May 2024
PASCHAL MESSAGE

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; He gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fattened; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It is vexed; for it was abolished. It is vexed; for it was mocked. It is vexed; for it was slain. It is vexed; for it was overthrown. It is vexed; for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, 4th Century
Parish Life

Forty-Day Blessings
On April 5, 2024, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for Alexander Mavridis. Congratulations to George & Flora Mavridis as we anticipate the Baptism!

On April 28, 2024, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for Aristotle Franzone. Congratulations to Roman & Alexis Franzone as we anticipate the Baptism!

Baptisms

The daughter of Anastasios & Ana Sioutis was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on April 14, 2024. Her sponsor, Katina Palmer, baptized her with the name Georgia. May Our Lord continue to bless you, Georgia Ana-Maria Sioutis.

The son of Altin Noti & Katerina Cala was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on April 20, 2024. His sponsor, Safena Vasiliki Shaba, baptized him with the name Alexander. May Our Lord continue to bless you, Alexander Jason Noti.

The son of Altin Noti & Katerina Cala was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on April 20, 2024. His sponsor, Llambrini Kosta, baptized him with the name Christopher. May Our Lord continue to bless you, Christopher Jake Noti.

The son of Darry Keith Pugh Jr & Carla Schiavo was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on April 21, 2024. His sponsor, Nikolitsa Thompson & George Schiavo, baptized him with the name Ezekiel. May Our Lord continue to bless you, Ezekiel Micha Pugh.

Funerals

The servant of God, Maria Georgias, fell asleep in the Lord on March 19, 2024. Her funeral service was held on March 27, 2024.

The servant of God, Virginia Koutsiouroubas, fell asleep in the Lord on March 21, 2024. Her funeral service was held on March 28, 2024.

The servant of God, George Bottos, fell asleep in the Lord on April 5, 2024. His funeral service was held on April 11, 2024.

We extend our condolences and prayers to their families. MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL.
May 2024 Ecclesiastical Calendar
HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, May 1st – Holy Wednesday
Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am
Sacrament of Holy Unction Early Service 4:00pm
Sacrament of Holy Unction 7:00pm

Thursday, May 2nd – Holy Thursday
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00am
Holy Passion Service of our Lord: 12 Gospels 7:00pm

Friday, May 3rd – Holy Friday
Royal Hours 10:00am
Taking down Christ from Cross, Apokathelosis 3:00pm
Lamentations & Procession of Epitaphio 7:00pm

Saturday, May 4th – Holy Saturday
Morning Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil 10:00am
His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

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, May 5th – PASCHA/EASTER SUNDAY MORNING
Vespers Agape Service 11:00am
Easter Egg Hunt for Children to follow

Sunday, May 12th – Thomas Sunday
Mother’s Day
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 19th – Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, May 21st – Sts Constantine & Helen
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 26th - Sunday of the Paralytic
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday, May 27th - Memorial Day Cemetery Visit Schedule
Cemetery Visitations will take place:
Glenwood Cemetery at 9:00am
Fernwood Cemetery at 10:00am
Arlington Cemetery at 11:30am
SS Peter & Paul Cemetery at 12:45pm
Edgewood Cemetery – contact Fr. Christ if interested
# MAY 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthdox Easter</td>
<td>7pm Parish Council Meeting</td>
<td>10am Senior Men 6:30pm Elements of Theology</td>
<td>Holy Week (no practices/no meetings)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am Sunday</td>
<td>10:30pm Greek School</td>
<td>7:30pm Adult Volleyball</td>
<td>10am Easter Egg Dying</td>
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<td>School</td>
<td>5pm Greek School</td>
<td>Philoptochos – Main Table set-up @ CC</td>
<td>11am Bible Study</td>
<td>9am Play Group</td>
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<td>6:30pm Elements of Theology</td>
<td>Philoptochos – Bid N Buy Preparation</td>
<td>11am Bible Study</td>
<td>10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Memorial Day – Office is</td>
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The Last/Mystical Supper   Holy Thursday – May 2

The icon of the Mystical Supper portrays Christ and the Apostles seated around a table. The respective gazes and positions of the figures portray the story to the viewer. Jesus reveals that He has been betrayed. Christ Himself meets the eyes of the disciples that are directed toward Him. Other disciples are bewildered about the meaning of the words of the Savior: “Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.”

We also have the institution of the Holy Eucharist (the Divine Liturgy) during the Mystical Supper. The icon depicts the sanctified bread—the Body of Christ—as already broken and distributed to the Apostles. The cup of the sanctified wine—the Blood of Christ—on the table, awaiting passage to them, so that in the words from the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, all may be united who become partakers of the one Bread and Cup in the communion of the Holy Spirit.”

Once again, we learn a valuable lesson in STEWARDSHIP. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ becomes the sacrifice through the offering of bread and wine. Today, the faithful people of God bring forth the bread and wine as an offering to the Lord. The offering is not only personal, but communal, as everyone attending the Divine Liturgy is called to be united in Christ.

We are united by the Holy Eucharist with one another and with all the saints of the Church Triumphant. It is at this moment that we realize the purpose of the Church. As the people of God, the Body of Christ, we become mystically what God intended us to be; united to Him in faith and love, and through Him, to one another. It is in love and faith and worship that we are truly a member of the Church!

Once we understand this, we can more clearly see how a local parish lives up to its true task. In this way the parish becomes the most genuine expression of the Church. When a parish’s activity and life center on the heart of the matter, true STEWARDSHIP, is expressed in faith, love, and worship. This is the ideal that each parish and each Orthodox Christian strives to accomplish.


Holy Friday – May 3

When Friday dawned, Christ was sent bound from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate, who was then Governor of Judea. Pilate interrogated Him in many ways, and once and again acknowledged that He was innocent, but to please the Jews, he later passed the sentence of death against Him. After scourging the Lord of all as though He were a runaway slave, he surrendered Him to be crucified.

Thus, the Lord Jesus was handed over to the soldiers, was stripped of His garments, was clothed in a purple robe, was crowned with a wreath of thorns, had a reed placed in His hand as though it were a scepter, was bowed before in mockery, was spat upon, and was buffeted in the face and on the head. Then they again clothed Him in His own garments, and bearing the cross, He came to Golgotha, a place of condemnation, and there, about the third hour, He was crucified between two thieves. Although both blasphemed Him at the first, the thief at His right hand repented, and said: "Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comes in Thy Kingdom," to which our Saviour answered, "Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." As He hung upon the Cross, He was blasphemed by those who were passing by, was mocked by the high priests, and by the soldiers was given vinegar to drink mixed with gall. About the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, saying, "It is finished." And the Lamb of God "Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) expired on the day when the moon was full, and at the hour when, according to the Law, was slain the Passover lamb, which was established as a type of Him in the time of Moses.

Even lifeless creation mourned the death of the Master, and it trembled and was altered out of fear. Yet even though the Maker of creation was already dead, they pierced Him in His immaculate side, and forthwith came there out Blood and Water. Finally, at about the setting of the sun, Joseph of Arimathea came with Nicodemus (both of them had been secret disciples of Jesus), and they took down the all-holy Body of the Teacher from the Cross and anointed it with aromatic spices and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. When they had buried Him in a new tomb, they rolled a great stone over its entrance.

Such are the dread and saving sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ commemorated today, and in remembrance of them, we have received the Apostolic commandment that a fast be observed every Friday.
A GOOD EXAMPLE OF CHURCH TRADITION

Within Orthodoxy, tradition is held with high esteem. There are two types of tradition in the Orthodox faith. First, there are “CAPITAL T Traditions” and then there are “small t traditions”. “T” Traditions or Dogma are universally accepted beliefs and acts of the Church. Traditional Theology of the Orthodox Church was first passed on by Oral Tradition initially but in time was written down forming the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament. By the 4th century these writings were accepted as the New Testament. Other early writings were codified such as the Canons of the Church as revealed to us through Ecumenical Councils. They provide universally accepted doctrine for the Orthodox. Small “t” traditions comprising legends and practices are also part of the Church’s understanding. They are often only locally accepted and observed. Small “t” traditions are often local cultural traditions that have been practiced by the Church from her beginnings. Such is the practice of making Easter Eggs.

The tradition of St. Mary Magdalene and the Red Egg

From the writings of the New Testament, we know only a few things about Mary Magdalene. First she is seen in Luke as being released from seven demons by Jesus. Also Mary, one of Myrrh Bearing women, was the first to see the risen Christ (John 20). Because of this the church honors Mary Magdalene as a saint and calls her Myrrh-Bearer and Equal-To-The-Apostles. Passed on through the tradition of the Church we are told that shortly after the resurrection of Christ, Mary traveled to Rome and gained an audience with Emperor Caesar Tiberius (14-37AD). She denounced Pilate, who had been placed in power by Tiberius, for his handling of Jesus’ trial. She began to talk about Jesus’ resurrection. Picking up a hen’s egg from the dinner table, she used it to illustrate her point about resurrection. During the Jewish Passover, the egg is cracked and eaten as a symbol of new life. Traditionally, in the Church, the egg is used as a teaching tool of the resurrection. The shell of the egg represents the tomb which gives way to new life, the resurrected Christ. Tiberius was unmoved and replied that there was as much chance of a human being returning to life as there was for the egg to turn red. Immediately, the egg turned red in her hand! This is why Orthodox Christians exchange red eggs at Easter. It is said that Tiberius removed Pilate from Jerusalem to Gaul, where he died of a horrible sickness.

Symbolism of the Red Egg

Colors, we are told by the early church father, St. Dionysius, have great meaning in the traditional life of the church. These colors are used in icons, vestments, and in all sacred art. Traditionally, Red: incandescence; the blood of Christ and of the martyrs. Other colors, White: the color of divine glory and power; the divine light in Christian vision. “...your sins... shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18). Purple: wealth, power, royalty, death. Blue: the mystery of beings; an impression of depth and tranquility. Green: an aspect of nature; life of vegetation, growth, and fertility. Brown: a more lively color than black; density of matter, earthly. Black: darkness; total absence of light. Yellow: light, reflection of light. Gold: the symbol of Divine light.

Holy Thursday Easter Egg coloring

Traditionally, the time to color Easter Eggs is on the Thursday of Holy Week. Also, in anticipation of breaking of the Lenten fast, Orthodox also prepare Easter Baskets. These are filled with colored eggs, cheese, breads, meats, and wine. This basket will be taken to church and often placed in the front of the church during the Easter service. At the end of the service, this basket is used to celebrate, sharing with others breaking the Lenten fast.
HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

are Father Christ’s priority.

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

All hospitals do not notify parishes of hospitalized parishioners.

St. Luke Prayer Group

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

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

How do I register?
Email Presbytera Michele at SaintLukePrayer@gmail.com

REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

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

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

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

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

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

Total Pledges: 335
Total Pledged as of 3/31/2024 - $418,185.04
Total Received as of 3/31/2024: $242,239.57

Stewardship Chairperson: NIKI THOMPSON
Stewardship Administrator: MICHAEL COOK
Contact Niki & Michael at: StLukeGiving@gmail.com
Stewardship Spiritual Advisor: Fr Christ Kontos fatherck@gmail.com
# DIAKONIA SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chairs</th>
<th>May 5</th>
<th>Christos Anesti!!</th>
<th></th>
<th>May 12</th>
<th>Martha DiCamillo</th>
<th>Barbara Papageorge</th>
<th></th>
<th>May 19</th>
<th>Kathy Fisfis</th>
<th>Marta Laynas</th>
<th></th>
<th>May 26</th>
<th>Tom Trantas</th>
<th>Violet Markopoulous</th>
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<th>June 2</th>
<th>Dee Karras</th>
<th>Diane Sioutis</th>
<th></th>
<th>June 9</th>
<th>Ellena Vaganos</th>
<th>Vasie Marinakos</th>
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<th>June 16</th>
<th>Anna Hadgis</th>
<th>Stephanie Carroll</th>
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Kay Karalis can be called as a substitute (610) 213-7967

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## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2023-2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chairs</th>
<th>Betsy Pappas</th>
<th>Diana Palumbo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAY:</td>
<td>Chairs</td>
<td>Betsy Pappas</td>
<td>Diana Palumbo</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-May</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Diana Pappas</td>
<td>Diana Palumbo</td>
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<td>12-May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
<td>Georgia Sioutis</td>
<td>Spiridoula Bottos</td>
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<td>19-May</td>
<td>Abigail Papas</td>
<td>Diana Sioutis</td>
<td>Georgia Sioutis</td>
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<td>26-May</td>
<td>Kate Politis</td>
<td>Maria Miller</td>
<td>Georgia Pappas</td>
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<td>JUN:</td>
<td>Chairs</td>
<td>Diana Palumbo</td>
<td>Helen Kopitas</td>
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<td>2-Jun</td>
<td>Anna Andreadis</td>
<td>Sarah Andreadis</td>
<td>Katina Maltas</td>
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<td>9-Jun</td>
<td>Alexa Angelakos</td>
<td>Katie Politis</td>
<td>Kathy Malandrakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-Jun</td>
<td>Beth Ratchford</td>
<td>Lisa Shaiko</td>
<td>Debra Lamprinakos</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Coffee Hours Chairs:
Diane Palumbo – lovetocook1219@aol.com; Betsy Pappas – vasilikipappas@yahoo.com
Greek Affair is our major fundraiser with the proceeds benefitting the maintenance and enhancement of our facilities and ministries. We invite all to contribute to the community by making an extra effort this year to assist with the Greek Affair Baking.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastry</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chairs</th>
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<tr>
<td>PASTA FLORA</td>
<td>Tues May 21st</td>
<td>Alexis Limberakis, Kay Karalis, Janine Voudouris</td>
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<tr>
<td>FENEKIA</td>
<td>Tues June 4th</td>
<td>Karen, Diane</td>
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<td>KARIDOPITA/REVANI</td>
<td>Tues June 11th</td>
<td>Diane, Karen</td>
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<td>TSOURKEIA</td>
<td>Tues June 18th</td>
<td>Diane, Katina Dollos</td>
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<td>TSOURKEIA</td>
<td>Wed June 19th</td>
<td>Diane, Katina</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOURABIEDES</td>
<td>Sept TBA</td>
<td>Angelique Demetris, Niki Tsetsekos</td>
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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
Requests from the Parish Council

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
George Migias
President, St. Luke Parish Council
For Those in Need...
you may ask, “What are we doing lately?”
May, 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 April FTIN’s volunteer Chefs prepared some 180 evening meals for our partners at The Life Center (TLC) and the Salvation Army.

And FTIN made its latest delivery to stock the shelves of the Salvation Army’s food pantry specifically oriented towards their senior and homeless populations.

FTIN’s May Cook will take place on Monday evening, May 13th beginning at 4:30pm.

Supporting FTIN – How can I help?

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

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

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

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

In these past few months, our GOYA worked very hard to prepare for Sights and Sounds, which was hosted on Saturday, April 13th at St. Demetrios Church in Upper Darby. Sights and Sounds was DVYC-wide competition where our GOYAnS got to showcase their talents in visual and performing arts. We are very proud, as this year they came in first place for both Liturgical Choir and Choral Speaking.

Every month, our GOYA hosts ‘Spark Sunday’ in collaboration with our Sunday school to spark participation, friendships, and a deeper love for our faith. This is held on the first Sunday of every month and we urge that all GOYAnS attend. With holy week being in May, on Holy Friday, there is a yearly GOYA retreat held to help decorate the epitaphio and prepare candles for the Friday service. As well as this, there are opportunities to take confession and have group discussions. At this retreat, relationships are strengthened with peers and with God. It is like a mental reset and lets us connect to one another and focus on Jesus, and the sacrifice he made for us to live immortal lives.

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, as it allows our youth to get involved, share, learn, and grow spiritually while having fun!
St. Luke Greek Dance News!

Our Dancers had a very busy April! Both the Ellinakia and Olympian Dancers represented St. Luke’s by marching in the Greek Independence Day Parade!

Please congratulate our GOYAns for their outstanding efforts at this year’s Sights and Sounds event! Our Olympian Dancers were fabulous performing Cretan dances in the Greek Dance event!
Kalo Pascha!

The Saint Luke Greek School took the month of March to celebrate Greek Independence Day!

Before the celebrations, our students took their class pictures for the yearbook. The children all looked great!

On April 7th, our Greek school students recited poems celebrating and honoring Greek Independence Day. Dressed in traditional Greek costumes, Kollette Kontostergios, Katalina Kontostergios Anatolia Poggio and Theodora Poggio read beautifully!

Later that afternoon, our Greek school students took to the Ben Franklin Parkway to celebrate Greek Independence with our Saint Luke family. It was a beautiful day to wear our Greek colors and march with pride!

Also, please support the Saint Luke Greek School PTO by purchasing your Easter tsoureki through our fundraiser. Loaves are $20 each. To purchase, please contact Ashely Kontostergios at 215-410-1534 or via email at aekontos@gmail.com

Wishing everyone Kalo Pascha and a great month ahead.
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Sunday School Students and Families,

Below is the Sunday School class schedule for May 2024:

MAY

• May 3 Holy Friday Retreat: Helpers 11 AM; Apokathelosis Service, 3 PM, Myrrh-bearers report at 2:30 PM

• May 5 EASTER SUNDAY: FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY. AGAPE SERVICE, 11 AM. Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service.

• May 12 No Classes, Mother’s Day. Mother’s Day poems read by Sunday School Students.

• May 19 Worship and Classes, Last day of Sunday School

St. John Chrysostom Delaware Valley District Oratorical Festival-
On Saturday, April 6, 2024, St. Luke hosted the Delaware Valley District Oratorical Festival, welcoming speakers, their supporters, and clergy from 8 of the 13 churches in the Delaware Valley District. St. Luke was represented by Stavros Kalisperis and Victoria Kaltsidis, in the Junior Division, and Eleni Kalisperis and Maria Kaltsidis, in the Senior Division. We could not be more proud of our 4 speakers, who were incredibly impressive representatives of our parish! In addition, we wish the very best to Victoria Kaltsidis and Eleni Kalisperis who were chosen to represent the Delaware Valley District at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival on May 11, 2024 at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore. Xronia Polla to our wonderful young orators!

We offer very special thanks to the following members of St. Luke’s Sunday School staff and parish community for making the District Oratorical Festival a successful event for our parish and our guests: Mrs. Alexis Limberakis, our Mistress of Ceremonies par excellence for her great work on April 6, as well as integral guidance behind the scenes; to Ms. Vida Bona, St. Luke’s Office Manager whose office help with the little, but important, details, was invaluable during the planning of this festival; Miss Marilena Ristas and Mr. Thomas Ristas for checking in and welcoming our speakers; Mrs. Sophia Milinkovic, for her unwavering support behind the scenes and her immense help with planning, shopping and organizing the meals for the day; Mrs. Deme Peters for shopping for the beautiful hydrangea centerpieces in the Social Hall; Mr. Art Karros, today’s official Time Keeper, and great Oratorical mentor; Mr. Noel Kelly for logistical, emotional, and organizational help; and to the Raptis Family for donating a delicious Lenten luncheon meal for all; and to
Rev. Fr. Christ Kontos for spiritual guidance and support, as always, especially during the planning of today’s event.

Finally, we are indebted to our esteemed panel of judges: Mrs. Maria Armenti, Esq., M.T.S.; Mr. John Kounios, PhD; and Mrs. Pauline J. Manos Steiner, Esq., for their time, attention and careful deliberation at the Delaware Valley District Oratorical Festival. We appreciate their work on behalf of the devoted young people who spoke so eloquently about their Greek Orthodox faith. May God grant all of those named here and in the paragraph above many more happy and healthy years for their immense investment of time, talent and treasure towards making the District Oratorical Festival a celebration of our Greek Orthodox youth. Xronia Polla!

**FOCUS Community Connections**

Late in 2023, FOCUS North America received 20 gift certificates in the amount of $250.00 each from Chick-fil-A, to be used to provide food and a community connection between Orthodox churches around the country and those in need of a hot meal. St. Luke’s Sunday School, representing our parish community, was the recipient of one of those $250.00 gift certificates. On Saturday, April 13, 2024, trays of chicken nuggets, a large green salad, a large bowl of mac and cheese, and a tray of chocolate chip cookies were delivered to the Life Center of Upper Darby as lunch for their 34 clients. The catering manager at the Springfield Chick-fil-A very generously made it possible for us to provide more food than the original amount of the gift certificate would pay for. We were grateful to have been a part of this very worthwhile program, and we thank Alan Pcsolyar of St. Luke’s FTIN for helping us make a community connection with the Life Center.

**Flowers for Salutation Services**

We would like to offer our deepest thanks to the following for providing flowers for the Panagia at each of the Friday Salutation Services during Lent: Effie Xidou, on behalf of the Delimetros and Pouladakis families; Stephanie Abramides-Carroll; Helen Kopitas and the Kopitas family; Olympia Corbino in memory of her late father; and Sophia and Danny Milinkovic and family. We truly appreciate all of our donors for their support of this lovely tradition for our Sunday School and parish families. We pray that your Lenten journey was strengthened by this giving opportunity!

**Psalm Readers for Salutation Services**

We are very grateful to the following Sunday School students who read at least one of the 3 Psalms at the beginning of the weekly Salutation services during Great Lent: Eva Stroumbaras, Evva and Ana Kanellopoulos, Kyria and Alexia Brennan, Marina and Evan Kopitas, Christian and Mary O’Donnell, Costa Samios, and Argyris Massagli. We were so gratified to hear their young voices read these beautiful prayers from the Old Testament as they shared with us the true spirit of Great Lent.
Readers for Agape Service on Pascha- We are looking for volunteers to read the Gospel in different languages at 11 am on Easter morning during the Agape Vespers of Pascha. We have copies of the Gospel in the following languages: Greek, English, Spanish, Latin, French, Italian and Albanian. The reading in the appropriate language will be given to volunteers prior to the service. It’s a truly awesome opportunity to not only read the Gospel in front of the congregation, but to also echo what is being done in Orthodox churches around the world on Pascha, to announce the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection to all peoples! To volunteer to read the Agape Gospel in one of these languages, please contact Miss Jane at stlukes sundayschool@gmail.com. Easter Egg Hunt to follow the Agape Vespers!

Sunday School trip to Holy Protection Monastery-
We are trying to organize a Sunday School trip to Holy Protection Monastery, and these efforts are being spearheaded by our teachers Sophia Tsakiris, Marilena Ristas, and Thomas Ristas. God bless them! We are aiming to go on Saturday, May 18, 2024. 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 May 18 isn’t a good date for you, but another date would work for you, please let us know. However, if this is something you and your family would be interested in at all, please contact Sophia and Jane at stlukes sundayschool@gmail.com!

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

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

SAVE THE DATE
2024 Annual Bid ’n Buy - Thursday, May 16, 2024
Graduates Sunday Program and Reception - Sunday, June 2, 2024

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

Philoptochos Stewardship Information: We are thrilled to welcome 3 new members to our chapter: Paulette Masino, Madeline Sims, and Mina Spyropoulos. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding membership at 267.808.4160 or email at kiablazakis@gmail.com. Kia Blazakis, Membership Chair

Trip to St. Nicholas National Shrine: On Sunday March 17th, 2024, St. Luke Philoptochos traveled to the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine for the Divine Liturgy. It was a beautiful service with Fr. Andreas, Fr. Samuel, and Master Chanter Dimitris Katsiklis all present. At the conclusion of the service we were invited for refreshments with a brief church tour explaining the detailed construction and unique iconography of this Church and National Shrine. We had the privilege to venerate the relics of St. Nicholas and view a few artifacts recovered from the original St. Nicholas Church after 9/11. Our trip concluded with lunch and free time in Rockefeller Center before departing for home.

Rise Against Hunger: On Saturday, March 30th, 2024, over 85 volunteers gathered at St. Luke Community Center in Broomall, PA, to package meals for Rise Against Hunger, which delivers meals to the world’s most vulnerable populations. St. Luke Philoptochos, Chapter 1082, organized this community event and, through collaboration with five Philoptochos chapters across the Delaware Valley, volunteers packaged 15,768 meals to feed thousands of hungry families worldwide.
Philoptochos Chapters from the following churches supported this 2024 Rise Against Hunger event: Annunciation, Elkins Park, PA; St. Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA; Holy Trinity, Wilmington, DE; St. Luke, Broomall, PA; St. Sophia, Valley Forge, PA; and St. Thomas, Cherry Hill, NJ. Thank you to EVERYONE who supported and volunteered!

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

Purchase your Admission & Dinner tickets soon for this sell-out event! You may complete your purchase directly through our website [www.stlukephiloptochos.org/bidnbuy](http://www.stlukephiloptochos.org/bidnbuy) or by scanning our QR code. You may also purchase your tickets by contacting our church office at 610-353-1592 or Presbytera Michele Kontos at bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org.

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

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

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

Please consider donating to this significant fundraiser. The more successful the event, the more souls we will be able to help; that is our mission! We will gladly accept monetary contributions and donations. Please direct donations to chairperson: Carnation Karros at bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org. You may also donate online via our website by scanning the QR code above. We sincerely thank you in advance for your generosity. So, what are you waiting for? Grab your flapper dresses and join us for a Bid 'n Buy to remember! Your support helps us make a difference in the lives of those who need it most! We appreciate your support!

**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. 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](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.
Philoptochos Charity Committee -

Case for Smiles - On February 27th, Maria Kalisperis, our Ambassador for Case for Smiles, was invited to the Wells Fargo Center to sew pillow cases with their Charity Committee and staff of the Philadelphia Flyers. Forty pillow cases were sewn that day and distributed to the Children staying in the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Maria will organize a project with the St. Luke GOFANs to fill coping boxes for children whose sibling is being hospitalized. This event will take place closer to the Christmas Season.

Grands Stepping Up - With the help of our parishioners, our Charity Committee was able to collect 75 Easter Baskets to donate to the children of Grands Stepping Up. The baskets were filled with items such as books, puzzles, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, crayons, markers, coloring books, stickers, arts & crafts, activities, stuffed animals, play-doh, silly putty, sun glasses, gift cards and nut-free candies with each basket ranging between between $15.00 - $20.00. The baskets were created with the range of ages: 0-7 yrs, 8-13 yrs and 14 -17 years old.

Bingo with Veterans - On Saturday, March 23, our Chapter sponsored an afternoon of bingo at the Coatesville Veterans Medical Affairs. Volunteers Maria Carafides, Maria Kalisperis, Effie Guthrie, Alexandra Perrot, Angelique Demetris and Karen Kotapka hosted 24 men and one woman, recovering from PTSD, substance abuse and homelessness. They stay for one to two months for treatment before returning to their family or group homes. Earbuds, Bluetooth speakers, earphones and canteen books valid for purchases in their retail stores and café on site were offered as prizes. We provided refreshments including custom decorated red, white, and blue chocolate and vanilla cupcakes, individual bags of potato chips and apples and clementines. We were welcomed warmly by Brandon, Lead Recreation Assistant who introduced us to the players. Karen spoke briefly on our Parish’s history of supporting vets at the location. We honor and respect them and appreciate their service to our Country. Even before the games, one gentleman graciously thanked us for sharing our time on a rainy Saturday afternoon. Games were spirited and competitive! Vets and volunteers alike had a lot of fun. This is our third time hosting bingo, which we plan to repeat each year.

Overbrook School for the Blind - On Saturday, March 16, 2024 Overbrook School for the Blind had their big fundraiser “My Favorite Bag Bingo” held on the premises of their beautiful school on Malvern Avenue in Philadelphia. Pre-sale tickets were $30.00. The event began at 7:00 pm and was BYO beverage and appetizers. There were 10 rounds of bingo, a 50/50, raffles, bonus rounds and door prizes. It was a very successful evening with over 300 men and women attending. Betty Tsarouchis was the chair of this event. But the ladies from Philoptochos who attended included: Deme Peters, Deme’s friend Roseann, Maria Gregory-Cummings, Ellen Trantas and her mom, Patricia Berryman and her mom. Funds raised support the development and delivery of education that enhances the options available for persons with visual impairment and other challenges, so that they have the greatest opportunity to experience active and fulfilling lives.

*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.

Please visit https://www.stlukephiLOPTOCHOS.org/packet/3209 for Holy Lent/Holy Week/Easter sponsorship opportunities.

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 nsetsekos@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 Ορέξη, a Greek Cookbook created by the Ladies Philoptochos of St. Luke (see photo below), and apron. The cost is $25 for the book and $15 for the apron (blue only, and with pockets!), plus $5 for shipping, if applicable. A beautiful gift package, ready for giving, for $40.00! For more information, or to order, please contact our Philoptochos President, Lisa Palmieri, at 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](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 Ladies Philoptochos Society of St Luke

Presents

The Roaring 20's

Bid 'n Buy

JOIN US ON

May 16, 2024
6:00 pm

St Luke's Community Center
35 N Malin Road * Broomall PA

Admission & Dinner $30.00

CONTACT: bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org

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

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS
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](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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate’s Name (As you would like it to appear in the program)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate’s Email Address and Mobile Number</td>
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<td>Name of High School, University/College awarding diploma</td>
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<td>Diploma: High School, Bachelor, Graduate or Post Graduate degree</td>
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<td>Major(s)/Concentration</td>
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<td>Future Plan (Name of University/College and intended studies)</td>
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<td>Name of the person submitting the Graduate’s name</td>
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<td>Telephone number and email of the person submitting the graduate’s name</td>
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<td>Name of Orthodox parish Graduate is attending</td>
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<td>Will the graduate be available to attend in person Sunday, June 2, 2024?</td>
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Deadline for submitting the form is Saturday, May 25, 2024.
Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Saturday, May 4, 2024
10:00 A.M.

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

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

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

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

For more information, please contact:

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

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

Please visit our website: www.ahepa-445.org for track meet photos, videos, event information, and more!
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<th>CHURCH</th>
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<tr>
<td>ST. ANTHONY</td>
<td>430 W. Wheat Rd. Vineland, NJ 856-696-0917 stanthonyvinelandnj.com</td>
<td>Call church office or check website for dates and hours</td>
<td>EVANGELISMOS THEOTOKOS Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>6501 Bustleton Ave. Philadelphia, PA 215-743-7982</td>
<td>June 6-9</td>
<td>Thurs: 1 pm - 10 pm Fri &amp; Sat: 12 noon - 11 pm Sun: 12 noon - 9 pm</td>
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<td>Vineland, NJ</td>
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<td>ST. LUKE Broomall, PA 35 N. Malin Rd. Broomall, PA 610-353-1592 thegreekafair.com</td>
<td>Sept 20-22</td>
<td>Fri: 4 pm - 10 pm Sat: 11 am - 10 pm Sun: 12 noon - 8 pm</td>
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<td>ST. NICHOLAS</td>
<td>13 S. Mount Vernon Ave. Mt. Vernon &amp; Atlantic Ave. Atlantic City, NJ (609) 348-3495</td>
<td>Call church office or check website for dates and hours</td>
<td>ST. GEORGE Media, PA 30 E. Forge Rd. Media, PA 610-459-0366 tasteofgreece.net</td>
<td>Sept 26 - 29</td>
<td>Thurs: 11 am - 9 pm Fri &amp; Sat: 11 am - 10 pm Sun: 11 am - 8 pm</td>
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<td>Atlantic City, NJ</td>
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<td>ST. BAREBARA Toms River, NJ 2200 Church Rd. Toms River, NJ 732-255-5525 stbarbaran.org</td>
<td>Sept 27-29</td>
<td>Fri &amp; Sat: 12 Noon - 11 pm Sun: 12 Noon - 8 pm</td>
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<td>ST. DEMETRIOS</td>
<td>321 St. Demetrios Street North Wildwood, NJ 609-522-0152</td>
<td>Call church office or check website for dates and hours</td>
<td>ST. THOMAS Cherry Hill, NJ 615 Mercer St. Cherry Hill, NJ 856-665-1731 greekgorafestival.com</td>
<td>Oct 10-13</td>
<td>Thurs thru Sun: 11 am - 1 am</td>
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<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>ST. SOPOIA Jeffersville, PA 900 S. Trooper Rd. Jeffersville, PA 610-650-8960 saint sophia church.org</td>
<td>Nov 8-10</td>
<td>Thurs thru Sun: 11am-11pm</td>
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<td>Jeffersville, PA</td>
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<td>ST. SOPOIA Jeffersville, PA 900 S. Trooper Rd. Jeffersville, PA 610-650-8960 saint sophia church.org</td>
<td>May 30-June 2</td>
<td>Thurs thru Sat: 11am-11pm Sun: 12 noon - 7 pm</td>
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<td>HOLY TRINITY</td>
<td>7004 Ridge Ave. Egg Harbor Township, NJ 609-653-8092 holytrinityeggharbor.com</td>
<td>June 6-9</td>
<td>Thurs &amp; Fri: 5pm-10pm Sat: 12 noon - 11pm Sun: 12-10pm</td>
<td>ST. DEMETRIOS Upper Darby, PA 229 Powell Ln. Upper Darby, PA 610-352-7212 saintdemetrios.org</td>
<td>Nov 1-3</td>
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<td>Egg Harbor, NJ</td>
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<td>ST. SOPOIA Jeffersville, PA 900 S. Trooper Rd. Jeffersville, PA 610-650-8960 saint sophia church.org</td>
<td>Nov 8-10</td>
<td>Wed-Thurs: 11am-8pm Fri: 11am-11pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilmington, DE</td>
<td>808 North Broom St. Wilmington, DE 302-654-4446 greekestde.com holytrinitywilmington.org</td>
<td>June 3-8</td>
<td>Mon thru Sat: 11am-11pm</td>
<td>ST. SOPOIA Jeffersville, PA 900 S. Trooper Rd. Jeffersville, PA 610-650-8960 saint sophia church.org</td>
<td>Nov 8-10</td>
<td>Thurs thru Sun: 11am-11pm</td>
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**Updated on 03/19/2024**
GO GREEN?

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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