

THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

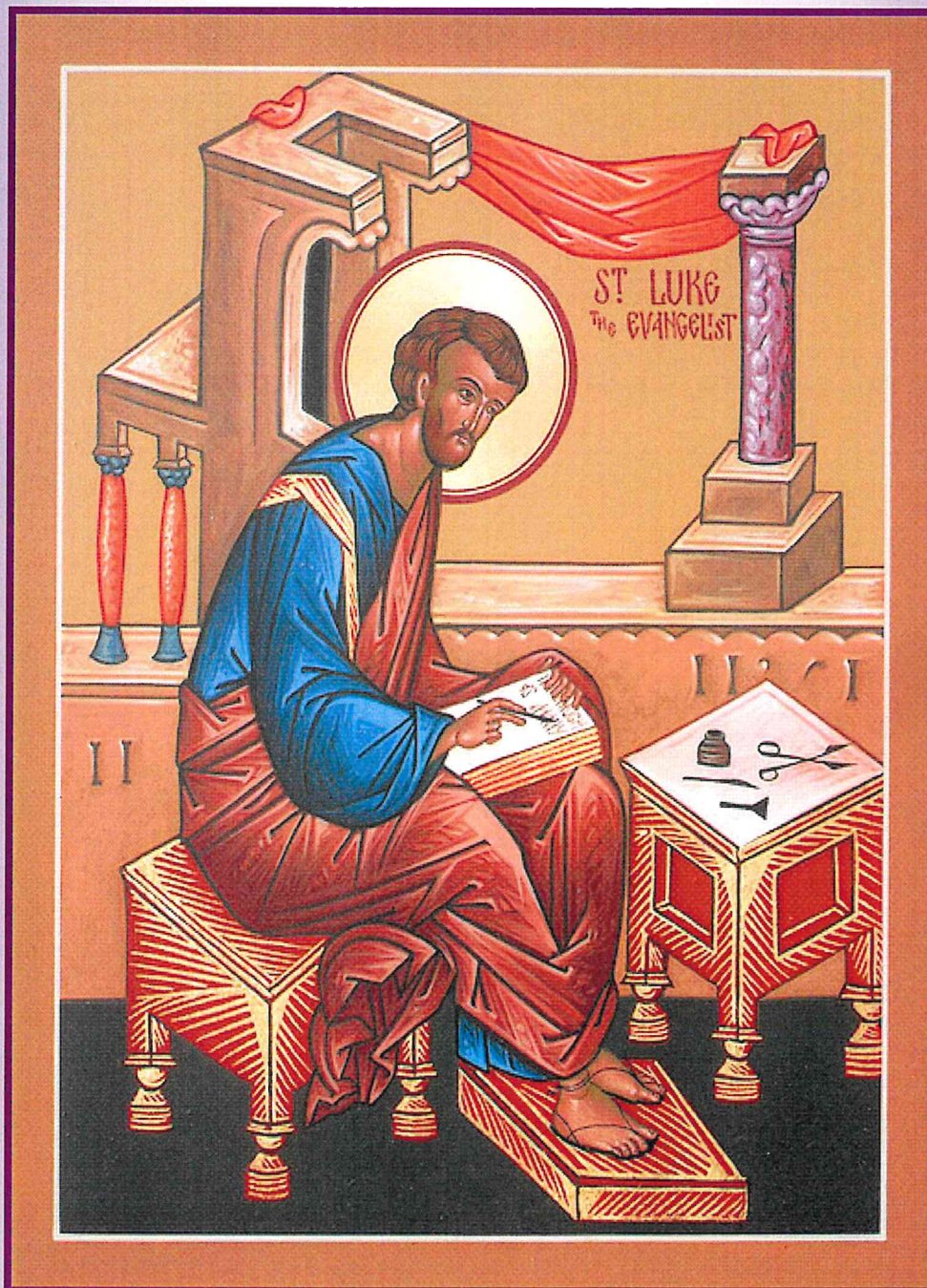
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protoperbyter

610-353-1592

www.st-luke.org

April 2024



LENTEN PASTORAL MESSAGE

April 2024

Friends,

I invite you to join me with the **Prayer of St. Ephraim Challenge**: it is the par excellence prayer of humility and repentance. My challenge to you (and myself) is to recite the prayer every morning when you rise, every afternoon around lunch and every evening before bed.

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

Lord and Master of my life, cast away from me the spirit of laziness, idle curiosity, love of power and vain talk.

Rather, grant me, Your servant, the spirit of moderation,
humility, patience, and love.

Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins
and not to judge my brother or sister.

For You are blessed now and forever. Amen.

Own the prayer, be the speaker and writer of the prayer so it enters your soul and body. My hope, my prayer is that the repentant message in the words become part of your very person...not just during this blessed period of Lent, rather, remains engrained in your heart and soul from this day forward.

I look forward to worshipping with you as we journey toward Golgotha.



Rev. Father Christ Kontos,
Protopresbyter

Parish Life

Baptisms



The son of **Zikos & Lindley Economides** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on March 17, 2024. His sponsor, **Angelina Veilma Casagrande**, baptized him with the name Apollo. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Apollo Yianni Economides**.

Funerals



The servant of God, **Virginia Botsis**, fell asleep in the Lord on March 3, 2024. Her funeral service was held on March 11, 2024.

The servant of God, **John Mantas**, fell asleep in the Lord on March 8, 2024. His funeral service was held on March 15, 2024.

The servant of God, **Maria Koutsoutis**, fell asleep in the Lord on March 11, 2024. Her funeral service was held on March 18, 2024.

The servant of God, **Helen Tamaccio**, fell asleep in the Lord on March 22, 2024. Her funeral service was held on March 18, 2024.

We extend our condolences and our prayers to their families. MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As we enter the month of April, we are reminded of the importance of stewardship in our community. Our church family has always demonstrated incredible generosity and commitment to supporting each other and fulfilling our mission to serve others.

On behalf of Father Christ, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication and generosity. Your contributions, whether through time, talent, or financial support, make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around us. Our annual stewardship campaign plays a crucial role in ensuring the vitality and sustainability of our church. Your commitment to supporting our ministries allows us to carry out God's work in the world and make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you once again for your continued support and dedication to our church family. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in the lives of others and fulfill God's call to love and serve one another.

Campaign Progress for 2024 Stewardship (Jan 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024)

Total Pledges: 296

Total Pledged as of 2/29/2024 - \$374,094.04

Total Received as of 2/29/2024: \$202,018.62

April 2024 Ecclesiastical Calendar

Wednesday, April 3rd – Presanctified Liturgy 6:00pm

Friday, April 5th - Third Salutations to the Theotokos at 6:00pm

Sunday, April 7th – Sunday of the Holy Cross

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 10th – Presanctified Liturgy 6:00pm

Friday, April 12th – Fourth Salutations to the Theotokos at 6:00pm

Sunday, April 14th – Sunday of St. John Climacus

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 17th – Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am

Friday, April 19th – Akathist Hymn 6:00pm

Sunday, April 21st – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 24th – Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, April 27th – Lazarus Saturday

Symeon the Holy Martyr

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

All the children are invited to help make Palms for Palm Sunday after Liturgy

Sunday, April 28th – Palm Sunday

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

HOLY WEEK

(HOLY WEEK BEGINS SUNDAY EVENING)

Sunday Evening, April 28th

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 7:00pm

Monday, April 29th - Holy Monday

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 7:00pm

Tuesday, April 30th – Holy Tuesday: Hymn of Kassiani

Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 7:00pm

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:30am Playgroup 10am Baking 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 7pm Parish Council Meeting	2 10am Senior Men Mtng 10am Baking 5pm Greek School 6:30pm Elements of Theology 7pm GOYA SS practice 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	3 11am Bible Study 8pm Boys Basketball	4 9am Play Group 10am Senior Men Mtng 6pm GOYA SS practice 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal	5 Metropolis District Oratorical Festival Preperation	6 Metropolis District Oratorical Festival
7 Greek Independence Day Parade 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am SPARK 12pm GOYA SS Practice	8 4:30pm FTIN Cooking 6pm Baking Prep	9 10am Senior Men Mtng 10am Baking 5pm Greek School 6:30pm Elements of Theology 7pm GOYA SS Practice	10 11am Bible Study 8pm Boys Basketball	11 9am Play Group 10am Senior Men Mtng 6pm GOYA SS Practice 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 10:30am Sunday School 12:20pm Choir Rehearsal	15 6pm Baking Prep	16 10am Baking 10am Senior Men Mtng 5pm Greek School 6:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	17 11am Bible Study 8pm Boys Basketball	18 9am Play Group 10am Senior Men Mtng 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:30am Sunday School 12:20pm Choir Rehearsal	22 10am Baking	23 CC-Voting Day Senior Men Group Trip to Monastery of Theotokos 5pm Greek School Program 6:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Federation Meeting	24 4:30pm Pascha Cleaning 8pm Boys Basketball	25 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27 Sunday School – Palm Folding
28 10:30am Sunday School	29 <i>HOLY WEEK – no practices/mtngs</i>	30 <i>HOLY WEEK – no practices/mtngs</i>				

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS



are Father Christ's priority.

If a loved one or family member is hospitalized,
please notify the Church Office at (610) 353-1592.

All hospitals do not notify parishes of hospitalized parishioners.

St. Luke Prayer Group

There is nothing more powerful than the power of prayer. The Prayer Chain email list is up and running. This prayer chain allows us to communicate with anyone who wishes to be on it. Once a person in need comes to our attention, each member on that list will be contacted and asked to pray for the one in need.



Imagine someone suffering and 10, 50, 100, 200 or 500 people praying for them that same evening. Truly friends, there is nothing more powerful than prayer.

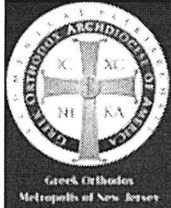
How do I register?

Email Presbytera Michele at SaintLukePrayer@gmail.com

REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Register your email address online at st-luke.org/register-contact to receive timely emails from Fr. Christ on Church and Parish Life. You can also use your QR/Barcode scanner from your mobile device by scanning the code below.





Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey



Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Saturday, May 4, 2024
9:00 A.M.

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church
35 N Malin Road
Broomall, PA 19008

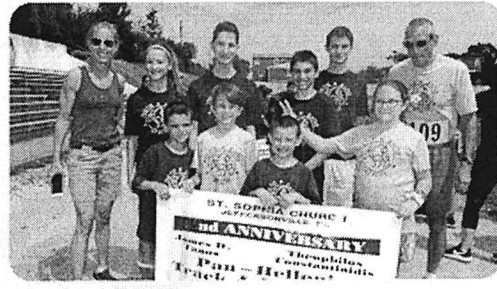
The James D. Tanos - Theophilos Constantinidis 47th Annual Pan-Hellenic Track and Field Meet



Saturday, May 11, 2024 @ 10am
Rain date: Sun, May 12, 2024 @ 12pm



Drexel Hill Middle School
3001 State Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026



For more information, please contact:

Demetri Constantinidis: 610-308-9962, or aek52@gmail.com
Vasilios Ikonomou: 610-883-2340, or vasiliostheikonomou@gmail.com

Order of AHEPA Chapter 445 "Thermopylae" PO Box 446, Broomall, PA 19008

Please visit our website: www.ahepa-445.org for track meet photos, videos, event information, and more!

DIAKONIA SCHEDULE

April 7	Ellena Vaganos	Vasie Marinakos
April 14	Anna Hadgis	Stephanie Carroll
April 21	Maria Carafides	Linda Lemperes
April 28	Sonya Pappas	Gus Pappas
May 5	Christos Anesti!!	
May 12	Martha DiCamillo	Barbara Papageorge
May 19	Kathy Fisfis	Marta Laynas
May 26	Tom Trantas	Violet Markopoulos

Kay Karalis can be called as a substitute (610) 213-7967



Date	COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2023- 2024			
APR:	Chairs:	Martha DiCamillo	Maria Navrosidis	
7-Apr	Linda Lemperes	Sofia Sosangelis	Marta Laynas	Dawn Sosangelis
14-Apr	Litsa Gavrilas	Nikki Serafim	Barbara Papageorge	Argie Nazarides
21-Apr	Stella Stroumbaras	Irene Petsinis	Victoria Petsinis	Evie Economides
28-Apr	Stephanie Koch	Phyllis Roebas	Paula Farrell	Martha Tavantzis
MAY:	Chairs:	Betsy Pappas	Diana Palumbo	
5-May		<i>Easter</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	
12-May		<i>Mother's</i>	<i>Day</i>	
19-May	Abigail Papas	Diana Sioutis	Georgia Sioutis	Spiridoula Bottos
26-May	Kate Politis	Maria Miller	Georgia Pappas	Alexandra Vamvakidou

Coffee Hours Chairs:

Diane Palumbo – lovetocook1219@aol.com; Betsy Pappas – vasilikipappas@yahoo.com



Greek Affair is our major fundraiser with the proceeds benefitting the maintenance and enhancement of our facilities and ministries. We invite all to contribute to the community by making an extra effort this year to assist with the Greek Affair Baking.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Even if you are not a baker, there are still various ways you can contribute. Your help and participation play a vital role in the preparation of our mouthwatering pastries. It is a great way to help our church, have fun and enjoy great fellowship. Once again, we ask that you, as good stewards of our beloved St. Luke, volunteer your time and talent to prepare the delicious pastries for which our festival is known.

The dates for the **2024 GREEK AFFAIR** are **September 20-22**

2024 GREEK AFFAIR BAKING SCHEDULE (all sessions begin at 10:00am)

<u>Pastry</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Chairs</u>
SPANAKOPITA/PREP.	Mon April 1st	Deme Peters
SPANAKOPITA	Tues April 2nd	Deme, John Solomon
GALAKTOBOURIKO	Tues April 9th	Diane Sioutis, Karen Kotapka
FENEKIA	Tues April 16th	Diane Sioutis, Karen Kotapka
KOULOOURAKIA	Mon April 22nd	Tom, Anna, Ginny, Michele K.
PASTA FLORA	Tues May 21st	Alexis Limberakis, Kay Karalis, Janine Voudouris
TYROPITAS	Tues June 4th	Karen, Diane
KARIDOPITA/REVANI	Tues June 11th	Diane, Karen
TSOUREKIA	Tues June 18th	Diane, Katina Dollos
TSOUREKIA	Wed June 19th	Diane, Katina
KOURABIEDES	Sept TBA	Angelique Demetris, Niki Tsetsekos

If you should have any questions, please contact any of the GREEK AFFAIR BAKING chairladies. All are welcome ...mothers, daughters, husbands, fathers and sons. We promise a good time and you will leave with something more valuable: the feeling of good will, being part of the embrace of our beloved St. Luke Community.

Thank you in advance for your participation,

Diane Sioutis diansioutis@yahoo.com

Karen Kotapka mkotapka@aol.com

Maria Carafides mcarafides@gmail.com

GREEK AFFAIR BAKING CHAIRS

SENIOR GROUP TO MONASTERY OF THEOTOKOS

The Senior Group of St. Luke's has arranged with Greek Orthodox Monastery of Theotokos, White Haven, PA and KRAPF Coaches, a local transport company this year's Spring Pilgrimage.

The Bus will depart St. Luke's at 8:30 am on Tuesday April 23rd and return to St. Luke's the same day by 6:00 pm

The Coach can accommodate 56 passengers. 24 seats are reserved by the senior group. The remaining seats are available on a first come first served bases to St. Luke's parishioners.

The price for the round-trip transportation and donation to the monastery is \$50 per person. Lunch will be offered and hosted by the Nuns of the Monastery.

For Reservations call: Kosta Bouikidis 484-919-4337 or Tom Antonakis 610-356-3605



*GREEK ORTHODOX – HOLY PROTECTION MONASTARY OF
THEOTOKOS, White Haven, Pennsylvania*



**Please Join Us
In Cleaning Our Church Home
Wednesday, April 24th 4:30pm-7:00pm**

**Let us come together and prepare
Our Beloved St. Luke for Pascha!**

If you are able, please bring buckets, rags and vacuum cleaners with attachments for hard-to-reach places and extension cords.

If you can make it, please contact:

Presbytera Michele Kontos
micheleakontos@gmail.com 610-550-9154

Stella Stroumbaras
ssstroumbaras@gmail.com 215-776-4225

Let's roll up our sleeves and help for a couple of hours to clean and polish our Church for our Pascha celebration!

All are welcome and encouraged to help.

We kindly request any children under the age of 12 years be accompanied by an adult, thank you.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness!

Requests from the Parish Council

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We at St. Luke are blessed to have an extremely dynamic community! Our campus is thriving with daily activities for members of all ages. In addition, we have a Rentals Committee that works tirelessly to leverage our facilities by bringing in numerous groups and organizations that rent space and generate revenue for our beloved St. Luke Church. Here is where we all need to lend a helping hand!

We must take care of Our House!

With so many individuals and groups coming and going from our property, there are occasions when doors are left unlocked, lights are left on, and we have even found doors left open to the outside. Even though we have security cameras throughout the premises, we cannot become careless and allow our campus to be left open and exposed. We must take care of Our House!

If you are the last one to leave, please make sure that you close the door that you used to enter the building. If the door does not lock behind you, please contact one of the parish council members, so that we can send someone over to lock down Our House!

Rental Committee Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers to assist the Rentals Committee with showing, scheduling, and monitoring events on our campus. We are asking volunteers to offer your stewardship of time, so that we can share the load. If you are interested in assisting, kindly contact either George Migias or Fr. Christ.

Golf Outing Volunteers Needed!

In the spring, St. Luke will be hosting our annual Golf Outing. In order to make this event a success while also sharing the workload, we are asking for volunteers to offer your stewardship of time and talent. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Fr. Christ.

Respectfully,
George Migias
President, St. Luke Parish Council

For Those in Need...

you may ask, "What are we doing lately?"

April, 2024 *Epistle*

For Those In Need (FTIN) helps in St. Luke's outreach to the community, offering basic necessities such as food, school supplies, clothing, shelter, etc. to those in our local area who lack them. FTIN also works with other parish groups to provide discretionary assistance to fellow parishioners and others in need.

During March FTIN's volunteer Chefs prepared some 180 evening meals for our partners at The Life Center (TLC) and the Salvation Army; included in FTIN'S delivery to TLC were ingredients for preparing *Gyros* thanks to the generosity of John Solomon.

And FTIN sponsored a **Ham Drive** in partnership with the Salvation Army during the weeks leading up to and during the first week of Great Lent, ending on Monday, March 25th. Thank you to all those who so generously participated.

FTIN's **April Cook** will take place on Monday evening, **April 8th** beginning at **4:30pm**.

Supporting FTIN – How can I help?

It is your support that is enabling FTIN to make a difference by expanding its outreach during these times of food insecurity and hunger affecting the lives of so many. ***Thank you . . .*** for your generosity which has continued uninterrupted now over so many years!

We welcome your Stewardship whether offered as helping hands or in financial support. No donation is too small, and your contributions to FTIN remain a meaningful gift "for those who have everything" or in memory of a beloved family member or friend. Checks (payable to "For Those In Need") may be mailed to the parish office.

To learn more about FTIN, how you can volunteer or make a donation, please contact:

Alan Pcsolyar at: apcsolyar@comcast.net or 610-457-6033

LITTLE ANGELS - READY, SET, PLAY....



Our playgroup sessions will be every
Thursday from 9am – 11am,
on the top floor of the Education Building, Room 208

***A great opportunity for fellowship &
fun for our children and their parents!***

We will be having Storytime with Maria on April 18 and May 23rd. Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 18th (weather dependent). *There will be no Little Angel gatherings on April 25th and May 2nd.*

A collage of four black and white photographs showing children and adults engaged in various activities. The top row shows children playing with toys, a child sitting on the floor, and a group of children. The bottom row shows a woman reading to a child, a group of children sitting on the floor, and a man reading to a child.

ZUMBINI WITH TAI

STEP INTO THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF ZUMBINI, WHERE MUSIC, DANCE, AND EDUCATIONAL TOOLS UNITE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE 45-MINUTE EXPERIENCE OF NON-STOP BONDING, LEARNING, AND PURE FUN FOR YOU AND YOUR LITTLE ONES!

COME JOIN US!

ST. LUKE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
MONDAY 4/1 @ 10 AM
EDUCATION BUILDING: FIRST FLOOR, RM CR101

St Luke Greek Dance News!

Congratulations to our Ellinakia Dancers for their wonderful performance at the St. Luke Apokreatiko Glendi last month!



April is a big month for our dancers! The Olympian Dancers are working hard to prepare for Sights and Sounds on Saturday, April 13th! Both our Olympians and Ellinakia will participate in the Greek Independence Day Parade on Sunday, April 7th!

GOYA GAZETTE

Saint Luke's GOYA holds many events for the youth to grow closer to their faith, build long-lasting relationships with their peers, and a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Every month, our GOYA has hosted 'Spark Sunday' in collaboration with our Sunday school to spark participation, friendships, and a deeper love for our faith. This is held on the first Sunday of every month. On March 30th St. Luke's hosted a Rise Against Hunger event that our GOYA attended. GOYA does a lot of community service such as this to give back to our communities.

In these upcoming months, our GOYA will be working very hard to prepare for Sights and Sounds, which is on Saturday, April 13th at St. Demetrios Church in Upper Darby. Sights and Sounds is a DVYC-wide competition where we get to showcase our talents in youth-led visual and performing arts!

Among the events listed, and many others, are more opportunities for our St. Luke's youth to get engaged and feel more connected to their faith. If anyone is in grades 7 through 12, we highly suggest you join GOYA, as it allows our youth to get involved, share, learn, and grow spiritually while having fun!



PHILADELPHIA
GREEK
 INDEPENDENCE
DAY
PARADE

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS | 07.20.1974 - 07.20.2024

**δεν
 ξεχνώ**



**never
 forget**

SUNDAY
APRIL | 7 | 2024

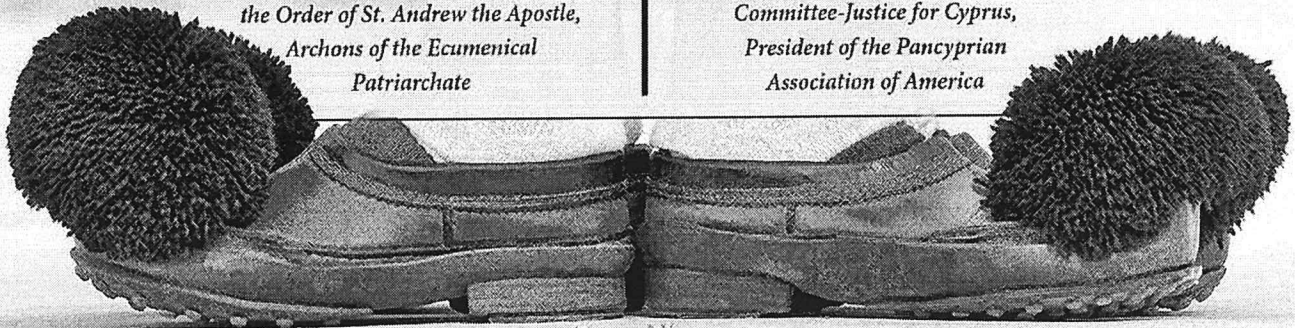
10:00 AM | DOXOLOGY
 SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

1:00 PM | FORMATION
 BEN FRANKLIN PARKWAY & 22ND STREET

2:00 PM | STEP-OFF / PARADE
 22ND & THE PARKWAY MARCHING TOWARDS CITY HALL

ELEFThERIA MEDAL RECIPIENT
ANTHONY LIMBERAKIS, MD
*National Commander of
 the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle,
 Archons of the Ecumenical
 Patriarchate*

GRAND MARSHAL
PHILIP CHRISTOPHER
*President of the International Coordinating
 Committee-Justice for Cyprus,
 President of the Pancyprian
 Association of America*



St. Luke's Greek School



In January, The Saint Luke Greek School participated in the “Day of Greek letters” at Holy Trinity in Wilmington. The event was very well attended with representation from all the schools in the DVYC. The following students from the Saint Luke Greek School recited poems and read passages:

- Spyro Esposito
- Kaliopi Esposito
- Vasili Delimitros
- Ana Papapetridis
- Alexandra Egonopoulos

On February 4th, the Greek School celebrated “Three Hierarchs Day” here at Saint Luke with poems read in church by:

- Stavroula Karalis
- Manolis Pappas

On February 13th, the students of the Greek School took their mid-year exams. And on February 27th, report cards were handed out. Parent conferences took place on February 27th.

On March 9th, the Saint Luke Greek School PTO hosted its annual Apokriatiko Glendi. This year’s theme “Fly Me to The Moon” was a huge success! The out of this world event was highlighted by the Saint Luke Ellinakia Dance group, DJ Maki, face painters, kite decorating contest and even a Michael Jackson impersonator! We send a huge THANK YOU to all those who donated items for our raffle baskets.

And thank you to everyone who attended the event and who participated in the basket raffles! We greatly appreciate your support of our Greek School.

Save the Date for these upcoming Greek School activities:

- Tuesday, March 19th: Greek Independence Day Program
- Tuesday, April 2nd: Greek School Picture Day
- Sunday, April 7th: Philadelphia Greek Independence Day Parade

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

APRIL

- April 5 Third Salutations, Flowers presented by the Sunday School students
- April 7 Worship and Classes, Sunday of the Holy Cross; Spark Sunday for 7th-12th grades
- April 12 Fourth Salutations, Flowers presented by Sunday School students
- April 14 Worship and Classes, St John Climacus
- April 19 Fifth Salutations Flowers presented by Sunday School students
- April 20 Delaware Valley District Religious Education Seminar, 9 am -2 pm, St. George, Media
- April 21 Worship and Classes, Sunday of St Mary of Egypt
- April 27 Saturday of Lazarus, Palm folding by all Sunday School students in Education Building
- April 28 Worship and Classes, Palm Sunday

MAY

- May 3 Holy Friday Retreat: Helpers 11 am; Apokathelosis Service 3pm, Myrrh- bearers 2:30pm
- May 5 EASTER & FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY. AGAPE SERVICE 11 AM.
Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service.

St. John Chrysotom Parish Oratorical Festival- On Sunday, March 10, 2024, our Junior and Senior Division speakers competed in the St. Luke Parish Oratorical Festival immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The top 2 finalists in each division, who will advance to the Delaware Valley District Oratorical Festival to be hosted by St. Luke on Saturday April 6, 2024, are **Stavros Kalisperis and Victoria Kaltsidis**, in the Junior Division, and **Eleni Kalisperis and Maria Kaltsidis**, in the Senior Division. We are proud of our four speakers and know that they will be wonderful representatives of our parish! Congratulations to Stavros, Victoria, Eleni and Maria and their families!

Flowers for Salutation Services- Looking for volunteers to donate flowers for the weekly Lenten Salutations services (April 5, 12, and 19, 2024 at 6 pm). The bouquets should arrive at church before the service begins and can be left in the front pew, to the left of the middle aisle, unless Sunday School teachers Marilena Ristas, Thomas Ristas, and Sophia Tsakiris are already in church to receive them. To donate flowers for the Panagia, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EA8A828ABFCCE9-47917895-flowers>. Thank you for your support in this lovely tradition.

Psalm Readers for Salutation Services- We would like to have 1 to 3 Sunday School children read Psalms 50, 69, and 142 at the very beginning of each of the 5 Friday Salutation services to the Panagia on April 5, 12, and 19, 2024 at 6 pm. One child may read all 3, or 3 children may each read one apiece (these Psalms are not very long). If your family will be donating flowers for the service, perhaps you have a child or children who would be willing to read these beautiful prayers from the Old Testament. This is an excellent way to get your entire family into the true spirit of Lent. To sign up your child: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EA8A828ABFCCE9-47918105-psalm>. We will send you the reading(s) ahead of time so that your child can practice and become comfortable with the texts beforehand. Children must be in church 5 to 10 minutes before the beginning of the service as the Psalms are read shortly after the service begins at 6 p.m. Please contact Miss Jane and Miss Sophia at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com with questions or to receive the Psalm readings.

Lenten/Holy Week Workbook and Letter- Great Lent on Monday, March 18, 2024. To assist you and your family with Lenten devotions and the schedule of services, we have provided: 1) a Lenten

Workbook, available online at <https://www.ss.st-luke.org/lent>; and, 2) a copy of the 2024 Lenten letter containing the schedule of Lenten services and 2 forms to be filled out. The first form is to be filled out for all young ladies, in grades 3 through 6, who would like to serve on Holy Friday as Myrrh-bearers, while the second form is for our annual Holy Friday Retreat that takes place each year on Holy Friday. All completed forms may be returned to the Sunday School office; placed into the Sunday School cubby in the copy room next to the church office; or scanned and emailed. The program on Holy Friday will begin at 11am, or immediately following the morning service. Students will participate in some crafts and activities and share a Lenten lunch. Students will finish the day at approximately 1:30pm, and all are welcome, especially our young ladies who will serve as Myrrh-bearers at the 3pm Holy Friday service, to remain at church after the retreat is over. For information contact Miss Jane and Miss Sophia at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com or visit <https://www.ss.st-luke.org/lent>.

Parent Volunteers for Lazarus Saturday/Palm Folding and Holy Friday Retreat- We are looking for volunteers who can lead and aid in the setup, clean up, and running of the activities on Lazarus Saturday (April 27) and the Holy Friday Retreat (May 3). No experience required! Miss Jane and Miss Sophia will provide all the materials and ideas, but we need “day-of” coordinators to spearhead the events of each of those days, as well as volunteers to help with the activities. More details to follow. Please contact Miss Sophia and Miss Jane at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com for more information!

Readers for Agape Service on Pascha- We are looking for volunteers to read the Gospel in different languages at 11 am on Easter morning during the Agape Vespers of Pascha. We have copies of the Gospel in the following languages: Greek, English, Spanish, Latin, French, Italian and Albanian. The reading in the appropriate language will be given to volunteers prior to the service. It’s a truly awesome opportunity to not only read the Gospel in front of the congregation, but to also echo what is being done in Orthodox churches around the world on Pascha, to announce the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection to all peoples! To volunteer to read the Agape Gospel in one of these languages, please contact Miss Jane at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com. Easter Egg Hunt to follow the Agape Vespers!

Confessions for Sunday School Students- Father Christ is working with us to arrange a time for the 2nd-4th graders to go to Confession. If you would like to have your 2nd to 4th grade child, and/or an older sibling, participate in the Sacrament of Confession (Repentance), please contact Miss Jane and Miss Sophia at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com.

Sunday School trip to Holy Protection Monastery- We are trying to organize a Sunday School trip to Holy Protection Monastery, and these efforts are being spearheaded by our teachers Sophia Tsakiris, Marilena Ristas, and Thomas Ristas. God bless them! We don’t have a definite date yet, as so many days are already filled by other events at St. Luke, but one option is to visit at midday on a Saturday afternoon, receive a tour of the Monastery, share a meal with the sisters, and attend Vespers before heading home. It would be great to do this during Great Lent, but we are not ruling out visiting after Pascha either. Please let us know if this is something you and your family would be interested in at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com!

Readers for Divine Liturgy- Please encourage your children to **volunteer to read the Epistle or the Communion Prayer** during Divine Liturgy. This is a great way for your child to become involved in the worship of our faith. We will send you the reading(s) ahead of time so that your child can practice and become comfortable with the texts beforehand. To volunteer your child, please contact Miss Sophia and Miss Jane at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com.

Questions about Sunday School? Please contact Miss Jane and Miss Sophia at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com. Or visit <https://www.ss.st-luke.org>, which will be updated throughout the year with additional information and resources for families.



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

ST. LUKE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

35 N. Malin Rd., Broomall, PA, 19008 · Tel: (610) 353-1592 · Fax: (610) 353-8714
Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

Dear Parents:

March 2024

We pray that this letter finds you and your families joyful and in good health. The Lenten season will begin on Monday, March 18, 2024. In our growing effort to go green, we have posted the Lenten Workbook on the Sunday School website again this year. We **strongly encourage** you use this workbook as a tool to guide your children through the Lenten season. There is a lot of valuable information about each Sunday in Lent as well as biblical passages to help focus their worship during the week. Please use the following link to access the Lenten Workbook: <https://www.ss.st-luke.org/lent>.

This letter is also meant to provide you with information about upcoming events over the Lenten season as well as information about the tradition of the Myrrh-bearers that our young women take part in every year. There are two RSVP forms attached to this letter. The first is a form for our young ladies who intend to be Myrrh-bearers this year. There is some basic information included with this letter that will help you decide whether or not you would like your daughter to be a part of this great honor and tradition. There is also a form for our annual “Holy Friday Retreat” that takes place each year on Holy Friday.

Here is a brief schedule of some of the upcoming events:

March 18	CLEAN MONDAY. Lent begins.
March 22	1 st Salutations, flowers presented by all Sunday School students.
March 24	Worship & Classes. Sunday of Orthodoxy. <i>Icon Procession immediately following the Divine Liturgy.</i> 1st Sunday of Lent
March 29	2 nd Salutations, flowers presented by all Sunday School students.
March 31	Sunday of St Gregory Palamas, 2nd Sunday of Lent
April 5	3 rd Salutations, flowers presented by all Sunday School students.
April 7	Worship & Classes. Sunday of the Holy Cross, 3rd Sunday of Lent
April 12	4 th Salutations, flowers presented by all Sunday School students.
April 14	Worship & Classes. Sunday of St. John Climacus, 4th Sunday of Lent
April 19	5 th Salutations, flowers presented by all Sunday School students.
April 21	Worship & Classes. Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, 5th Sunday of Lent.
April 27	Saturday of Lazarus. Palm folding for all Sunday School students in The Social Hall of the Education Building. Myrrh-bearer practice for Holy Friday services. 11 AM, following Divine Liturgy.
April 28	Worship & Classes. PALM SUNDAY.
May 3	HOLY FRIDAY. Holy Friday Sunday School Retreat: 11 AM or following morning service. Apokathelosis Service, 3 PM (Myrrh-bearers report at 2:30 PM).
May 5	EASTER SUNDAY: FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY. AGAPE SERVICE 11 AM. Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service.

In addition to attending the Lenten services every child can and should be encouraged to learn the Troparion of Pascha by heart, “Christ is Risen from the dead...” “Christos Anesti Ek Nekron”. You as parents can be of great help here. Remember, our children learn by example. We also encourage you to bring your child for Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, which this year falls on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Immediately following the Liturgy, we will have a palm-folding session in the Education Center. A Lenten lunch will also be served.

We invite our young ladies again this year to participate in one of the most beautiful traditions of our Church, that of a Myrrh-bearer. The Myrrh-bearers represent all that is good and holy in our Christian faith. They were there,

“early in the morning”, to find the empty tomb and to receive the word from the Angel that He is Risen and to announce that message. They faithfully ministered to Him and followed Him throughout His ministry on earth.

We will include as many young women, in grades 3 through 6, who would like to participate. There are two separate services that the girls may take part in, or, if they choose, they may take part in both. We would like to have as many girls involved as possible and **will not limit** the number that can participate.

There will be two scheduled practices this year which students **must attend**. The first practice is scheduled for the Saturday of Lazarus, April 27, 2024 immediately following the morning Divine Liturgy. After practice is over, the girls are invited to go into the Education Building and take part in the palm-making session for Palm Sunday. The second practice will take place during the Holy Friday Retreat on May 3, 2024. **The evening service is the most important and the one Fr. Christ would like all the young ladies to participate in.** It requires the girls to stand around the Kouvouklion/Epitaphion (Tomb of Christ adorned with flowers) and to participate in the procession of the Epitaphion as it is carried outside the Church.

If your daughter is taking part in the Apokathelosis Service on Friday afternoon, she will need to arrive at Church no later than 2:30 PM to prepare for the Vespers service. If your daughter is going to take part in the evening service, she will need to arrive at Church no later than 6:30 PM on Friday evening. All girls are asked to wear light clothes and shoes, preferably white, so that they will not stand out.

Finally, let us give you some general information about the Holy Friday Retreat. The program on Holy Friday will begin at 11 AM, or immediately following the morning service. Students will participate in some crafts and activities and share a Lenten lunch. The day will end with students having a discussion with Father Christ. Students will finish the day at approximately 1:30 PM. Young ladies signed up to be Myrrh-bearers are welcome to stay straight through until 2:30 PM.

We look forward to seeing all of you throughout the Lenten season as we anxiously anticipate the Resurrection of our Lord. We pray that you and your families have a blessed Pascha and we wish you a Kali Anastasi! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully yours, St. Luke Sunday School

Myrrh Bearer Form

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Grade in Sunday School: _____

YES! We would like our daughter to be a Myrrh-bearer for the Friday afternoon service.

YES! We would like our daughter to be a Myrrh-bearer for the Friday evening service.

YES! We would like our daughter to be a Myrrh-bearer for both services.

Holy Friday Retreat Form

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Grade in Sunday School: _____

YES! I would like my child to take part in the “Holy Friday Retreat”.

YES! I would like to volunteer help with the “Holy Friday Retreat”.

Name of volunteer: _____

All forms should be returned by Sunday, April 21, 2024. Forms may be returned by mail, to the attention of Saint Luke's Sunday School. You may also place forms in the Sunday School cubby in the copy room of the Church office. The final option is to hand in forms directly to Sophia Milinkovic. For additional information, please feel free to contact Sophia or Jane Kelly at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com.



Philoptochos Society News

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Annual Bid 'n Buy

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Coffee Hour Volunteers- The coffee hour schedule for volunteers is available for this year. Please look for your name and, hopefully, you will be able to come and volunteer on the day that you are assigned. If you cannot make it for that day, please find a replacement. We thank you all for your help, including the monthly co-chairs who are in charge for the month to which they were assigned. Diana Palumbo and Betsy Pappas, Coffee Hour Chairs

Philoptochos Stewardship Information- January was St. Luke Philoptochos' Stewardship month, but we continue to gratefully accept your 2024 commitment as we move into April. Your support is vital to ensuring our positive impact on local, national and international charities. In order to fulfill our charitable mission, it is crucial to have the full participation of you, our members. The Philoptochos fiscal year began on January 1, 2024, and our goal is to have all members' stewardship collected by **April 30, 2024**. The minimum recommended stewardship amount is \$35; any additional offering above that will serve to enhance our philanthropic efforts. Please submit your check by mailing to St Luke Greek Orthodox Church, by hand delivering to the church office or by scanning the QR code below. Please note that members must be logged into the website to be able to access the form to pay online with the QR Code. We deeply thank you for your participation and generosity in our mission to serve those in need and are looking forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 267.808.4160 or email at kiablazakis@gmail.com. Kia Blazakis, Membership Chair



The Roaring 20's Bid 'n Buy- Our Roaring 20's Bid 'n Buy is just around the corner, and we are delighted to invite you to have a jazzy good time and enjoy an unforgettable evening of glitz, glamour, and gorgeous gifts! Travel back to the 1920's and bid on our many beautiful and exciting prizes at the **St. Luke's Community Center on Thursday, May 16th, at 6:00 PM.**



Purchase your Admission & Dinner tickets soon for this sell-out event! You may complete your purchase directly through *our website*

www.stlukephiloptochos.org/bidnbuy or by **scanning our QR code**. You may also purchase your tickets by contacting our church office at 610-353-1592 or Presbyteria Michele Kontos at bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org.

Dinner Menu: Appetizers, Seasonal Salad, Chicken Souvlaki w/Rice & Mixed Vegetables, Galaktobouriko & Coffee

We are thrilled to offer you the ability to purchase your chances-to-win from the comfort of your own home, in advance of the actual event. Buying your raffle tickets in advance online will give you more time to spend bidding on the lovely and practical gifts of our Main Table (see our Facebook page & Instagram for sneak peeks), chatting with your girlfriends in our "Speakeasy" and sipping on our signature cocktail, the Bee's Knees! Visit our website or scan the QR Code to explore our beautiful Touch of Luxury gifts, unique Specialty Baskets, and raffles!

Main Table Gifts will be available for PREVIEW and "bidding" after church on Sunday, May 12th, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM and Wednesday May 15th, from 5 PM to 8 PM.

Finally, **please consider donating** to this significant fundraiser. Ultimately, the more successful the event, the more souls we will be able to help; that is our mission! We will gladly accept monetary contributions and donations. Please direct donations to chairperson Carnation Karros at bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org. You may also donate online via our *website by scanning the QR code above*. We sincerely thank you in advance for your generosity.

So, what are you waiting for? Grab your flapper dresses and join us for a Bid 'n Buy to remember! Your support helps us make a difference in the lives of those who need it most! We appreciate your support!

Philoptochos Charity Committee- Chester Charter Scholars Academy - How fortunate we are to have many opportunities to interact in person with students at the Chester Charter Scholars Academy! On **Thursday, February 29th**, five Philoptochos sisters returned to the school and sat in small groups with our third-grade scholars. Our chapter has donated books to this group of 55 students for five years, since they were in kindergarten. In addition, we have followed this class closely for the past two years, donating books for each to take home after completing a new chapter book. As we read The Dragon Thief with them and to them, we marveled at their decoding skills, improved vocabulary development, and ability to use multiple strategies to comprehend and project what would happen next. If you are interested in joining us in the future, please contact Anna Hadgis at anna.hadgis@gmail.com. It is such a heartwarming experience, and our support of the school for the last ten years has been genuinely appreciated. You will come away with a smile on your face and a heart beaming with pride.

****Information for all Philoptochos Charity Events may be found on the Philoptochos website under the Donate tab.***

Sponsorship of Floral Décor- Icon & Floral Sponsorship opportunities are available throughout the year for ecclesiastic feast days. Sponsorship can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or for the well-being of your family. Our Ladies Philoptochos wishes to thank the following donors for their sponsorships:

Anonymous donor, for her sponsorship of the icon for Sunday of Orthodoxy, in loving memory of her family members.

Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:

Friday, April 5th – Third Salutations to the Theotokos

Sunday, April 7th – Sunday of the Holy Cross

Friday, April 12th – Fourth Salutations to the Theotokos

Friday, April 19th – Akathis Hymn

Saturday, April 27th – Lazarus Saturday

Sunday, April 28th – Palm Sunday

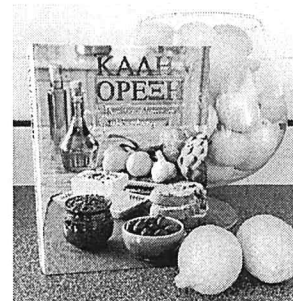
Sunday Evening April 28th, Monday April 29th, Tuesday April 30th – Bridegroom

Tuesday, April 30th - Kassiani



If you would like to sponsor an icon, you may pay online through the Philoptochos website; simply scan the QR code below with your phone; or mail your payment to the church and include the words 'icon sponsorship' on your envelope. If you have any questions, you may contact Niki Tsetsekos at 610-989-3635 or ntsetsekos@gmail.com.

Philoptochos Cookbook and Apron- For: experienced cooks looking to perfect their craft; the cooks-in-training who need inspiration; the perfect housewarming or “thank you” gift for teachers, co-workers, employees or friends; the ideal gift for newlyweds and new graduates, or those simply looking to expand their culinary repertoire, *we have just the thing!* **Καλή Όρεξη, a Greek Cookbook created by the Ladies Philoptochos of St. Luke (see photo below), and apron.** The cost is \$25 for the book and \$15 for the apron (blue only, and with pockets!), plus \$5 for shipping, if applicable. A beautiful gift package, ready for giving, for \$40.00! For more information, or to order, please contact our Philoptochos President, Lisa Palmieri, at lisa.palmieri01@gmail.com, or Phyllis Roebas, at proebas@gmail.com.



Philoptochos Members - OUR DIRECTORY IS NOW ONLINE! Please register with our website www.stlukephiloptochos.org for access to the Members Only Online Directory.

Get our APP! For directory access, Philoptochos news & events on the go, use our Membership Toolkit app right from your smartphone.

Paper directories are available by request.





THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ST LUKE

PRESENTS

The Roaring 20's
Bid 'n Buy

JOIN US ON

May 16, 2024
6:00 pm

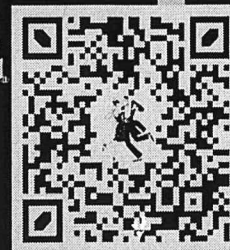
ST LUKE'S COMMUNITY CENTER
35 N MALIN ROAD * BROOMALL PA

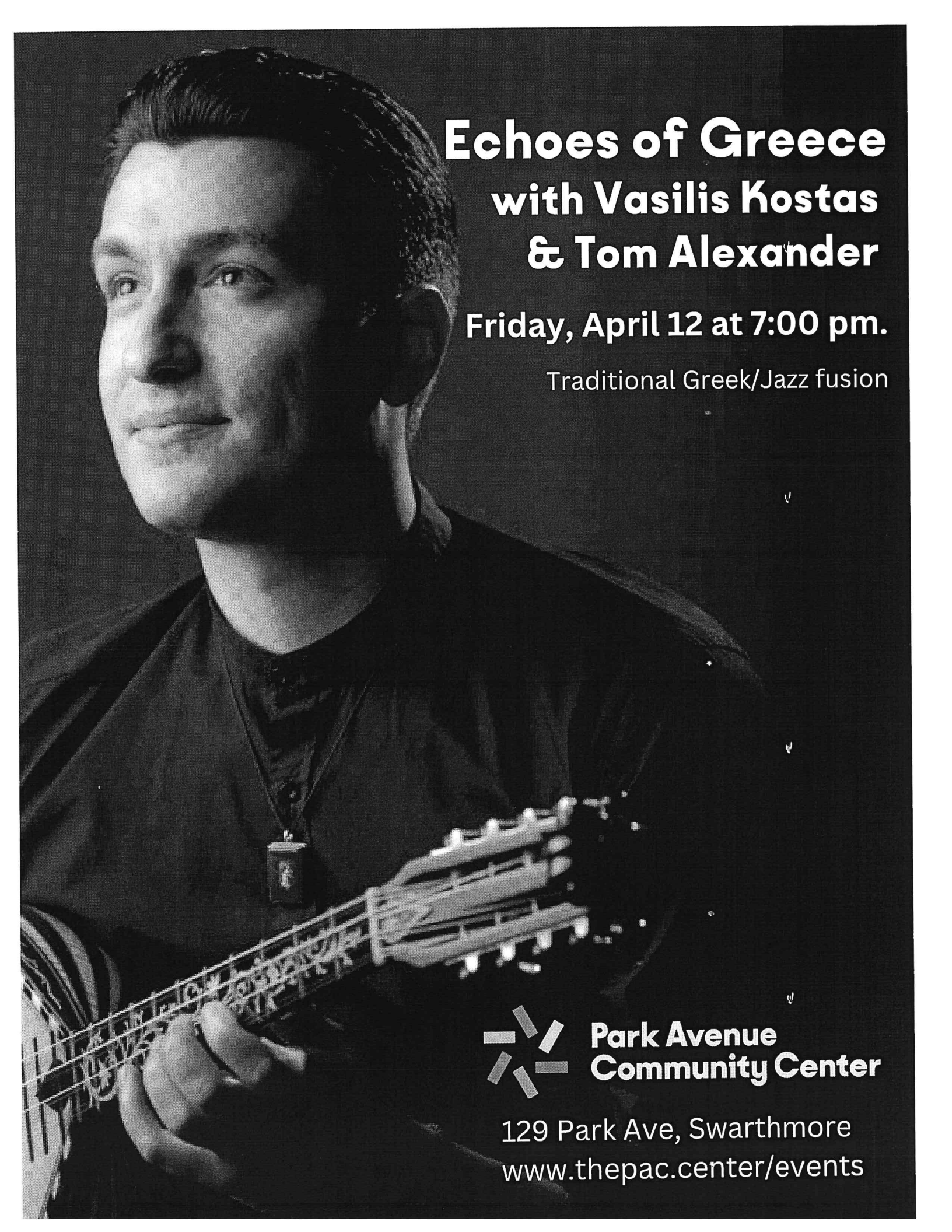
Admission & Dinner \$30.00

CONTACT: [BIDNBUY@STLUKEPHILOPTOCHOS.ORG](mailto:bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org)

OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT: 610-353-1592

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS





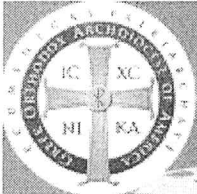
Echoes of Greece
with Vasilis Kostas
& Tom Alexander

Friday, April 12 at 7:00 pm.

Traditional Greek/Jazz fusion

 **Park Avenue
Community Center**

129 Park Ave, Swarthmore
www.thepac.center/events



OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY
1000 UNIVERSITY AVE. NEWARK, NJ 07102



Camp Good Shepherd

Experience the Best Week of Your Summer!



CGS: MARYLAND

June 16-22, 2024

Ages 8-18

Camp Wo-Me-To

1200 Knopp Rd, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Registration Fee: \$600 (Early Bird Discount until May 1, then \$675)



CGS: NEW JERSEY

June 23-29, 2024

Ages 8-18

Camp Linwood MacDonald

1 Flatbrook Rd, Sandyston, NJ 07826

Registration Fee: \$625



CGS: VIRGINIA (2 SESSIONS)

Week 1: July 7-13 (Completed 5th Grade - 8th Grade)

Week 2: July 14-20 (Completed 9th Grade - 12th Grade)

Camp Piankatank

1586 Stampers Bay Rd Box 435, Hartfield, VA 23071

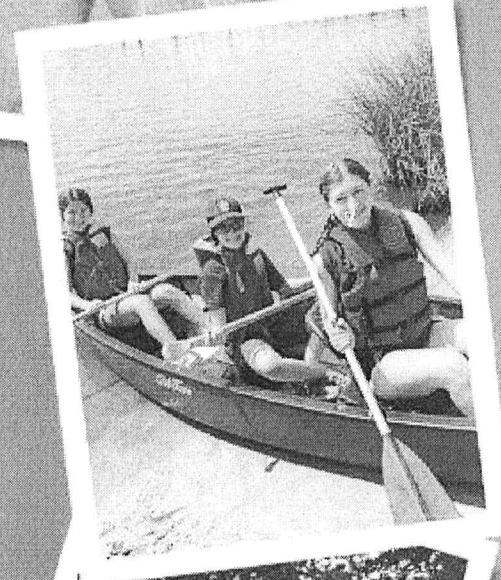
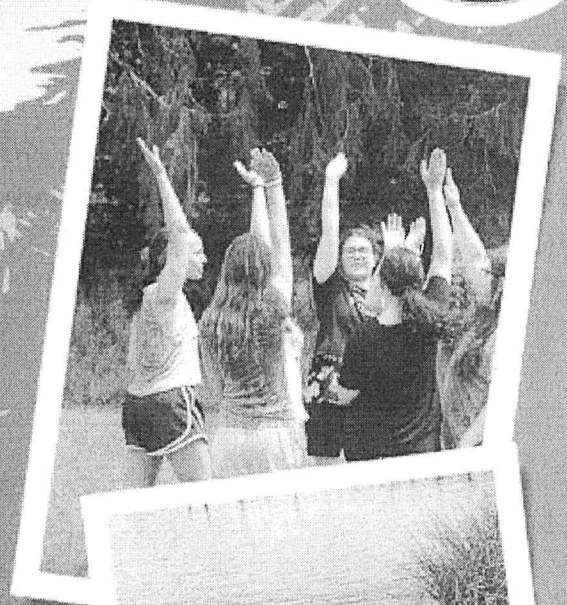
Registration Fee: \$500

REGISTER TODAY!



[HTTP://APP.CAMPDOC.COM/REGISTER/CGSN](http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn)

MORE INFORMATION [HTTPS://WWW.NJ.GOARCH.ORG/CAMP-GOOD-SHEPHERD](https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd)



GO GREEN?

For your convenience, our monthly bulletin,

The Epistle is now online and can be accessed by visiting the church website

www.st-luke.org

Just click on "Monthly Epistle". If you would like to receive the Epistle in this digital format only and not by mail, please email our Office Manager:

stlukeoffice@gmail.com or call (610) 353-1592

Address service requested

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 N. Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

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