

# THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

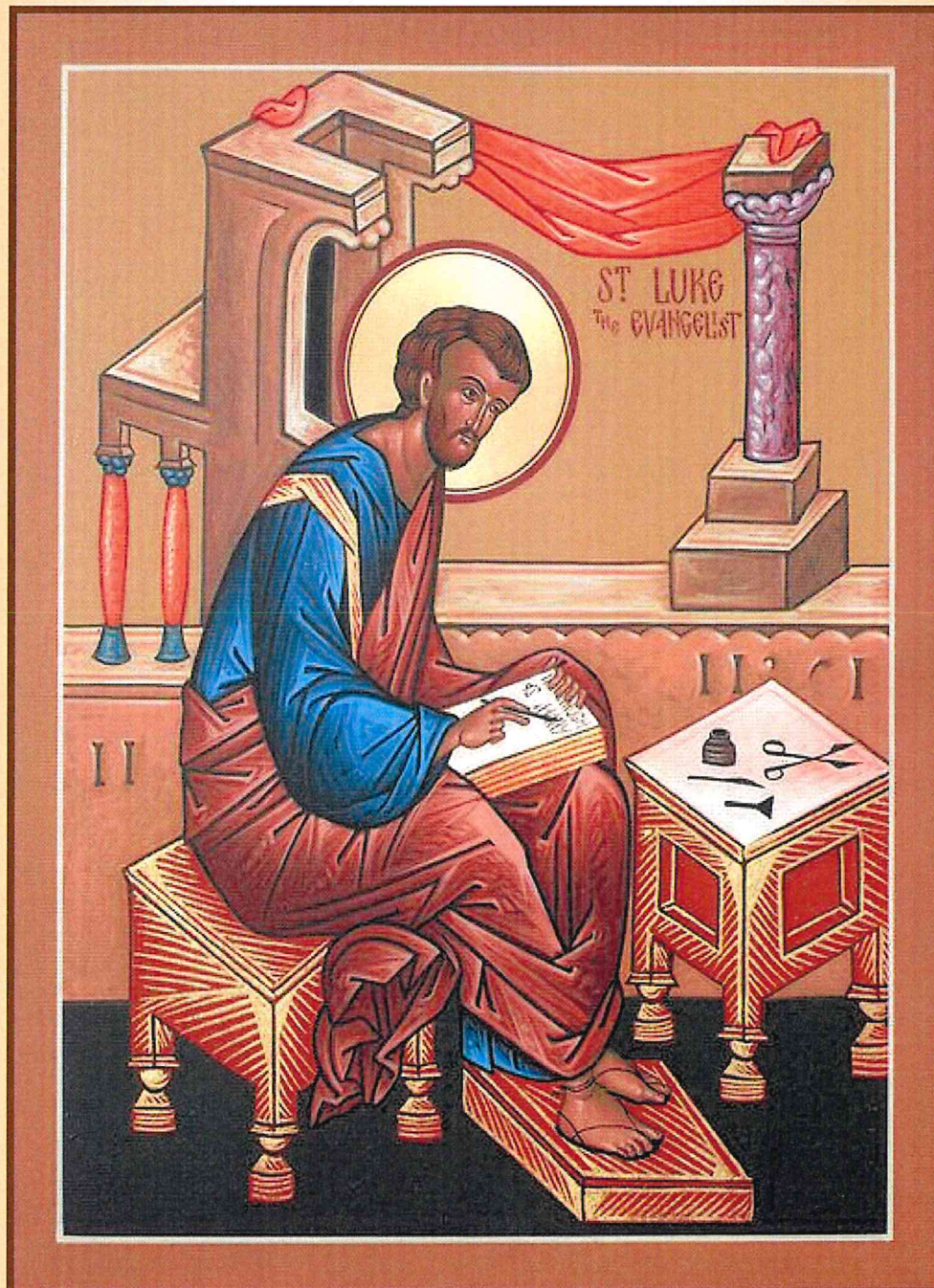
Broomall, PA 19008

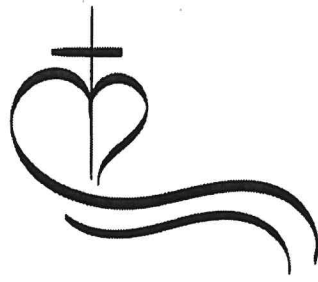
Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

(610) 353-1592

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

JUNE 2026





## **A Summer Parable**

Now it came to pass that, as the time of vacation drew near, a certain member of the church bethought him of cool streams where fish were found, and his children thought of sandy beaches by the sea, and his wife thought of the mountains. And this church member spoke and said: "Lo the hot days come and my work lieth heavy upon me. Come let us depart and go where fishes do bite, and where the cool winds bring refreshment and the land is beautiful about us."

"Thou speakest words of wisdom," said his wife. "Yet three, nay, even four, things we do ere we go."

"Three things think I of, but not a fourth," said her husband, -- "That we ask our neighbor to minister unto our flowers, that we arrange for our grass to be mowed and watered, that we have our mail forwarded; but no other thing cometh to my mind."

"The fourth is like unto the other three, but greater than all," said his spouse, "Even this that thou dig into thy purse and pay the church pledge, in order that the good name of the church may be preserved, that the heart of the treasurer be made glad, and that it may be well with thee. For verily I say unto thee, thou hast more money now than thou wilt have when thou dost return."

And the husband replied, "Verily, thou art noble and wise among women." And he did pay his pledge for the summer, and the treasurer rejoiced greatly, saying, "Of a truth, there are those who care for the good of the church." And it was so.

# PARISH LIFE

## Weddings

**Anastasios Tangalidis & Katelyn Skelton** were united in Holy Matrimony on May 9, 2026. **Vaia Tangalidis** stood by their side as the sponsor and the witness was **Spiro Kosmatos**. *May their married life together be blessed with spiritual joy always.*

## Forty-Day Blessing

On April 26, 2026, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Ava Small**. Congratulations to **Sean & Theodora Small** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On May 3, 2026, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Eleni Lonergan**. Congratulations to **Steven & Dena Lonergan** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On May 10, 2026, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Ethalia Lukia Fischer**. Congratulations to **Steve & Georgia Fischer** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On May 10, 2026, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Panos Theodoros Pappas**. Congratulations to **Peter & Abigail Pappas** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On May 17, 2026, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Athena Iacovou**. Congratulations to **Marinos & Artemisa Iacovou** as we anticipate the Baptism!

## Baptisms

The son of **Paul & Gina Karalis** was baptized on May 3, 2026. His sponsor, **Athena Putros**, baptized him with the name *Georgios Alexandros*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **George Alexander Karalis**.

The daughter of **Forrest Hull & Alexandra Sawin** was baptized on May 17, 2026. Her sponsor, **Renee Kontos & Derek Matonti**, baptized her with the name *Catherine*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Caroline Davis Hull**.

The daughter of **John & Joann Andel** was baptized on May 31, 2026. Her sponsor, **Charles Tsochanos**, baptized her with the name *Margarita*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Marguerite Edith Andel**.

The son of **Gregory & Elizabeth Vastardis** was baptized on May 31, 2026. His sponsor, **Athanasias Blaine**, baptized him with the name *Vincent*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Vincent James Vastardis**.

## Funerals

**Ani Marie Diakatos** fell asleep in the Lord on April 22, 2026. Her funeral service was held on April 29, 2026. *MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL.*

# June 2026 Ecclesiastical Calendar

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

**The Sunday of All Saints**

Theodotus, Bishop of Ancyra

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

**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Matthew**

Elisha the Prophet; Methodius, Pat. Of Constantinople

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

**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew**

Julian the Martyr of Tarsus; Terentios, Bishop of Iconium

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

**Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew**

Relics of Cyrus and John; Pappias the Martyr

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

**Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

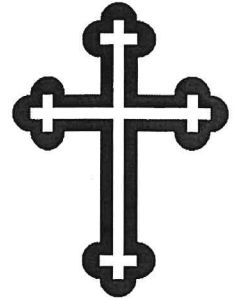
**Peter and Paul, The Holy Apostles**

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




**Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Synaxis of the Holy Apostles**

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



# JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Greek School set-up	2 10am Senior Men 10am Greek Affair Baking 5pm Greek School / Closing Ceremonies 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7pm PC Meeting	3 11am Bible Study 7pm Boys Basketball	4 10am Senior Men	5 10am Senior Men	6 The Whiskey Rebellion 
7 Philoptochos Graduation Sunday 	8 4:30pm FTIN Cooking	9 10am Senior Men 10am Greek Affair Baking 5pm Greek School Teacher's Meeting 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	10 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Philoptochos General Assembly 7pm Boys Basketball	11 10am Senior Men	12 10am Senior Men	13
14	15 10am Greek Affair Baking	16 10am Greek Affair Baking 10am Senior Men 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	17 11am Bible Study 7pm Boys Basketball	18 10am Senior Men	19 10am Senior Men	20
21 Father's Day 	22	23 10am Senior Men 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball	24 11am Bible Study 7pm Boys Basketball	25 10am Senior Men	26 10am Senior Men	27
28	29	30 10am Senior Men 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball				



## 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](mailto:SaintLukePrayer@gmail.com)

## MEAL TRAIN MINISTRY INVITATION

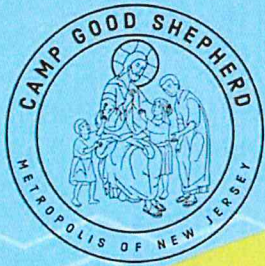
In an ongoing effort to care for and support our St. Luke family, I am inviting parishioners to join a Meal Train ministry. This ministry provides meals to individuals and families in times of need, due to illness, recovery, or other difficult circumstances. Participants will receive occasional notifications by email or text with the opportunity to sign up to prepare or order a meal for delivery. To make the process simple and respectful, a cooler will be placed outside the home, allowing for easy, non-intrusive drop-off.

If you feel called to offer this small act of love and service, I welcome you to join us. Please see Presvytera Michele or email her at [micheleakontos@gmail.com](mailto:micheleakontos@gmail.com) to be added to the list. Thank you for your consideration and for helping us live out our faith through care for one another. Sincere gratitude to those who have already helped, God bless your kindness and care.



## 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.



# CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD 2026



**Virginia**

**July 5-11**

**Maryland**

**July 12-18**

**New Jersey**

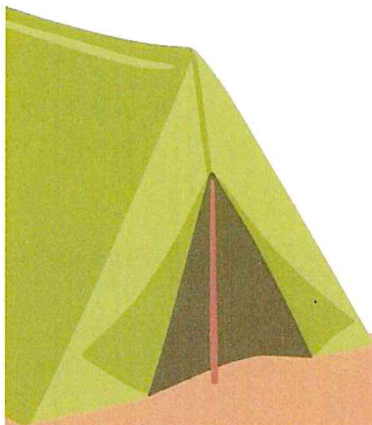
**July 12-18**

**Registration Opens February 2026!**

[www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd](http://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd)



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As June arrives and summer calls us toward rest and renewal, we want to pause and offer a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your faithful presence, prayers, and generous support throughout the year. Your stewardship is what keeps our parish thriving, and while we know summer brings busy schedules and well-deserved vacations, we warmly encourage you to stay connected to your parish family. Our doors remain open, our liturgies continue, and our community never takes a season off.

Please be on the lookout for your June giving statement, which will reflect your current pledge and year-to-date giving. The needs of the parish carry on through the summer months, and your continued support makes it possible for us to serve, gather, and worship together. Thank you for being the heart of this community, and we wish you a restful summer.

Warm Regards,  
 Niki Thompson & Michael Cook  
 Stewardship Chair

## Campaign Progress for 2026 Stewardship

- o \$630,000.00 goal
- o \$461,200.00 pledged
- o \$336,994.12 received
- o **Total Pledges: 350**

## April Stewardship Update

Stewardship April 26		As of 04/30/2025		Difference
As of 04/30/2026				
# of Stewards	350	# of Stewards	344	6.00
Pledged	\$ 461,220.00	Pledged	\$463,461.62	\$ (2,241.62)
Given	\$ 336,994.12	Given	\$318,588.02	\$ 18,406.10
Mean*	\$1,191.75	Average*	\$1,264.00	\$ (72.25)
Median	\$900.00	Median*	\$865.00	\$ 35.00
Mode	\$1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
* Less the five highest and lowest pledges.		* Less the three highest and lowest pledges.		

## 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!



## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

JUNE	Chairs:	Diana Palumbo	Betsy Pappas
7-June		<i>Graduate Sunday</i>	
14-June	Phyllis Roebas	Christina Mahjouri	Betsy Georgelos
21-June		<i>Father's Day Sunday</i>	

If you cannot make your assigned date, you are responsible for finding a replacement. Reminder emails will be sent the week that you are assigned, please reply with confirmation or you're the name of your replacement. Please arrive at 9:45 AM for set up.

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

## SUMMER COFFEE HOUR

Beginning June 28th and ending September 6th, the Coffee Hour will be held in the Education Building Social Hall.

As it has become a nice tradition, please feel free to bring any cakes or pastries to share with fellow parishioners.

If you are able to volunteer one or more Sundays, please contact Dee Karras: [deekarras@verizon.net](mailto:deekarras@verizon.net)

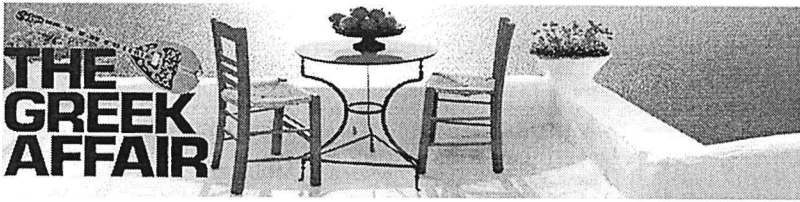


**SUMMER COFFEE**

## DIAKONIA SCHEDULE

Date	On Duty	On Duty
<b>Graduates Sunday June 7</b>	Kathy Fisfis Barbara Papageorge	Linda Lemperes Tom Trantas
<b>June 14</b>	Tom Trantas	Anna Trantas
<b>June 21</b>	Vasie Marinakos	Soula Arcidiacono
<b>June 28</b>	Gus Pappas	Sonya Pappas

Contact Tom Trantas at [tomisgreek@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

#### 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>
TYROPITAS	Tuesday June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Maria Carafides Eugenia Gekas
REVANI / KARIDOPITA	Tuesday June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka
TSOUREKIA	Monday June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Sioutis
TSOUREKIA	Tuesday June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Katina Dollos

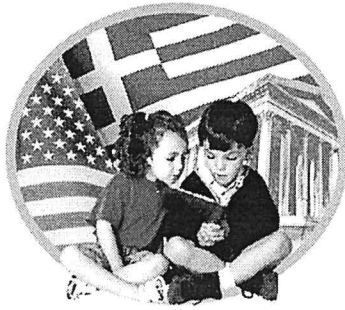
*GREEK AFFAIR BAKING CHAIRS:*

*Diane Sioutis, Karen Kotapka, Maria Carafides, Eugenia Gekas*

## Saint Luke Greek Folk Dance Groups

On Sunday, April 26th, our St. Luke Dance Groups participated in the **Greek Independence Day Parade** in Philadelphia! The Olympians were one of only four dance groups invited to perform in front of the Grandstand following the parade! GR





## St. Luke Greek School

We have come to the end of the 2025-26 Greek School year! After participating in the Philadelphia Greek Independence Day Parade, the students spent the month of May finishing up their lessons and getting ready for final exams.

However, they didn't just study. They used their Greek Language skills to go shopping and interact at the "market experience," organized by awesome parent volunteers. The students had a fun time practicing their Greek and enjoyed pizza afterward.

Our students made us proud by beautifully reciting poems for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Their hard work, confidence, and heartfelt performances filled us all with joy and pride.

It has been a very successful year for our students! Every new vocabulary word and fact about Greek culture strengthens our students' appreciation of their Greek heritage. Thank you to the amazing teachers, support staff, and parent volunteers, whose dedication and hard work make Greek School a meaningful learning experience for our children.

Upcoming Events:

June 2: End-of-Year Celebration and Family Dinner

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Sunday School Students and Families,  
Please enjoy this End-of-Year Report, as we wish you a blessed, joyful and refreshing summer vacation!

**Celebrating Our Sunday School Heroes:** We joyfully recognize our devoted and inspiring Sunday School teachers—our everyday superheroes—for their unwavering commitment to guiding our children in the teachings and spirit of the Greek Orthodox faith. Their dedication extends far beyond Sunday mornings, encompassing lesson preparation and spiritual mentoring throughout the week. We are truly grateful for their ministry and the nurturing presence they provide in God's house.

Our 2025–2026 Teaching Staff:

Grade Level	Sunday School Teacher(s)
3-year-olds	Lisa Palmieri and Kathy Zarvalas
Pre-K	Faithe Kalisperis and Marinela Tsapournas
Kindergarten	Marilena Ristas and Helen Kopitas
First Grade	Thomas Ristas and Phoebe Harris
Second Grade	Eleni Kornblatt and Evi Karros
Third Grade	Sophia Tsakiris and Jennifer Kyriakodis
Fourth Grade	Marina Despotopoulou
Fifth Grade	Elene Mironidis
Sixth Grade	Sophia Milinkovic and Evie Touring
Seventh and Eighth Grade	Arthur Karros, George Kevgas, Michael Bratelli
Ninth and Tenth Grade	Peter Pavlis
Eleventh and Twelfth Grade	Danny Milinkovic and Evan Palmieri
Substitutes	Georgia Vlahos and Soula Arcidiacono
<b>New Teachers 2025-2026</b>	<b>YOUR NAME HERE</b>

We also honor the many dedicated teachers and directors who came before us. Thank you for laying the foundation upon which this program continues to grow. Χρόνια Πολλά!

**Join Our Team:** As we plan for the upcoming year, we hope to expand our teaching team by placing two adults, one lead teacher and one assistant—in every classroom. As you can see from the chart above, not every one of our classes has 2 teachers yet- we need you! If you are feeling called to serve, we welcome you to join this fulfilling ministry. You will find that the spiritual rewards are just as meaningful for teachers as they are for the students.

### Looking Back: A Year of Faith in Action

Here are some highlights from our 2025–2026 Sunday School Year:

#### Fundraisers & Donations

- **Backpack Fundraiser (with FOCUS North America)**
  - July–August 2025
  - July–August 2026 *\*this summer*
- **Thanksgiving Supplies for PICC Women**
  - October–November 2024
- **Lenten Season Donations**
  - March 2026: Helped to promote the National Orthodox Baby Shower, in support of pregnant women who choose to keep their baby despite being in very difficult financial circumstances. Donations included: 1,760 Diapers; 99 Packages of wipes; 28 Bottles Shampoo/Wash; 9 Bottles Baby Lotion; 5 Desitin/ Diaper Rash creams; 6 Cans of Formula; 6 Baby Bottles; 8 Baby toys; 126 Pieces of clothing (NB-4T; 12 Blankets; 1 Baby towel; 6 Baby bibs; 9 Pairs of socks; 1 Baby nail clipper; 2 car seats; 1 stroller; 1 high chair; 4 Kids 'dinnerware sets; 9 Kids 'suitcases with blanket/toy; 6 Wooden Growth Chart Keepsakes; \$60 total gift cards." All items given to Chester County ConnectCare in West Chester.
  - March–April 2026: Coordinated donations of flowers for the weekly Lenten Salutation Services

#### Youth Engagement & Education

- **Spark Sunday Sessions (Grades 6–12):** September 2025–May 2026: Hosted and taught monthly sessions on topics that our students come across daily in school. All discussions, regardless of the topic, are viewed through an Orthodox lens so our students understand how the Orthodox faith provides us guidance to remain strong in our faith. We were lucky to have 2 guest speakers this past year, Dr. Cary Limberakis, who talked with our students about the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the meeting between His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch and Pope Leo XIV, and our Pastoral Assistant, Nikos Schwarz, who spoke with our young people about his own spiritual journey and gave advice to our students about how to stay in touch with their faith once they go away to college.
- **FOCUS North America YES Trip to Philadelphia:** A day of service for our GOYA-aged students, sponsored by our Sunday School in coordination with FOCUS North America, took place on Saturday, October 25, 2025. YES stands for Youth Equipped to Serve, so our young people were guided through an educational and formative service-learning experience, learning about the current struggles of our community, connecting with other organizations

doing great work in Norristown, and coming together with other young people eager to serve.

- **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival:** January–February 2026: The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, hosted by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, serves as a nationwide ministry that aims to foster faith, education, and fellowship among Greek Orthodox teenagers. It provides a platform for students in grades 7-12 to write and present speeches on topics related to their faith, the Church, and Orthodox traditions. The festival also helps students hone their public speaking and speech writing skills. We sponsored a parish-level event, and were very excited to have Stavros Kalisperis, Victoria Kaltsidis, and Paisios Moran participate and represent St. Luke at the District Festival.
- **Cards for Veterans:** February 2026: In response to a request from our Philoptochos, our students made special greeting cards for the residents of the Coatesville Veterans Medical Center, perpetuating the relationship between our young people and the former service members who live at the facility.
- **Bags for Chester Charter Scholars Academy (CCSA):** May 2026: On May 3rd, our Sunday School children participated in a service project supporting students at CCSA. During their Sunday session, the children assembled healthy snack bags for third graders in preparation for Philoptochos' May 13th visit to the school. Anna Hadgis spoke with the students about the school community and the children who would be receiving the bags, helping them understand the importance of compassion, generosity, and service to others. Each drawstring bag included a variety of healthy snacks and drinks, along with thoughtful notes of encouragement written by our GOYA teens.
- **Grands Stepping Up:** May 2026: On Sunday, May 15, 2026 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 Easter baskets for Grands Stepping Up in the Social Hall after Communion. This Philoptochos charity helps to support children being raised by grandparents and other kinship guardians when parents are unable to do so. The children had a great time contributing to this wonderful cause!

### **Liturgical Involvement**

- **Weekly Readers Coordination**
  - September 2025–May 2026: *Identified and organized Epistle and Communion Prayer readers for each Sunday of the school year.*
- **Lenten Services Participation**
  - February–April 2026:
    - *Coordinated Psalm readers for Salutation Services and flower donations*
- **Holy Week Activities**
  - April 4 2026 (Lazarus Saturday): *Hosted lunch for our Sunday School families and helped guide students and their parents fold over fifteen hundred palms for Palm Sunday Liturgy.*

- April 10, 2026 (Holy Friday): Created and coordinated the Holy Friday Helpers Retreat. Students of all grades work to help decorate the Epitaphion, our GOYANS continued by helping prep candles for the Holy Friday Lamentations Service while our younger students made a beautiful craft celebrating the Anastasi. Finally, all students spent a considerable amount of time outside with Father Christ, discussing the Passion of Christ and other Lenten topics.
- April 11–12, 2026: *Recruited Myrrh-bearers for the Holy Friday and Holy Saturday services, practiced with both groups, and dressed and prepared the Myrrh-bearers for their part in each of the services. The role of our beloved Myrrh-bearers is so special not, just for women, but as part of Paschal celebrations of the Orthodox Church.*
- April 12, 2026 (Pascha): *Identified and organized readers for the Agape Gospel in multiple languages*
- **Mother's & Father's Day Celebrations**
  - May–June 2026: Provided poem readers

### Seasonal & Special Events

- **Christmas Pageant**
  - December 2024: *Sponsored and supported the event under the direction of our incredible pageant director, Mrs. Faithe Kalisperis.*
- **Godparents Sunday**
  - February–March 2025: *Created and distributed invitations to all Sunday School students so that they could decorate/color them if they wished to do so and then mail them home to their Nounos and Nounas.*
- **Pre-Lenten Monastery Trip**
  - March 2026: *Organized trip to Holy Protection Monastery*

**Seeking Readers for Father's Day Poems:** We are currently looking for 2 student volunteers to read poems during Divine Liturgy in honor of the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and uncles of our community on Sunday, June 15, 2025.

**Faith Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation:** Looking to nurture your child's faith over the summer? Whether by the pool or at the beach, these sites offer excellent Orthodox books for children and teens:

- <https://store.ancientfaith.com/childrens-books-and-gifts/>
- <https://store.ancientfaith.com/young-adult-books/>
- <https://www.drawneardesigns.com/books>
- <https://potamitis.us/>

**Summer Epistle and Prayer Readers Needed:** Even during summer break, we encourage your children to participate in Divine Liturgy by reading the Epistle or Communion Prayer. We'll provide the readings in advance so they have plenty of time to practice.

**Stay in Touch:** Have questions or want more resources? Visit our website at: <https://www.ss.st-luke.org> or reach out anytime at: [stlukesundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesundayschool@gmail.com)

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

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

June, 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.

On Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> FTIN's ***May Cook*** prepared 165 dinners for The Life Center (Upper Darby) & The Salvation Army (Chester); thanks to all those FTIN volunteer Chefs who turned out! Additionally, we were pleased to distribute some nutritious leftovers (celery, grape tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, parsley, rice, and baby carrots) from Bid n Buy thanks to the generosity of Philoptochos!

Our ***June Cook*** is scheduled for Monday, **JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>** @ 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, JUN 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

# PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY NEWS

## SAVE THE DATE:

*Graduate Sunday - Sunday, June 7, 2026*

*Father's Day Luncheon - Sunday, June 21, 2026*

*Bag Bingo - November 6, 2026*

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

On behalf of St Luke Ladies Philoptochos, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended this year's 80's Ladies Bid' n Buy. Your presence and generosity made the evening truly unforgettable, and we are incredibly grateful for your support! A sincere "Thank you" to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this year's Bid' n Buy a HUGE success! Our 360+ guests and 75 volunteers traveled back in time to the 1980s. They enjoyed an Electric Slide Mojito or a Pretty in Pink Bay Breeze and a retro glam atmosphere! There were 310 beautiful prizes up for grabs for our guests to win. It was a fun-filled, festive evening for all. We had many sponsors and donors who helped defray our costs, and we thank them for their continued support! The proceeds of the Bid 'n Buy support the mission of the Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Luke to promote charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family, and to perpetuate and to promote our Orthodox faith and traditions.

Save the Date for next year...May 13, 2027!

Scan the QR Code to enjoy our 80's Ladies Bid 'n Buy photo album.



**Coffee Hour Volunteers-** Coffee Hour continues throughout June! The schedule for volunteers is 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, Chairs

**Father's Day Luncheon-** Dear Sisters in Philoptochos, please join us in worship and to celebrate the fathers of our community on Sunday, June 21, 2026. Below is the link for the SignUp Genius for this year's Father's Day lunch event. Assistance is needed for the following: 1. Set up on Saturday June 20th, from 10:00 -12:00

2. Final set up/ serve and clean up Sunday June 21st from 10:30-2:00

We hope you will join us- all are welcome. SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAC2AA7FEC43-56110369-2025>.

Thank you, Lisa Shaiko (lisashaiko@gmail.com) and Fotini Skrimbas (Skribas@gmail.com).

**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.

**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 or the church office 610-353-1592.

**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.*

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

**Philoptochos Charity Committee-** The Charity Committee is pleased to share several meaningful outreach efforts and donations made throughout the month of May.

On May 3, 2026, we donated \$1,250 in gift cards to Grands Stepping Up in honor of Mother's Day. This contribution was made to support grandparents and relative caregivers who have stepped into parenting roles and continue to provide loving, stable homes for children. Gift cards were intended to help families celebrate Mother's Day while easing some of the financial burdens caregivers often experience. In addition, several other needs were supported through Grands Stepping Up during the month of May. Assistance provided to a graduating senior at CCSA totaling \$410, including:

- \$100 for a prom ticket
- \$60 for the senior class trip to Dorney Park
- \$250 for senior dues
- A grandmother's caregiver received a \$200 Giant Food Stores gift card to assist with groceries and household needs.
- Another grandmother's caregiver was provided with a \$100 Target gift card to purchase a birthday gift for her granddaughter.
- The committee also contributed \$1,000 toward a PECO utility bill for a grandmother caregiver in need of emergency assistance.

On May 3rd, our Sunday School children participated in a service project supporting students at CCSA. During their Sunday session, children assembled healthy snack bags for third graders in preparation for our May 13th visit. Anna Hadgis spoke with the students about the school community and the children who would be receiving the bags, helping them understand the importance of compassion, generosity, and service to others. Each drawstring bag included a variety of healthy snacks and drinks, along with

thoughtful notes of encouragement written by our GOYA teens. Auburn and Kosta Nikolos generously donated organic cheese crackers, and Anna also provided clementines for the students to enjoy. The activity gave children a hands-on opportunity to participate in an act of kindness.

On May 13th, members visited the third graders at CCSA. Students gathered in small groups to read and spend time with one another before receiving their snack bags. The visit was incredibly heartwarming, and it was wonderful to witness the joy and connection shared between the students and volunteers. Following the visit, there was an opportunity to tour the school, observe student artwork displayed throughout the hallways, and see students participating in classes and activities.

On May 15, 2026, the Charity Committee purchased the remaining items needed for the Spring Literacy Event hosted by St. Agnes Outreach Services in the amount of \$350. This contribution helped ensure the event was fully supplied.

**Sponsorship of Floral Décor**- Icon and Floral Sponsorship opportunities are available throughout the year for ecclesiastic feast days. Sponsorship can be done in honor or in memory of a loved one or for the well-being of your family.

*Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:*

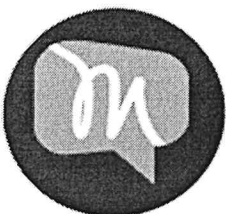
*-Monday June 29th Peter and Paul, The Holy Apostles*

If you would like to sponsor an icon, you may pay online; scan QR code; or mail your payment to the church and include the words 'icon sponsorship' on your envelope. If paying by check, 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 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 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.*

# THE WHISKEY REBELLION

## PART TWO

Listen to a Certified  
Bourbon Steward on the  
history of whiskey.

Enjoy bourbon and/or cigars.  
Appetizers will be served.



### WHERE:

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



### DATE:

June 6, 2026  
RSVP by May 31



### TIME:

7 PM

## COST: TWO OPTIONS

### BOURBON ONLY:



- 3 TASTINGS

\$ 75



OR

### BOURBON AND CIGAR:



- 4 TASTINGS
- 2 CIGARS

\$ 100



SCAN  
to Purchase  
Tickets



For Information  
**CONTACT:**  
Greg Vlassopoulos at [gregv@outlook.com](mailto:gregv@outlook.com)

Must be  
21 to  
Attend

You are encouraged to reproduce and distribute this schedule to all Hellenes and Philhellenes.

## 2026 GREEK FESTIVAL GUIDE OF PHILADELPHIA (PA, NJ, DE)

Courtesy of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Media, PA  
Dedicated to the Memory of Marika Papouris Trizonis

CHURCH	LOCATION—INFO	DATES	HOURS	CHURCH	LOCATION - INFO	DATES	HOURS
ST. ANTHONY Vineyard, NJ	430 W. Wheat Rd. Vineyard, NJ 856-696-0917 <a href="mailto:santhonyvineyardnj.com">santhonyvineyardnj.com</a>	May 29 -31	Fri: 5 pm -10pm Sat: 12pm -11 pm Sun: 12 pm -6 pm	EVANGELISMOS OF THEOTOKOS Philadelphia, PA	6501 Bustleton Ave. Philadelphia, PA 215-743-7982	June 4 -7	Thurs: 1 pm - 10 pm Fri & Sat: 12 noon - 11pm Sun: 12 noon - 9 pm
ST. NICHOLAS Atlantic City, NJ	13 S. Mount Vernon Ave. Mt. Vernon & Atlantic Ave. Atlantic City, NJ (609) 348-3495	May 23	Spring Cookout Lamb-Drinks-Music 5:00pm - 12am(midnight)	ST. LUKE Broomall, PA	35 N. Malin Rd. Broomall, PA 610-353-1592 <a href="http://thegeekathr.com">thegeekathr.com</a>	Sept 18 - 20	Fri: 4 pm -10 pm Sat: 11 am -10 pm Sun: 12 pm-8 pm
ST. DEMETRIOS North Wildwood, NJ	321 St. Demetrios Street North Wildwood, NJ 609-522-0152		<i>Call church office or check website for dates and hours</i>	ST. GEORGE Media, PA	30 E. Forge Rd. Media, PA 610-459-0366 <a href="http://tasteofgreece.net">tasteofgreece.net</a>	Sept 24 - 27	Thurs: 3 pm - 9 pm Fri & Sat: 11 am -10 pm Sun: 11 am - 8 pm
ST. DEMETRIOS Upper Darby, PA	229 Powell Ln. Upper Darby, PA 610-352-7212 <a href="http://santdemetrios.org">santdemetrios.org</a>	May 14 - 17	Thurs thru Sun: 12 pm - 9 pm	ST. BARBARA Toms River, NJ	2200 Church Rd. Toms River, NJ 732-255-5525 <a href="http://stbarbaranj.org">stbarbaranj.org</a>	Sept 25 - 27	Fri & Sat: 12 Noon - 11 pm Sun: 12 Noon - 6 pm
ANNUNCIATION/ EVANGELISMOS Elkins Park, PA	7921 Old York Rd. Elkins Park, PA 215-653-0316 <a href="http://opageekfestival.com">opageekfestival.com</a>	May 7 - 10	Thurs: 4 pm-10 pm Fri & Sat: 11am-10 pm Sun: 11 am-8 pm	ST. THOMAS Cherry Hill, NJ	615 Mercer St. Cherry Hill, NJ 856-665-1731 <a href="http://greekgagorafestival.com">greekgagorafestival.com</a>	Oct 8 - 11	Thurs thru Sun: 11 am - 12 am (midnight)
ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL Philadelphia, PA	256 S. 8 <sup>th</sup> St. Philadelphia, PA 215-627-4389 <a href="http://saintgeorgecathedral.org">saintgeorgecathedral.org</a>	May 28 - 31	Thurs & Sun: 11am-8pm Fri & Sat: 11am-11pm				
ST. SOPHIA Jeffersonville, PA	900 S. Trooper Rd. Jeffersonville, PA 610-650-8960 <a href="http://saintsophiachurch.org">saintsophiachurch.org</a>	May 28 - 31	Indoor restaurant: Thurs thru Sat: 11 am - 8 pm Sun: 12 noon - 7 pm Tent opens: Fri: 5/29 -- 5 pm Sat: 5/30 -- 11 am-8 pm Sun, 5/31 -- 12 pm-7 pm	ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL Philadelphia, PA	256 S. 8 <sup>th</sup> St. Philadelphia, PA 215-627-4389 <a href="http://saintgeorgecathedral.org">saintgeorgecathedral.org</a>	TBD	
HOLY TRINITY Egg Harbor, NJ	7004 Ridge Ave. Egg Harbor Township, NJ 609-653-8092 <a href="http://holyltrinityvegelharbor.com">holyltrinityvegelharbor.com</a>	June 4 - 7	Thurs & Fri: 5 pm - 10 pm Sat: 12 noon - 11 pm Sun: 12-9pm	ST. DEMETRIOS Upper Darby, PA	229 Powell Ln. Upper Darby, PA 610-352-7212 <a href="http://santdemetrios.org">santdemetrios.org</a>	Nov 6 - 8	Fri thru Sun 12pm - 9 pm
HOLY TRINITY Wilmington, DE	808 North Broom St. Wilmington, DE 302-654-4446 <a href="http://greekfestde.com">greekfestde.com</a> <a href="http://holyltrinitywilmington.org">holyltrinitywilmington.org</a>	June 1 - 6	Mon thru Sat: 11 am - 11 pm	ST. SOPHIA Jeffersonville, PA	900 S. Trooper Rd. Jeffersonville, PA 610-650-8960 <a href="http://saintsophiachurch.org">saintsophiachurch.org</a>	Nov 13 -15	Craft Fair & Food Festival Fri & Sat: 11 am - 8 pm Sun: 12 noon - 6 pm
				<b>UPDATED ON 3/29/2026</b>			

# 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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