

THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

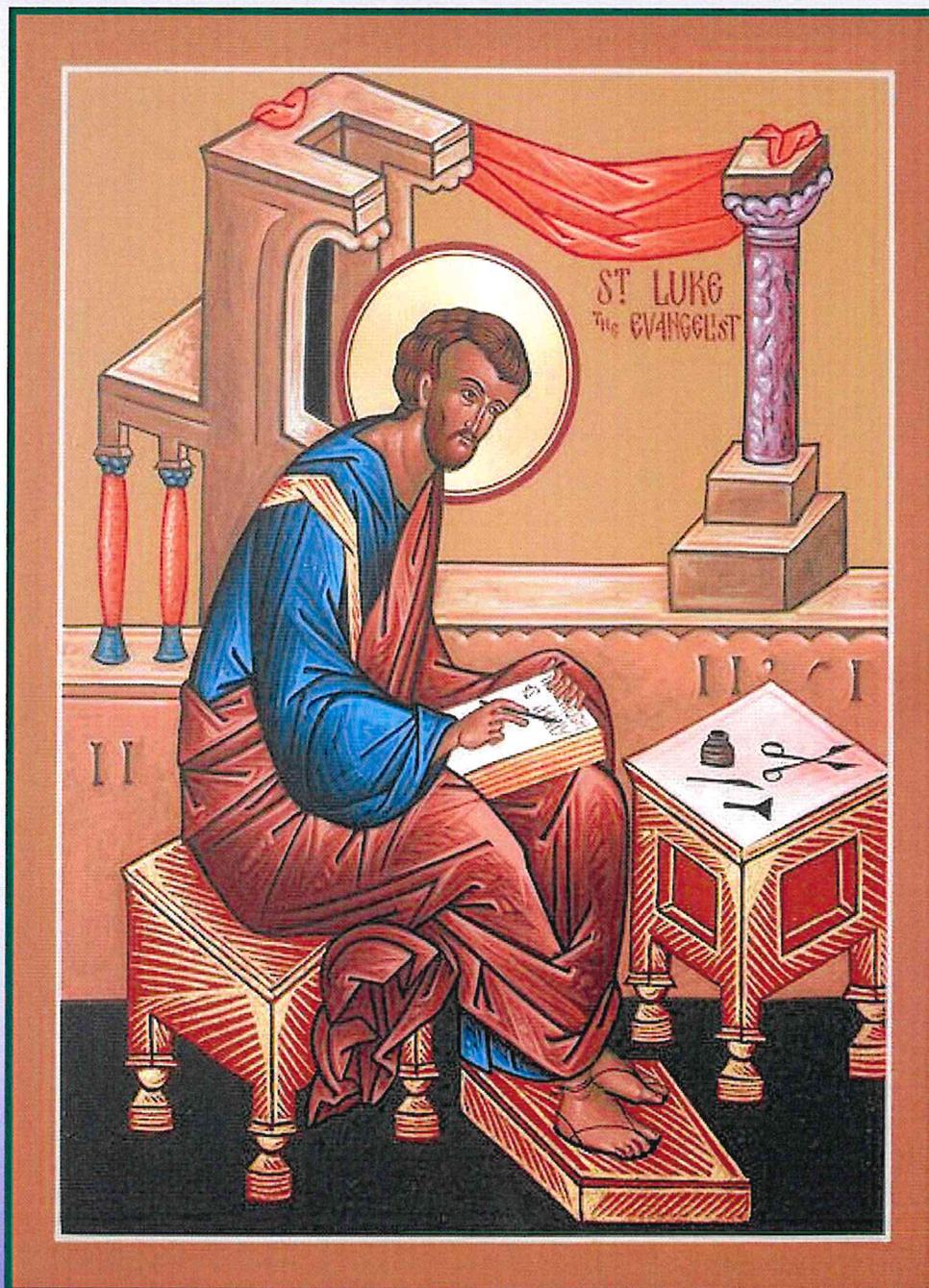
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

(610) 353-1592

www.st-luke.org

APRIL 2025



THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

*Christ is risen from the dead
And by His death He has trampled upon death
And to those in the tombs bestows life!*

All Orthodox Christians know and chant with enthusiasm the triumphant hymn of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The icon of Christ's descent into Hades which graces the walls of our church, is the visual expression of this most beautiful hymn. Christ is seen as the Life-giver as He tramples on the gates of Hades, taking Adam and Eve by the hands raising them to life.



Through our Lord's entrance into Hades, death and sin have been vanquished. The radiant halo that surrounds Him depicts the radiant energy of His glorious Resurrection. He fills the darkness of Hades with the brilliance of His light. Standing upon the broken gates of the kingdom of Death, He demonstrates His victory over sin and Death by His own Crucifixion and Resurrection.

This event reveals the promise to each of us, that we too will be raised to enjoy the Divine Life in the Heavenly Kingdom. In liberating our first parents, Christ also frees those who put their faith in His coming. This truth is seen in the presence of Kings, David and Solomon, vested in royal robes and crowns. They stand together with John the Baptist at Christ's right. Moses and the Prophets of the Old Testament stand at His left and with them, all of humanity is raised.

At the midnight hour of April 20th, the night of Pascha, the church is calm and dark. The priest comes out from the Holy Altar inviting the faithful to "...receive the light from the unwaning Light; and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead." We "*enter into the joy of the Lord*" and announce to the world: "It is the Day of Resurrection: Let us be glorious in splendor for the Festival, and let us embrace one another. Let us speak also, O brethren, to those that hate us, and in the Resurrection, let us forgive all things, and so let us cry: CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD AND BY HIS DEATH HE HAS TRAMPLED UPON DEATH AND TO THOSE IN THE TOMBS HE BESTOWS LIFE!"

In anticipation of the Resurrected Christ who is the source of true joy fill your life with peace and spiritual joy always.

Peace and blessings,

A blue ink signature, likely of the author, written in a cursive style.

PARISH LIFE

Forty-Day Blessings

On March 16, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Theo James**. Congratulations to **Keith Ellis & Despina Guthrie** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On March 20, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Asterios Skrimbas**. Congratulations to **George & Marianna Skrimbas** as we anticipate the Baptism!



Baptisms & Chrismations

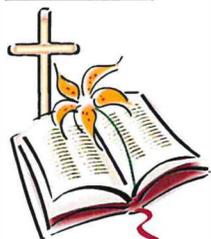


The daughter of **David Marcucci & Patra Konugres** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on March 2, 2025. Her sponsor, **George Fisfis**, baptized her with the name *Irini*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Adele Irini Marcucci**.

The daughter of **Sean & Theodora Small** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on March 15, 2025. Her sponsor, **Lauren Niser**, baptized her with the name *Eliana*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Eliana Sophia Small**.

Amit Paul Deka, Lilyana Sophia Georgiou-Deka, and Demetrius Amal Georgiou-Deka were baptized on March 23, 2025. Their sponsors, Peter Karamolengos, Alexandria P. Stathakis, and Nina Catherine Lazaridis, baptized them with the names *Paul, Sophia, and Demetrius*.

Funerals



Lefki Spalas fell asleep in the Lord on March 1, 2025. Funeral service was held on March 6, 2025.

Alexander Papageorge fell asleep in the Lord on March 8, 2025. Funeral service was held on March 13, 2025.

Nicholas James Fisfis fell asleep in the Lord on March 20, 2025. Funeral service was held on March 26, 2025.

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

APRIL 2026 – ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR



Wednesday, April 2nd – Presanctified Liturgy 6:00pm

Friday, April 4th - Akathist Hymn 6:00pm

Sunday, April 6th – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

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

Wednesday, April 9th – Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, April 12th – Lazarus Saturday

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

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

Sunday, April 13th – Palm Sunday

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

HOLY WEEK

(HOLY WEEK BEGINS SUNDAY EVENING)

Sunday Evening, April 13th

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 6:00pm

Monday, April 14th - Holy Monday

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 6:00pm

Tuesday, April 15th – Holy Tuesday: Hymn of Kassiani

Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am

Bridegroom/Nymphios Service 6:00pm

Wednesday, April 16th – Holy Wednesday

Presanctified Liturgy 10:00am

Sacrament of Holy Unction Early Service 4:00pm

Sacrament of Holy Unction 6:00pm

Thursday, April 17th – Holy Thursday

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00am

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

Friday, April 18th – Holy Friday

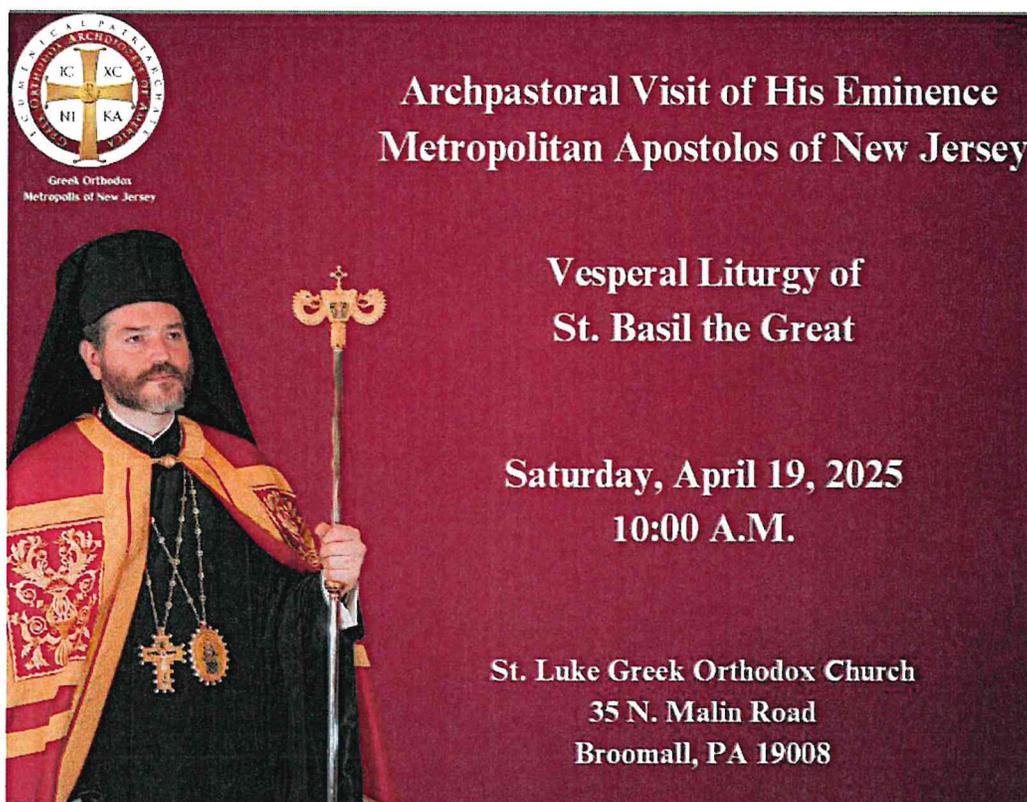
Royal Hours 10:00am

Taking down Christ from Cross, Apokathelosis 3:00pm

Lamentations & Procession of Epitaphio 6:00pm

Saturday, April 19th – Holy Saturday

Morning Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil 10:00am



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

**Vesperal Liturgy of
St. Basil the Great**

**Saturday, April 19, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

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

GREAT and HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

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

ANASTASIS/RESURRECTION SERVICE – 12:00 Midnight

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom follows

Sunday, April 20th – PASCHA/EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

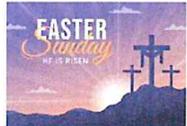
Vespers Agape Service 11:00am

Easter Egg Hunt for Children to follow

Sunday, April 27th – Thomas Sunday

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

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10am Baking 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	2 11am Bible Study	3 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal	4	5
6 <i>Greek Independence Day Parade</i>  11am Sunday School	7 4:30pm FTIN Cooking 6pm Baking Prep 7pm Parish Council 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	8 10am Baking 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm Adult Volleyball	9 <i>Church Cleaning</i>  11am Bible Study	10 9am Playgroup / Story time 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12 Sunday School Palm Folding
13  11am Sunday School	14  <i>HOLY WEEK</i>	15  <i>HOLY WEEK</i>	16  <i>HOLY WEEK</i>	17  <i>HOLY WEEK</i> 9am Philoptochos Easter Egg Dying OFFICE CLOSED!!	18  9am Philoptochos Epitaphio Decorating OFFICE CLOSED!!	19
20  <i>EASTER Sunday</i> HE IS RISEN	21 OFFICE CLOSED!!	22 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	23 11am Bible Study	24 9am Playgroup 10:30am Senior Men Excursion to Shady Maple 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal	25	26
27 11am Sunday School 12pm PC General Assembly	28 10am Baking	29 10am Baking 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	30 11am Bible Study			

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.



Diakonia is looking for Volunteers

The Diakonia Ministry is a group of volunteers who help with the Sunday Liturgy. On occasional Sundays, the main responsibilities include greeting parishioners as they arrive, passing trays, handing out bulletins and other small details on Sunday mornings.

This program was developed so that parishioners can volunteer to help the community. No experience is necessary! This is a great opportunity to serve the church and connect with other parishioners. **This is not a weekly commitment.**

We would greatly appreciate any volunteers who can spare some time to support the Diakonia. If you're available and interested in helping, please contact Tom Trantas at, tomisgreek@yahoo.com or 610.203.1132.

Diakonia Schedule April 6 – June 15, 2025

Date	On Duty	On Duty
April 6	Anna Hadgis	Barbara Papageorge
Palm Sunday - April 13	Tom Trantas	Anna Trantas
Easter Sunday - April 20	Stephanie Carroll	Vasie Marinakos
April 27	Maria Carafides	Diane Souits
May 4	Sonya Pappas	Gus Pappas
Mother's Day - May 11	Martha DiCamillo	Marta Laynas
May 18	Stephanie Carroll	Ellena Vaganos
May 25	Anna Hadgis	Vasie Marinakos
June 1	Tom Trantas	Anna Trantas
June 8	Dee Karras	Maria Carafides
Father's Day - June 15	Linda Lempere	Barbara Papageorge

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

APR:	Chairs:	Martha DiCamillo	Maria Nvrosidis
6-Apr	Evangelia Gavrilas-Kranz	Nikki Serafim	Argie Naza
13-Apr	Barbara Papageorge	Patricia Baldwin	Martha Tavantzis
20-Apr	<i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	<i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	<i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>
27-Apr	Paula Pastris-Farrell	Phyllis Roebas	Stephanie Koch
MAY:	Chairs: Sandra Liacouras	Betsy Pappas	Diana Palumbo
4-May	Deeta Fuorentino	Spiridoula Bottos	Diane Sioutis
11-May	<i>MOTHER'S DAY</i>	<i>MOTHER'S DAY</i>	<i>MOTHER'S DAY</i>
18-May	Anna Andreadis	Sara Andreadis	Kathy Melandrakis
25-May	Vasie Marinakos	Georgia Pappas	Marinela Tsapournas



2025 GREEK AFFAIR IS SEPTEMBER 19, 20 & 21

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 diansioutis@yahoo.com; Karen Kotapka mkotapka@aol.com; Maria Carafides mcarafides@gmail.com

2025 GREEK AFFAIR BAKING SCHEDULE - *All Sessions Begin at 10:00am*

<u>PASTRY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAIRS</u>
BAKLAVA	Tuesday April 1 st	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka Mary Missiras
GALAKTOBOURIKO	Tuesday April 8 th	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka Mary Missiras
SPANAKOPITA	Monday April 28 th	Deme Peters
SPANAKOPITA	Tuesday April 29 th	John Solomon
KOULOOURAKIA	Tuesday May 13 th	Tom and Anna Trantas Ginny Markos Michelle Karalis
FENEKIA	Tuesday May 20 th	Diane Sioutis
TYROPITAS	Tuesday June 3 rd	Maria Carafides Eugenia Gekas
KARIDOPITA /REVANI	Tuesday June 10 th	Diane Sioutis Karen Kotapka
TSOUREKIA	Monday June 16 th	Diana Sioutis Katina Dollos
TSOUREKIA	Tuesday June 17 th	Karen Kotapka
KOURABIEDES	September TBA	Angelique Demetris

Stewardship Corner

St. Luke gives us so much—
friendships, spiritual guidance, community, education, and meaningful traditions.

We have been blessed and fortunate to have Father Christ
leading our community for many years.

He has been an amazing leader, tirelessly encouraging us,
strengthening our faith and keeping the St. Luke spirit alive.

He challenges us to grow as Christians
while reminding us to stay humble and kind.

No gift is too small, and every contribution matters.

Whether you volunteer, donate,
or invite a friend or loved one to experience the many services St. Luke offers,
these are all acts of stewardship.

Sharing your light with others through these actions
helps strengthen our community and our faith.

Warm Regards, Niki Thompson

Temperature for St. Luke Stewardship



Thank you to all who have pledged for 2025 to date.

If you have not, feel free to go to our website,
use the QR Code, or text STLUKEGIVE to 73256.

If you need any assistance or have any question regarding Stewardship,
please reach out to the Stewardship Committee directly stlukegiving@gmail.com



<https://onrealm.org/stluke>

CHOIR NEWS

New Senior and Sunday Youth Choir Members Welcome!

Choir Director Dena Papadopoulos invites all who enjoy singing to join the St. Luke Choir. New member sessions can be arranged to acquaint you with our music.

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

Senior Group of St Luke's

This year our Seniors Group excursion will be to Shady Maple famous Smorgasbord Restaurant in East Earl, PA.

For lunch on Thursday 24th of April.

You're welcome to join us. We will be departing by private cars from St. Luke's on Thursday, April 24 at 10:30 AM.

If you need a ride please contact one of the groups board members.

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE

LITTLE ANGELS PLAYGROU**P**

At Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church
9am - 11am every Thursday
(See church calendar)

YOU'LL FIND US IN
THE EDUCATION
BUILDING 2ND
FLOOR, RM 208

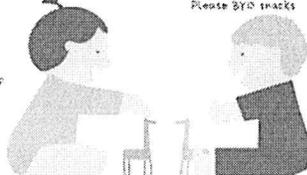


THINGS TO NOTE:
It's all about friendship and
community!
Enjoy a range of toys, fun
activities, and storytime.

Please BYO snacks

WHY PLAY?

As a parent being a part of
a community activity can help
you feel less alone as you
are amongst peers. Children
will have fun, make friends
and grow in their social
skills.



The Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia

is now accepting applications for their
2025-2026 Scholarships

Deadline: Friday, April 4, 2025

Eligibility requirements and electronic
applications can be found at:

[http://www.hucphiladelphia.org/
huc-scholarship-program](http://www.hucphiladelphia.org/huc-scholarship-program)

(or scan the QR code below)



SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT:
<http://www.hucphiladelphia.org/campaign>



HELLENIC UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

2025-2026 UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF GREEK DESCENT OR DECLARED MAJORS IN GREEK STUDIES

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Applicants should be enrolled full-time in a degree program at an accredited four-year college or university during the academic year 2025-26. Please note that some scholarships have special 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. \$5,000
- **Founders Scholarship**, honoring the founders of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia. \$5,000
- **Dimitri J. Ververelli Memorial Scholarship for Architecture and/or Engineering**, offered to a qualified student pursuing a degree in the field of Architecture or Engineering. Established by Mrs. Anastasia Ververelli to honor her husband, Dimitri J. Ververelli, a past president of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia. \$3,000
- **George C. Liacouras Memorial Scholarship**, offered to a student attending or applying to attend the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, or if failing to identify such applicant, then any other applicant attending or applying to attend undergraduate or graduate studies in any other school of the University of Pennsylvania. Established by Mrs. Effie Liacouras, this scholarship honors her husband, George C. Liacouras. \$5,000
- **Goldie S. Vastardis Memorial Scholarship**, funded by a grant from Mr. Louis Vastardis in memory of his wife. This merit scholarship is awarded to a student whose parents are stewards in good standing of St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church, Broomall, Pennsylvania. \$2,000

(b) Scholarships that do not require any financial information:

- **Paideia Scholarship**, a merit scholarship, offered only to the child of a Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia member. Parent(s) must be current members in good standing for at least 3 years. **\$5,000**
- **Plato Marinakos Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship**, offered to a qualified student pursuing an undergraduate degree with preference given but not limited to students majoring in Health or Health related discipline and to a child of a Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia member. Parent(s) must be current members in good standing for at least 3 years. Established by Mrs. Vasie Marinakos to honor her husband, Plato Marinakos. **\$5,000**
- **Danielle Kousoulis Memorial Scholarship**, a merit scholarship offered only to an undergraduate student who is the child or grandchild of a Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia member and who is majoring in business or a business-related field of study. Parent(s) or grandparent(s) must be current members in good standing for at least 3 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 (1989-90) and was killed during the attack on the Twin Towers on 9/11/2001. **\$5,000**.
- **Virginia Botsis Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship**, offered to a qualified student pursuing an undergraduate degree with preference given, but not limited to, students majoring in music. This Scholarship was established and funded through a bequest of Virginia Botsis **\$5,000**
- **Cyprus Society Scholarship**, offered by the Cyprus Society of Greater Philadelphia to a student whose family are members in good standing of the Cyprus Society for the past 3 years. \$2,500

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Applicants should be enrolled full-time a graduate program at an accredited university or professional school during academic year 2025-26. Postdocs (post PhD) are not eligible. Please note that some scholarships have special eligibility requirements.

(a) The following scholarship does not require any financial information:

- **Dr. Nicholas Padis Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, offered to a qualified student with academic excellence as the primary consideration. Established in 1986, this annual award honors Philadelphia physician, first president and founding member of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia, Dr. Nicholas Padis. \$5,000

(b) Scholarships that require demonstrated financial need:

- **John S. Manos, Esq, Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, offered to a qualified student pursuing studies leading to a Juris Doctor (JD) Degree. Established in 2009, this annual award honors John Stanley Manos, Esq., Philadelphia lawyer and long-time member of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia. This scholarship is funded by the family and friends of John S. Manos. \$2,000
- **Dr. Peter A. Theodos Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, offered to a qualified student pursuing studies leading to a Doctor of Medicine (MD) Degree. Established in 1988, this annual award honors Philadelphia physician, past president and founding member of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia, Dr. Peter A. Theodos. This scholarship is funded by Mrs. Peter A. Theodos. \$1,500
- **Nicholas S. Hetos, DDS, and Maria Galanos Hetos, EdD, Memorial Graduate Scholarship**, offered to qualified student need pursuing studies leading to either a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree or to a dentist pursuing studies leading to a graduate/post doctoral degree in dental specialty certification or pursuing studies leading to a graduate degree in education or education-related fields. This award honors Dr. Nicholas S. Hetos, Philadelphia dentist, past president and founding member of the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia and Maria G. Hetos, EdD, an educator and past president of the Club. This scholarship is funded by their daughters Catherine Hetos Skefos and Stephanie Hetos Cocke. \$5,000
- **Kathleen and Nicholas Fisfis Graduate Scholarship**, offered to a qualified student pursuing studies leading to a Graduate or Post 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

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Offered to either undergraduate or graduate students. Qualifications are as stated above for each category of students.

- **Chios Society of Philadelphia “Koraes” Scholarship**, offered to students of Chian descent, in memory and honor of past and present leaders and members of the Chios Society of Philadelphia. \$3,000. No financial information needed.
- **Nicholas L. Gianopulos and Antoinette Manos Gianopulos Scholarship**, offered 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. This scholarship is funded by Antoinette Gianopulos, friends and family in memory of Nicholas Gianopulos. \$5,000. Preference will be given to candidates who have financial need.
- **Eleftheria Scholarship of the Philadelphia VFW Post 6633**, offered to children of members 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 Philadelphia community. Qualified candidates must show good academic standing and evidence of ancestry. The scholarship is for undergraduate or graduate studies. Two equally qualified candidates may share (\$5,000). No Financial information needed.

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 and VFW scholarships require an additional essay), (e) FAFSA Student Aid Report information (for scholarships with 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 4, 2025.

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

For additional questions contact us at hucscholarships@gmail.com

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

JOHN PAKURIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The John Pakuris Memorial Scholarship offers a \$2000 scholarship to one student who is a United States citizen and a parishioner whose family is in good standing with the St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. This is a competitive scholarship based on merit and need with the award winner 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 first 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.

<u>Church and Community Service Organization</u>	<u>Months/Years Involved</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

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

Employment history:

Name of employer:

Dates of employment:

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 16 2025. 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 30, 2025.

Visit our web site for information or applications: www.St-Luke.org

Mail completed application to:

John Pakuris Memorial Scholarship

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

Signature of Parent/Guardian (for student under 21) _____

Address of Parent/Guardian _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date _____

For Those in Need...

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

April, 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 and others in need.

During March FTIN's volunteer Chefs prepared some 165 evening meals for our partners at The Life Center (TLC) and the Salvation Army; thanks to all those FTIN volunteer Chefs who turned out.

FTIN is also sponsoring a Ham Drive in partnership with the Salvation Army which will continue throughout Great Lent, ending on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Hams can be placed in the bin in the walk-in freezer or brought to the Church Office.

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 (most recently on Tuesday, APR 1st).

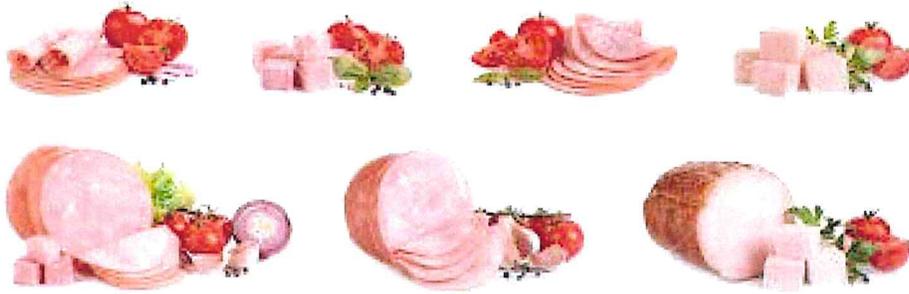
FTIN's April Cook will take place on Monday evening, *April 7th* beginning at 4:30pm.

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



Ham Drive: Sharing with Those in Need

For Those In Need (FTIN) is sponsoring a Ham Drive during Great Lent for distribution by the Salvation Army to families on its food pantry register for whom a special Easter meal would otherwise remain beyond their reach.

We enjoyed great success with the collection of 45 hams a year ago, for which the Salvation Army was most appreciative. With your help, *we have an opportunity* to respond to our Lenten call for Almsgiving once again.

Important Notes:

1. Hams of *any size* are welcome since food uncertainty affects families large and small.
2. You can bring them to the Church office weekdays from 9am—3pm; please call first to make sure we haven't stepped out (610-353-1592). Hams can also be dropped off on Sunday when you attend Liturgy.
3. We're accepting donated hams throughout Lent, ending our drive on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us recall St. John Chrysostom's Paschal words "The table is full-laden . . . let no one go hungry away". Let's make a difference for as many families this season as possible.

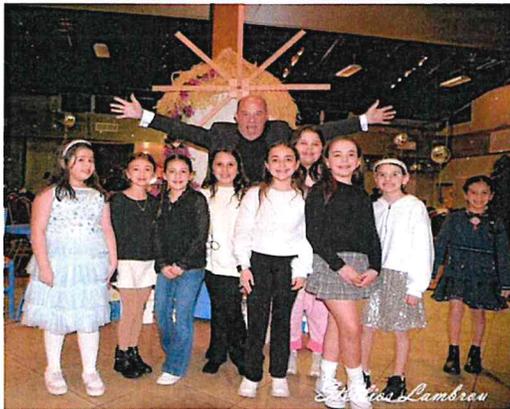


St. Luke Greek School

On February 22nd, the Greek School held our annual Apokriatiko Glendi fundraiser, *Mamma Mia*. The dance was a huge success with over 200 attendees and tons of fun, including live entertainment from local *Mamma Mia* performers and Greek dancing from our St. Luke Ellinakia Group. We want to thank everyone who supported the event- it provides the funding that helps us fulfill our educational mission.

In February/into early March students completed their exams and received report cards updating their families on their progress.

We will hold our Greek Independence Day program on March 25th where students will celebrate with songs and poems and dancing. Upcoming April events include Picture Day (April 1), where students proudly wear their white St. Luke's shirts for the annual all-school photo and class photos and the Greek Independence Day parade (April 6). The parade is a wonderful opportunity to share our Greek American identity and culture with the greater Philadelphia area. We will also have our Real World Educational Experience for the Greek school students on April 29th.





PHILADELPHIA
GREEK
 INDEPENDENCE
 CELEBRATIONS
2025

PARADE
SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH



10:00 AM
DOXOLOGY
 SAINT GEORGE
 GREEK ORTHODOX
 CATHEDRAL

1:00 PM
FORMATION
 22^N STREET
 & BENJAMIN
 FRANKLIN PARKWAY

2:00 PM are
STEP-OFF/PARADE
 MARCHING TOWARDS
 GRANDSTANDS AT 18^T
 & LOGAN CIRCLE



PARADE GRAND MARSHALS - DRAKE & MARIA BEHRAKIS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO ATTEND AND JOIN THE PARADE, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE
 The Federation of Hellenic- American Societies of Philadelphia & Greater Delaware Valley | phillygreekparade.com

***Love Our Sunday School Directors:
Jane Kelly, Panayota Kevgas, and Sophia Milinkovic***

To the Yiayias and Papous of St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church,

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health as we continue our Lenten journey. As treasured members of this community, we are grateful for your wisdom, love, and guidance. We stand before you today as Directors, Sunday School teachers, Greek School teachers, Parish Council members, Greek Affair volunteers, former Altar Boys, Olympians, and countless other vital parts of us Orthodox faith and community because of YOU! You have shaped generations of this church faithful and the broader community in countless ways. Today, we reach out with a heartfelt request to help ensure the ongoing mission and vision of our beloved St. Luke Church and Sunday School program for many generations to come.

Like many churches across the nation, St. Luke has faced challenges over the past five years. When the global pandemic struck in March 2020, our entire world changed. We couldn't attend liturgy at church because we weren't allowed to gather. As time went on, we discovered ways to connect, albeit digitally, reinforcing the convenience of worshiping from home. The pandemic polarized many issues. education, politics, and vaccines. Many of our Yiayias and Papous stayed home much longer due to health risks. When people began returning to work, Father Christ made a brilliant decision and stopped broadcasting liturgy online. Father Christ knew this was how to bring us back to our Father's house.

Even after the pandemic ended, many people continued to stay home. Our church has worked and is still working diligently to rebuild programs that encourage families to return to worship and Sunday School. Our beloved St. Luke Church has always been a beacon of faith, tradition, and community. Nonetheless, we still face the challenge of bringing our youth back to church to nurture this next generation at St. Luke—our children and grandchildren. They are the future of this parish, and thriving Church depends on the involvement of young families and their children.

The world is an incredibly challenging and confusing place for children today. As parents of children in various stages and ages, we feel the mounting pressures on the family unit and the obstacles that prevents families from embracing their faith. Between school, athletic commitments, and other extracurricular activities, there is immense pressure on students to do everything and excel in every area. Parents also face pressure to provide the necessary resources for their children in a world where time is a precious commodity. All these stressors have contributed to a mental health crisis in this country due to the unrealistic demands we place on ourselves as parents and on our children. Our children often feel they are not good enough by today's standards. Too many families have distanced themselves from their faith. As the needs and pressures increase on our children, we must equip them with the tools to remain mentally strong through the power of prayer and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Parents are pulled in many directions by their children's sports, performances, other activities, and day-to-day responsibilities at work and home. This is where our beloved Yiayias and Papous come We need your help! Like Yiayias and Papous, you are vital in guiding the next generation. We kindly ask that you consider bringing your grandchildren to church and Sunday School whenever their parents cannot. This is a bold request and not a judgment of our parents. As parents first and leaders second, we are pleading for your help! These days, parents are overwhelmed with the responsibilities of what constitutes everyday life in 2025. Trust us! We are the parents that we speak of, and we have only made it through because of how much our parents have helped us and our Saint Luke Family. With your help, we will improve our Sunday School attendance, and more importantly, it will ensure our Orthodox faith is passed down to the next generation, who will then have the opportunity to experience God's love and the rich traditions and culture of our Greek heritage.

Let us work together to ensure that our beloved St. Luke continues to be a place of worship, fellowship, and growth for our children, grandchildren, and many generations to come, just as it has been for us.

We look forward to seeing you and your loved ones in church soon. May God bless you, your family, and our St. Luke community. To those grandparents who are already helping to get their grandchildren to church and Sunday School, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- April 4 Fifth Salutations, Flowers presented by Sunday School students
- April 6 Worship and Classes, Sunday of St Mary of Egypt- **Spark Sunday**
- April 12 Saturday of Lazarus, Palm folding by all Sunday School students in Education Building
- April 13 Worship and Classes, Palm Sunday
- April 18 Holy Friday Retreat: Helpers 11 AM; Apokathelosis Service, 3 PM, Myrrh-bearers report at 2:30 PM
- April 20 EASTER SUNDAY: FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY. AGAPE SERVICE 11 AM. Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service
- April 27 Worship and Classes, St. Thomas Sunday

Monastery Trip- On **Saturday, March 1st**, a group of 40 Sunday School students, staff, and families enjoyed 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 day was spiritually moving in a way that words cannot adequately convey and prepared all attendees for the beginning of Great Lent on March 3, 2025. We hope to make this trip a yearly event, so please plan on joining us in 2026 for a life changing pilgrimage.

St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival- We are very happy to announce that Stavros Kalisperis, Victoria Kaltsidis, John Kevgas, in the Junior Division, and Justin Moran, in the Senior Division, participated in our parish's St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival on March 10, 2025. Each one of them shone with the bright light of Orthodoxy, and we couldn't be prouder of their beautiful and profound words, as well as their commitment of time and talent to writing such thoughtful speeches. We thank them for being true role models for our entire community. We are also grateful to Art Karros, the Chair of the St. Luke Oratorical Festival, and to our esteemed judges for the festival: Alex Arcidiacono, Maria Armenti, and Nick Mallas, for their time and commitment to our young orators.

On Saturday, March 15, Stavros Kalisperis and Victoria Kaltsidis represented St. Luke at the District Oratorical Festival held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Egg Harbor Township, NJ. For their wonderful efforts, Stavros was awarded Honorable Mention, and Victoria was named a finalist who will represent St. Luke at the Metropolis of NJ Oratorical Festival to be held at St. George Cathedral, Philadelphia, on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Lenten/Holy Week Workbook and Letter- We are rapidly approaching the end of Great and Holy Lent for 2025, but it isn't too late to take advantage of the following resources: 1) a **Lenten Workbook**, available online at <https://www.ss.st-luke.org/lent>; and, 2) elsewhere in this Epistle, a copy of the **2025 Lenten letter** containing the schedule of Lenten services and 2 forms to be completed. The first form is for all young ladies, in grades 3 through 6, who would like to serve on Holy Friday as Myrrh-bearers, while the second form is for our annual Holy Friday Helpers Retreat that takes place each year on Holy Friday. The program on Holy Friday will begin at 11

a.m. or immediately following Royal Hours in the morning. Students will start the morning by helping to prepare different parts of the Epitaphion, followed by crafts, activities, and a Lenten lunch. While our little ones are having fun with their crafts and activities, our GOYA-aged students will help prepare the Anastasi candles in the Narthex. The retreat will close with students having a discussion with Father Christ. Students will end the day at approximately 2:00 p.m., and all are welcome, especially our young ladies who will serve as Myrrh-bearers at the 3 PM Holy Friday service, to remain at church after the retreat. Our Myrrh-bearers must be in church by 2:30 pm for practice.

Psalm Readers for Salutation Services- We are in need of a Sunday School student or students to read Psalms 50, 69, and/or 142 at the very beginning of the last Lenten Salutation Service on Friday, April 4, 2025. We will send the readings to you in advance so that your child can prepare to read aloud in church. This is a meaningful Lenten offering to the Panagia and to our St. Luke community that will greatly enhance your child's Lenten journey. To sign up your child, please go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAEAA2CA7F8CE9-54359332-psalm>. Thank you and your families for participating in this joyful Lenten tradition.

Parent Volunteers for Lazarus Saturday/Palm Folding and Holy Friday Retreat- We are looking for Sunday School family volunteers who can aid in the set-up, clean up, and running of the activities on Lazarus Saturday (April 12) and the Holy Friday Retreat (April 18). No previous experience required, just a willingness to serve our St. Luke community at this very holy time of year! Sunday School will provide all the materials and ideas, but we need day-of volunteers to help with the activities. More details to follow.

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! Easter Egg Hunt to follow the Agape Vespers!

T. JOHN CHRYSOTOM ORATORIC

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. 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. Or visit <https://www.ss.st-luke.org>, which will be updated throughout the year with additional information and resources for families.



St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 N. Malin Rd., Broomall, PA, 19008 • Tel: (610) 353-1592
Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protosyrtaxer

February 2025

Dear Parents:

We hope this letter finds you and your families in good health and happiness. The Lenten season began on Monday, March 3, 2025, so we have prepared a Lenten workbook for your family's use. Every student will receive a hard copy of Sunday School, but you can also find it on our Sunday School website [here](#). **We strongly encourage you to use this workbook at home to guide your children throughout Lent.** It contains a wealth of valuable information about each Sunday of Lent and includes Bible passages to help focus their worship during the week.

APRIL

Friday, April 4: Fifth Salutations, Flowers presented by Sunday School students

Sunday, April 6: Worship and Classes, Sunday of St Mary of Egypt- **Spark Sunday**

*Saturday, April 12: **Saturday of Lazarus, Palm folding by all Sunday School students in the Education Building after Liturgy***

Sunday, April 13: Worship and Classes, Palm Sunday

*April 18: **Holy Friday, Retreat: Helpers arrive at 11 a.m.; Apokathelosis Service, 3 p.m.; Myrrh-bearers report at 2:30 p.m.***

Sunday, April 20: **EASTER SUNDAY: FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY. AGAPE SERVICE**

11 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service

Psalm Readers for Salutation Services- The remaining dates is Friday, April 4, 2025. We will send you the readings in advance so that your child can prepare to read aloud in church on their chosen Friday. To sign up, please go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAEAA2CA7F8CE9-54359332-psalm>. Thank you and your families for participating in this joyful Lenten tradition.

Saturday of Lazarus/Palm Folding- Please bring your child to the liturgy on **Lazarus Saturday, which this year falls on Saturday, April 12, 2025.** Immediately after the Liturgy, we will hold a palm-folding session in the Educational Center. A Lenten lunch will also be served.

The Myrrh-bearers- We invite our young ladies again this year to participate in one of the most beautiful traditions of our Church, that of a Myrrh-bearer. The Myrrh-bearers represent all that is good and holy in our Christian faith. These women were there, "early in the morning," to find the empty tomb, receive the word from the Angel that He is Risen, and announce that message.

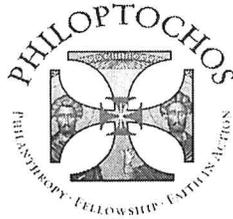
We will include as many young women in grades 3 through 6 who wish to participate as possible. The girls may attend either the afternoon (2:30 p.m. arrival) or evening service (6:30 p.m. arrival), or they can attend both if they prefer.

There are two scheduled practices this year that our *Myrrh-bearers must attend*. The first practice is on Lazarus **Saturday, April 12, 2025**, immediately after the morning service. Following the practice, our girls are invited to the Educational Center to help fold palms for Palm Sunday, and to enjoy a Lenten lunch. The second practice will occur around 4:15 p.m. after the **Apokathelosis Service on Holy Friday, April 18, 2025.** **Father Christ would like all our young ladies participating to be present for the evening service, regardless of whether they take part in the 3 p.m. service.**

Holy Friday Helpers Retreat- We strongly encourage our students to attend the retreat on **Holy Friday.** Father will write a note to the principals requesting that students be granted an excused absence from school that day so they can participate in our Holy Friday services and retreat. The program on Holy Friday will begin at 11 a.m., right after the morning service. Students will stay in the church to help decorate the Epitaphion. Once they have finished, they will proceed to the Educational Center for a Lenten lunch, along with some crafts and activities for grades Pre-K-6th, while our GOYANS (7-12) will help prepare the candles for the evening services. The day will wrap up with a discussion led by Father Christ on Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection, how we can approach these events each year, and the opportunities they offer us as Orthodox Christians. There will also be an opportunity for students to receive the sacrament of Holy Confession. Students are expected to conclude their day around 2 p.m. Please take a moment to complete both our Holy Friday Helpers form (<https://forms.office.com/r/DRrcLauXQA>) and our Myrrh Bearer participation form (<https://forms.office.com/r/9b7xFbsDcN>).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com.

****Please RSVP to both our Holy Friday Helper form and our Myrrh Bearer form by Friday, April 4, 2025****



Philoptochos Society News

SAVE THE DATES

- Grands Stepping Up** - Easter Basket Donation Deadline: April 1, 2025
Philoptochos Scholarship Application - Postmark Deadline: April 16, 2025
2025 Annual Bid 'n Buy - Thursday, May 8, 2025
Graduates' Sunday Program and Reception - Sunday, June 1, 2025
Indoor Yard Sale - June 21-22, 2025

Philoptochos Elections- In less than 3 months, Philoptochos will be holding elections for our 2025-2027 Board of Directors. Board members organize, brainstorm, and make decisions which steer our organization. We would like to invite anyone who is interested in a seat on our Board to contact one of us by April 9th: Lisa Palmieri-president@stlukephiloptochos.org, Carnation Karros- Ckarrosgr@gmail.com, or Katherine Kennedy- Katherine.Kennedy314@gmail.com.

We welcome the chance to share information about the rewarding opportunities the Board can offer you, as well as the criteria for nominees. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Volunteers- The coffee hour schedule for volunteers may be found elsewhere in this Epistle. Please look for your name and, hopefully, you will be able to come and work with us on the day you have been assigned. If you are not able to make it on that day, please find someone to take your place. Volunteers are expected to stay until the end of the coffee hour to clean up. We thank you all for your help. Betsy Pappas and Diana Palumbo, Chairladies

Philoptochos Stewardship 2025- We continue to accept stewardship commitments and welcome new members! Your support is *vital* to our effectiveness as a charitable ministry on the local, national, and international levels, and we pray for complete participation of our stewards.

The Philoptochos calendar year began on January 1, 2025. Our stewardship goal is to reach **100%** by April 30, 2025. **The minimum stewardship amount** is \$35; an offering over and above that will help enhance our ability to serve those in need. Members, existing or new, may submit their 2025 stewardship by mailing to St Luke Greek Orthodox Church, hand delivering to the church office, visiting us online, or scanning the QR code below. Please note that existing members must be logged onto the website to pay online with the QR Code below. We appreciate those of you who have promptly fulfilled your 2025 commitment and humbly thank you for your participation.



Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 267.808.4160 or email at kiablazakis@gmail.com. With Philoptochos love, Kia Blazakis, Membership Chair

Grands Stepping Up- The St. Luke Ladies' Philoptochos Charity Committee is working alongside **Grands Stepping Up** in hopes of filling **100 Easter baskets** for the children of its Grand-families. Please consider signing up to donate a basket filled with items for children ages 0-7 years, 8-13 years, and/or 14-17 years.

Baskets can be gender neutral or boy/girl specific and can include items such as books, puzzles, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, crayons/ markers, coloring books, stickers, arts & crafts activities, stuffed animals, play-doh/silly putty, sunglasses, gift cards or nut-free candies. These items can be found at the following stores, but are not limited to, Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, and Amazon.

Please review the available slots in the SignUp Genius link below and click to commit to a basket:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080445A9A622A1F58-55573089-2025#/>

We are requested not to spend more than \$20 on each basket and not include clothing items. Baskets can be dropped off at the Church **before Tuesday, April 1st**. We ask that all baskets be wrapped to prevent items from falling out and being lost during delivery. Additionally, please label all baskets with their designated ages.

***Grands Stepping Up** is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting grandparents/kinship guardians who are raising their grandchildren when the parents cannot do so for various reasons. Grands Stepping Up assists their Grand families financially, psychologically, legally, and socially to support the success of the children.*

For any questions, please contact Alexa Angelakos at 570-916-0508 or Lex2618@gmail.com.

Philoptochos Scholarship- The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Luke now offers a **\$3,000 scholarship** to one high school student who is a United States citizen and whose parents or legal guardian are stewards of Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. Please see the application form elsewhere in this month's Epistle. **All applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 16, 2025. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.** All information received from applicants will be treated as confidential. The scholarship winner will be notified by **May 30, 2025**. For further information, please contact Anna Hadgis, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at anna.hadgis@gmail.com

2025 Annual Bid 'n Buy- The St. Luke Ladies Philoptochos is excited to present a "Havana Nights Bid 'n Buy" on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm. We invite you to join us in our Community Center for a tropical trip to an enchanting Havana Night, one which **promises fun, excitement, and an opportunity for fellowship!** With your support, we prayerfully anticipate a successful event which will benefit the many charities we support. We look forward to seeing you in your tropical island dresses!

Additional information:

The Donation for admission & dinner is \$35.00

Admission tickets will be available through advance sales ONLY beginning March 1st; NO tickets will be sold at the door.

In addition to bidding on our selection of lovely and practical gifts, please consider supporting our major fundraiser by way of a gift card or monetary donation. This can be done online

by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting www.stlukephiloptochos.org and clicking the “Donate” button. The more successful our event is, the more souls we can help as we carry out the Philoptochos mission. Thank you in advance for your help and may God continue to bless your families!



Philoptochos Charity Committee- Members of the Charity Committee participated in the following events in support of some of our important charities:

Ryan's Case for Smiles at MDF (Metropolis of NJ Music & Dance Festival)- On Sunday, February 16, 2025, Maria Kalisperis, ambassador for **Ryan's Case for Smiles (RCFS)**, and Cindy Kerr, founder of Ryan's Case for Smiles, collaborated with several youths, adults, and clergy at the Metropolis of NJ Music & Dance Festival to sew 150 pillowcases. During the weekend's church services, Cindy Kerr addressed the attendees. The event was a great success!

Chester Charter Scholars Academy- On February 27th, we had the pleasure of once again visiting **CCSA** and reading with the 3rd-grade students. Over this academic year, we have witnessed a marked improvement in their decoding, comprehension, and vocabulary development skills. The third-grade teachers and staff have worked diligently with each student to ensure that they hone their reading skills and that the love of reading is a lifelong goal. We always welcome anyone who would like to join us for our next opportunity to work with these excited readers. After a short one-hour visit, you will come away with joy and hopefulness in your heart. If you are interested in becoming a reader, please get in touch with Anna Hadgis.

On Saturday March 22nd our Philoptochos Chapter sponsored bingo at the **Coatesville Veterans Medical Affairs Center**. This year we hosted from 50 to 60 Veterans. Earbuds, headphones etc., as well as canteen books valid for purchases in their retail stores and café on site, were offered as prizes. We provided refreshments including Philly pretzels, a variety of snacks, and fruit. We enjoyed a fun afternoon as we expressed our respect and appreciation to the Veterans for their service. The Veterans are always thankful and enjoyed the games and the visit. For more information about visits to the Vets, please contact our Co-Ambassadors Maria Carafides and Katherine Kennedy.

A donation of \$1,500 was given to **Covenant House** to go towards furnishing for the ROP II Building. It's part of the second phase to furnish 12 rooms. This renovation next to the shelter is to give the youth a warm and supportive space.

****Information about all Philoptochos Charity activities may be found on the Philoptochos website under the Donate tab.***

2025 Boutiques & Greek Treats “Save the Dates”- Saturday, December 6th & Sunday, December 7th. Interested vendors & volunteers, contact boutiquesgt@gmail.com or the church office at 610-353-1592. Thank you!

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:

Anonymous, for her sponsorship of Sunday, March 9 Sunday of Orthodoxy icon, in loving memory of her loved ones.

Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:

Friday, April 4, 2025 Friday of Akathist Hymn (flower basket)

Saturday, April 12, 2025 Lazarus Saturday Icon and floral

Sunday, April 13, 2024 Palm Sunday (Palms)

Sunday, April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday (Icon of Bridegroom)

Sunday, April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday (Christ's Entrance into Jerusalem icon)

Holy Tuesday, April 15, 2025 Holy Tuesday Kassiani Icon and floral

Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025 Extreme Humility Icon

Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025 Wreath of red roses for cross

Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025 Lavender sprigs

Holy Friday, April 18, 2025 Apokathelosis icon and floral

Holy Friday evening, April 18, 2025 Epitaphio icon

Holy Friday, April 18, 2025 Epitaphio gardenias

Holy Friday, April 18, 2025 Epitaphio flowers

Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025 Resurrection floral (Anastasi icon)

Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025 Bay leaves

Holy Week & Easter Flower Donation



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! For more information, or to order, please contact our Philoptochos President, Lisa Palmieri, at president@stlukephiloptochos.org, or Phyllis Roebas, at proebas@gmail.com.



Philoptochos Members- OUR DIRECTORY IS NOW ONLINE!

Please register with our website www.stlukephiloptochos.org for access to the Members Only Online Directory.

Get our APP! For directory access, Philoptochos news & events on the go, use our Membership Toolkit app right from your smartphone.

Paper directories are available by request.



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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Luke offers a **\$3,000 scholarship** to one high school student who is a United States citizen and whose parents or legal guardian are stewards of Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. This is a competitive scholarship based on need and merit. The award winner is selected by the Scholarship Committee and its recommendation is made to Rev. Fr. 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 _____

School for which aid is requested: _____

Address of School: _____

Telephone Number of School: _____

Major Field of Study: _____

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

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)

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	Honors/Offices held
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Employment History:

Name of employer

Dates of employment and duties

Financial Need:

Estimated total cost of school per year: _____

Estimate of applicant's contribution: _____

Applicant has applied for other financial aid assistance as follows:

1. Grant from college or vocational school 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 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.

All applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 16, 2025. 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, 2025.**

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: _____



THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ST. LUKE
Presents

HAVANA
Nights

BID 'N BUY

**Thursday, May 8, 2025
6:00 PM**

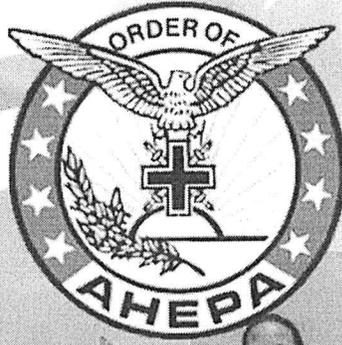
35 N. Malin Road Broomall PA

Admission and Dinner

\$35



**SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS
CONTACT [BIDNBUY@STLUKEPHILOPTOCHOS.ORG](mailto: BIDNBUY@STLUKEPHILOPTOCHOS.ORG)
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 610-353-1592**



The James D. Tanos - Theophilos Constantinidis

48th Annual Pan-Hellenic Track and Field Meet

Hosted By

AHEPA Chapter 445 "Thermopylae" of Upper Darby, PA

Fun For All Ages!

Races | Field Events

Food | Drink

Marple Newtown High School

Saturday May 3rd

(Rain Date May 10th)

Check-in Starts 9:00

Events Begin 10:00

Closing 2:00pm

Pre-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

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

Address service requested

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 N. Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

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