



ST. SOPHIA
SS. FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF VALLEY FORGE



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Rev. Economist Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos

July 25, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

RE: Dance Group Update

As most of you know, our Sr. and Jr. Asteria Dance Groups had a very successful season and we have received countless comments of praise for our children and the skills they exhibited at other festivals - including taking first place at Sights and Sounds! Because of this success, several additional youth have expressed an interest in either learning some of the more popular dances or expanding their skills. Therefore, in working with our Dance Instructor, we have added dance groups to satisfy the increased demand as well as to better accommodate busy schedules and commitments outside of church (academics, sports, theater groups, etc.). The parameters of our current and new groups have been outlined below:

St. Sophia Festival Dance Group

This new, informal group is for anyone who has always wanted to try Greek Dancing, but doesn't have the time to commit to rehearsals for the performance groups. This group is open to all ages, and will perform at the St. Sophia Spring and Fall Grecian Festivals. The group will rehearse twice before each festival, but attendance is not mandatory. There is **no fee** for participating in the St. Sophia Festival Dance Group. The costumes are white shirts and black pants (boys) or skirts (girls).

St. Sophia HOPE Dance Group

This new group is for children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade (ages 4-7). The group will rehearse approximately every other week (more frequently prior to performances), and attendance is strongly encouraged. There is **no fee** for participating in this group. The costume is white shirts and black pants (boys) or skirts (girls). The group will be taught by our Dance Instructor, Carnation Karros, with assistance from our GOYA-age instructors.

St. Sophia Junior Asteria

This existing group is for JOY age children (3rd-6th grade, ages 8-12). The group will rehearse every week (roughly) during the season, and attendance at rehearsal is mandatory. There is a \$50 annual fee for participating in the Jr. Asteria, and you will be asked to sign a registration form which includes agreeing to the rules of the group. This group will perform at area churches Greek festivals and at the March 25th celebration. Think of it as a "travel team" for Greek Dance.

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St. Sophia Senior Asteria

This highest level group is for GOYA age children (7th-12th grade, ages 13-18). The group will rehearse every week (roughly) during the season, and attendance at rehearsal is mandatory. There is a \$75 annual fee for participating in the Senior Asteria, and you will be asked to sign a registration form. Again, this form includes your agreement to the rules of the group. This group will perform at area churches Greek festivals, at the March 25th celebration, at the Sights and Sounds competition and at other appropriate Greek dance performance opportunities. As with the Junior Asteria, this is a "travel team" for Greek Dance.

There will be an informational parents meeting held at St. Sophia in the Flex Room on August 10th, 2014, following the Divine Liturgy. If you would like your child to participate in any of these groups, you are encouraged to attend this meeting. If you cannot attend but would still like to participate, please contact the Parish Office.

In Christ,

Father Peter, Alex Nikas, John Pogas, Dean Laskaris and Carnation Karros