

# THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

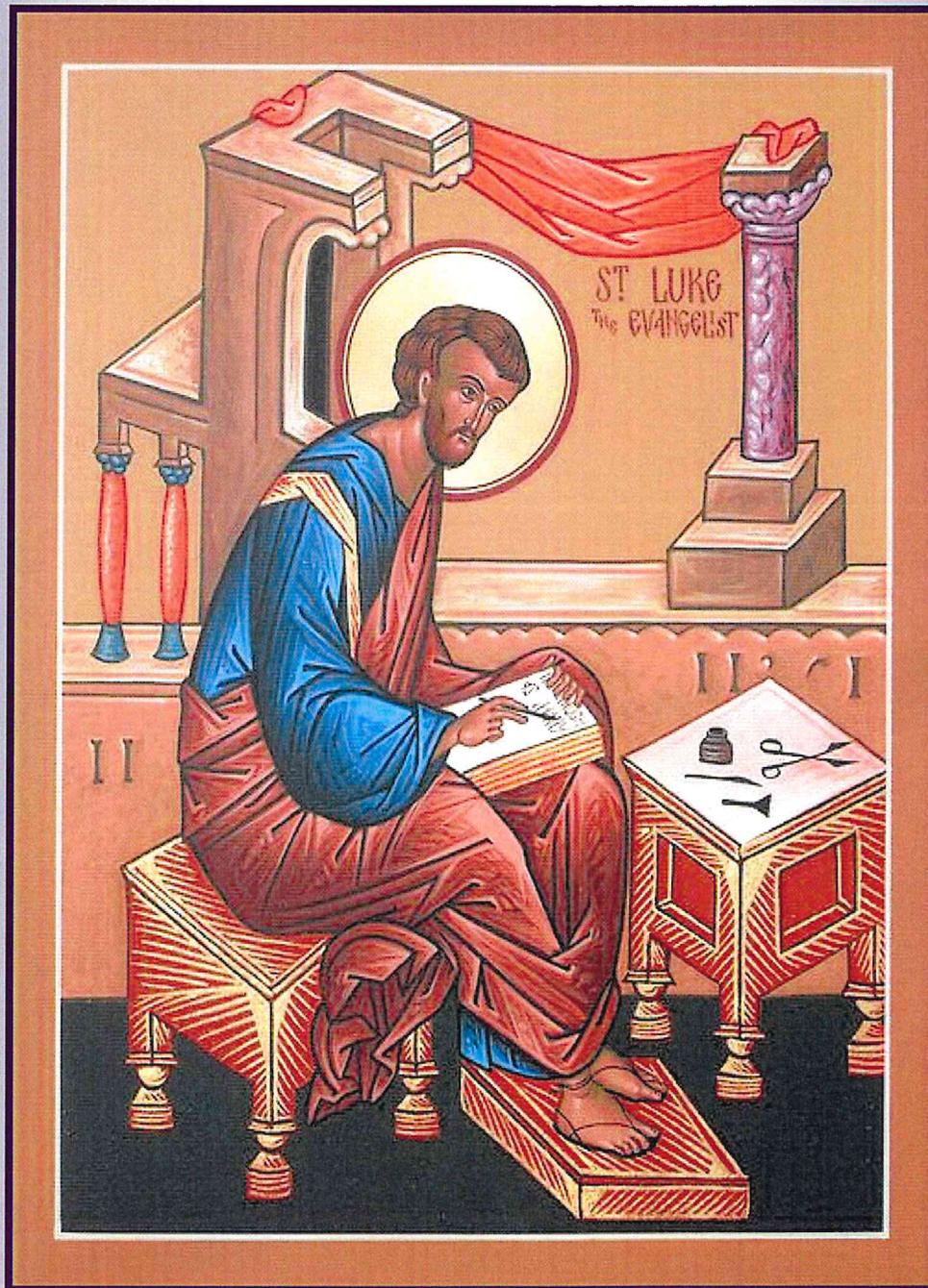
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

(610) 353-1592

[www.st-luke.org](http://www.st-luke.org)

APRIL 2026



## PASTORAL MESSAGE PASCHA 2026

Beloved,

During the month of April, we will shout with joy the triumphant words: **“Christ is Risen! - Χριστός Ανέστη!”** These words proclaim to you and me one singular truth about the Son of God: His perfect selflessness. What does that have to do with you and me? Everything.

The selflessness of God allows **HUSBANDS AND WIVES** to become selfless with one another again. Over time, couples can develop attitudes of selfishness that become destructive to the nurture, love, and growth of their relationship. Bringing Christ into our marriages means bringing selflessness, renewal, and deeper love into our most important human relationship: that with our spouse. May you discover selflessness in your relationship today by first practicing it yourself.

The selflessness of God allows our **YOUTH** to learn that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Our precious young people are constantly bombarded by images of selfishness in friendships, music, social media, advertisements, and the internet. When they come to know Jesus Christ early in life, however, they discover the true joy, fulfillment, and sense of purpose that come from living selflessly. With Christ guiding them, they learn that society and the many influences around them are not to be feared, but approached with openness, discernment, and the integrity of our Orthodox Christian values; values they may not encounter outside the life of the Church.

The selflessness of God gives strength to our **SENIORS**. Having weathered much in life, our beloved seniors are encouraged not to waver, just as Christ did not waver in His most difficult hour. They are called not only to remain steadfast, but also to share their wisdom with their families, to continue being a source of love and understanding for their children and grandchildren, and to serve as a shining example for them to follow. As the Psalmist says, “They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.”

The selflessness of God speaks to young and old, married and single alike, reminding us that a life of fulfillment is not found in fleeting pleasures or selfish pursuits. True joy is found when we come to know that Jesus Christ died and rose for you and for me, so that we may live fuller lives today and inherit perfect life in the Kingdom to come. To be selfless means to find joy in loving those who are hard to love, giving even when it hurts, forgiving those who are hard to forgive, helping when it is inconvenient, and humbly setting aside our egos to ask forgiveness when we have failed.

Friends, this Pascha, let us allow our Risen Lord to renew us by His example of perfect love and selflessness. May He teach us to love more deeply, forgive more readily, and live more faithfully, so that His Resurrection may shine forth not only in our words, but also in our actions.

Peace and blessings,



Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

## PARISH LIFE

### Baptisms

The sons of **Konstantinos & Leila Douvartzidis** were baptized on March 1, 2026. Their sponsors, **Constantine & Anastasia Stoios**, baptized them with the name *Nicholas & Leonidas*. May Our Lord continue to bless you both, **Niko Kaveh Dovartzidis & Leo Kian Douvartzidis**.



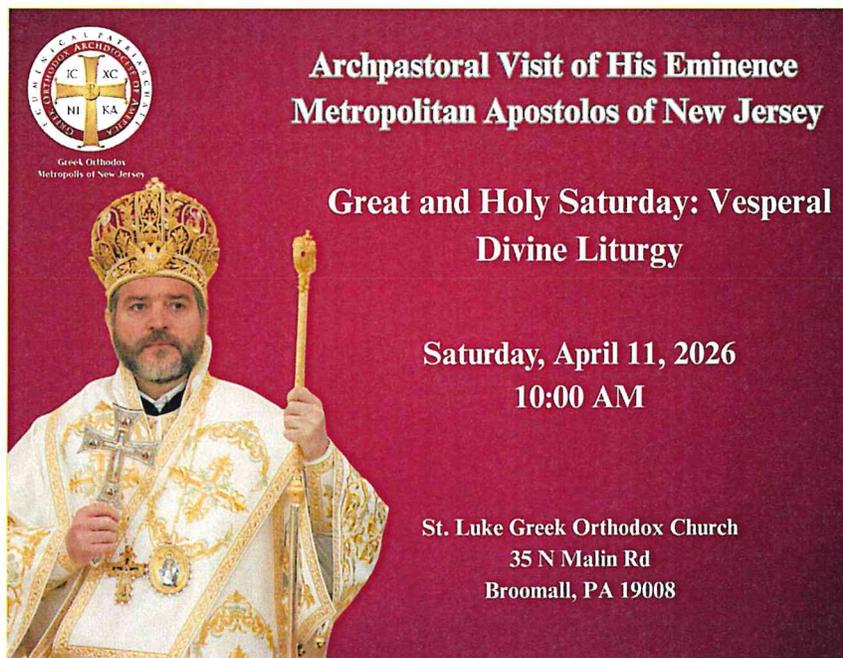
The daughter of **Michael & Jennine Skelton** was baptized on March 1, 2026. Her sponsor, **Stavroula Davvetas**, baptized her with the name *Katerina*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Katelyn Rose Skelton**.

The son of **Constantine & Victoria Vlahos** was baptized on March 8, 2026. His sponsor, **Peter Panayiotis Papadopoulos**, baptized him with the name *Michael Anthony*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Michael Anthony Vlahos**.

The daughter of **Robert & Christina Gunning** was baptized on March 15, 2026. Her sponsor, **Lorraine Boyadjis**, baptized her with the name *Isabelle*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Isabelle Gray Gunning**.

The son of **Emmanuel & Hannah Georganas** was baptized on March 15, 2026. His sponsor, **John Pappas**, baptized him with the name *Alexandros*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Alexandros James Georganas**.

The son of **Craig & Christina Hayden** was baptized on March 15, 2026. His sponsor, **Nicholas Saphos**, baptized him with the name *Nicholas*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Nicholas Michael Hayden**.



  
Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of New Jersey

**Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence  
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**

**Great and Holy Saturday: Vesperal  
Divine Liturgy**

**Saturday, April 11, 2026  
10:00 AM**

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

The image is a promotional poster for a religious event. It features a central photograph of a man in ornate white and gold vestments, including a mitre and a crozier, holding a cross. The background is a deep red. Text is overlaid on the right side of the image, providing details about the event.

# APRIL 2026 – ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR

**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am**

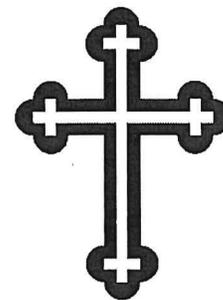
**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday of Lazarus**

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

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

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday**

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



## **HOLY WEEK (HOLY WEEK BEGINS SUNDAY EVENING)**

**Sunday Evening, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 6:00pm

**Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Holy Monday**

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 6:00pm

**Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – Holy Tuesday / Hymn of Kassiani**

Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 6:00pm

**Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Holy Wednesday**

Sacrament of Holy Unction Early Service 4:00pm

Sacrament of Holy Unction 6:00pm

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Holy Thursday**

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00am

Holy Passion Service of our Lord: 12 Gospels 6:00pm

**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Holy Friday**

Royal Hours 10:00am

Taking down Christ from Cross, Apokathelosis 3:00pm

Lamentations & Procession of Epitaphio 6:00pm

**Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Holy Saturday**

Morning Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil 10:00am

## **GREAT and HOLY PASCHA SERVICES**

Holy Saturday evening into Sunday morning – Paschal Vigil 11:00pm

ANASTASIS/RESURRECTION SERVICE – 12:00 Midnight

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom follows

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – PASCHA/EASTER SUNDAY MORNING**

Vespers Agape Service 11:00am

*Easter Egg Hunt for Children to follow*

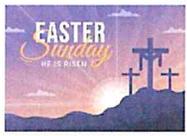
**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Sunday**

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

**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**

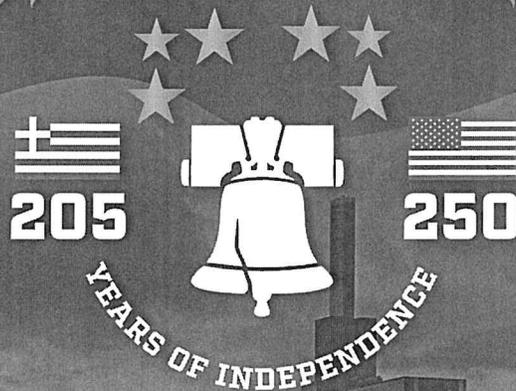
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

# APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>1</p> <p>11am Bible Study 5pm Pre Pascha Cleaning</p>  <p>7pm Boys Basketball</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED!!</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p>11am Sunday School Palm Folding</p> 
<p>5</p>  <p>10:30am Sunday School</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> 	<p>8</p> 	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p>  <p>11am Sunday School – Holy Friday Retreat</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p>  <p>10:30am Sunday School 12:30pm JOY/HOPE Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:30pm FTIN Cooking</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8am Philoptochos Bid N Buy Baking 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11am Bible Study 4pm Philoptochos Bid N Buy Baking 7pm Boys Basketball</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am Senior Men</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School 12pm PC General Assembly</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm Philoptochos Board Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am Greek Affair Baking 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7pm Boys Basketball</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School 12pm Greek Independence Day Parade</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>10am Greek Affair Baking 5pm Greek School set-up CR1</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10am Greek Affair Baking 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11am Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>		



PHILADELPHIA  
**GREEK**  
INDEPENDENCE  
CELEBRATIONS  
**2026**



**PARADE**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>

**PARADE GRAND MARSHALS  
PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE FEDERATION**

**10:00 AM**

**DOXOLOGY**

SAINT GEORGE  
GREEK ORTHODOX  
CATHEDRAL

**1:00 PM**

**FORMATION**

22<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
& BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN PARKWAY

**2:00 PM**

**STEP-OFF/PARADE**

MARCHING TOWARDS  
GRANDSTANDS AT 18<sup>TH</sup>  
& LOGAN CIRCLE



*The Federation of Hellenic-American Societies  
of Philadelphia and Greater Delaware Valley*

[phillygreekparade.com](http://phillygreekparade.com)

## 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?*

## REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Register your email address online at [st-luke.org/register-contact](http://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.



## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

<b>APR</b>	<b>Chairs:</b>	<b>Effie Guthrie</b>	<b>Soula Arcidiacono</b>
<b>5-Apr</b>	Ginny Markos	Michelle Karalis	Debbie Karalis
<b>12-Apr</b>		<b><i>Easter Sunday</i></b>	
<b>19-Apr</b>	Niki Tsetsekos	Presv Michele Kontos	Renee Matonti
<b>26-Apr</b>	Amelia Fritz	Heidi Galanos	Denise Rodgers
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Chairs:</b>	<b>Sandra Liacouras</b>	<b>Sue Clark</b>
<b>3-May</b>	Barbara Papageorge	Patricia Baldwin	Martha Tavantzis
<b>10-May</b>		<b><i>Mother's Day Sunday</i></b>	
<b>17-May</b>	Diane Sioutis	Spridoula Bottos	Marinela Tsapournas
<b>24-May</b>	Sandra Liacouras	Sue Clark	Maria Scavitto
<b>31-May</b>	Stacie Haselidis	Elena Aughey	Kaliopi Pappas

Coffee Hour Chairs: Diana Palumbo lovetocook1219@aol.com, Effie Guthrie kotisa@netzero.net, Betsy Pappas vasilikipappas@yahoo.com

## DIAKONIA SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>On Duty</b>	<b>On Duty</b>
<b>Palm Sunday April 5</b>	Anna Hadgis Kathy Fisfis	Helen Patten Joyce Vlassopoulos
<b>Wednesday April 8, 4:00 pm</b>	Barbara Papageorge Kathy Fisfis	Martha DiCamillo Marta Laynas
<b>Wednesday April 8, 6:00 pm</b>	Anna Hadgis	NA
<b>Thursday April 9, 10:00 am</b>	Stephanie Carroll	Kathy Fisfis
<b>Thursday April 9, 6:00 pm</b>	Martha DiCamillo	Anna Andreadis
<b>Friday April 10, 10:00 am</b>	Ellena Vaganos	NA
<b>Friday April 10, 3:00 pm</b>	Ellena Vaganos	NA
<b>Friday April 10, 6:00 pm</b>	Barbara Papageorge Marta Laynas	Martha DiCamillo
<b>Saturday April 11, 10:00 am</b>	Martha DiCamillo	Diane Sioutis
<b>Saturday April 11, 11:00 pm</b>	Anna Trantas	NA
<b>Easter April 12</b>	Marta Laynas	NA
<b>April 19</b>	Soula Arcidiacono	Maria Scavitto
<b>April 26</b>	Stephanie Carroll	Martha DiCamillo

Contact Tom Trantas at tomisgreek@yahoo.com or 610.203.1132



## 2026 GREEK AFFAIR IS SEPTEMBER 18, 19 & 20

Greek Affair is our major fundraiser with the proceeds benefitting the maintenance and enhancement of our facilities and ministries.

### ***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.

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.

### GREEK AFFAIR BAKING CHAIRS

Diane Sioutis, Karen Kotapka, Maria Carafides, Eugenia Gekas

### 2026 GREEK AFFAIR BAKING SCHEDULE

*All Sessions Begin at 10:00am*

<u>PASTRY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAIRS</u>
FENEKIA	Tuesday April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka
KOULOOURAKIA	Monday April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Trantas Ginny Markos
KOULOOURAKIA	Tuesday April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anna Trantas Michelle Karalis
GALAKTOBOURIKO	Tuesday May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka
KOULOOURAKIA	Tuesday May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Trantas Ginny Markos Anna Trantas Michelle Karalis

# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As we are in Lent, we walk with Christ toward the Cross — knowing the Cross was never the end of the story. Through His death came Resurrection.

That’s what stewardship is about.

Planned giving isn’t just financial planning. It’s faith planning. It’s saying, “Lord, even after I’m gone, let my life continue to serve You.” It’s trusting that what we place in God’s hands today will bear fruit tomorrow.

Lent reminds us that when we give something over to Christ, He multiplies it. Planned giving becomes one quiet but powerful way we participate in that promise — helping ensure our Church continues to grow, teach, and shine the light of the Resurrection for generations to come.

If you have any interest in learning more about planned giving, I would be happy to talk with you or connect you with the right resources.

Warmly, Niki Thompson

## 2026 Stewardship

Final 2025 Stewardship Update. We received an additional \$15,405 by January 18, 2026 cutoff date for the final totals. Any additional monies received will carry over into 2026.

- o \$630,000.00 goal
- o \$358,115.00 pledged
- o \$202,788.40 received
- o **Total Pledges:** 262

## 2026 Stewardship:

### Stewardship February 2026

As of 2/28/2026		As of 2/28/2025		Difference
# of Stewards	262	# of Stewards	257	5.00
Pledged	\$ 358,115.00	Pledged	\$370,236.62	\$ (12,121.62)
Given	\$ 202,788.40	Given	\$229,202.69	\$ (26,414.29)
Mean*	\$1,206.74	Average*	\$1,330.72	\$ (123.98)
Median	\$992.00	Median*	\$960.00	\$ 32.00
Mode	\$1,000.00	* Less the three highest and lowest pledges.		\$ 1,000.00
* Less the five highest and lowest pledges.				

Thank you for your support of St. Luke!

Respectfully submitted, Michael Cook and Niki Thompson

## Join Our New Online Church Directory

We are excited to introduce our long-awaited **Online Directory through Realm** - a wonderful way for our parish family to stay connected and grow closer together.

By choosing to participate, you'll be helping us put **names to faces** and strengthen the sense of community within our church. You will also have the option to **upload a photo of yourself or your family**, making it even easier for everyone to get to know one another.

### How the Directory Works

The directory is permission-based, meaning:

- Only those who choose to share their information will appear
- You control exactly what details are visible (phone, email, address, etc.)
- Your privacy is always respected

As more parishioners opt in, the directory will continue to grow into a valuable resource for our Church community.

### How to Participate

Joining the directory is simple:

- Log in to your Realm account (via the website or Realm Connect app) [www.onrealm.org/stluke](http://www.onrealm.org/stluke)
- Click on your name or profile icon and select **“My Profile”**
- Choose **“Edit Profile”** and review your information
- Adjust your **privacy settings** to share the details you'd like included
- Upload a photo if you wish
- Click **Save** (if you have another family member attached to your profile, you will want to follow the same steps for that individual)

### How to Access the Directory

- Log into your Realm account via the website or Realm Connect app
- From the main menu, select “Directory”
- Browse and search for fellow parishioners who have chosen to be listed

### We're Here to Help

If you're unsure how to log in or update your profile, simply contact the Stewardship Committee at [stlukegiving@gmail.com](mailto:stlukegiving@gmail.com) - we're happy to assist you! Let's come together to build a stronger, more connected parish community!

## **For Those in Need...**

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

April, 2026 Epistle

**For Those In Need (FTIN)** helps in St. Luke’s outreach to the community, offering 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 in need.

Thank you for all who supported St. Luke’s recent Ham Drive which just concluded on April 1 st !!

On Monday evening, March 9 th , FTIN’s February Cook prepared 165 dinners for The Life Center (Upper Darby) & The Salvation Army (Chester); thanks to all those FTIN volunteer Chefs who turned out!

Our April Cook is scheduled for Monday, APR 13 th @ 4:30pm.

FTIN continues to support the Salvation Army’s food pantry with a particular emphasis on their homeless & senior populations’ needs, with deliveries scheduled on a bi-monthly basis (Tuesday, APR 7th this month).

### **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. Donations can be made at St. Luke’s website, or Checks (payable to “For Those In Need”) may be sent to the parish office.

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

Alan Pcsolyar at: [apcsolyar@comcast.net](mailto:apcsolyar@comcast.net) or 610-457-6033

# ST. LUKE SENIOR & YOUTH CHOIR

## St. Luke Senior Choir –

All who enjoy singing are invited to join the St. Luke Senior Choir. New member sessions can be arranged to acquaint you with our music.

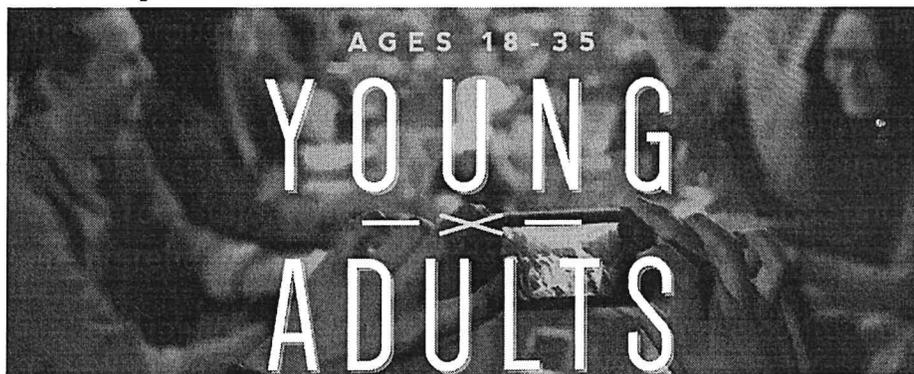
## Sunday Youth Choir –

Students in grades 5 through 12 are welcome to join the Sunday Youth Choir. On Sunday mornings, Sunday Youth Choir reports directly to the choir loft at 10:00 AM and joins the Senior Choir to participate in the singing of the Divine Liturgy. Then, before the start of the children's sermon, the Sunday Youth Choir joins the Sunday School, seated in church. Sunday Youth Choir members do not miss Sunday School. There are no rehearsals for the Sunday Youth Choir.

For information about joining the Senior or Youth Choir, please contact choir director, Dena Papadopoulos at dena80papa@gmail.com

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## Spread the Word and Join YAL!



If you know someone 18-35 years old, then the St. Luke's Young Adult League (YAL) may be for them! Not only is it a chance to meet young people from other churches, but it can make them closer to those who also go to St. Luke's. The goal is to bring everyone together and share great memories through our faith and almsgiving.

To join this group, please text Alexander Arcidiacono at 610-888-6117 or Louie Kontaras at 610-304-4214. Or you can scan our GroupMe below and look up @stlukeyal on Instagram!



# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

As we continue our Lenten devotions and the Great Feast of Pascha approaches, we are sharing the Sunday School class and worship schedule for April 2026:

## **APRIL**

April 4: Saturday of Lazarus, Palm folding by all Sunday School students in Education Building;  
*Mandatory practice for Myrrh-bearers at 11:30 AM.*

April 5: Worship and Classes, Palm Sunday

April 10: Holy Friday Retreat: Helpers 11 AM; *Mandatory practice for Myrrh-bearers at 11:30 AM and immediately after the 3 PM service*; Myrrh-bearers report at 2:30 PM for 3 PM Apokathelosis Service and 6:30 PM for 7 PM Lamentations Service.

April 12: EASTER SUNDAY: FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY. AGAPE SERVICE  
11 AM. Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service

April 19: Worship and Classes, St. Thomas Sunday

April 26: Worship and Classes, Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers

## **St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival-**

Congratulations to Stavros Kalisperis, Victoria Kaltsidis, and Paisios Moran, who participated in our Parish Oratorical Festival on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. Stavros and Victoria participated in the Junior Division, while Paisios spoke on a topic from the Senior Division. Each of them moved on to represent St. Luke on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at the District Oratorical Festival at St. Thomas in Cherry Hill. We are truly blessed to have such inspiring young people in our parish who have the dedication, faith, talent, and courage to profess their faith publicly. We would also like to acknowledge our esteemed judges for the parish Festival, Corina and Nikos Schwarz, and Alex Arcidiacono, who offered their time and thoughtful feedback to our speakers about their efforts. We couldn't have done this without you!

## **Psalm Readers for Salutation Services-**

We are proud to the following students who volunteered to read 1 or more of the 3 Psalms at the beginning of each of the Lenten Salutation services: Mary O'Donnell, Evva Kanellopoulos, Eleni Kalisperis, Markella Kevgas, Vasilis Delimitros, Evan Kopitas, Marina Kopitas, Coleman Harris, and Stephen Harris. Hearing the beautiful words of King David through your young, earnest voices was uplifting and inspiring for all those in attendance.

## **Trip to Venerate the Kardiotissa and visit Holy Protection Monastery-**

Over 50 parishioners from Saint Luke participated in a beautiful and spiritually enriching field trip on Saturday, March 14, 2026, to venerate the miraculous Kardiotissa icon and visit Holy Protection Monastery. The day began with our departure from Saint Luke at 9:00 a.m., arriving at St. George Church in Taylor, PA around 11:00 a.m. There, we spent time with Father Marc, who shared inspiring stories of the miracles associated with the Kardiotissa. Parishioners had the opportunity to venerate the icon and experience a deep sense of reverence and grace.

We then traveled to Holy Protection Monastery in White Haven, PA, where we were warmly welcomed by the sisters. The group enjoyed a delicious lunch, fellowship, and a peaceful tour of the monastery grounds, along with time to visit the bookshop.

The day concluded with Vespers at 4:00 p.m., offering a prayerful end to a meaningful pilgrimage. We returned to Saint Luke around 6:30 p.m., grateful for a day filled with faith, community, and spiritual renewal.

### **Grands Stepping Up-**

We were once again pleased to help Philoptochos, and its charity ambassador for Grands Stepping Up, Alexa Angelakos, on Sunday March 15, as our 5th-8th graders bagged and labelled Easter baskets. Alexa organized this project for our students who enjoyed being Easter bunnies for children being raised by their grandparents under difficult financial circumstances. Thank you so much Alexa for allowing our Sunday School students to collaborate with Philoptochos for a very worthy cause.

### **National Orthodox Baby Shower-**

Our Church is joining with Orthodox Parishes across the country this month to hold a "baby shower" to support mothers who choose life for their unborn children. Join us in collecting the following items: Diapers, Pull-ups, Baby wipes, Formula, Baby lotion, shampoo, & wash, Boy and girl clothing, Infant toys and baby gear, and Gift cards. Donations placed on the ground floor of the Education Building at St. Luke during March 2026. Items will be given to Chester County ConnectCare in West Chester. For questions, contact Helen Kopitas at [helenkopitas@gmail.com](mailto:helenkopitas@gmail.com).

### **Readers for Divine Liturgy-**

Please encourage your children to volunteer to read the Epistle or the Communion Prayer during Divine Liturgy. Eleni Kalisperis, Victoria Kaltsidis, and Alexia Brennan led us in reciting the Communion prayer during the month of March, and they did so with great poise and sincerity. We hope that these young ladies will inspire your child to become more 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. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for church on the day when he or she is scheduled to read- modestly and respectfully, as is common for all weekly services, a special Feast Day, or when celebrating a Holy Sacrament of the church. For example, athletic or workout clothes would not be appropriate for a reader to wear while leading the congregation in prayer or a reading from the Holy Bible.

### **Readers for Agape Service on Pascha-**

We are seeking volunteers to read the Gospel in different languages at 11 am on Easter morning during the Agape Vespers of Pascha. We are also excited to that readers have already volunteered for Greek, English, and Spanish, but we also have copies of the Gospel in the following languages: Latin, French, Italian and Albanian. Any other language that you can offer would be most welcome. The reading in the appropriate language will be given to volunteers prior to the service.

### **Questions about Sunday School?**

Please contact our Sunday School Directors at [stlukesundayschool@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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



Looking for a fun, welcoming space for your little one to play and make new friends? Come along to *Little Angels*, our weekly playgroup held every **Thursday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM in Room 208**. It's the perfect place for babies, toddlers, and their caregivers to enjoy toys, songs, crafts, and friendly conversation in a relaxed environment. All are welcome – we'd love to see you there!

For information contact [stlukeplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:stlukeplaygroup@gmail.com) or call/text Maria Bougiamas (717) 405-9854.

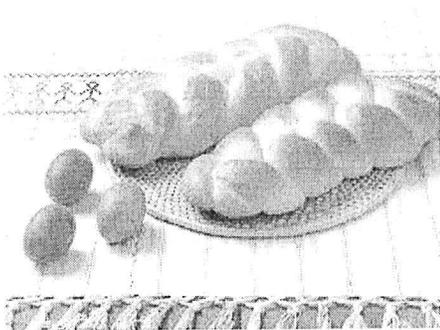
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## JOY/HOPE

Join us for a Joy/Hope Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 12, immediately following church services!

All children are welcome to join the fun as we celebrate Easter together with an exciting egg hunt. We hope to see you there!

For questions, contact Katie Grinias: [Kaitlin.grinias@gmail.com](mailto:Kaitlin.grinias@gmail.com)



## Greek School PTO Annual Tsoureki Sale

Freshly made by Mrs. Katina Dollos

**Donation \$20.00 each**

Tsoureki will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. There will be no preorders taken. Tsoureki sales will take place on the following dates:

**Sunday, March 29th and Sunday, April 5th from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Cash or Venmo will be accepted for payment.

For questions contact Ashley Kontostergios at [StLukeGreekSchoolPTO@gmail.com](mailto:StLukeGreekSchoolPTO@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continued support!

# ST LUKE'S SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The first two scholarships are managed through St Luke. The rest are from worthy organizations outside of St Luke.

For complete details, please visit <https://www.st-luke.org/scholarships>

## **ST LUKE JOHN PAKURIS SCHOLARSHIP**

WORD format

POSTMARKED by April 24th.

Mail completed application to:

John Pakuris Memorial Scholarship

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008



## **ST LUKE PHILOPTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIP**

WORD format

POSTMARKED by April 24th.

Mail completed application to:

Philoptochos Society of St Luke: Scholarship Applicant

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

## **Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia Scholarship Opportunities**

<https://www.hucphiladelphia.org/huc-scholarship-program>

## **Anastasia K. Michals Memorial Philoptochos Scholarship:**

Click the link for complete details.

## **Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (EFGOCM) Scholarships**

[www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/resources/scholarships.html](http://www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/resources/scholarships.html)



## PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY NEWS

### SAVE THE DATE

**Philoptochos Scholarship:** Application deadline- April 24, 2026

**Bid 'n Buy:** Thursday, May 7, 2026

**Reading at CCSA:** Wednesday, May 13, 2026

**Graduate Sunday:** Sunday, June 7, 2026 (Form deadline- May 30, 2026)

**Bag Bingo:** November 6, 2026

**Boutiques & Greek Treats:** December 5-6, 2026

**Philoptochos Stewardship Information-** We are in the process of collecting Chapter Stewardship for 2026. The minimum is \$35 per year. Feel free to offer a stewardship amount of your choosing. You may opt to auto-renew your membership, so you don't have to arrange for payment each year. *Select "Yes, do renew" on the checkout page to use this feature.* Your Stewardship will be renewed in January each year. As a valued member of Philoptochos, your membership contribution is instrumental in supporting our philanthropic mission. Every membership contribution empowers us with the resources and credibility needed to extend our reach and deepen our impact.

**Coffee Hour Volunteers-** Coffee Hour continues throughout April! The schedule for volunteers are available, so 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. Effie Guthrie, Betsy Pappas and Diana Palumbo, Chairladies

**Philoptochos Scholarship-** For information about the 3 Philoptochos scholarships offered in 2026, please see the "*St. Luke's Scholarship Opportunities*" flyer elsewhere in this Epistle. Any questions may be directed to Anna Hadgis at [anna.hadgis@gmail.com](mailto:anna.hadgis@gmail.com).

**2026 Bid 'n Buy-** The St. Luke Philoptochos is excited to present the "80's Ladies" Bid 'n Buy on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 6:00 pm. We invite you to join us in our Community Center for a decade rewind to the 1980s that will be like... *totally awesome!* All funds raised from this event will support our philanthropic mission. Tickets may be purchased, and further information obtained, by scanning the QR code on our flyer elsewhere.

**Reading at CCSA-** On Wednesday, May 13th, Philoptochos will be conducting our spring 2026 read with our third-grade students at Chester Charter Scholars Academy (CCSA). If you are interested in reading, please contact Anna Hadgis, [anna.hadgis@gmail.com](mailto:anna.hadgis@gmail.com). The book is made available in advance for you to preview and the groups consist of fewer than 10 children. The session runs for 45 mins, and then we gather the group for a picture. We are able to carpool from Church if you would like a ride, and we will depart from St. Luke for CCSA at 9am.



We are excited to announce that on Sunday, June 7, 2026, the graduates of the Class of 2026 will gather to be recognized for their accomplishments and hard-earned degrees. If you have a graduate in your family, please complete the form in this Epistle, or the form on <https://www.st-luke.org>, or scan the QRC below. If



you do not have access to the online form, you can mail the form to: 35 N. Malin Road, Broomall, PA 19008 or email complete information from this form to the committee at [saintlukegradsunday@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukegradsunday@gmail.com). The deadline for submitting the form is Saturday, May 30, 2026.

**Bag Bingo**- Save the Date! We are very excited to announce our first annual Bag Bingo on November 6, 2026 in the Community Center. If you would like to learn more about how you can support the event, please reach out to Christina Mahjouri at [christina@cemeli.com](mailto:christina@cemeli.com).

**12th Annual Boutiques & Greek Treats 2026**- "Save the Dates"! 2026 Boutiques & Greek Treats. Saturday, December 5th & Sunday, December 6th. Interested *vendors*, as well as *volunteers* needed to help with publicity and solicit some vendors, may contact [boutiquesgt@gmail.com](mailto:boutiquesgt@gmail.com) or the church office 610-353-1592.

**Philoptochos Charity Committee**- On March 11, 2026, a donation of \$1,000 was provided to the Chester County Food Bank to support its ongoing efforts to address food insecurity in the region. This contribution will assist the organization in meeting current operational needs and in continuing to provide essential food assistance to individuals and families throughout Chester County. This donation reflects our continued commitment to supporting organizations that work to ensure members of our community have access to reliable and nutritious food.

On March 12, 2026, a purchase totaling \$65.94 was made to provide period products for distribution through the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Homeless Health Initiative Art Program. These supplies will be distributed to individuals residing in homeless shelters to help address essential hygiene needs. This contribution supports ongoing efforts to promote dignity, health, and well-being for individuals experiencing housing insecurity in the community.

As an additional initiative, the Charity Committee has partnered once again with Grands Stepping Up to support children being raised by grandparents and other kinship guardians when parents are unable to do so. The committee worked to help provide one hundred (100) Easter baskets for children in grand-families served by the organization. Members and other St. Luke parishioners were invited to participate by donating a basket for children in one of the following age groups: ages 0–7, 8–13, or 14–17. Donors were asked to wrap and label each basket prior to drop-off. On Sunday, May 15, and under the direction of Alexa Angelakos, St. Luke Sunday School students in grades 5 through 8

helped to wrap, fill, and label some pre-filled baskets in the Social Hall after Communion. The children had a great time contributing to this wonderful cause!

**Hosts for Hospitals-** We are very happy to share the following letter from one of our Philoptochos sisters, who has exciting news about a new charity with which our chapter has recently partnered:

*Hello to my fellow Philoptochos sisters, I'd like to take a minute to share some information about a great organization called Hosts for Hospitals, one of our newest charities. This non-profit has been arranging housing for families staying in the Philadelphia area seeking medical treatment for the past 25 years. Volunteers with Hosts for Hospitals can provide a spare bedroom to someone whose family member is undergoing surgery or treatment at one of our many Philadelphia area hospitals. It is a great way to help someone in need who is going through a difficult time. As we all know, hotel stays can be expensive (not to mention scarce in 2026!).*

*Feel free to watch this video to hear more about this meaningful experience:*

**"We really believe in the mission, it really spoke to our hearts"**

*Please contact Mike Aichenbaum ([mike@hostsforhospitals.org](mailto:mike@hostsforhospitals.org)) if you are willing to apply to be a host family. Warm regards, Pamela Milcos-Smith*

**Sponsorship of Floral Décor-** Icon and 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 would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations:

*-Kalliopi Kathopoulis, for her floral sponsorship of Sunday, February 1, 2026, Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs, in loving memory of Sakellarios Kathopoulis*

*-Anonymous, for his sponsorship of Sunday, March 8, 2026, Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas*

*-Maria Scavitto, for her sponsorship of Sunday, March 15, 2026, Veneration (Sunday) of the Holy Cross daffodils, in honor of Eleni Evangelopoulos*

*-Carnation Karros, for her sponsorship of Sunday, March 15, 2026, Veneration (Sunday) of the Holy Cross daffodils, for the well-being of the Parastatidis & Karros Families*

*-Christina Thomas, for her sponsorship of Sunday, March 15, 2026, Veneration (Sunday) of the Holy Cross daffodils, in loving memory of Gloria Thomas*

*-Stacey Papalitskas, for her icon sponsorship for Wednesday, March 25, 2026, Annunciation of the Theotokos, for the well-being of the William Papalitskas Family*

*-Pamela Sande, for her floral sponsorship for Wednesday, March 25, 2026, Annunciation of the Theotokos, in loving memory of Nicholas C. and Helen Andreson*

**Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:**

Friday, March 27: Akathist Hymn flower basket

Saturday, April 4: Saturday of Lazarus

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday: Christ's Entrance into Jerusalem

Sunday evening, April 5: Palm Sunday: Bridegroom (Nymphios)

Holy Tuesday, April 7: Hymn of Kassiani

Holy Thursday, April 9: Extreme Humility

Holy Thursday, April 9: Lavender sprigs  
Holy Friday, April 10: Taking down Christ from the cross, Apokathelosis  
Holy Friday, April 10: Epitaphio icon  
Holy Friday, April 10: Epitaphio gardenias  
Holy Friday, April 10: Epitaphio flowers  
Holy Saturday morning, April 11: Bay leaves  
Holy Saturday, April 11: Resurrection icon #2 & floral  
Holy Week & Easter Flower General Donation  
Sunday, April 19: Thomas Sunday  
Sunday, April 26: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

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 are paying by check, please make the check out to "Ladies Philoptochos of St. Luke". Please contact Niki Tsetsekos at 610-500-3056 or [ntsetsekos@gmail.com](mailto:ntsetsekos@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

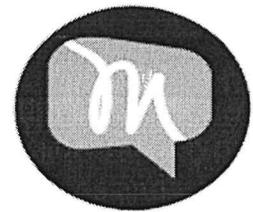


**Philoptochos Cookbook and Apron**- For: experienced cooks looking to perfect their craft; the cooks-in-training who need inspiration; the perfect housewarming or "thank you" gift for teachers, co-workers, employees or friends; the ideal gift for newlyweds and new graduates, or those simply looking 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! Please see the flyer for our Philoptochos Store elsewhere in this Epistle. For more information, or to order, please contact Phyllis Roebas at [proebas@gmail.com](mailto:proebas@gmail.com), or Kathy Fifis at [kfisfis@aol.com](mailto:kfisfis@aol.com).

### **Philoptochos Members - OUR DIRECTORY IS ONLINE!**

Please register with our website: [www.stlukephiloptochos.org](http://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.*



ST. LUKE PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS...

# 80'S LADIES' BID N BUY

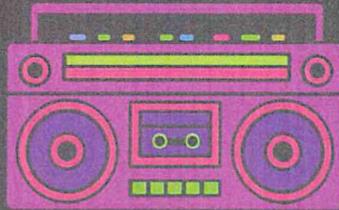
*Big hair, big hearts!*

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

ADMISSION & DINNER: \$40

ST. LUKE COMMUNITY CENTER  
35 N. MALIN RD, BROOMALL, PA

CONTACT: [bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org](mailto:bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org)  
or call 610-353-1592



scan the qr code  
for details



## Philoptochos Store

Find a unique gift for a loved one or  
the bride & groom to-be!

[@stlukephiloptochos.org](https://www.instagram.com/stlukephiloptochos.org)



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the  
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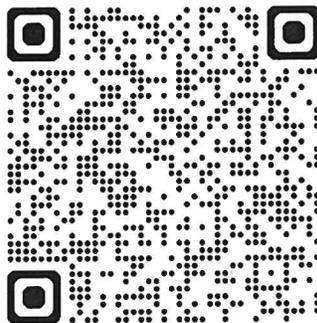




We are excited to announce that on **Sunday, June 7**, the graduates of the **Class of 2026** will gather to be recognized for their accomplishments and hard-earned degrees. If you have a graduate in your family, please complete the form on <https://www.st-luke.org> or **Scan the QRC below**. If you do not have access to the online form, you can mail the form below to:

**35 N. Malin Road, Broomall, PA 19008** or email complete information from this form to committee at [saintlukesgradsunday@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesgradsunday@gmail.com). The deadline for submitting the form is **Saturday, May 30, 2026**

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, Master's, or Doctorate	
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 attending in person Sunday, June 7, 2025?	Y or N



# 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](http://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](mailto:stlukeoffice@gmail.com) or call (610) 353-1592**

**St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church**

**35 N. Malin Road**

**Broomall, PA 19008**

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