐντασσόμαστε μετὰ τὸ βάπτισμα, ὅπως τονίζει καὶ ὁ ἀποστολὸς τῶν ἐθνῶν Παῦλος πρὸς τοὺς χριστιανούς τῆς Ρώμης: «ἢ ἀγνοεῖτε ὅτι ὅσοι ἐβαπτίσθημεν εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν εἰς τὸν θάνατον αὐτοῦ ἐβαπτίσθημεν;» (Ρωμ. 6, 3).

Γιὰ αὐτὸ καὶ τῆ νύχτα τοῦ Πάσχα ψάλλουμε σὲ πρῶτο πρόσωπο, ἀγκαλιάζοντας ὅλη τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα: «Χθὲς συνεθαπτόμην σοι Χριστέ!»! Εἴμαστε μέρος τῆς ἱστορίας, ζοῦμε τὴν ἱστορικὴ πραγματικότητα τοῦ θανάτου καὶ τῆς ταφῆς τοῦ Κυρίου. Μετέχουμε στὴν ταφή του μετὰ τὸ βάπτισμα ὡς βρέφη, ὡς παιδιὰ ἢ ἐνήλικες, σὲ ἀπόμακρες ἐκκλησίες ἢ μεγάλες κοινότητες. Δὲν ἔχει σημασία ποῦ καὶ πῶς βαπτιστήκαμε. Σημασία ἔχει ὅτι ἡ ζωὴ μας ἄλλαξε «διὰ τῆς καταδύσεως στὰ ὕδατα τῆς παλιγγενεσίας». Κατὰ τὴν Μεγάλῃ Ἑβδομάδα ἀνανεώνουμε αὐτὴν τὴ στιγμὴ τῆς βάπτισης καὶ ἀναφωνοῦμε: «Χθὲς ἔγινε αὐτό!»!

Ὅμως δὲν παραμένουμε στοῦ παρελθόντος. Ἐπιβεβαιώνουμε καὶ ψάλλουμε: «συνεγεύρομαι σήμερον ἀναστάντι σοι». Ἐδῶ βρίσκεται ἡ γέφυρα μεταξὺ γῆς καὶ οὐρανοῦ, μεταξὺ τοῦ «χθὲς» καὶ τοῦ διαρκοῦς «αὔριο», μεταξὺ τοῦ ἄχρονου καὶ πανταχοῦ παρόντος δημιουργοῦ μετὰ τὸ ἐν χώρῳ καὶ χρόνῳ δημιούργημά του. Αὐτὸ εἶναι τὸ αἰώνιο **τώρα**, γιὰ τὸ ὁποῖο μᾶς μιλάει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος καλώντας μας νὰ «περιπατήσουμε ἐν καινότητι ζωῆς» (Ρωμ. 6, 4). Αὐτὴ εἶναι ἡ στιγμὴ κατὰ τὴν ὁποία μεταμορφωνόμαστε διὰ τῆς χάριτος σὲ πρόσωπα, ὅπως ἀρχικὰ πλαστήκαμε ἀπὸ τὸ δημιουργό. Γιὰ αὐτὸ ἀγαπητοὶ χριστιανοί, ἂς δράξουμε τῆς εὐκαιρίας καὶ κατὰ τὴ μυστικὴ καὶ ἁγία αὐτὴ περίοδο νὰ ὑψώσουμε τὰ χέρια μας στὸν οὐρανὸ ἀναφωνοῦντες:

*Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι,
ζωὴν χαρισάμενος!*

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη,



† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος