

# THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

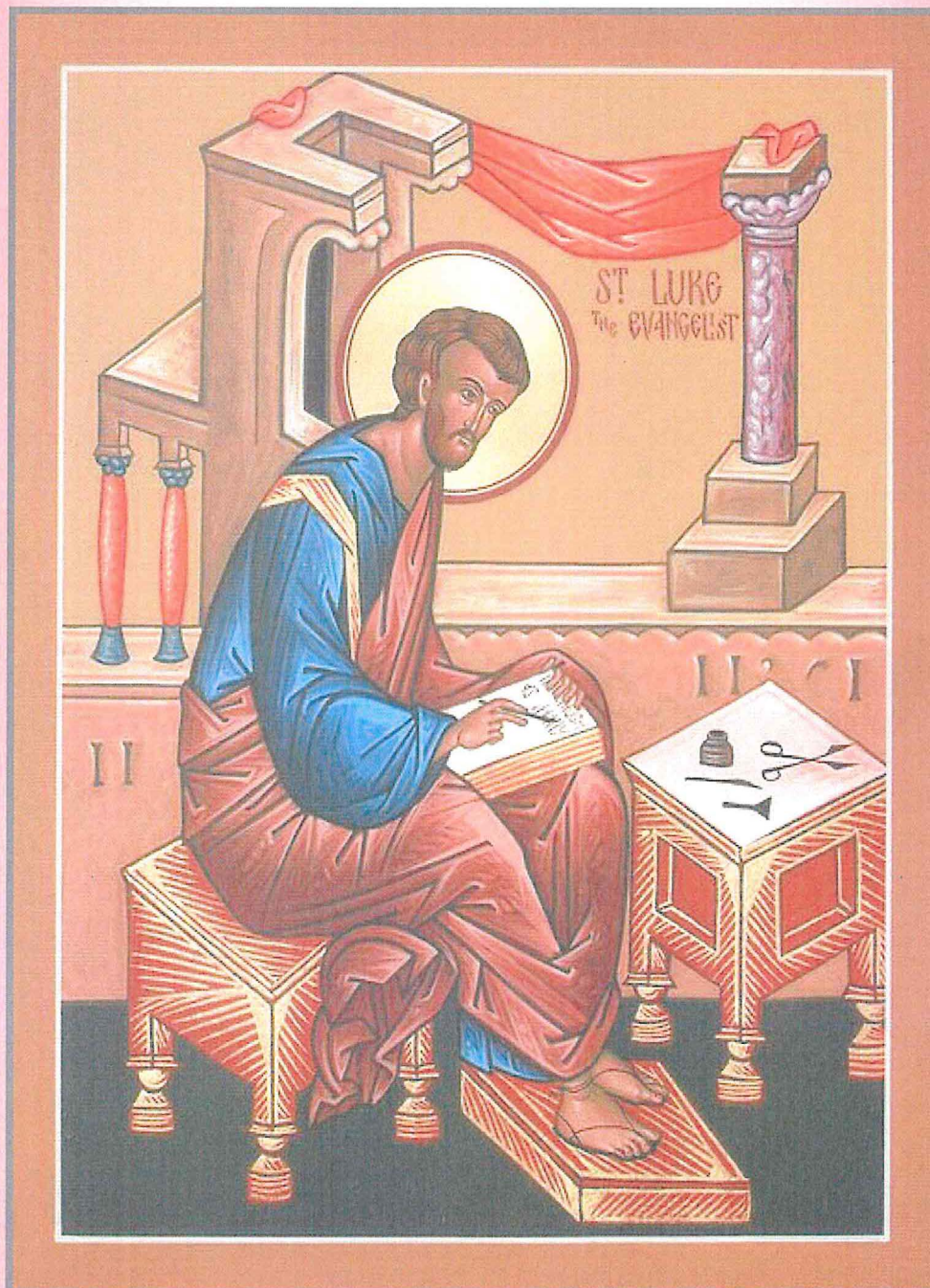
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

(610) 353-1592

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

**FEBRUARY 2026**





## FEBRUARY PASTORAL MESSAGE

Beloved,

What an exciting month February offers us. We began the month celebrating our parish life with a banquet, honoring me and my family as I minister to St Luke for 25 blessed years, for the glory of God. A memorable evening sharing memories, exchanging stories and, simply being what we are, a family. I thank our Parish Council President, Andrew Papageorge for his leadership and our most gracious Chair, Deme Peters and her committee for their exemplary organizing of a stellar evening where everything was to the nines. But I ultimately thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to minister to you and children. May our Lord continue to bless our ministry together in His Vineyard.

February invites the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual MDF to our region. Having the blessing of Chairing it again this year, I am excited to see a thousand people converge into Philly to celebrate our youth. Glory to God for all things!

February also introduces us to the beginning of Lent. On Clean Monday, February 23rd, we will be ushering in Great Lent with the Great Compline Service in the evening. Lent is a time when we exercise ourselves spiritually more than any other time of the year. The exercise we commence we do to bring about tears of repentance, not of sweat; it is an exercise of our diet, not for our bodies but for our souls; we exercise what goes into our mouths so that what comes out may be pure and clean; we exercise our senses so that God's presence and purpose may become clearer in our lives.

Friends, let us seize the powerful days before us and not let them go to waste. Let us return to Him and become one of His again through fasting, prayer, confession, good deeds, love to our neighbor and a clean heart & mind. May the Grace of our Lord and His strength help guide you through these awesome days of reconciliation and salvation as we turn to Jesus Christ for all that is good and beneficial for our souls and bodies.

With brotherly love and pastoral blessings,



Rev Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

# PARISH LIFE

## Forty-Day Blessing



On December 7, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Caroline (Catherine) Hull**. Congratulations to **Forrest Hull & Alexandra Sawin** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On December 7, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Michael Anthony Vlahos**. Congratulations to **Dean & Victoria Vlahos** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On December 7, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Joanna Katherine Ward**. Congratulations to **Ben & Stephanie Ward** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On December 21, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Nicholas Michael Hayden**. Congratulations to **Craig & Christina Hayden** as we anticipate the Baptism!

## Baptisms

The daughter of **Eric & Nikki MacMillin** was baptized on December 21, 2025. Her sponsor, **Alexandra Jean Stephanou**, baptized her with the name *Maggie*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Maggie Lee MacMillin**.



## Funerals



**Nancy (Krill) Pcsolyar** fell asleep in the Lord on December 23, 2025. Her funeral service was held on December 27, 2025.

*We extend our condolences and prayers to her family. MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL.*

# FEBRUARY 2026 – ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR

**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**                      **Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee**  
Forefeast of the Presentation; Tryphon the Martyr  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**                      **Presentation of Our Lord in Temple**  
Weekly Services will be held at our sister Parish St. Demetrios  
9:00am Orthros and Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**                      **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
Theodore the General; Zachariah the Prophet  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**                      **St. Haralambos the Martyr**  
Anastasios, Patriarch of Jerusalem  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**                      **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Souls**  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**                      **Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday**  
St. Anthimus of Chios  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Souls**  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

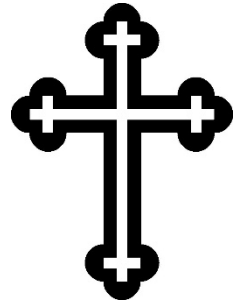
**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**                      **Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday**  
Relics of Martyrs in Eugenius; Thalassius and Baradatus  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Clean Monday**  
6:00pm Compline

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00pm**






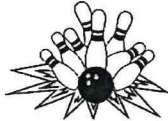
**Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> – First Salutation of Theotokos at 6:00pm**

**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**                      **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Souls**  
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy





# FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>1</div> <p>10:30am Sunday School 12:15pm Liturgical Choir 1:30pm MDF Greek Dance Rehearsal 5:00pm St. Luke Dinner Dance</p>	<div>2</div> <p>7:00pm Book Club (zoom) 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting</p>	<div>3</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting 5:00pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<div>4</div> <p>11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Philoptochos BnB Meeting</p>	<div>5</div> <p>9:00am Playgroup 10:00am Senior Men Meeting 6:00pm Liturgical Choir 7:00pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>	<div>6</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting</p>	<div>7</div> <p>6:00pm Philoptochos Sip and Savor</p> 
<div>8</div> <p>10:30am Sunday School 12:15pm Liturgical Choir 1:30pm MDF Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>	<div>9</div> <p>4:30pm FTIN Cooking</p>	<div>10</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting 5:00pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<div>11</div> <p>11:00am Bible Study</p>	<div>12</div> <p>9:00am Playgroup 10:00am Senior Men Meeting 6:00pm Liturgical Choir 7:00pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>	<div>13</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting</p> 	<div>14</div> <p><i>Valentines Day</i></p> 
<div>15</div> 	<div>16</div>  <p>7:00pm Book Club (zoom)</p>	<div>17</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting 5:00pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<div>18</div> <p>11:00am Bible Study</p>	<div>19</div> <p>9:00am Playgroup 10:00am Senior Men Meeting 7:00pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>	<div>20</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting</p>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <p>10:30am Sunday School 12:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<div>23</div> <p>6:30pm Philoptochos Board Meeting</p>	<div>24</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting 5:00pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:30pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<div>25</div> <p>11:00am Bible Study</p>	<div>26</div> <p>9:00am Playgroup 10:00am Senior Men Meeting 7:00pm Greek Dance Rehearsal</p>	<div>27</div> <p>10:00am Senior Men Meeting 7:00pm Philoptochos Bowling Night</p>  <p>7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<div>28</div>





# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

February is a month centered on love that is patient, sacrificial, and rooted in service. As a parish family, we are reminded that stewardship is not only about what we give, but how we give ourselves to one another in faith, compassion, and commitment.

This month, we joyfully celebrate and give thanks to the Kontos family and their extraordinary gift of love to our parish over the past 25 years. While we are blessed by Father Christ's ministry, we also honor the quiet and profound sacrifice made by his family—Pres. Michele, Renee, Aleko, Sophia Theoni and Derek—who lovingly shared their husband and father with all of us. Their support, understanding, and generosity of heart made it possible for him to serve, guide, and love our parish so fully. We are deeply grateful for the entire Kontos family and celebrate them with heartfelt appreciation and love.

Warm Regards,  
Niki Thompson Stewardship Chair  
Michael Cook, Administration

The following is the Stewardship update as of December 31, 2025.

# of Stewards: 494  
Pledged: \$616,801.62  
Given: \$617,0004.66



## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

<b>FEB</b>	<b>Chairs:</b>	<b>Katina Dollos</b>	<b>Helen Dollos</b>
<b>1-Feb</b>	Maria Scavitto	Georgia Chletcos	Fotini Kathopoulos
<b>8-Feb</b>	Irene Petsinis	Victoria Petsinis	Annmarie Boras
<b>15-Feb</b>	Christina Katsapis	Lisa Shaiko	Beth Ratchford
<b>22-Feb</b>	Carol Grimes	Sue Clark	Deborah Lamprinakos
<b>MAR</b>	<b>Chairs:</b>	<b>Effie Guthrie</b>	<b>Anna Andreadis</b>
<b>1-Mar</b>	Anna Hadgis	Maria Canakis	Maria Kanteliotis
<b>8-Mar</b>	Helen Poulos	Sarah Andreadis	Kathleen Fisfis
<b>15-Mar</b>	Fotini Skrimbas	Marianna Siokos	Lynn Filis
<b>22-Mar</b>	Georgia Vlahos	Nopi Lazaridou	Alexa Angelakos
<b>29-Mar</b>	Nikki Serafim	Galene Pylaras	Maria Pousatis

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, Effie Guthrie kotisa@netzero.net, Betsy Pappas vasilikipappas@yahoo.com

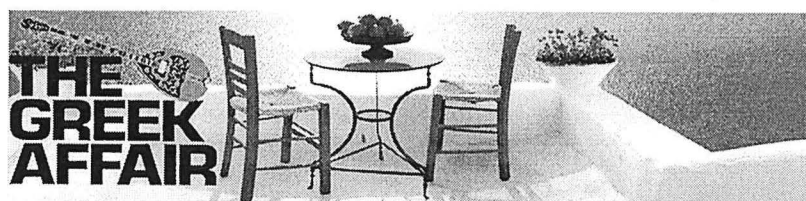
## DIAKONIA SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>On Duty</b>	<b>On Duty</b>
<b>February 1</b>	Gus Pappas	Sonya Pappas
<b>February 8</b>	Maria Carafides	Diane Sioutis
<b>February 15</b>	Alexis Limberakis	Marta Laynas
<b>February 22</b>	Maria Scavitto Angelina Scavitto	Soula Arcidiacono Anna Trantas
<b>March 1</b>	Martha DiCamillo	Diane Sioutis
<b>March 8</b>	Maria Scavitto	Angelina Scavitto
<b>March 15</b>	Vasie Marinakos	Stephanie Carroll
<b>March 22</b>	Barbara Papageorge	Maria Carafides
<b>March 29</b>	Gus Pappas	Sonya Pappas

Contact Tom Trantas at tomisgreek@yahoo.com or 610.203.1132

- On Sundays, arrive by 9:45 am
- Greet parishioners as they arrive
- Respond to parishioners' questions
- Stock candles and red glass candles
- Pass out Sunday bulletins
- Extinguish burning candles that are low
- Pass trays (coordinate location with Parish Council)
- Diakonia duties are finished after trays are passed





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

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

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

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

All are welcome ...mothers, daughters, husbands, fathers and sons. We promise a good time and you will leave with something more valuable: the feeling of good will, being part of the embrace of our beloved St. Luke Community.

### GREEK AFFAIR BAKING CHAIRS

Diane Sioutis, Karen Kotapka, Maria Carafides, Eugenia Gekas

### **2026 GREEK AFFAIR BAKING SCHEDULE**

*All Sessions Begin at 10:00am*

<u>PASTRY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAIRS</u>
PASTA FLORA	Tuesday March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alexis Limberakis Kay Karalis Janine Voudouris
KATAIFI	Tuesday March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Presv Michele Kontos Maria Carafides
BAKLAVA	Tuesday March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka
BAKLAVA	Tuesday March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka
SPANAKOPITA	Tuesday March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Deme Peters John Solomon
SPANAKOPITA	Tuesday March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Deme Peters John Solomon
KOULOURLAKIA	Monday April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Trantas Ginny Markos
KOULOURLAKIA	Tuesday April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anna Trantas Michelle Karalis

## CHOIR NEWS

Congratulations to our Soloists, Senior Choir and Pageant Singer for a beautiful Christmas Pageant performance. Dina Spyropoulos, Soprano Soloist, shared her wonderful singing voice in a performance of *O Holy Night*. Soprano Soloist, Cathy Vinnicombe rendered an outstanding performance of *Angels We Have Heard on High*. Congratulations to Peter Papadopoulos, for performing as soloist in the Divine Liturgy, and in the Christmas Pageant as an amazing Baritone Soloist in *We Three Kings*. Congratulations to all our Soloists, Senior Choir members and Pageant Singer on a fine performance!

The St. Luke Senior Choir, Soloists, and Pageant Singers are thanked for the rehearsals they attended to make our Christmas Pageant a huge success. Their dedication as Church Musicians is to be commended. The Senior Choir participated in Divine Liturgy on the morning of Christmas Eve. At the conclusion of the service the congregation joined the Senior Choir in the singing of Christmas Carols.

St. Luke Choir Director: Dena Papadopoulos

St. Luke Senior Choir:

Maria Armenti	Madeleine Le Bouteiller	Demetra Peters
Max Armenti	Carol Leon	Ilias Plakakis
Veronica Crisp	Ted Leon	George Poole
Carol Crouse	Patricia Missiras	Pamela Sande
Robert Jaquette	Peter J. Missiras	Stelianos Simantiris
Alexandra Kokonos	Evan Palmieri	Cathy Vinnicombe
Nicholas Lamprinakos	Nicole Papadopoulos	Janine Voudouris
Renee Lamprinakos	Peter Pavlis	Maria Zissimos
	Alexandra Perrot	Katerina Poole, Sunday Youth Choir

Christmas Pageant Singer: Grace Parkerson

Choir Director Dena Papadopoulos invites all who enjoy singing to join the St. Luke Senior or Sunday Youth Choir. For more information about joining please contact Dena Papadopoulos at [dena80papa@gmail.com](mailto:dena80papa@gmail.com)



## ***For Those in Need... you may ask, "What are we doing lately?"***

### ***February, 2025 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 in need.

On Monday evening, ***December 9<sup>th</sup>***, FTIN's ***December Cook*** prepared 165 dinners for The Life Center (Upper Darby) & The Salvation Army (Chester); thanks to all those FTIN volunteer Chefs who turned out! In addition, the following morning we also distributed about 100 meals prepared for Philoptochos Boutiques & Greek Treats thanks to the generosity of John Solomon and his staff; and with added thanks to Frank Pantazopoulos and Tiffany Bakery for their generous donation of a variety of apple, pumpkin and sweet potato pies. TLC was also the beneficiary that day of 100 place settings of excess dinnerware from: Philoptochos, which TLC can then provide to those of its residents upon leaving to help set up housekeeping in a more permanent residence elsewhere.

Our ***February Cook*** is scheduled for Monday, ***FEB 10<sup>th</sup>*** @ 4:30pm.

FTIN once again thanks all who supported St. Luke's ***Frozen Turkey Drive*** by donating ***145 Turkeys*** for distribution by the Salvation Army to families on its holiday food pantry register.

We extend our gratitude to all the FTIN members who filled the chapel for our ***Christmas Gift Giving Shoppers project***. Thank you to the GOYA members who enthusiastically wrapped the 150+ gifts that were distributed to the Chester Housing Authority.

***Update on FTIN's Annual Winter Apparel drive:*** the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP, was able to assist several families that had transitioned from protection program safe houses into independent living arrangements. The collection was so successful this year that our distribution was broadened to include The Life Center (TLC) as well. Both organizations were immensely grateful to St. Luke's Parishioners. Quoting from DAP's letter of thanks (to ALL of you) "" Your generosity directly provides survivors with some of the most basic necessities, helping to make their lives just a little easier. Thank you for helping those we serve. Together we are making a difference in our community.

Finally, 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, FEB 4<sup>th</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. Checks (payable to "For Those In Need") may be mailed to the parish office.

To learn more about FTIN, how you can volunteer or to donate, please contact:  
Alan Pcsolyar at: [apcsolyar@comcast.net](mailto:apcsolyar@comcast.net) or 610-457-6033

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Hello Sunday School Students and Families,

As Great Lent rapidly approaches, for your convenience we are sharing the Sunday School class and worship schedule for both February and March 2026:

## FEBRUARY

**February 1:** Worship and Classes; **readers for Commemoration of the Three Hierarchs**

**February 8:** Worship and Classes- **Spark Sunday: "Great Lent"**

**February 15:** No Classes, Presidents Day Weekend

**February 22:** Worship and Classes- Forgiveness/Cheesefare Sunday- **Remind students to bring Icons for procession next week**

**February 23:** Clean Monday, the first day of Great Lent

**February 27:** First Salutations, Flowers presented by Sunday School students

## MARCH

**March 1:** Worship and Classes; Sunday of Orthodoxy, procession with Icons; **Picture Day**

**March 6:** Second Salutations\*

**March 7:** *Bible Bowl, Annunciation, Elkins Park, 10-2*

**March 8:** Worship and Classes, Sunday of St Gregory Palamas; **Spark Sunday**

**March 13:** Third Salutations\*

**March 14:** ***Trip to Monastery***

**March 15:** Worship and Classes, Sunday of the Holy Cross

**March 20:** Fourth Salutations\*

**March 21:** ***Sights and Sounds, Holy Trinity, Wilmington***

**March 22:** Worship and Classes, Sunday of St John Climacus

**March 27:** Fifth Salutations\*

**March 29:** Worship and Classes, Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

***\*Flowers presented by Sunday School students***

## Readers for Commemoration of the Three Hierarchs:

On Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the end of Divine Liturgy, our Sunday School students will read short biographies of the Three Hierarchs being remembered at St. Luke on this day: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. We will send the readings to each volunteer ahead of time to allow each of them to become comfortable with the biographies. **We have one (1) volunteer so far and are looking for two (2) more!**

## Monastery Trip:

We have an incredible opportunity to share with you that you won't want to miss! We're inviting all Sunday School families to join us again for a truly miraculous experience: a trip to **St. George Church** in Taylor, Pennsylvania, to venerate the Kardiotissa weeping icon, followed by a visit to the peaceful **Holy Protection Monastery** in White Haven,

Pennsylvania. The date for this trip is **Saturday, March 14, 2026.**

\*Don't miss out on this extraordinary experience! Please see the flyer and registration form.

### **St. John Chrysostom Parish Oratorical Festival:**

On a date in late February still to be determined, our Junior and Senior Division speakers will compete in the St. Luke Parish Oratorical Festival immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The young people who choose to participate in this valuable program of the Archdiocese's Department of Religious Education are brave, wise beyond their years, and spiritual models for us all. For further information about the Parish Festival, please contact Parish Chairperson Art Karros at [akarros@gmail.com](mailto:akarros@gmail.com).

### **Psalm Readers for Salutation Services:**

We would like to have 1 to 3 Sunday School children read Psalms 50, 69, and/or 142 at the very beginning of each of the Lenten Salutation services to the Panagia. The dates for these services are Friday, February 27; March 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 6 pm.

### **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. It is also a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their public speaking skills which is so essential. We will send you the reading(s) ahead of time so that your child can practice and become comfortable with the texts beforehand. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for church on the day when he or she is scheduled to read—modestly and respectfully, as is common for all weekly services, a special Feast Day, or when celebrating a Holy Sacrament of the church. For example, athletic or workout clothes would not be appropriate for a reader to wear while leading the congregation in prayer or a reading from the Holy Bible.

**Questions about Sunday School?** Please contact our Sunday School Directors at [stlukesundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesundayschool@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.ss.st-luke.org>, which will be updated throughout the year with additional information and resources for families.



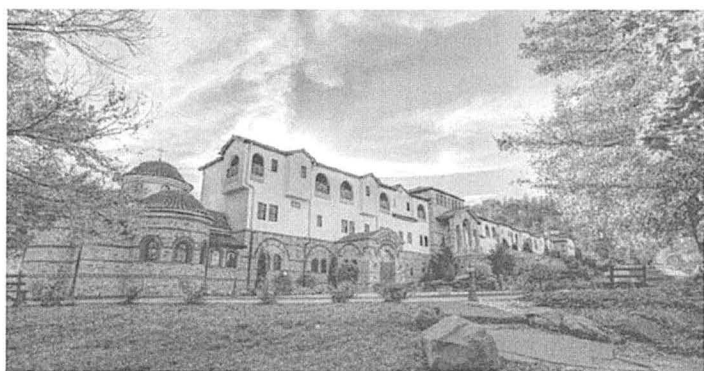
Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church

## Sunday School Pilgrimage to Saint George and the Holy Protection Monastery

Saturday, March 14th

\*deadline to register is 2/22

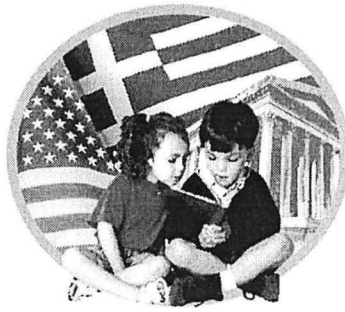
Register now



9 am	Depart Saint Luke for St. George
11 am	Arrive at St. George
11 am until 1 pm	Time with Father Marc and venerate the Kardiotissa
1 pm	Depart St. George
1:40 pm	Arrive at Holy Protection Monastery
1:40-4 pm	Lunch with the Sisters, tour of property (time permitting), visit to bookshop
4 pm	Vespers at Holy Protection Monastery
5 pm	Depart Holy Protection Monastery
6:30 pm	Arrive back at Saint Luke

## Experience the Kardiotissa Miraculous Weeping Icon!

Please join us for a 9 am departure on March 14th. We will leave promptly so if you encounter any issues, please call Panayota (610.564.1948) or Sophia (215.932.3505) on their cell phones. We are scheduled to arrive at St. George in Taylor, PA, at 11 am. We will spend about an hour with Father Marc, venerating the Kardiotissa. You can read more about this miraculous icon [here](#). After this, we will return to the vans and drive approximately forty minutes to the Holy Protection Monastery, arriving around 1:40 pm. We will enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the sisters at the monastery, take a tour of the property (time permitting), and visit the bookshop. Finally, we will attend vespers between 4 and 5 pm, arriving home at St. Luke by 6:30 pm. Please reach out to our Directors at [stlukesundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesundayschool@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.



## ST. LUKE GREEK SCHOOL

The Saint Luke Greek School had a busy fall. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, we held a Taverna Night, a fundraiser for the Greek School. It was a lively night with fun had by all. Thank you to all who joined us for this event.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, our children's voices filled the church for our annual Christmas program where they presented plays, traditional poems and sang Greek Christmas carols in celebration of the Christmas season. The Christmas spirit continued after the program as the PTO had prepared a light fare reception and Agios Vasilis brought gifts to the students. Unfortunately, our annual singing Kalanta in church on December 14<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the students were joined by their teachers and aides, the PTO, and of course, Father Christ to cut the Greek School vasilopitas to welcome in 2026. Congratulations to those who found the coin!

We are looking forward to a winter filled with many exciting activities and of course lots of learning! On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, St Luke is hosting the Metropolis Three Hierarchs celebration with many area churches joining us for the event.

Upcoming events:

- February 10<sup>th</sup>: Exams
- February 19<sup>th</sup>: Greek School trip to see the Harlem Globetrotters
- February 24<sup>th</sup> Report cards and parent conferences
- March 24<sup>th</sup>: Greek Independence Day program



# HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

## 2026-2027 UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF GREEK DESCENT OR DECLARED MAJORS IN HELLENIC STUDIES

Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents (green card holders) and must either be of Greek descent or have declared a major in Hellenic Studies.

Additional eligibility requirements apply based on the applicants' residence and prior receipt of Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia Scholarships, see: <https://www.hucphiladelphia.org/faq>

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Qualified applicants must be enrolled in, or have been accepted into, an undergraduate degree program at an accredited four-year college or university and must enroll as full-time students in Fall 2026. All applicants must demonstrate a record of outstanding academic achievement. Please note certain scholarships have additional eligibility requirements.

#### (a) Scholarships that require demonstrated financial need:

- **Dr. Michael Dorizas Memorial Scholarship**, honoring the late Dr. Michael Dorizas, a widely respected educator, lecturer, and athlete. This scholarship is reserved for qualified high school seniors. **\$6,000**
- **Founders Scholarship**, honoring the founders of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia. This scholarship is reserved for qualified students already enrolled in an undergraduate program during the spring of the current calendar year. **\$6,000**
- **Mary and Helen Beldecos Memorial Scholarship**, established to honor Mary and Helen Beldecos through a bequest from their estate. **\$6,000**
- **George C. Liacouras Memorial Scholarship** awarded to a qualified student in the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. If no eligible Wharton applicant is identified, the scholarship may be awarded to a qualified student of any other undergraduate or graduate program within the University of Pennsylvania. Established by Mrs. Effie Liacouras, this scholarship honors the memory of her husband, George C. Liacouras. **\$5,000**

#### (b) Merit scholarships that do not require submission of financial information:

- **Nicholas Karamatsoukas Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student who is pursuing a degree in Engineering, Business, or Hospitality Management. This scholarship was established by Mrs. Celeste Karamatsoukas and the Karamatsoukas family to honor Nicholas Karamatsoukas, a man whose life was defined by faith in education, a relentless work ethic, and a lifelong commitment to community. **\$20,000**
- **Joseph J. Gano Jr. Scholarship for studies in Engineering, Science, Mathematics, or Aviation**, awarded to a qualified student, in good academic standing, who is pursuing a degree in one of these fields. In addition to the main Paideia essay, applicants must submit a separate essay outlining why they are a suitable candidate for this scholarship. Established by the estate of Joseph J. Gano. **\$10,000**
- **Joseph J. Gano Jr. Scholarship for studies in Aerospace Engineering or Aviation for Women, Veterans, and ROTC**, awarded to a qualified student, in good academic standing, who is pursuing a degree in one of these fields. Proof of enrollment must be provided. In addition, applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria: female, honorably discharged Veteran, immediate family member of a Veteran, or ROTC student. In addition to the main Paideia essay, applicants must submit a separate essay



outlining why they are a suitable candidate for this scholarship. Established by the estate of Joseph J. Gano. **\$10,000.**

- **Paideia Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student whose parent(s) have been current members of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia and in good standing for at least three years. **\$6,000**
- **Plato Marinakos Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student with preference given - but not limited - to those in health or health-related disciplines. Applicants' parent(s) or grandparents must be members of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia and in good standing for at least three years. Established by Mrs. Vasie Marinakos, this scholarship honors the memory of her husband. **\$5,000**
- **Danielle Kousoulis Memorial Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student in business or a business-related discipline. Applicants' parents or grandparents must be current members of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia and in good standing for at least three years. Prior recipients of this Scholarship cannot be reconsidered for the same award. Established by the Danielle Kousoulis Memorial Scholarship Fund. Danielle Kousoulis was a recipient of a HUC scholarship in 1989-90 and was killed during the attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. **\$5,000**
- **Virginia Botsis Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student with preference given - but not limited - to those studying music. Established and funded through a bequest from Virginia Botsis. **\$5,000**
- **Cyprus Society Scholarship**, offered by the Cyprus Society of Greater Philadelphia to a student whose family has been a member in good standing of the Cyprus Society for the past 3 years. **\$2,500**
- **Goldie S. Vastardis Memorial Scholarship**, funded by a grant from Mr. Louis Vastardis in memory of his wife. This scholarship is awarded to a qualified student whose parents or grandparents are stewards in good standing of St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church, Broomall, Pennsylvania. **\$2,000**

#### LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Qualified applicants must be enrolled in, or accepted into a graduate degree program at an accredited university or professional school, and must enroll full-time in fall 2026. Postdoctoral applicants (post Ph.D.) are not eligible. Certain scholarships have additional eligibility requirements.

(a) Scholarships that require demonstrated financial need:

- **Nicholas J. Fisfis Memorial Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student pursuing studies leading to a graduate degree in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Medicine. Established in 2016, this annual award is funded by Kathleen and Nicholas Fisfis. **\$10,000**
- **Nicholas S. Hetos, DDS, and Maria Galanos Hetos, EdD, Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student pursuing a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree, to a dentist pursuing graduate studies in dental specialty certification, or to a student pursuing a graduate degree in education or an education-related field. This scholarship honors Dr. Nicholas S. Hetos, Philadelphia dentist, founding member, and past president of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia and Maria G. Hetos, EdD, an educator and past president of the Club and is funded by their daughters Catherine Hetos Skefos and Stephanie Hetos Cocke. **\$5,000**
- **John S. Manos, Esq., Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student pursuing studies leading to a Juris Doctor (JD) degree. Established in 2009, this scholarship honors John Stanley Manos, Esq., Philadelphia lawyer and long-time member of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia and is funded by the family and friends of John S. Manos. **\$2,000**
- **Dr. Peter A. Theodos Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, awarded to a qualified student pursuing studies leading to a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree. Established in 1988, this annual award honors Dr. Peter A.

Theodos, a Philadelphia physician, founding member, and past president of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia. This scholarship is funded by Mrs. Peter A. Theodos. **\$1,500**

(b) Merit scholarships that do not require submission of financial information:

- **Dr. Nicholas Padis Memorial Graduate Scholarship.** Academic excellence is the primary consideration for this scholarship. Established in 1986, this annual award honors Philadelphia physician, founding member, and first president of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia, Dr. Nicholas Padis. **\$6,000**
- **Chios Society of Philadelphia “Koraes” Scholarship,** awarded to students of Chian descent, in memory and honor of past and present leaders and members of the Chios Society of Philadelphia. In addition to the main Paideia essay, applicants must submit a separate essay on their connection with the island of Chios. **\$3,000**

## LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE STUDENTS

These scholarships are available to both undergraduate and graduate students. Eligibility requirements are as stated above for each student category.

- **Nicholas L. Gianopulos and Antoinette Manos Gianopulos Scholarship,** awarded to a qualified student pursuing a degree in the fields of civil engineering, architecture, or fine arts. Established in 2019, this annual award honors Nicholas L. Gianopulos and his wife Antoinette Manos Gianopulos. Preference will be given to candidates who have demonstrated financial need. This scholarship is funded by Antoinette Gianopulos, friends, and family in memory of Nicholas Gianopulos. **\$5,000.**
- **Eleftheria Scholarship of the Philadelphia Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6633,** awarded to children of the VFW Eleftheria Post 6633 of Philadelphia and their descendants. This scholarship recognizes the importance of the VFW organization and the contributions of its members to our society and especially our Philadelphia community. No Financial information needed.. **This award may be shared between two equally qualified candidates. \$5,000.** *Eleftheria scholarship applicants have no residency requirement*

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

- Determine eligibility status and find answers to common questions by visiting <https://www.hucphiladelphia.org/faq>
- Access and complete the application at <https://www.hucphiladelphia.org/how-do-i-apply>
- Submit the following documents: (a) transcripts and standardized test scores (if available), (b) resume (include extracurricular activities), (c) letter of recommendations (one for undergraduates and two for graduates) (d) Main Essay (note that, Chios Society, VFW and Gano scholarships require an additional essay), (e) FAFSA Student Aid Report information (for scholarships with demonstrated financial need requirements) and financial package letter (with offered scholarships/stipend and full tuition cost) from University, if received. - see application for more specific instructions.



To complete an application please go to <https://www.hucphiladelphia.org/how-do-i-apply>

**APPLICATION & ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 3, 2026.**

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at <https://www.hucphiladelphia.org/faq>

For additional questions, contact us at [hucscholarships@gmail.com](mailto:hucscholarships@gmail.com)

An up-to-date list of the scholarships is kept at <https://www.hucphiladelphia.org/current-scholarships>

A Q&A session will be held online 1/31/2026 at 3:00pm on Zoom at <https://lnkd.in/dnq5RcJa>  
(preregistration is required)



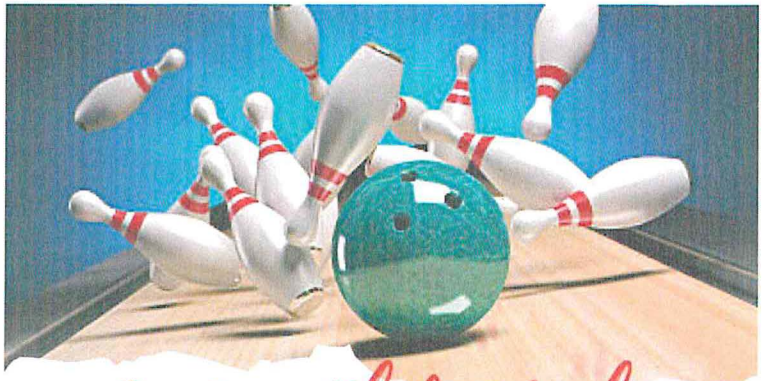
The St Luke Philoptochos Invites You To

# Sip and Savor

**Saturday, February 7th  
6pm – 8pm • In the Social Hall**

Discover Old World Wines

**Wine Pairing Included!  
Cost \$40  
(100% Donation)**



## Ladies Philoptochos **BOWLING** Night at Sproul Lanes

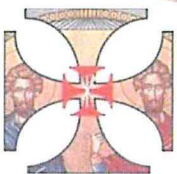
**FRIDAY  
FEB 27  
7-9 PM**

**ENTRY  
\$20**

**INCLUDES**  
SHOES,  
PIZZA,  
SNACKS &  
SOFT DRINKS

**All Members Welcome!**

SCAN to Sign by FEB 23 or  
Email [info@stlukephiloptochos.org](mailto:info@stlukephiloptochos.org)



**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Luke, in partnership with Rise Against Hunger, invites you to

## A MEAL PACKAGING EVENT

Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. [riseagainsthunger.org](http://riseagainsthunger.org)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 • 10 AM TO 12 PM  
ST LUKE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Contact: Christina Thomas at [thomascut@aol.com](mailto:thomascut@aol.com)  
[www.stlukephiloptochos.org](http://www.stlukephiloptochos.org)

SCAN HERE:  
REGISTER TO  
VOLUNTEER





# Philoptochos Society News

## SAVE THE DATE

*Sip and Savor - Saturday, February 7, 2026*

*Bowling Night! - Friday, February 27, 2026*

*Rise Against Hunger - Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>*

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

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

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

*Bag Bingo - Nov 6, 2026*

February is Women's Heart Health Awareness Month

February 1st marks the beginning of Heart Month, a meaningful reminder that caring for our hearts is one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves. Heart disease remains the leading health concern for women, often going unnoticed until it becomes serious, making awareness and prevention all the more important. On Sunday, February 1st, we invite all ladies to wear red in solidarity as we honor our wellbeing, raise awareness, and encourage one another to take proactive steps toward a healthier future. Learn more by visiting [GoRedforWomen.org](https://www.GoRedforWomen.org).

**Philoptochos Stewardship Information-** January is Stewardship Month! We are in the process of collecting Chapter Stewardship for 2026. The minimum is \$35 per year. However, feel free to offer a stewardship amount of your choosing.

**NEW AUTO-RENEW FEATURE:** You may opt to auto-renew your membership, so you don't have to arrange for payment each year. *Select "Yes, do renew" on the checkout page to use this feature.* Your Stewardship will be renewed in January each year.

As a valued member of Philoptochos, your membership contribution is instrumental in supporting our philanthropic mission. Every membership contribution empowers us with the resources and credibility needed to extend our reach and deepen our impact.

*If you have been thinking about becoming a member, this is the perfect opportunity to stop by and join! Note: Questions, reach out to Stewardship Chairperson Stacy Floratos at [membership@stlukephiloptochos.org](mailto:membership@stlukephiloptochos.org)*

**Coffee Hour Volunteers-** Coffee Hour continues into 2026! The schedule for volunteers is available, so please look for your name and hope you will be able to come and volunteer on the day that you are assigned. If you cannot make it, please find a replacement. Thank you. Effie Guthrie, Betsy Pappas and Diana Palumbo, Chairladies

**Vasilopita Baking-**Thank you Maria Carafides, Dee Karras, Carnation Karros, Maria Pagiotas, and Diane Sioutis for making the baking of the Vasilopitas for our church parishioners a success. And a big thank you to all the Philoptochos members that helped cut and bag the pieces! Best, Maria Pagiotas

**11th Annual Boutiques & Greek Treats 2025-**"Thank you" to ALL of our vendors, volunteers, bakers, donors & shoppers! **Our Committee:** **American Pastry Shop:** Joanna Mattis; **Bar:** Turner Family; **Greek Pastry Shop:** Maria Carafides, Genie Gekas, Karen Kotapka, Diane Sioutis & our "Tuesdays @10 bakers"; **Raffles:** Alexandra Perrot; **Restaurant**

**Gift Card Wreaths Raffles:** Niki Tsetsekos; **Taverna/Kitchen:** John Solomon; **Runners:** Elena Aughey, Jeannie Fischer; **Kitchen Crew:** Michael Cook, Brad Fischer, Ted Leon, Nick & Terry Vastardis; **Taverna iPads:** Andy Papageorge; **Taverna Setup & Coffee Bar:** Effie Guthrie; **Welcome, 50/50, & Hourly Door Prizes:** Alexis Limberakis, Lisa Palmieri; **Wreath Corner:** Martha DiCamillo, Kathy Fisfis; **Yiayia's Attic:** Sandie Liacouras; **Yiayia's Attic Jewelry:** Alexandra Perrot; **Decorations:** Demetra Peters; **Music & Acoustics:** Art & Carnation Karros; **Office & Custodial Support:** Vida Bona, Anthony Cradle, Garnett Williams; **Publicity/Signs/Vendors:** Polina & Christine Turner; **Treasurers:** Sue Clark. Olympia Corbino; **Website, Electronic & Online Support:** Alexa Angelakos, Amelia Fritz, Katherine Kennedy, Nikki Serafim. Special thanks to our "**Route 3 Friends**" for posting our signs: Maria Argyropoulos, Mylonas Law, the Costalas Family (Charlotte's & Country Squire) & all our Donors: In Kind, Monetary & Restaurant Gift Cards!

**Sip and Savor-** The St. Luke Philoptochos invites you to "Sip and Savor" while discovering old world wines and experiencing wine pairing during an elegant and lovely night out. Join us on Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 6-8 pm in the Social Hall of the Education Building. The cost is \$40.00 (100% donation). Come taste and learn about Old World Wines by a professional Sommelier. Wines will be paired with appetizers, and you will receive your very own personalized Philoptochos wine glass. You will have the opportunity to purchase your favorite wine(s) at a super discounted price along with our newly designed bottle stopper, and additional personalized wine glasses. Entire ticket price and sales of personalized wine glasses and bottle stoppers go directly to Philoptochos through the very generous donation by Christina Thomas. Event is capped at 50 people. The event flyer may be found elsewhere in this Epistle. For more information, please contact the event chair, Christina Thomas, at [thomascut@aol.com](mailto:thomascut@aol.com). To register, please use the QR code below.



**Bowling Night!** Friday, February 27, 2026. Sproul Lanes. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Cost; \$20.00 per person. Includes shoes, pizza, snacks and soft drinks. Questions to Alexis Limberakis. Event is capped at 30 participants.

**Rise Against Hunger 2026-** *Save the Date!* St. Luke Philoptochos will host a Meal Packaging Event on Saturday, March 28th, in our St. Luke Community Center. The mission of Rise Against Hunger is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilizing the necessary resources. For more information, visit [riseagainsthunger.org](http://riseagainsthunger.org). Please Scan the QR Code on the flyer found elsewhere in this Epistle to register to help. We look forward to working with our St. Luke Community volunteers to help end world hunger. Contact Christina Thomas, at [thomascut@aol.com](mailto:thomascut@aol.com), or [www.stlukephiloptochos.org](http://www.stlukephiloptochos.org), for more information.

**Philoptochos Scholarship-** Two generous donations have provided Philoptochos with the ability to add a second \$3000 and a new \$2500 Scholarship to our 2026 awards. The Krajewski Family has contributed \$3000 and an anonymous donor has donated \$2500.

The Scholarship Committee will review all applications and determine the recipients for the three Philoptochos scholarships based on merit and eligibility. The scholarship recipients will

be high school students who are United States citizens and whose parents or legal guardian(s) are stewards of Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, PA. The final recommendations are sent to Father Christ Kontos for his approval.

Ensure that your application is carefully proofread and includes all required documents before submitting them to the Church Office by Friday, April 24, 2026. Applicants may apply for one \$3000 award and/or the \$2500 award by checking the appropriate box or boxes on the application. Any questions contact Anna Hadgis at [anna.hadgis@gmail.com](mailto:anna.hadgis@gmail.com).

**2026 Bid 'n Buy**- SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, May 7th, 2026! Get ready to rewind the clock and crank up the glam—our 80's Ladies Bid 'n Buy, our biggest fundraiser of the year, is coming, and it's going to be *totally awesome!* Tickets go on sale March 1st!

Sponsor the Bid 'n Buy! The more successful the Bid 'n Buy, the greater our outreach, and the more people we can help. We welcome both businesses and individuals to sponsor the event to increase our impact. If you'd like to become a Bid 'n Buy sponsor, simply scan the QR code below. As a sponsor, your name - or your business name - will appear in our event program (unless you prefer to remain anonymous). All 350+ guests will receive a program the night of the event. We will also proudly feature business logos for our Diamond and Platinum Sponsors on our webpage. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!



Love to shop? This year, you can also sponsor a Main Table gift through our Amazon Wishlist! Just scan the QR code below to select a gift to sponsor. Thank you for your generous support!

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

**Philoptochos Charity Committee**- November and December were very busy months for our Charity Committee, as donations were made to the following organizations:

**-Ryan's Case for Smiles** received \$200.00 in loving memory of Sophie Mantakounis,

helping provide cheerful pillowcases to children facing serious illness and hospitalization.

**-Chester Charter Scholars Academy** was awarded \$2,000 to strengthen and expand their music curriculum, supporting the purchase of student instruments and materials that foster creativity, confidence, and academic growth.

**-The CHOP Homeless Health Initiative Art Programs** granted \$400 towards providing gift cards for holiday food shopping and supporting families experiencing homelessness with nourishment/dignity.

**-Grands Stepping Up** was provided with \$1,000 to fund fifty \$20 Giant Food gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for families in need. This organization was given \$1,000 in gift cards to Movie theaters, Chic- Fil A, Starbucks, Sephora, Ulta, Roblox, and Dicks Sporting Goods for the older children and teenagers of Grands Stepping Up.



- The Calliope Joy Foundation** was presented with \$500 to advance research, resources, and support for families affected by leukodystrophies.
- A Haven** received \$1,500 to support grief counseling, essential needs, and safe, nurturing spaces for children and families navigating loss.
- The Salvation Army's New Day to Stop Trafficking program** was provided \$1,000, helping supply personal items, Christmas gifts, and essentials for survivors.
- Families Forward Philadelphia** was given **\$1,000** towards education initiatives for its residents and families.
- The National Philoptochos Department of Social Services** sent \$500 to support stability, care, and compassion to families, seniors, and individuals in crisis.
- Dawn's Place** was given \$1,500 to assist with the purchase of new appliances for the home to replace those damaged by a recent fire and additional smoke damage.
- HopePHL** received \$1,000 towards food relief for families, assistance with rent and utilities for families in transitional housing.
- Chester County Food Bank** was presented with a donation of \$1,000.
- Home of the Sparrow** was given \$1,500 in market gift cards to Aldi, Giant, and Walmart worth \$25.
- Veterans Village** received our annual donation of \$1,500.
- Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center** was given \$500 in gift cards for the 2025 Holiday Gift Project for our Veterans at the Medical Center.
- City Team Chester**, received a \$2,500 donation in support of women's housing.
- FTIN, MudGirls Studio (Atlantic City), and Hosts for Hospitals** were given \$500 each to support their work in community empowerment, creative employment opportunities, and housing assistance for families facing medical crises.
- Penn State THON**, in response to a request from Johnny Papadopoulos, a Penn State senior and THON chair for his business fraternity, and due to THON raising \$17.7 million last year for pediatric cancer research and treatment, received \$1,000 to support Johnny's team's efforts.
- The Ability Experience** received \$500 to sponsor John Serafim in the Surf City Marathon. This organization ensures athletes with disabilities can participate fully in races and endurance events nationwide.
- The GVMS PTO Jingle Bell Jog**, a festive community run/walk co-organized by our own Katherine Kennedy, received a \$500 donation to help students and families facing food insecurity or financial hardship receive consistent, compassionate support throughout the year.
- The St. Agnes Pre-School Program in West Chester**, was presented with a \$500 donation to support the nutritional needs of children in their after-school tutoring program. The program provides hearty snacks twice a week and sends food home to families, also offering a Basic Needs Center, Health Clinic, and Educational Support.

**Bag Bingo**- Save the Date! We are very excited to announce our first annual Bag Bingo on November 6, 2026 in the Community Center. To make this inaugural event a success, we are kindly seeking donations of:

- Luxury items (designer accessories, jewelry, tech gadgets, spa packages, or gift cards)
- Monetary donations that will be put towards purchasing high-end raffle prizes

Your generosity will help us create an unforgettable evening and raise meaningful funds for our charitable initiatives. Every donation—large or small—makes a difference. If you would like to contribute or learn more about how you can support the event, please reach out to Christina Mahjouri at [christina@cemeli.com](mailto:christina@cemeli.com).

**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. Our Ladies Philoptochos would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations:



- Carnation Karros, for her sponsorship of Saturday, November 1, 2025, Sts. Cosmas & Damianos icon, for the well-being of St. Luke Ladies Philoptochos Members, and expressing her thankfulness.
- Anonymous, for her sponsorship Sunday, November 9, 2025, St. Nektarios the Wonderworker.
- Kathy Vasiliou, for her sponsorship of Tuesday, November 25, 2025 St. Katherine the Great Martyr icon, for the well-being of the Vasiliou Family.
- Katina Maltas, for her sponsorship of Saturday, December 6, 2025, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker icon, for the well-being of the Maltas family.
- Kathleen Fisfis, for her sponsorship of Saturday, December 6, 2025, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker icon, in loving memory of her husband, Nicholas Fisfis.
- Our Ladies Philoptochos, for its sponsorship of Saturday, December 6, 2025, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker floral, in honor of a special Philoptochos donor.
- Anonymous, for her sponsorship of Wednesday, December 24, 2025, Christmas Eve morning icon, in loving memory of her loved one.
- Greg Poryzees, for his sponsorship of Sunday, January 25, 2026, St. Gregory the Theologian icon, in loving memory of Alexander Poryzees.
- Our St. Luke Greek School, for its sponsorship of Friday, January 30, 2026, Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs icon, for the well-being of St. Luke Greek School Families.

**Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:**

- Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple- Monday, February 2
- St. Haralambos the Martyr- Tuesday, February 10

If you would like to sponsor an icon, you may pay online through the Philoptochos website; simply scan the QR code below with your phone; or mail your payment to the church and include the words 'icon sponsorship' on your envelope. If you have any questions, you may contact Niki Tsetsekos at 610-500-3056 or ntsetsekos@gmail.com.

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



**Philoptochos Members - OUR DIRECTORY IS ONLINE!** Please register with our website: [www.stlukephiloptochos.org](http://www.stlukephiloptochos.org) for access to the Members Only Online Directory. Get our APP! For directory access, Philoptochos news & events on the go, use our Membership Toolkit app right from your smartphone.

*Paper directories are available by request.*

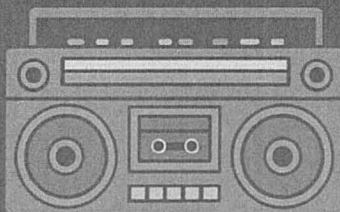
ST. LUKE PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS...

# 80'S LADIES' BID N BUY

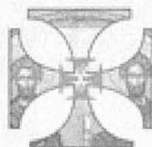
*Big hair, big hearts!*

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

ADMISSION & DINNER: \$40  
ST. LUKE COMMUNITY CENTER  
35 N. MALIN RD, BROOMALL, PA  
CONTACT: [bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org](mailto:bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org)  
or call 610-353-1592



scan the qr code  
for details



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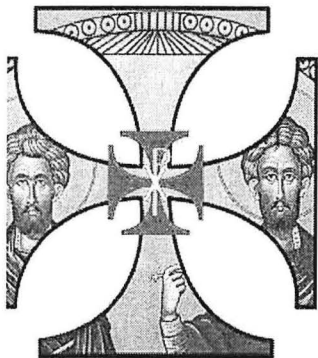
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## GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT LUKE – CHAPTER 1082

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Luke offers two **\$3,000 scholarships** and one **\$2500** scholarship to high school students who are United States citizens and whose parents or legal guardian are stewards of Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. These are competitive scholarships based on need and merit. The award winner is selected by the Scholarship Committee and its recommendations are made to Rev. Christ Kontos for approval.

Applicants must be accepted into an accredited college or university or an accredited vocational program in the United States.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Male ( ) Female ( )

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, Email and Telephone Number of Guidance Counselor/Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_ SAT or ACT test scores: SAT: Math \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence Based Reading and Writing: \_\_\_\_\_ ACT: Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_

**List of Accomplishments and Awards:** (Attach a Resume or additional sheet if necessary)

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**List of Community Activities and Groups:** Church Groups and Church Related Activities, Scouting, Missionary Work, Youth Clubs, Civic Groups, Volunteer Organizations. Include duties and number of months or years of service. (Attach a Resume or additional sheet if necessary)

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**List of School Extracurricular Activities:** Band, Student Council, Sports, Yearbook, Clubs, National Honor Society, Drama, etc. (Attach a Resume or additional sheet if necessary)

Activity	Number of years	Special honors/ Offices held
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



**Employment History:**

Name of employer \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of employment and duties \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**Financial Need: (If applicable)**

Estimated total cost of school per year: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has applied for financial aid assistance as follows:

1. Grant from college or vocational school: Yes ( ) No ( )

2. Grants from all other sources (specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**Personal Statement:**

In a personal statement of 300 words or less, write a well-structured essay addressing your future goals and aspirations and how you plan to achieve them.

Please supply the following required information to the Scholarship Committee:

1. Copy of acceptance letter to an accredited college/university/technical or vocational school.
2. Personal statement of 300 words or less.
3. Two letters of reference: One from a teacher, principal or counselor who has known you for at least 2 years, and one personal reference from an adult connected to St. Luke who has known you for at least 2 years such as, a Youth Ministry Advisor, Sunday School or Greek School teacher, other than a family member.
4. Copy of high school transcript.
5. Please check if you are applying for a \$3000 scholarship \_\_\_\_\_ and a \$2500 scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

**All applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 24, 2026. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.** All information received from applicants will be treated as confidential.

Scholarship winner will be notified by **May 30, 2026.**

Mail completed application to:

**Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Luke****Scholarship Applicant****St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church**

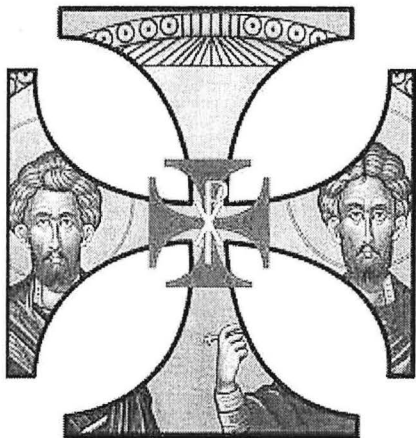
35 North Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## JOHN PAKURIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The John Pakuris Memorial Scholarship offers two \$2500 scholarships to two qualified students who are United States citizens and parishioners whose family are in good standing with the St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. The competitive scholarships are based on merit and need with the award winners to be selected upon recommendation by the Scholarship Committee to the parish priest. Applicants must be attending or accepted into an

accredited undergraduate four-year college or university in the United States or in any other country. Any candidate who has been accepted into an Orthodox seminary and is pursuing a life in the ministry of our Greek Orthodox Church will be given priority. Recipients may not re-apply in successive years for the scholarship.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P.O. Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home/mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Male ( ) Female ( )

Name of most recent High School, College or University: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of School: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P.O. Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Email address and telephone number of Guidance Counselor/Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade point average \_\_\_\_\_

Student Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_ number of students

SAT or ACT test scores:

SAT: Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence Based Reading and Writing: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT: Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name of college or university for which aid is requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Post-Secondary School: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P.O. Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Major Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

**List of Accomplishments and Awards:** (attach Resume or additional sheet if necessary) National Honor Society, National Merit Finalist, Class Officer, etc.

**List of Church and Community Groups and Activities:** (attach Resume or additional sheet if necessary) Church Groups and church related activities, Missionary Work, Youth Clubs, Civic Groups, Scouting, Volunteer Organizations, etc.

Church and Community Service Organization

Months/Years Involved

**List of School/Extracurricular Activities:** (attach Resume or additional sheet if necessary) Band, Student Council, Sports, Yearbook, Language Clubs, Key Club, Jazz Band, Chorus, Drama, Literary Club etc.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of years</u>	<u>Special honors/Offices held</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Employment history:**

<u>Name of employer:</u>	<u>Dates of employment:</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Financial Need:** (include the following)

Estimated total cost of school per year: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate of parents' contribution toward yearly expenses: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate of applicant's contribution towards yearly expenses: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has applied for other financial aid assistance as follows:

1. Grant from college	Yes ( )	No ( )	Amount received _____
2. Grants from all other sources (specify):			Amount received _____
_____			_____
_____			_____

**Personal Statement:**

In a personal statement of 300 words or less write an essay titled "How Orthodoxy Guides My Life".

**Please supply the following information to the scholarship committee:**

1. Copy of high school transcript and/or transcript from your college or university
2. Copy of acceptance letter to accredited college or university
3. Personal Statement of 300 words or less
4. Three letters of reference: one from teacher, principal or counselor; the second from an employer, coach or activity supervisor; the third from a non-relative church member, Sunday school teacher or church activity supervisor who has known you for at least two years

**All applications must be postmarked no later than April 24, 2026.** Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed. All information received from applicants will be treated as confidential. A personal interview may be required of finalists. Notification will take place by May 22, 2026.

Visit our web site for information or applications: [www.St-Luke.org](http://www.St-Luke.org)

Mail completed application to:

**John Pakuris Memorial Scholarship**

**St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church**

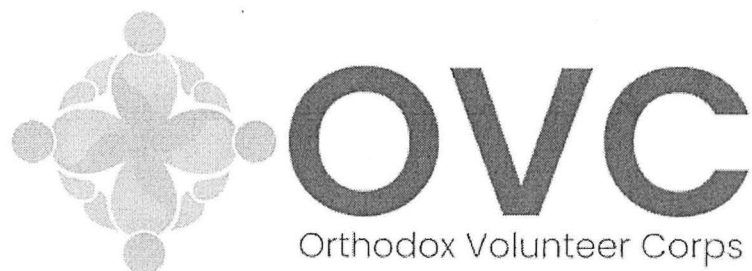
35 North Malin Road

Broomall, PA19008

Signature of Parent/Guardian (for student under 21) \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# OVC SUNDAY – JANUARY 25

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## LIVE YOUR FAITH. SERVE FOR A YEAR.

Orthodox Volunteer Corps (OVC) is a yearlong domestic service program for Orthodox young adults and an official Agency of the Assembly of Bishops. We offer young adults from across the country an immersive year of service in Pittsburgh and Boston, working at homeless shelters, after-school programs, free medical clinics, and more. In addition, Corps Members receive weekly formation & training in Orthodoxy and community-based leadership development, live in community with other Orthodox young adults, and engage local parishes. Housing, transportation, and food are 100% covered.

OVC began in Pittsburgh in 2022 and expanded to Boston in 2024. We invite you to give a gift and help us expand to more cities! **Application deadline for Fall 2026 is February 19.** Applicants must be 21–29 years old.

Scan the QR code to nominate a young adult, apply yourself, or give a gift today!

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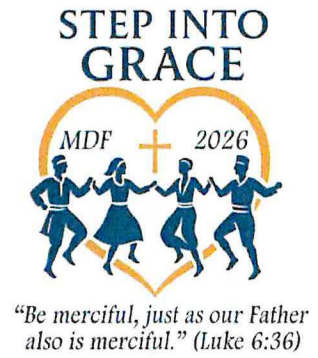
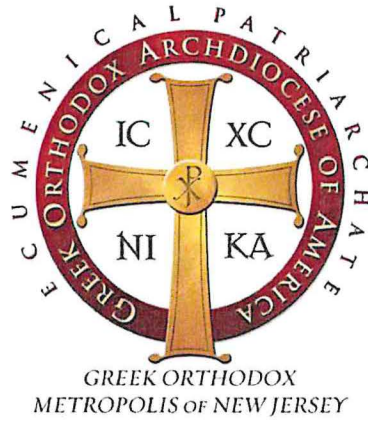


## LEARN MORE ABOUT OVC

For more info email OVC staff Michael Sider-Rose and Kyra Limberakis at:

[info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org](mailto:info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org)





# MDF 2026

February 13-16

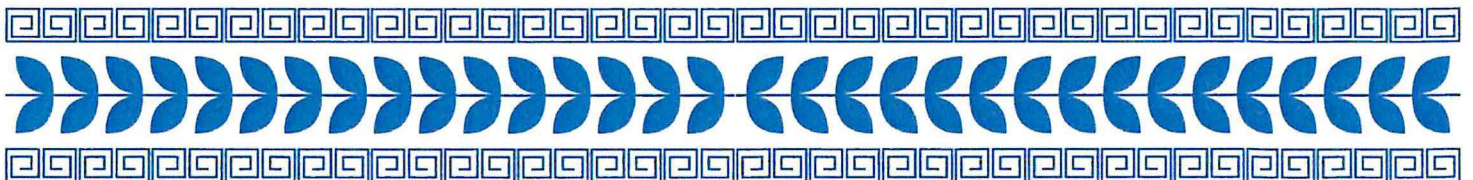
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown

- Friday Night Opening Ceremonies
- Dance & Choir competition Saturday & Sunday
- Saturday Night Glendi featuring Kalomira and the Marcantonis Band
- Sunday Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- Sunday Night Awards Banquet

Praise God with timbrel and dance!  
Αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν ἐν τυμπάνῳ καὶ χορῶ!  
Psalm 150:4



Register now!



# 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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