

January 31, 2021
15th Sunday of Luke
Cyrus & John the Unmercenary
Holy Women Martyrs Theodote, Theoktiste and Eudoxia
Our Righteous Father Arsenius of Parus



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Tou Lithou Sfraghisthendos (“The Stone Had Been Sealed”)

The Jews had sealed the stone that was set before Your Tomb and around Your Grave soldiers guarded Your Pure and Sacred Body, yet Savior You arose the third day and granted to the world Your gift of Life. For this do the powers of Heaven acclaim You the Life bestower. Glory to Your Resurrection and glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Apolytikion for the Saints – Ta thavmata ton agion sou (“The miracles of Your holy martyrs”)

You have given us the miracles of Your holy Martyrs as an impregnable fortress, O Christ our God. At their entreaties, frustrate the plots of foreign enemies, and strengthen our nation, for You alone are good and love humanity.

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 εὐαγων, Ἀγάπην τε καί 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 Christu 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.

Donate



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

The Philoptochos Poor Box benefits Code Blue Overnight Emergency Warming Center in Phoenixville



The Ladies Philoptochos Society has recently added a Poor Box in the Narthex, to help fund its mission to aid those in need. Donations to the Poor Box will support this effort. Currently donations made to the Poor Box are being directed to the Code Blue Overnight Emergency Warming Center in Phoenixville. You can learn more about the Warming Center at <https://www.annsheart.org/programs/code-blue>.

You can send checks to the church to the attention of Philoptochos/Poor Box Donations, or donate at <https://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html>.

Thank you for your support!

Philoptochos Membership: Calling all ladies of the parish! It's time to join the Ladies Philoptochos Society (or renew your membership). All ladies over the age of 18 are eligible and welcome to help support this important ministry of the church. If you have not received membership information via email or by post, feel free to reach out to Flora Poloway at Flora.Poloway@gmail.com directly.



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

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!

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 4:9-15

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' 4:9-15

*Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ*

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος. Εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ ὀνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶν σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνείᾳ. Ἔως ἔρχομαι, πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοὶ διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ πρεσβυτερίου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπὴ φανερὰ ᾖ ἐν πᾶσιν.

GOSPEL READING
The Gospel According to Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 19:1-10 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο τὴν Ἱεριχώ· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ἦν. καὶ προδραμῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι ἐκείνης ἡμέλλε διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατέβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μεῖναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἀμαρτωλῶ ἀνδρὶ εἰσῆλθε καταλῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον· ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν. ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολλωλός.

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Scout Sunday: February 7th is National Scout Sunday, and on that day we will recognize all those children and adults who are part of Scouting. All Scouts MUST be in their Class A uniforms. Please submit to the Parish office by Tuesday, February 2nd (by e-mail) the names (children and adults), ranks and branch of Scouting you are in in order to be included in the program at the end of the Divine Liturgy. We are very excited to support scouting in this community. Please remember that there are numerous religious service awards that our children can work towards earning for all levels of Scouting.

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 that 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.

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 Black 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.

Memorial Service -- Today's memorial service is being chanted for:

❖ **Spiros G. Vanezalos (6 mos)** of Pickerington, OH. He was the beloved husband of Stella and the father of **Patty (William) Nazzaro**, Ethel (Wesley) Spencer, JoAnn (John) Kalogridis and Janet (Evangelos) Gegas. He was the Papou to five grandchildren, including **Athena and Angela Nazzaro**. He also left behind many nieces, nephews and cousins. May his memory be eternal.

The kolyva today is offered by Patty & Bill Nazzaro and family.

❖ **Maria Hatzipavlidis (1 year):** Maria was the beloved mother of Vela, Harry (Alexandra), and Angelo (Rebecca). She was preceded in death by her husband Thomas. She was also the devoted grandmother of Maria, Thomas, Costas, and Christopher. May her memory be eternal.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES:

Tues., Feb. 2nd – 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

Adult Ed Seminar: This Wednesday, February 3rd, Fr. Peter will begin a new adult education seminar entitled **Searching the Divine – A Study of the Divine Liturgy**. It will take place at **7pm in the church**, in person, and it will also be live streamed on Facebook. You **DO NOT** need a Facebook account to access the on-line services or seminars. Simply click on the following link: www.facebook.com/saintsophiachurch. Each seminar will last about 1 hour. **Please join us!**

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.

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>