

Election Guide 2021

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL

December 12, 2021

Elections commence following Divine Liturgy
and will conclude at 1:00 PM

Parish Council Elections Scheduled for December 12, 2021

The St. Sophia Parish will have the privilege of electing six (6) members to the Parish Council on Sunday, December 12th. The two year terms will be for 2022-2023 calendar years.

The following candidates have been nominated:

Chris Altum
John Papadimitriou
Lucy Pappas Kline
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 7, 2021. The following Stewards comprise the Elections Committee for 2021:

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| Tina Coutavas | 215-518-0192 |
| Maria Tsipras | 610-539-5413 |
| Irene Tsokas | 610-354-0688 |

Please contact any of the Elections Committee members with questions concerning the election or 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 contact a member of the Election Committee or the Parish Office by December 2nd.


After it has been determined that the Steward is in financial good standing and current in their financial obligation for 2021, 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 12th 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.**

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|  | <p>Candidate Name – John Papadimitriou</p> <p>Years at St. Sophia Parish – 22 years</p> |
| <p>Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved</p> | <p>Parish Council member, Craft Fair Chairman, Festival Chairman, Hall rental monitor. Pangari, PTO events, GOYA events, overall Parish Activities.</p> |
| <p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p> | <p>To voice the Parish requests, and to be involved with Parish activities to better enhance our Parish.</p> |

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|  | <p>Candidate Name – George Prieston</p> <p>Years at St. Sophia Parish – 8 years</p> |
| <p>Parish activities with which you have been involved</p> | <p>I help to keep our Church and Cultural Center in good physical condition. In addition to that I manage a brokerage account for the benefit of St. Sophia and the charities we support.</p> |
| <p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p> | <p>Work with other Parish Council members to help achieve our mutual goals.</p> |

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|  | <p>Candidate Name – Lucy (Ελεούσα) Pappas Kline</p> <p>Years at St. Sophia Parish – 21 years</p> |
| <p>Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.</p> | <p>Past JOY/GOYA Director Past Sunday School Teacher Past/present Philoptochos Member Present Philoptochos President</p> |
| <p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p> | <p>In the best of interest of our community, I wish to give back to the parish family that welcomed me so many years ago. As the child of an interfaith couple, I am grateful our parish has an ethnically diverse mix yet retains its proud cultural roots. We come from a variety of backgrounds yet are one in Jesus Christ. Transparency, respect, and familial love are my goals in serving on Parish Council. I recognize the importance of this ministry and pledge to do my best to remember that Christ Is In Our Midst.</p> |




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. While our tables will be full of delicious food this Thanksgiving and Christmas, there are many, many people who have nothing to eat. **Our fall and winter food drive has begun and will run through Theophany.**

We continue to collect non-perishable food to be donated to the local food pantries. Please place your donations on the table in the lobby of the Cultural Center or 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.

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|  | <p>Candidate Name – John Pogas</p> <p>Years at St. Sophia Parish – 28 years</p> |
| <p>Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.</p> | <p>GOYA Director Parish Council VP Parish council member from –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2000 – 2002 (resigned due to family emergency)• 2010 – present• Currently serving as Parish Council President since 2018 |
| <p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p> | <p>As President of the Parish Council, I will continue to lead our parish and her ministries while making prudent decisions that affect the day-to-day operations of Saint Sophia, Ss Faith, Hope & Agape. My goal is to grown our Outreach Ministries including our Adult Orthodox Education, Mission Work and ultimately bringing new seekers home to our holy Orthodox Faith. Most importantly, I will continue to draw upon my Faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as a guiding force in all decisions made for our parish. Service to The Church is, and always will be my lifelong passion.</p> |

Stewardship: Please note that to vote in the Parish Council Elections, you must have returned a 2021 Stewardship Commitment Form and be current in your commitment. Stewardship Commitment Forms can be found at the Pangari or on the Parish website. In addition, when paying by check, it is imperative that you indicate **“Stewardship 2021”** 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 or Venmo (www.venmo.com/SaintSophiaChurch). Should you have any questions, please call the Parish office, or see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson.

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|  | <p>Candidate Name</p> <p>Vasilios Tatsis</p> |
| <p>Years at St. Sophia Parish</p> | <p>51 years</p> <p>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>Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 |
| <p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contributing to the growth and development of the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Community ● Establishment of St. Sophia as the cornerstone of the local community ● In the end, my dreams and your dreams have become a reality. Thank You! |

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|  | <p>Candidate Name – Chris Altum</p> <p>Years at St. Sophia Parish – 3 years</p> |
| <p>Parish Activities with which you are or have been involved.</p> | <p>Parish Council Member 2018, 2020-present Sights & Sounds Volunteer 2020 Festival Committee 2018, 2020-present Curbside (COVID) Festivals 2020-2021 Coordination of Online Food Ordering Program Set up and runs Live Stream of Church Services</p> |
| <p>Goals as a Parish Council Member</p> | <p>Support Parish events (Food Festivals, Craft Fair, Youth Ministries). I have experience with engineering and construction projects. I would like to put that experience towards renovating Church facilities. I am looking forward to building relationships with families of the Parish.</p> |

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

- Mon. Dec. 6th** **10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**
- Wed. Dec. 7th 7:00 pm – Grow in Our Faith Ministry – in the Nave of our church
- Sat. Dec. 11th GOYA Nativity Retreat at Holy Trinity, Wilmington, DE (see flyer)
- Sun. Dec. 12th Parish Council Elections
Ambassador Awards Banquet
Tiropites Pickup
- Wed. Dec. 15th 7:00 pm – Grow in Our Faith Ministry – in the Nave of our church
- Sun. Dec. 19th Christmas Pageant (following Divine Liturgy)
Youth Ministry Christmas Party
Vasilopita Pickup
- Dec. 24th/25th** **Christmas Services – Dates & Times to be determined**
- Sun. Dec. 26th Christmas Break – No Sunday school today



