

# Election Guide 2020

**NOTICE OF ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL**  
**December 6, 2020**  
**Elections commence following Divine Liturgy**  
**and will conclude at 1:00 PM**

## Parish Council Elections Scheduled for December 6, 2020

The St. Sophia Parish will have the privilege of electing seven (7) members to the Parish Council on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The two year terms will be for 2021-2022 calendar years.

The following candidates have been nominated:

Matthew Bannon	Alexander Nikas
Elias (Lou) Christou	Maggie Popesco-Gross
George Coutavas	Vasilios Tatsis
Thomas Cox	Alex Tsioulfaidis

## Elections Committee Named to Administer Election

The Elections Committee was selected at the Fall General Assembly meeting, held on November 1, 2020. The following Stewards comprise the Elections Committee for 2020:

Tina Coutavas	215-518-0192
Peter Patukas	610-304-4774
Irene Tsokas	610-354-0688

Please contact any of the Elections Committee members with questions concerning the election, or call the Parish office to request 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. (That would include people who are not able to come to church due to COVID concerns.)

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.


Any Steward wishing an absentee ballot must call or email the Parish Office by November 24th. After it has been determined that the Steward is in financial good standing and current in their financial obligation for 2020, the office will send an absentee ballot directly to the Steward. All absentee ballots must be returned by the commencement of the elections on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> for their ballot to be counted 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. **The Profiles are in no particular order.**

	<p><b>Candidate Name</b></p> <p>Alexander A. Nikas</p>
<p><b>Years at St. Sophia Parish</b></p>	<p>20</p>
<p><b>Parish Activities with which you have been involved</b></p>	<p>Parish Council President, 2015-2017 Parish Council Treasurer, 2008-2014, 2018-2020 Finance Committee Chair, 2008-2020 Building &amp; Capital Campaign Committees 2009-2014 By-laws Committee Chair, 2008 Parish Council Vice-President, 2007 Church Choir (occasional)</p>
<p><b>Goals as a Parish Council Member</b></p>	<p>I hope to lead the Parish Council in surviving the Pandemic and returning to normal operations in 2020.</p>


**Do you shop at Amazon.com? Instead, go to [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com), select St. Sophia/Ss. Faith Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church as your charity, then shop as you normally do. One-half of a percent of your purchase amount will automatically go to St. Sophia! Change one small habit today to help your church.**


	<p><b>Candidate Name</b></p> <p><b>Matthew Bannon</b></p>
<p><b>Years at St. Sophia Parish</b></p>	<p>16</p>
<p><b>Parish activities with which you have been involved</b></p>	<p>Have served on Parish Council for 8 years. Currently serve as Vice President of Parish Council and as one of the GOYA Advisors. I have also served as Parish Council Treasurer in the past.</p> <p>I have helped with numerous parish activities and functions over the years, particularly our festivals.</p>
<p><b>Goals as a Parish Council Member</b></p>	<p>Continue to serve our Parish to the best of my abilities. Continue to contribute my time, talents and treasure to the parish.</p>


	<p><b>Candidate Name</b></p> <p><b>George Coutavas</b></p>
<p><b>Years at St. Sophia Parish</b></p>	<p>Since 2009</p>
<p><b>Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved</b></p>	<p>Parish Council member, Treasurer, Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Chairperson, Chanter, Acolyte, Spring/Fall Festival Treasurer.</p>
<p><b>Goals as a Parish Council Member</b></p>	<p>To serve our Parish by using my Time, Talent and Treasure in the best way possible.</p>


**SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS:**

- Sun., Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Break - No Sunday school
- Sun., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** – Parish Council Elections
- Sat., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am** – **Divine Liturgy – Feast Day of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker**
- Sun., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** – GOYA Meeting after Sunday school (in person only)
- Sun., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** – Vasilopita Pickup
- Thurs., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve**
  - 8:00 am** – Royal Hours; **9:00 am**; **Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**
  - 7:30 pm** – **Vigil for Christmas – Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**
- Fri., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day - No Services**
- Sun., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Break - No Sunday school

	<p><b>Candidate Name</b></p> <p>Thomas Cox</p>
<p><b>Years at St. Sophia Parish</b></p>	<p>31</p>
<p><b>Parish Activities with which you have been involved</b></p>	<p>Church organist for 30 years, choir director for 25 years, Stewardship committee and Chair for 18 years, Building Committee, Chair of Capital Campaign, Festival, Former President and Vice President of Parish Council. And many other committees and activities over the years.</p>
<p><b>Goals as a Parish Council Member</b></p>	<p>I want to see our Parish get back on track in 2021 as we work through what I hope will be the POST COVID environment. We need to focus on growing our community, reaching out to new families and enhancing our Stewardship Ministry. In addition, we need to continue to develop other spiritual Ministries of the Parish including youth and outreach. I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to serve God and this Parish in the years ahead.</p>

	<p><b>Candidate Name</b></p> <p><b>Elias Christou</b></p>
<p><b>Years at St. Sophia Parish</b></p>	<p>11 years at St. Sophia Parish</p>
<p><b>Parish Activities with which you have been involved</b></p>	<p>During my time as a member of St. Sophia GOC, I have helped in the kitchen during our festivals and craft fair. My wife Donna and I have served as coaches each year for the AHEPA track meet.</p>
<p><b>Goals as a Parish Council Member</b></p>	<p>As a new member to the Parish Council, my goal is to devote my energy, zeal, Christian faith, and pride in my Greek Heritage to the service of our Church. I would like to assist in the continuation of the ongoing work undertaken by our Parish: namely, to serve as a beacon of the Orthodox Faith, and to cultivate the warmth of community which my wife and I experienced when we first came to St. Sophia's.</p>

	<p><b>Candidate Name</b></p> <p><b>Alex Tsioulfaidis</b></p>
<p><b>Years at St. Sophia Parish</b></p>	<p>33 Years</p>
<p><b>Parish Activities with which you have been involved</b></p>	<p>Altar Boy (Leader) 1988-1995 Parish Council 2017 – Present</p>
<p><b>Goals as a Parish Council Member</b></p>	<p>Bring innovative ideas to educate and promote Greek Orthodoxy amongst both church members and the local communities.</p>

	<p>Candidate Name</p> <p>Magdalena (Maggie) Popesco-Gross</p>
<p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p>	<p>7 years</p>
<p>Parish Activities with which you are / have been involved</p>	<p>Volunteer at Spring/Fall Festivals Adult Orthodox Education Participant</p>
<p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p>	<p>Develop and plan youth and young adult ministries with a focus on inspiring our youth to live their relationship with Christ every day. This also includes initiating a Young Adult League (YAL) to cultivate, educate and retain our young adults in the faith. I am also interested in being more involved in Orthodox education, either via discussion of the scriptures or other Orthodox books/themes with our parish.</p>




**Parish 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 are still collecting 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.

	<p><b>Candidate Name</b></p> <p><b>Vasilios Tatsis</b></p>
<p><b>Years at St. Sophia Parish</b></p>	<p>50 years 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.</p>
<p><b>Parish Activities with which you have been involved.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church Festivals (all of them)</li><li>• Participated in assessing community members for major contributions to the building fund</li><li>• Member of the Parish Council since 2003.</li><li>• Pangari Captain (Responsibilities include greeting parishioners, helping with stewardship enrollment and general maintenance of the Pangari)</li><li>• Monitor activities during Hall rentals</li><li>• Member of the St. Sophia Building Committee</li><li>• Member of the St. Sophia Festival Ad Book Committee</li><li>• Co-Chair of the St. Sophia New Year's Dinner and Party</li></ul>
<p><b>Goals as a Parish Council Member</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contributing to the growth and development of the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Community</li><li>• Establishment of St. Sophia as the cornerstone of the local community</li><li>• Continue to contribute my fundraising efforts for the building fund</li><li>• Ensure that the new church building reflects the vision of the parishioners</li><li>• Watch the joy of my grandchildren, as well as those of my peers, as they grow up in the Parish of St. Sophia.</li><li>• In the end, my dreams and your dreams have become a reality. Thank You!</li></ul>



# Christmas Photo Fundraiser

Sunday - November 29th  
Sunday - December 6th



**\$35 INCLUDES**

Mini photo session with holiday or white backdrop  
All digital photos emailed to you with photo print release

**BOOK TODAY**

<https://www.saintsophiachurch.org/christmas-photo-2020.html>

St Sophia Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge - 900 S Trooper Rd, Jeffersonville, PA 19403