

Election Guide 2015

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL
December 13, 2015
Elections commence following Divine Liturgy
and conclude at 1:00 pm

Parish Council Elections Scheduled for December 13, 2015

The St. Sophia Parish will have the privilege of electing six (6) members to the Parish Council on Sunday, December 13th. The two year terms will be for 2016-2017 calendar years.

The following candidates have been nominated:

Evangelos Glyptis	Dean Laskaris
Peter Patukas	John Pogas
George Prieston	Vasilios Tatsis
Catherine Zarcone	

Elections Committee Named to Administer Election

The Elections Committee was selected at the Fall General Assembly meeting, held on November 8, 2015. The following Stewards comprise the Elections Committee for 2015:

Michael Nikolaou	610-265-7159
Socratis Tsipras	610-277-0315
Irene Tsokas	610-354-0688

Please contact any of the Elections Committee members with questions concerning the election or to obtain an absentee ballot.

All Stewards in Good Standing are Invited to Vote

Under the rules of the Uniform Parish Regulations, only Stewards in Good Standing can participate in voting. You must be Greek Orthodox and in financial good standing with the Parish.

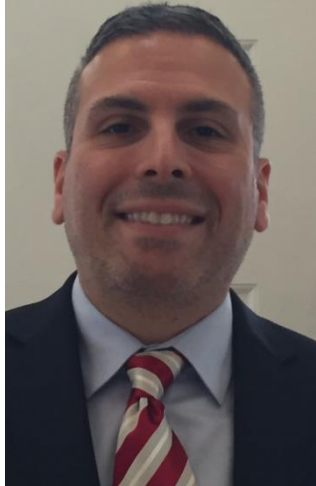
Absentee Ballots are Available only for those *Physically Unable to Come to the Church to Vote*

In accordance with the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR) that govern all Greek Orthodox parishes, and in accordance with the St. Sophia By-laws, **absentee ballots will be made available only to those who are physically unable to come to the Church to vote.**

Anyone wishing an absentee ballot must request an Application for Absentee Ballot from the Elections Committee or Parish Office. The Steward or immediate family member only may request an application. The Elections Committee will evaluate each request and will provide an absentee ballot directly to the requesting Steward, once their application is approved. All absentee ballots must be returned by commencement of the elections on Sunday, December 13th to be included in the election.

CANDIDATE OVERVIEW

The following Candidate Profiles provide a brief background of each candidate for Parish Council. The Elections Committee asked each candidate to provide this information.

	<p>Candidate Name Evangelos Glyptis</p> <p>Years at St. Sophia Parish - 1 year</p>
<p>Parish activities with which you are or have been involved</p>	<p>Assisted in kitchen for Fall Festival My daughter Eleni is in Sunday School and in the Junior Dance group</p>
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	<p>My goals as a Parish Council Member are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To foster Greek Orthodoxy within the community • To provide leadership and direction for the church • Continue to plan and implement programs for the church that will affect the parish in a positive way and will help it grow • Promote Hellenism in our community

SCHEDULED OF UPCOMING SERVICES / EVENTS

Tues., Dec. 1 st	7:00 pm – Adult Bible Study – in the church
Fri., Dec. 4 th	10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Barbara the Great Martyr
Sun., Dec. 6 th	Last day to submit order for Poinsettias
Sat., Dec. 12 th	10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Spyridon the Wonderworker
Sun., Dec. 13 th	Parish Council Elections
Sun., Dec. 20 th	PTO Christmas Party
Thurs., Dec. 24 th	Christmas Eve Morning, Thursday, 12/24 - AM
	9:00 am – Orthros; Great Hours & Great Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
	Christmas Eve, Thursday, 12/24 – PM
	Vigil for Christmas – 7:30 pm - Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
	To be followed by St. Sophia's Christmas Program
Friday, Dec., 25 th	MERRY CHRISTMAS! - Καλα Χριστούγεννα!
Sun, Dec. 27 th	No Sunday school



Candidate Name

Dean W. Laskaris

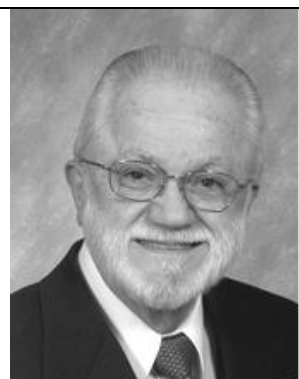
Years at St. Sophia Parish - About 20 years

Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.

Parish Council Member Currently
 Parish Council President 2013-2014
 Parish Council Vice President 2010 – 2012
 Building Committee Chairman
 Festival and Other Parish Fundraising Activities, both as a financial supporter and participant.
 Finance Committee

Goals as a Parish Council Member

To assist in the ongoing fundraising so that we can finish the church interior, including iconography and religious appointments.



Candidate Name

Peter C. Patukas, M. D.

Years at St. Sophia Parish - 25 years

Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.

1. Parish Council Member 1996-2005—President for 4 (four) years
2. Parish Council Member 2008-Present
3. Former Rental Committee Chairman for many years
4. Former Chairman Festival Ad Book for many years
5. Active organizer and participant in all church activities.
6. Organized the Strategic Planning Seminar for St. Sophia in Jan. 2003.
7. Active on Church Building Committee.
8. Formally on Stewardship Committee.
9. Active in Many Fundraising Activities, especially in raising funds for our new church building project, Iconography & Church Beautification.
10. Worked hard to bring about the completion of our new church building project.

Goals as a Parish Council Member

1. Using my fundraising know-how, I will work hard to raise the necessary funds for the above projects.
2. Try to organize the many functions and services of our parish.
3. Work on starting the mortgage reduction efforts.



Candidate Name

John Pogas

Years at St. Sophia Parish - 22 years

Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.

GOYA Director
 Co-chair of Stewardship Committee
 Adult Orthodox Education coordinator
 Parish council member from
 2000 – 2002 (resigned due to family emergency)
 2010 – present
 Parish Council Vice President

Goals as a Parish Council Member

Cultivate new leadership for our Youth Ministries so I can dedicate more time to Outreach Ministries including our Adult Orthodox Education, Bible Study, Visitor Days, College Ministries and Mission Work.
 As a parish council member, I would continue to lend my experiences in business and marketing to promote our parish and her ministries. I will also continue to draw upon my faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as a guiding force in all decisions made for our parish.



Candidate Name

George Prieston

Years at St. Sophia Parish – 4 years

Parish activities with which you are or have been involved

Working on the Parish Council with other board members I am involved with helping to update our Church sign. I also am helping with GOYA for this coming year along with John Pogas and Anthony Dimitriadis.

Goals as a Parish Council Member

Work with other Parish Council Members to help achieve our mutual goals.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Morning, Thursday 12/24/15 (AM)

9:00 am Orthros

Great Hours & Great Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Vigil for Christmas, Thursday 12/24/15 (PM)

7:30 pm

Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Followed by St. Sophia's Christmas Program

Christmas Day, Friday 12/25/15

No Service

MERRY CHRISTMAS! - Καλα Χριστούγεννα!

New Year's Day, Friday 1/1/16

Feast of St. Basil the Great

10:00 am Orthros

11:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Services for Theophany

Tuesday, January 5, 2016 – Eve of Theophany

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Great Hours and Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Great Agiasmos

Wednesday, January 6, 2016 – Holy Theophany

9:00 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Great Agiasmos & Blessing of the Schuylkill River (at Betzwood Park)

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Thursday, January 7, 2016

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Blessing of the Homes at Theophany

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



Candidate Name

Vasilios Tatsis

Years at St. Sophia Parish - I have been a member of the Parish since its creation. Additionally, I have been a member of the Hellenic Civic Association since arriving to the Norristown Area in 1970.

Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.

- St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church Festivals (all of them)
- Participated in assessing community members for major contributions to the building fund
- Member of the Parish Council since 2003.
- Pangari Captain (Responsibilities include greeting parishioners, helping with stewardship enrollment and general maintenance of the Pangari)
- Monitor activities during Hall rentals
- Member of the St. Sophia Building Committee
- Member of the St. Sophia Festival Ad Book Committee
- Co-Chair of the St. Sophia New Year's Dinner and Party

Goals as a Parish Council Member

- Contributing to the growth and development of the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Community
- Establishment of St. Sophia as the cornerstone of the local community
- Continue to contribute my fundraising efforts for the building fund
- Ensure that the new church building reflects the vision of the parishioners
- Watch the joy of my grandchildren, as well as those of my peers, as they grow up in the Parish of St. Sophia.
- In the end, my dreams and your dreams have become a reality. Thank You!

Thanksgiving/Christmas/Theophany Food Drive

Our fall and winter food drive is under way. Please continue to bring in your non-perishable food items. Collection bins are in the lobby of our Cultural Center.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

Canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
 Juice & juice boxes
 Pasta, rice & dry mixes
 Macaroni & cheese
 beans,

Canned fruit and vegetables
 Cereal
 Breakfast foods (hot & cold cereals, bars & oatmeal)
 Canned or plastic jarred proteins like peanut butter,
 canned stews and chili

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE:

Expired food, open packages, perishable food, or glass jars.



Candidate Name

Catherine Zarcone

Years at St. Sophia Parish - I am a charter member of St.Sophia's.

Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.

Currently:

- ... serving out a term on Parish Council
- ... member of Philoptochos
- ... member of the church choir

In the Past:

... I have served many terms on the Parish Council where I was, on occasion, the secretary or the treasurer

... as a charter member of Philoptochos, I have been President, Secretary, and Treasurer at various times

... I was an original member of the Building Committee responsible for the erection of our present community center

... I have been actively involved with all aspects of the Festival (baking, working in the kitchen, menu design, assisting on the floor)

... I have co-chaired or assisted in many events, most notably, our Dinner Dances, Father John's Testimonial Dinner on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of service, the Mortgage Reduction Celebration, our Groundbreaking Celebration and our 30th Anniversary/Blessing of the Crosses Event and events celebrating or Thyranoxia.

Goals as a Parish Council Member

I think we need to think about and develop ways to grow our stewardship. We have a lot to offer communicants in this area, and we need to find ways to spread the word (communicate!), attract, and keep them coming. Now that our church has been built and beautifully enhanced with iconography and furniture, I feel we should focus on bringing down our mortgage by finding ways to add to the monthly mortgage we are now paying each month, in order to pay off the mortgage more speedily and save some interest where we can.



Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale

The Ladies Philoptochos Gertrude Hawk Candy sale continues. Gertrude Hawk Chocolate favorites will be available for purchase on Sundays in December. These chocolates make a great Christmas gift and help support Philoptochos' charities.



PHILOPTOCHOS VASILOPITA SALE

Pre-Order/Pre-Pay

2lb Vasilopita Only \$15

Order deadline is December 13th

Pickup is Sunday, December 20th

Complete the form below and return by Sunday, December 13th with payment

Note: Vasilopita orders not pre-paid by 12/13 will be charged \$20 on 12/20



Vasilopita Order Form

2lb VASILOPITA @ \$15 each x ___ = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

**For more information, please contact:
Kathy or Maria Tsipras at 610-539-5413 or email tsipras@verizon.net**