

January 24, 2021
14th Sunday of Luke
Xenia, Deaconess of Rome ❖ Vavylas the Holy Martyr
Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Ex Ypsous Katilthes (“From On High You Descended”)

From on high you descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

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 ἢ δῦτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, δι’ α γώνων εὐάγων, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθων δυσώπει υπέρ 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 mitran parthenikin (“the virginal womb”)

You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.

During the COVID-19 crisis, all Liturgical Services will be made available on-line. Simply click on the link below. You do NOT need a Facebook account to access the on-line services.

www.facebook.com/saintsophiachurch

PLEASE keep in mind that our fixed costs are still ever present. We hope you can help us with an on-line donation. You can give by going to our website, www.saintsophiachurch.org and clicking on the “Donate” button.



NOW, you can also donate using Venmo! You may either search in Venmo or click www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch



AHEPA Super Bowl Block Pool

The Valley Forge Chapter 432 of AHEPA is sponsoring a Super Bowl Block Pool with proceeds to the benefit AHEPA charities.

Each block costs \$10 and multiple blocks can be purchased. Please visit URL via browser -- <https://superbowlpoolsite.com/contest/33748?p=ahepavfc432>

Click on each block available and enter - First and Last Name, Square Name, and Email. Each block selected is \$10. If wish to donate any square names to AHEPA simply type square name as AHEPA.

Payments for each \$10 block can be made via PayPal - <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8vLyVHOyvn>
Also, payment arrangements can be made via check, etc. by sending email to mattstolarczyk@cs.com

A detailed listing of contest rules and prizes is available via browser for URL - <https://superbowlpoolsite.com/rules/33748>

If you have any questions about this contest, please direct those questions via email to the Chapter President at mattstolarczyk@cs.com

2021 JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2021 Ecclesiastical Calendars: To save the Parish resources, 2021 church calendars are available for pickup in the church Narthex on a first come, first serve basis. **We respectfully request that each stewarding family take only 1 calendar per household.** If you are not able to attend church and would like a calendar, please contact the Parish office to make arrangements for contactless pickup from the office. Thank you!

Epistle Reading

The Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον' 1:15-17 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος, ὅτι Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς ἦλθεν εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἁμαρτωλοὺς σῶσαι, ὧν πρῶτός εἰμι ἐγώ· ἀλλὰ διὰ τοῦτο ἠλεήθην, ἵνα ἐν ἐμοὶ πρῶτω ἐνδείξηται Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς τὴν πᾶσαν μακροθυμίαν, πρὸς ὑποτύπωσιν τῶν μελλόντων πιστεῦειν ἐπ' αὐτῷ εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. Τῷ δὲ βασιλεῖ τῶν αἰώνων, ἀφθάρτῳ, ἀοράτῳ, μόνῳ σοφῷ θεῷ, τιμὴ καὶ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:35-43 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίξειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεριχὺ τυφλὸς τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν· ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἶη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῶ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.



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The 2020/2021 scholarship application is available and can be completed online!

Applications from eligible college students accepted through **January 31, 2021**.

The application and qualification criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at www.panhellenicsf.org.

If you are an undergraduate of Hellenic descent, we encourage you to apply for the scholarship awards!

For any questions or inquiries:

Please email info@panhellenicsf.org or call our office at (312) 357-6432



PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210
Chicago, Illinois 60631

☎ 312.357.6432
☎ 312.872.0090
🌐 panhellenicsf.org
✉ info@panhellenicsf.org

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.

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St. Nicholas Shrine Vigil Candle: *Thank you to the Pogas Family for sponsoring today's vigil candle for St. Nicholas Shrine.* Anyone wishing to sponsor a vigil candle should sign up at the Pangari or email the Parish office. (Each vigil candle lasts one week). Each week a new vigil candle will be placed next to the icon of St. Nicholas until the construction of St. Nicholas Shrine has been completed. The asking donation is \$10.

WELCOME to His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia: We are honored to have visiting us today His Grace, Bishop Apostolos of Medeia. This is His Grace's first pastoral visit to our parish.

Accompanying His Grace are Deacon Bartholomew Mercado and Deacon Philotheos Tomczewski. Also visiting us today is Mr. Constantine Loukas, a Senior at Holy Cross School of Theology, who is originally from Baltimore, MD. We look forward also to having Mr. Loukas with us during Holy Week this year.

Blessing of the Homes at Theophany: If you wish to have your homes and/or businesses blessed, please call the Parish office to schedule a visitation. Due to the ongoing pandemic, Fr. Peter can only stay long enough to do the blessing -- he is unable to visit at this time.

Stewardship: Thank you to everyone who supported our 2020 Stewardship Program! If you have not yet finished paying your 2020 pledge, please do so as soon as possible so that we can finalize our stewardship rolls for last year. In addition, when paying by check, it is imperative that you indicate "**Stewardship 2020**" 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 and Venmo (www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch). Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson.

2021 Stewardship Commitment Forms are available at the Pangari. Don't forget to indicate "Stewardship 2021" in the memo line of your check (or on a slip of paper attached to cash) so that your account is properly credited. Stewardship packets for 2021 will be arriving at your homes soon. Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson. Thank you!

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES:

Sat., Jan. 30th – 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Synaxis of Three Hierarchs
Tues., Feb. 2nd – 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

A message from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew about the COVID vaccine:

When His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was asked whether he would get the coronavirus vaccine, he replied: *"Of course I will get the vaccine. Besides, I think this is required based on my age. I am close to 81, so I belong to the age group that needs to be vaccinated. But it is not only a matter of necessity or choice, but also a responsibility to fellow human beings. That is why I hope that a large part of the world's population will soon be vaccinated for the spread of the deadly virus to stop. Of course, until then, we must all strictly observe the protective measures so as not to mourn more victims."*

Please heed the words of His All-Holiness! Below are the links to vaccine interest signups in Montgomery and Chester Counties:

<https://www.montcopa.org/3660/COVID-19-Vaccine>

<https://chesco.org/4822/COVID19Vaccine>

Blessing of the Homes at Theophany

If you wish to have your homes and/or businesses blessed by Fr. Peter, please call the Parish Office to schedule a visitation.

Before the Priest Comes to Bless the House

- **To protect everyone in the home, masks must be worn during the blessing.**
- Be prepared (this is a serious sacrament.)
- **Make sure ALL the lights in the house have been turned on, as Epiphany is known as the "Feast of Lights."**
- Make sure all radios, stereos, TVs, etc. are turned off.
- Have a table where you can place an icon, a lit candle, and a list of names (living and deceased) of those you wish to commemorate.
- When the priest begins to sprinkle the rooms, lead him to the rooms that you wish blessed. This "procession" should include all who are able to walk. Children who are very young may need to be carried (nursing mothers are exempted if the feeding needs to take place immediately.)
- Afterwards, return to the place you started (where the table, icon, etc., are) for the closing prayer and blessing.

BISHOP APOSTOLOS OF MEDEIA

Bishop Apostolos was elected auxiliary Bishop of Medeia and was ordained by Archbishop Demetrios, former Archbishop of America, and members of the Holy Eparchial Synod. Bishop Apostolos, the Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese of America, serves as the Spiritual Advisor to the National Philoptochos following in the steps of His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela and His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, both of whom had served in the post.



Bishop Apostolos studied at the Ecclesiastical School of Patmos where he majored in Orthodox Byzantine music and hymnology. He received his theological and pastoral education at the University of Thessaloniki, earning a Master of Divinity degree. He then was named Dean of Annunciation Cathedral in Rhodes. He came to the United States in 2002 and attended Boston University School of Theology, receiving a Master of Sacred Theology degree.

Bishop Apostolos served for eight years as the presiding priest at St. Demetrios Cathedral in Astoria. In October 2011, he was appointed as the San Francisco Metropolis Chancellor. During his tenure in San Francisco, he was elected auxiliary Bishop of Medeia. He also served the Massachusetts parishes of Annunciation, Brockton; St. George, Southbridge; and Sts. Anargyroi in Marlboro before his assignment to Astoria.

GOYA NEWS

➤ Due to the continuing need to help our community with hunger and food insecurity, we will be extending our GOYA Food Drive indefinitely. Sadly, the Covid-19 virus/crisis has had an extensive impact on members of our community in many ways including the ability to provide adequate nourishment for themselves and their families.

Therefore, we ask that you please donate to our Food Drive so we can help these members of our community in need.

➤ We will have a GOYA Meeting following Divine Liturgy/Sunday School on February 7, 2021. We will meet in the hall, socially distanced and with masks, of course, to discuss possible upcoming service projects and fun activities we can plan for the next few months.

➤ If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bannon at mattban@aol.com or call him at 484-919-6802.



GOYA Food Drive: Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has increased in the United States. This is true for households with young children as well as the elderly. Food insecurity occurs when a household has difficulty providing enough food due to a lack of resources. There are several food pantries in the communities surrounding our church. Unfortunately, these pantries are experiencing a shortage of food and resources to help their patrons.

We continue to collect non-perishable food to be donated to the local food pantries. Please place your donations in the bin located in the alcove **OUTSIDE** of the **OFFICE ENTRANCE**.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Breakfast foods (hot & cold cereals, bars, oatmeal)
- Canned or plastic jarred proteins like peanut butter, beans, canned stews and chili
- Macaroni & cheese
- Pasta, rice & dry mixes
- Juice & juice boxes

Please **DO NOT** donate expired food, open packages, perishable food, or glass jars.