

THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

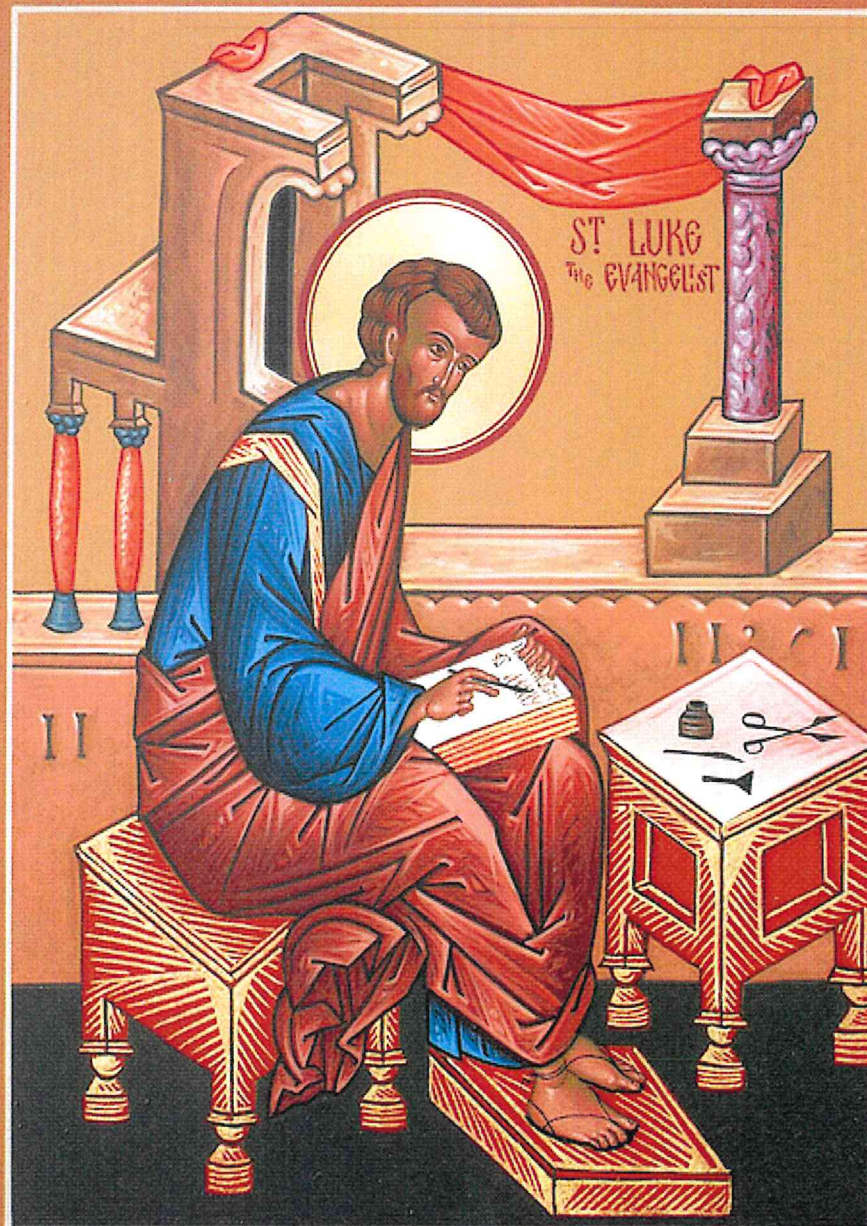
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

610-353-1592

www.st-luke.org

June 2024



PASTORAL MESSAGE IN HONOR OF FATHERS DAY

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Start your children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 22:6

June, 2024

We are living in a time of confusion where many pressures cause fathers to question their role in the family. So much stress is impressed on them. It becomes an opportunity for fathers to reflect and the real responsibility that they accepted when they became fathers.

As much as the role and identity of the father is being diminished, redefined by cultural trends and/or demands of a few, it becomes a time for fathers to become more committed. Our Lord Himself is a father's paradigm when one's identity is challenged. Let us remain responsible in our commitment to our children by teaching them by our examples more than our words. It is helpful for a father to encourage the children to go to Church, it is, however, the example of a father *going* to Church with their mother & children that teaches and gives our young people the encouragement to do so themselves.

As a spiritual father to many, I have had the blessing of visiting with hundreds of men over the years. The following words have never been spoken: "I wish I worked harder so that I can give my kids more stuff." What I do hear is "I wish I spent more time teaching, being a real father to my child and being with my kids, because I didn't see them grow up...I don't know where the time went." Friends, let us be the best and most committed fathers and husbands we can. Let us teach our children to be respectful & selfless men and women, by being respectful and selfless to our wives; let us teach them a good work ethic doesn't mean compromising family; let us teach them kindness and mercy by being kind and merciful. By doing so, we may in fact become better in all the other aspects of our lives.

Let us begin every day with the sage words of the Prophet Micah guiding us,
"Act justly, be merciful, and walk humbly."

From one father to another, and with brotherly love, Happy Father's Day!

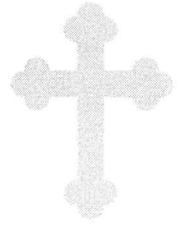


Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

Parish Life

Forty-Day Blessings

On May 19, 2024, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Olivia Grace Paranzino**. Congratulations to **Dominic Paranzino & Maria Kyvernitis Paranzino** as we anticipate the Baptism!



Funerals



The servant of God, **Georgia Kyriakopoulou**, fell asleep in the Lord on April 19, 2024. Her funeral service was held on April 26, 2024.

The servant of God, **Pauline Soufflas**, fell asleep in the Lord on April 25, 2024. Her funeral service was held on May 7, 2024.

The servant of God, **Sandra Ashby**, fell asleep in the Lord on May 12, 2024. Her funeral service was held on May 17, 2024.

The servant of God, **Viktor Dupi**, fell asleep in the Lord on May 18, 2024. His funeral service was held on May 22, 2024.

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

June 2024 Ecclesiastical Calendar



Sunday, June 2nd

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Nikephorus Pat. of Constan.; Erasmios of Ochrid

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

Sunday, June 9th

Sunday of the Blind Man

Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria; 3 Virgin-martyrs of Chios

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

Thursday, June 13th

Holy Ascension

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

Sunday, June 16th

Fathers of the 1st Council

Tychon the Wonderworker; 40 Martyrs of Rome

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

Saturday, June 22nd

Saturday of Souls

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

Sunday, June 23rd

Holy Pentecost

Agrippina the Martyr of Rome

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

Saturday, June 29th

Peter and Paul, the Holy Apostles

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

Sunday, June 30th

Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

Michael, New Martyr of Athens

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

JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 11:30am General Assembly 12pm Graduate Sunday Reception	3 <i>Greek School set-up for program</i> 6pm Greek Affair Baking 7pm Parish Council Meeting	4 10am Senior Men 10am Greek Affair Baking 5pm Greek School end of year prog 6:30pm Elements of Theology	5 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Philoptochos General Assembly Meeting 8:00pm Boys Basketball	6 9am Play Group 10am Senior Men	7	8
9	10 <i>Social Hall CLOSED – Floor installation</i> 4:30pm FTIN Cooking 6pm Baking Prep	11 <i>Social Hall CLOSED – Floor installation</i> 10am Senior Men 10am Greek Affair Baking 6:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	12 <i>Social Hall CLOSED – Floor installation</i> 11am Bible Study 8:00pm Boys Basketball	13 <i>Social Hall CLOSED – Floor installation</i> 9am Play Group 10am Senior Men	14	15
16 <i>Father's Day</i> 12pm Father's Day Reception	17 6pm Baking Prep	18 10am Senior Men 10am Greek Affair Baking 6:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	19 10am Greek Affair Baking 11am Bible Study 8:00pm Boys Basketball	20 9am Play Group 10am Senior Men	21	22
23 10:30am SPARK	24	25 10am Senior Men 6:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	26 11am Bible Study 8:00pm Boys Basketball	27 9am Play Group 10am Senior Men	28	29
30						

Holy Ascension

Thursday, June 13th



The Lord Jesus passed forty days on earth after His Resurrection from the dead, appearing continually in various places to His disciples, with whom He also spoke, ate, and drank, thereby further demonstrating His Resurrection. On this Thursday, the fortieth day after Pascha, He appeared again in Jerusalem. After He had first spoken to the disciples about many things, He gave them His last commandment, that is, that they go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. But He also commanded them that for the present, they were not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait there together until they receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

Saying these things, He led them to the Mount of Olives, and raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's

blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from the sight of the disciples, who remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1:11). These words, in a complete and concise manner, declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, having so fulfilled all His dispensation for us, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father. As for His sacred disciples, they returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit.

It should be noted that the Mount of Olives is a Sabbath's day journey from Jerusalem, that is, the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the day of the Sabbath. Ecumenius writes, "A Sabbath day's journey is one mile in length, as Clement says in his fifth Stromatis; it is two thousand cubits, as the Interpretation of the Acts states." They draw this conclusion from the fact that, while they were in the wilderness, the Israelites of old kept within this distance from the Holy Tabernacle, whither they walked on the Sabbath day to worship God.

SATURDAY OF SOULS (PSYCHOSAVATO)

Traditionally, the Orthodox remember the dead on a Saturday,
the day Christ lay in His tomb.

Four times a year, parishioners assemble
to pray for all their deceased loved ones.

If you would like to offer prayers for the deceased,
write their first name(s) on a slip of paper
(or detach the one provided for you),
and the priest will read the list toward the end of the service.

Following the service all the *kollyva* is combined
symbolizing the mixing of souls in heaven.

Parishioners share the *kollyva* and greet each other with,
“May God grant them rest---May their memory be eternal.”
“*O Theos na tous anapafsi-Aionia tous e mnimi*”

SATURDAY OF SOULS ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ

**List the names
(baptismal, If known)
of your beloved
family members and loved
ones who have fallen
asleep in the Lord
for the Saturday of the Souls
Services on....**

Saturday, June 22nd

You may order a small plate of kolliva.

Please reach out to Nikki Millas
(484) 995-7194 to order.

The donation for each plate is \$20.00

Please remit payment for kolliva directly to Nikki,
prior to the dates of the service.

Αναπαυσον Κυριε, τας ψυχας
των δουλων Σου...
Give Rest O Lord, to the souls of
your departed servants...

Holy Pentecost

June 23rd

After the Saviour's Ascension into the Heavens, the eleven Apostles and the rest of His disciples, the God-loving women who followed after Him from the beginning, His Mother, the most holy Virgin Mary, and His brethren—all together about 120 souls returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Entering into the house where they gathered, they went into the upper room, and there they persevered in prayer and supplication, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, as their Divine Teacher had promised them. In the meanwhile, they chose Matthias, who was elected to take the place of Judas among the Apostles.

Thus, on this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there

suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.

The multitudes that had come together from various places for the feast, most of whom were Jews by race and religion, were called Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and so forth, according to the places where they dwelt. Though they spoke many different tongues, they were present in Jerusalem by divine dispensation. When they heard that sound that came down from Heaven to the place where the disciples of Christ were gathered, all ran together to learn what had taken place. But they were confounded when they came and heard the Apostles speaking in their own tongues. Marvelling at this, they said one to another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" Then Peter stood up with the eleven, and raising his voice, spoke to all the people, proving that that which had taken place was the fulfilment of God's promise that had been spoken by the Prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28), and he preached Jesus of Nazareth unto them, proving in many ways that He is Christ the Lord, Whom the Jews crucified but God raised from the dead. On hearing Peter's teaching, many were smitten with compunction and received the word. Thus, they were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added to the Faith of Christ.





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 Presbyter 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.



DIAKONIA SCHEDULE

June 2	Dee Karras	Diane Sioutis
June 9	Ellena Vaganos	Vasie Marinakos
June 16	Anna Hadgis	Stephanie Carroll

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

Date	COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2023- 2024			
JUN:	Chairs:	Diana Palumbo	Helen Kopitas	
2-Jun	Anna Andreadis	Sarah Andreadis	Katina Maltas	Sandra Liacouras
9-Jun	Alexa Angelakos	Katie Politis	Kathy Malandrakis	Sue Pilidis
16-Jun	Beth Ratchford	Lisa Shaiko	Debra Lamprinakos	Alexandra Perrot

Coffee Hours Chairs:

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

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>
FENEKIA	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 dianesioutis@yahoo.com

Karen Kotapka mkotapka@aol.com

Maria Carafides mcarafides@gmail.com

GREEK AFFAIR BAKING CHAIRS

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As we enter the month of June, 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: 357

Total Pledged as of 4/30/2024 - \$432,760.04

Total Received as of 3/31/2024: \$274,758.52

Stewardship Chairperson: NIKI THOMPSON

Stewardship Administrator: MICHAEL COOK

Contact Niki & Michael at: StLukeGiving@gmail.com

Stewardship Spiritual Advisor: Fr Christ Kontos fatherck@gmail.com

St Luke's Senior Group Pilgrimage to Holy Protection Monastery, Αγία Σκέρτης -Pocono Mountains Pa.



Choir News

Melanie Sarakatsannis is thanked for sharing her beautiful singing voice with the congregation of St. Luke at the Holy Tuesday Bridegroom Service. Soprano soloist, Melanie Sarakatsannis along with choir members performed the Hymns of Holy Tuesday and Kassiani Hymn. Choir members are thanked for all their hard work in rehearsing the many hymns of Lent and Holy Week. Their participation as church musicians is very much appreciated.

Thank you St. Luke Choir Members for your participation during the 2023-24 Choir Season.

Senior Choir: Maria Armenti, Max Armenti, Veronica Crisp, Carol Crouse, Robert Jaquette, Noel Kelly, Alexandra Kokonos, Renee Lamprinakos, Madeleine Le Bouteiller, Carol Leon, Ted Leon, Patricia Missiras, Peter J. Missiras, Evan Palmieri, Nicole Papadopoulos, Peter Pavlis, Alexandra Perrot, Deme Peters, George Poole, Pamela A. Sande, Cathy Vinnicombe, Janine Voudouris, Peter Papadopoulos (guest member)

Sunday Youth Choir: Melina Intzes, Evangelia Papadopoulos, Gabriela Papadopoulos, Katerina Poole

Senior and Youth Choir Director – Dena Papadopoulos

For information about joining the St. Luke Senior or Sunday Youth Choir please contact Dena Papadopoulos, St. Luke Choir Director at dena80papa@gmail.com



For Those in Need...

you may ask, “What are we doing lately?”

June, 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 May's Cook, FTIN's volunteer Chefs prepared some 190 evening meals for our partners at The Life Center (TLC) and the Salvation Army. This represents an increase from prior months resulting from TLC's decision to expand its resident population from 30 to 40 beds, with plans for a further increase to 50 if their new budget permits.

And FTIN's next delivery to re-stock the Salvation Army's food pantry specifically oriented towards their senior and homeless populations is scheduled for **June 4th**.

FTIN's **June Cook** will take place on Monday evening, **June 10th** 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 donate, please contact:

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

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.

Following holy week, our GOYAns were able to take confession and have a spiritual retreat. In collaboration with our Sunday school to spark participation, friendships, and a deeper love for our faith, we hosted our last 'Spark Sunday', and our Sunday school year has reached its end.

In the upcoming month of June, there is one final GOYA dance, which is St. Thomas in Cherry Hill New Jersey's annual sports jersey dance held on June 7th. Sadly, the GOYA season is almost over, but there are still opportunities to get involved, and of course, the next season starts in September. Elections for a new GOYA board will be held this month, along with an end-of-the-year hangout and visit from a puppy shelter.

The GOYA season is nearing its end, but among the events listed, and many others, are still 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 in the upcoming season, as it allows our youth to get involved, share, learn, and grow spiritually while having fun!

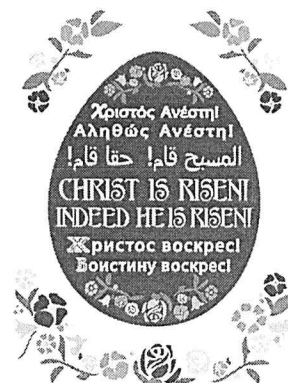
St. Luke Greek Dance News!

Our Greek Dance Troupes closed out the dance year with a performance at the church for family and friends. Thank you to all of our dancers and families for their participation and support throughout the year!

We wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to resuming practices again in late August to prepare for our performances at Saint Luke's Greek Affair!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Hello Sunday School Students and Families,

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

The Sunday School teachers and students are taking a partial break for the summer. We are planning three Summer Spark meetings with the 7th-12th graders, one in June, one in July, and one in August (please see schedule below). In addition, in this edition, there is a recap of our Paschal and end-of-year activities. Finally, we will once again sponsor a fundraiser for the FOCUS Back to School Backpack program in July and August, with a backpack filling day and Pizza Party for participating students and their families after Liturgy on August 15, 2024. More information to follow. Have a blessed summer!

Sunday School Schedule for June 2024:

June 16 Father's Day poems read by Sunday School Students.

June 23- Summer Spark Sunday for 7th-12th grade students (including 2024 grads)

Lazarus Saturday/Palm Folding- Many thanks to the Sunday School families and St. Luke parishioners who joined together to make between 800-1000 palm crosses on Saturday, April 27, 2024, Lazarus Saturday. Sophia Milinkovic prepared the Social Hall and ordered the food, on behalf of the Sunday School; Carnation Karros kept count of the crosses as they were made; and many experienced palm cross makers helped the novices in attendance to create beautiful crosses for distribution on Palm Sunday. God bless you all!

Holy Friday Retreat- The Sunday School conducted its annual Holy Friday Retreat following the morning Royal Hours service on May 3, 2024. The Sunday School provided food for all those who were working to prepare the church for the Holy Friday and Anastasi services, as well as those young people attending the Sunday School and GOYA retreats: Philoptochos and Parish Council members; GOYANS and advisors; and Sunday School families and teachers. Special thanks go to Sophia Milinkovic for behind the scenes planning for the day, Faithe and Andy Kalisperis and Carnation and Art Karros for overseeing the food and helping with the activities of the day, and Marina Despotopoulou

for developing the special Holy Week coloring and lesson book and leading the activities of the day. We were honored to have Fr. Emmanuel Pratsinakis speak to the Sunday School students, approximately 60 in total, about the events of Holy Week, in general, and Holy Friday, in particular. Father Emmanuel gave a master class in teaching and maintaining discipline while teaching a group of children of all ages, including those in GOYA., keeping their attention as he spoke for between 45 minutes and an hour.

Many young ladies served as Myrrh-bearers during the weekend of Pascha. They were: Stella Angelakos, Nasia Bianchi, Olia Dimos, Margarita Georgelos, Sophia Gououvas, Eleni Kalisperis, Maria Kaltsidis, Victoria Kaltsidis, Paige Katsapis, Georgia Kokonis, Katalina and Kolette Kontostergios, Melinda Mahjouri, Zoe Miller, Christina Navrosidis, Evangelia Papadopoulos, Ana Papapetridis, Anatoli and Theodora Poggio, Andonia Pylarus, Sophia Thomas, Gia Zafiropoulos. We thank all of the Myrrh-bearers who served, as well as Carnation Karros and Marina Despotopoulou for recruiting the young ladies and preparing them for their roles at the various services between May 3-May 5.

We also thank Marianna and Markella Kevgas, Art Karros, Katerina Poole, and Jane Kelly for their valuable assistance with the retreat and with the Myrrh-bearers. We are very grateful to the St. Luke GOYA, and Chrissy Katsapsis, GOYA advisor, for coordinating with Sunday School in the planning and implementation of the activities of the Holy Friday Retreat. Our deepest apologies to anyone who helped whom we have not acknowledged by name. Our Good, Gracious and Resurrected Lord knows of your good works-may He bless you abundantly for them!

Agape Gospel Readers on Pascha- We are so grateful to the following Sunday School students and teachers who read the Gospel on Easter morning in the following languages during the Agape Vespers of Pascha: Olia Dimos (Greek); Kosta Kontostergios (English); Katalina Kontostergios (Spanish); Marina Despotopoulou (French); Claudia Papa (Albanian); and Marinela Tsapournas (Italian). It was a true blessing for all of us to hear the Good News of Christ's Resurrection in the tongues of so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ! God bless our sweet and wonderful Agape readers!

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival- Congratulations to Victoria Kaltsidis, in the Junior Division, and Eleni Kalisperis, in the Senior Division, for advancing to the Metropolis Oratorical Festival at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, MD on May 11, 2024. Victoria and Eleni wrote thoughtful and provocative speeches on their respective topics and delivered those speeches very impressively. God bless you both, Victoria and Eleni! You have made our St. Luke community very proud by representing our parish so beautifully!

Readers for Mother's Day Poems- We are very grateful to Zoe Miller, Katalina and Kolette Kontostergios, and Victoria Kaltsidis for reading Mother's Day poems on behalf of the Sunday School on Sunday, May 12, 2024. We are sure that their sweet voices and kind

words made it a special day for all the mothers of our St. Luke community. Brava, Zoe, Katalina, Kolette, and Victoria!

Readers for Father's Day Poems- The Sunday School is currently recruiting 2 more readers (we already have 1) to honor the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers and uncles of our parish with heartfelt poems on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, 2024. To volunteer your child or children, and to receive the readings in advance, please contact Jane and 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! Although the Sunday School year is officially over, we would still like to organize a trip on a Saturday in June, July, or August. One option is to arrive early in the morning so that we may attend Divine Liturgy with the nuns (7:30-9:30 am), receive a tour of the Monastery, and share lunch together with the nuns. OR we could visit at midday on that Saturday afternoon, receive a tour of the Monastery, share a meal with the sisters, and attend Vespers before heading home. If this is something you and your family would be interested in, please contact Sophia and Jane at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com!

Year Round Learners- Would you like to encourage your children to be year-long learners about their faith? Need some good Orthodox story books for kids of all ages to read by the pool or at the beach this summer? We would highly recommend the following websites for their great selection of Orthodox books, about the wonders of our faith and the original superheroes, the saints:

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/childrens-books-and-gifts/>

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/young-adult-books/>

<https://www.drawneardesigns.com/books>

<https://potamitis.us/>

Readers for Divine Liturgy- Please encourage your children to **volunteer to read the Epistle or the Communion Prayer** during Divine Liturgy, **even over the summer**. 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 Sophia and Jane at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com.

Questions about Sunday School? Please contact Jane and 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. Look for a link to our **registration page for the 2024-2025 Sunday School year- COMING SOON!**



SAVE THE DATE

Graduates Sunday Program and Reception - Sunday, June 2, 2024

General Assembly Meeting - Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Father's Day Luncheon - Sunday, June 16, 2024

Coffee Hour Volunteers- We thank all the captains and volunteers who took time out of their Sunday and helped with coffee hour this year. The more hands the faster and easier it was. Thank you, Toula Nikolos, Betsy Pappas and Diana Palumbo, Coffee Hour Chairs

Summer Coffee Hour- Summer Coffee Hour will take place in the Social Hall of the Education Building from June 23rd to September 1st. Contact Dee Karras, deekarras@verizon.net, so you can be scheduled to serve as either a volunteer or as co-chair with Dee. Your response is deeply appreciated.

Graduates Sunday Program and Reception- We are excited to announce that on Sunday, June 2, 2024, the graduates of the Class of 2024 will come together in person to be recognized for their accomplishments and hard-earned degrees. Fr. Christ will provide the Special Blessing to the Graduates, a Guest Speaker will address the group, and the scholarship recipients will be announced. For the Graduates in your family, please complete the form on <https://www.st-luke.org>. If you do not have access to the online form, you can mail the form found elsewhere in this Epistle or email complete information to Andrea Papadopoulos at saintlukegradsunday@gmail.com.

General Assembly Meeting- Last General Assembly meeting and potluck for the year will be held on June 5th at 6:30 in the Social Hall. Before the meeting begins, Maria Kefalas, PhD, co-founder of the Calliope Joy Foundation, will speak to us about the promising advancements in leukodystrophy research. It will provide insight into the foundation that we have supported for many years. See our website to RSVP for the meeting. Thank you.

Father's Day Luncheon- Please join us in worship and to celebrate the fathers of our community on Sunday, June 16th. Our Ladies Philoptochos will host a Father's Day Luncheon follows Divine Liturgy in honor of the fathers in our community. We hope you will join us- all are welcome. QR code for the Father's Day Reception and link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COC44AFAC2AA7FEC43-49648208-2024#/>
Thank you, Beth Ratchford and Lisa Shaiko, Chairs



Philoptochos Charity Committee- On Thursday, May 2, 2024, members of the Charity Committee attended the Red Shoe Gala at The High Point, Malvern, PA.

Attending were Angelique Demetris, Maria Kalisperis, Karen Kotapka and Joanna Mattis.

The Red Shoe Gala is a fundraiser of Ryan's Case for Smiles - a Charity Committee recipient. Our support for Ryan's started in 2008 with the sewing of pillowcases for children in area hospitals. Since the beginning of our relationship with Ryan's Case for Smiles, the ladies of St. Luke have sewn over 10,000 pillowcases. Ryan's Case for Smiles is now in its 16th year with the mission of supporting children with cancer and other life-changing illnesses. Today over 2.8 million pillowcases have been delivered to children in 350 hospitals, Ronald McDonald houses and clinics across North America. Knowing that the whole family is impacted by the diagnosis of a child with a life-threatening illness, Ryan's Case for Smiles also supports siblings by supplying Coping Boxes to help them know they are not alone. It is an inspiration to see how Cindy Kerr's idea, of helping her own son, Ryan, deal with his terrifying diagnosis of bone cancer, thrive and grow into a major nationwide charity. Attendance of over 140 people gathered to hear how Cindy's vision transforms the lives of children living through traumatic illnesses.

On Thursday, May 9th, A Haven Ambassadors, Angelique Demetris, Joanna Mattis and Karen Kotapka attended a reception recognizing donors and volunteers. In late September, the Charity Committee met with the Director, Board Members and Staff to introduce themselves. The organization serves youths who have difficulty processing grief. Counselors go to schools located in Chester County to work with students who are struggling with the emotions following loss. Afternoon and evening programs are also held in their studio located in Exton. There is currently a backlog for this service which is unique in our area. Not only were we remembered for our donation this past Fall, but many in attendance also approached us having recognized St. Luke Greek Affair in Broomall as many are Delco residents! Our reputation preceded us, and we felt very proud that the connection was made! We will be following up with a monetary donation.

**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.

Christos Anesti! Our Ladies Philoptochos would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations:

- Anonymous, for Sunday, April 7: Sunday of Veneration of Holy Cross, for her sponsorship of daffodils.
- Elena Aughey, in loving memory of Eleni Doucas & Via Solomon, for daffodils for

Sunday April 7, Sunday of Veneration of Holy Cross.

- Christina Thomas, in loving memory of Speros and Ute Thomas, for daffodils for Sunday, April 7, Sunday of Veneration of Holy Cross.
- Anonymous, for Sunday, April 7: Sunday of Veneration of Holy Cross, for her sponsorship of daffodils.
- Magdaline Filis, in loving memory of Yiayia Pagona Filis, for sponsorship of the icon for Saturday, April 27, Lazarus Saturday.
- Nina Lazaridis, for her sponsorship of the floral for Saturday, April 27, Lazarus Saturday, in memory of her grandparents, Emmanuel, Catherine, Michael, and Angela.
- The Vastardis Family, in loving memory of Louis & Goldie Vastardis, for their sponsorship of the palms for Sunday, April 28, Palm Sunday.
- Maria Gregory, in memory of Fr. George D. Gregory and Cleopatra Gregory, for her sponsorship of the Icon of the Bridegroom for Sunday, April 28, Palm Sunday.
- Lisa Palmieri, for the well-being of her family, for her sponsorship of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem icon for Sunday, April 28, Palm Sunday.
- Georgia Ann Eleftherakis & Stephanie Carroll, in loving memory of George, Paula, Konstantinos, Anna, Nicholas, and Gina, for their sponsorship of Kassiani Icon for Holy Tuesday, April 30.
- Anonymous, for her sponsorship of Kassiani floral, in memory of loved ones.
- Anonymous, for her sponsorship of Extreme Humility Icon, in memory of loved ones.
- Kathleen Chimicles, for the well-being of the Chimicles Family, for her sponsorship of the wreath of red roses for the cross for Holy Thursday, May 2.
- Anonymous, for her sponsorship of the wreath of red roses for the cross for Holy Thursday, May 2.
- Niki Diamond, in loving memory of Gail Ververelli Torrence, for her sponsorship of lavender sprigs, for Holy Thursday, May 2.
- Anonymous, for her sponsorship of the Apokathelosis icon, for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Carnation Karros, in loving memory of Eleni Moschos and Garifalanthi Parastatidis, for her sponsorship of Apokathelosis floral, for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Marisa O'Keefe, in loving memory of Anastasia O'Keefe, for her sponsorship of the Epitaphio icon, for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Anonymous, in loving memory of a loved one, for her sponsorship of Epitaphio gardenias, for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Aleka Agapitides, in loving memory of her parents: Elly and Manny Agapitides, for her sponsorship of Epitaphio gardenias, for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Katina Dollos, for her sponsorship of Epitaphio gardenias, for Holy Friday, May 3.

- Maria Gregory, in memory of Fr. George D. Gregory and Cleopatra Gregory, for her sponsorship of Epitaphio gardenias, for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Kathleen Chimicles, for the well-being of the Chimicles Family, for her sponsorship of Epitaphio flowers for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Anonymous, in loving memory of a loved one, for her sponsorship of Epitaphio flowers for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Kathleen Vasiliou, for her sponsorship of Epitaphio flowers in memory of loved ones, for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Anonymous, for his donation for Epitaphio flowers for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Anonymous, for her donation for Epitaphio flowers for Holy Friday, May 3.
- Diane Sioutis, for the well-being of her family, for her sponsorship of the Anastasi/Resurrection icon for Holy Saturday, May 4.
- Kathleen Chimicles, for the well being of the Chimicles Family, for her sponsorship of the floral for the Anastasi/Resurrection icon for Holy Saturday, May 4.
- Yvette Kounios and family, for their sponsorship of bay leaves for Holy Saturday, May 4.
- Tasha Kouvatsos, for the well being of Athanasia Kouvatsos, for her sponsorship of bay leaves for Holy Saturday, May 4.
- Kathleen Chimicles, for the well being of the Chimicles Family, for her sponsorship of bay leaves for Holy Saturday, May 4.
- Magdaline Filis, in loving memory of Yiayia Pagona Filis, for her sponsorship of bay leaves for Holy Saturday, May 4.
- Dr. George and Zoe Maalouf in loving memory of their parents and grandparents, for their sponsorship of bay leaves for Holy Saturday, May 4.
- Anonymous, for her Holy Week and Easter flower donation.
- Anonymous, in memory of loved ones, for her Holy Week and Easter flower donation.
- Harry Wilson, in honor of the family of Harry Wilson & Irene Psihogios, for his Holy Week & Easter flower donation.
- Anonymous, in memory of a loved one, for her Holy Week and Easter flower donation.
- Anonymous, in memory of a loved one, for her Holy Week and Easter flower donation.
- Pamela Sande, in loving memory of Nicholas & Helen Andreson, for her Holy Week and Easter flower donation.
- Dennis Kusturiss, in loving memory of MaryBeth Kusturiss, for his Holy Week & Easter flower donation.
- Anonymous, in memory of loved ones, for her Holy Week and Easter flower donation.
- Anonymous, for the well-being of her family, for her donation for the Thomas Sunday icon on May 12.

- Theodora Lucado, in loving memory of Maria Kamberogiannis for her sponsorship of both icon and floral for Sunday of Myrrh Bearing Women, Sunday, May 19.
- Anonymous, in memory of loved ones, for her sponsorship of Saints Constantine and Helen icon, Tuesday, May 21.
- Anonymous, in memory of loved ones, for her sponsorship of Saints Constantine and Helen floral, Tuesday, May 21.

We would like to also recognize and thank Alexis Limberakis for chairing our traditional egg-dyeing during Holy Week, as well as Deme Peters and Alexandra Perrot, and their team of talented floral decorators, for chairing the Holy Friday and Anastasi decorating.

Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:

Thursday June 13th - Holy Ascension

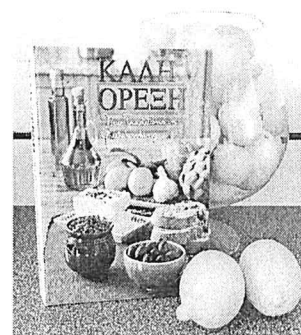
Sunday June 23rd - Holy Pentecost

Saturday June 29th - Ss. Peter and Paul, the Holy Apostles

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 610-500-3056 or ntsetsekos@gmail.com.

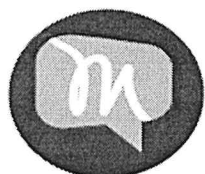


Philoptochos Cookbook and Apron- For: experienced cooks looking to perfect their craft; the cooks-in-training who need inspiration; the perfect housewarming or "thank you" gift for teachers, co-workers, employees or friends; the ideal gift for newlyweds and new graduates, or those simply looking to expand 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, for \$40.00! For more information, or to order, please contact our Philoptochos President, Lisa Palmieri, at president@stlukephiloptochos.org, 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.

Graduates Sunday – June 2, 2024



We are excited to announce that on Sunday, **June 2, 2024**, the graduates of the **Class of 2024** will come together in person to be recognized for their accomplishments and hard-earned degrees. During the event Father Christ will provide the Special Blessing to the Graduates, a Guest Speaker will address the group and the scholarship recipients will be announced.

For the Graduates in your family, please complete the form on <https://www.st-luke.org>. If you do not have access to the online form, you can mail the form below or email complete information to Andrea Papadopoulos at saintlukegradsunday@gmail.com.

Graduate Information

Graduate's Name (As you would like it to appear in the program)	
Graduate's Email Address and Mobile Number	
Name of High School, University/College awarding diploma	
Diploma: High School, Bachelor, Graduate or Post Graduate degree	
Major(s)/Concentration	
Future Plan (Name of University/College and intended studies)	
Name of the person submitting the Graduate's name	
Telephone number and email of the person submitting the graduate's name	
Name of Orthodox parish Graduate is attending	
Will the graduate be available to attend in person Sunday, June 2, 2024?	Y or N

Deadline for submitting the form is Saturday, May 25, 2024.

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

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