

# THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

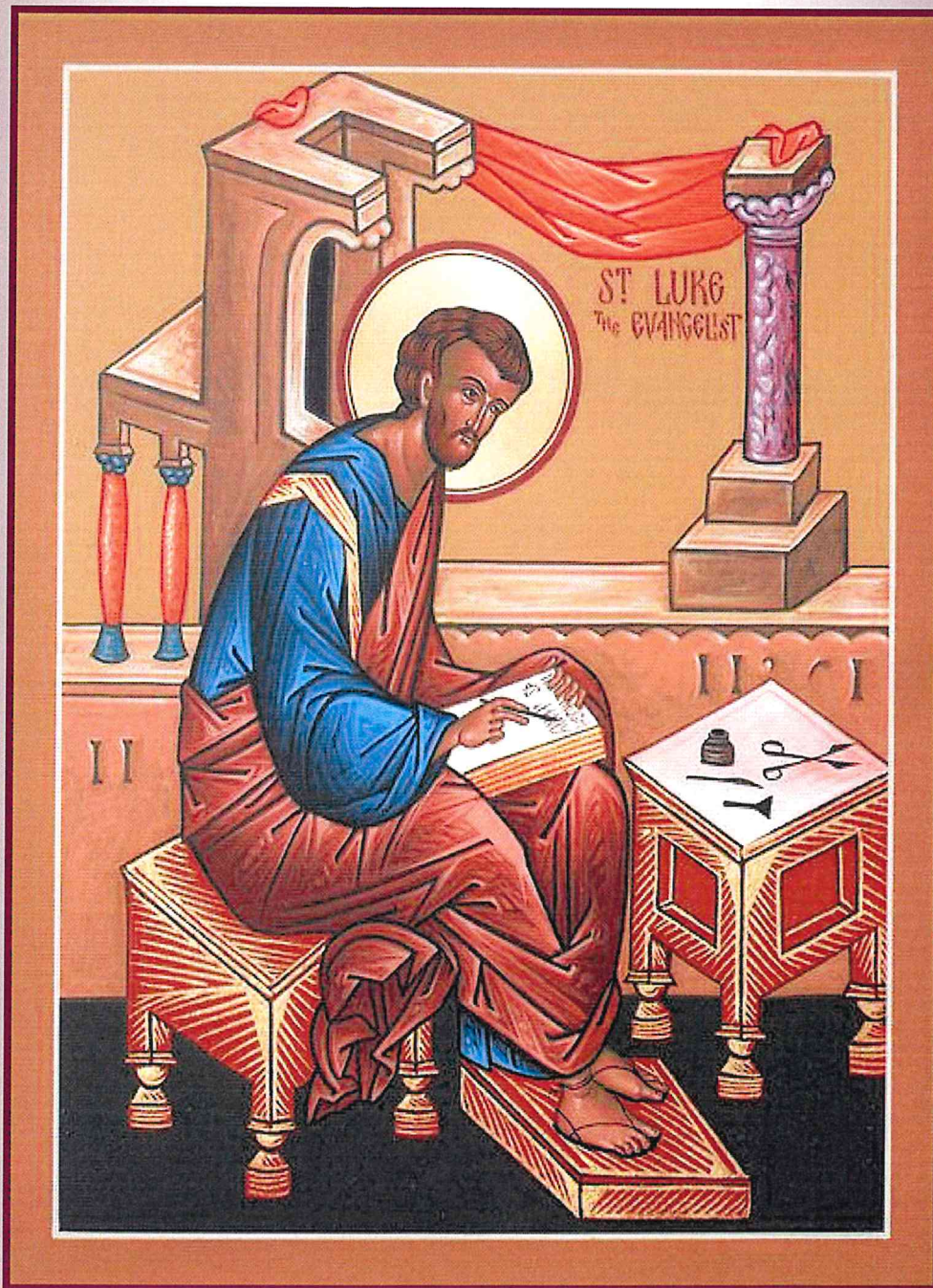
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

610-353-1592

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

## September 2024





## SEPTEMBER PASTORAL MESSAGE

Friends,

Happy New Year! That's right, September marks the beginning of the Church Ecclesiastical year and offers us opportunities to reflect, restore and recommit ourselves to the life of the Church.

We begin the month kicking off the many activities of the Church with the Festival of Ministries on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Following Holy Communion, our youth will go to their first Sunday School class where they will be greeted by their dedicated teachers and administrators. Our Sunday School team is especially blessed this year as **Panayota Kevgas** is returning to Sunday School as one of our directors. Together with **Sophia Milinkovic and Jane Kelly**, Panayota brings a wealth of administrative experience, teaching excellence, and above all, a great deal of love for our faith and our youth. Welcome Panayota!

This 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival of Ministries Sunday begins immediately after the Divine Liturgy. All our groups and organizations will be present for you to learn what they have to offer and to register for a particular group. I am especially pleased that two new groups will be present this year: St Luke Book Club led by **Dean Vlahos & Evangelos Sariyanidi**; and our Young Adult League led by **Alex Arcidiacono**. Of course, The Festival of Ministries would not be complete if it did not end with pizza for everyone present to enjoy!

September is also the month that brings our entire parish together as we offer our labor of love by volunteering for the Greek Affair. If you have not done so, go to [thegreekaffair.com](http://thegreekaffair.com) and volunteer online. Many hands make light work, so, let's roll up our sleeves and work as a family for our Home and Spiritual Haven, St Luke! Our Chairman, **Alexi Sioutis** is eagerly available to answer any questions [alexander.sioutis@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.sioutis@gmail.com)

Friends, join us for weekly worship and the many youth and adult activities starting up this month.

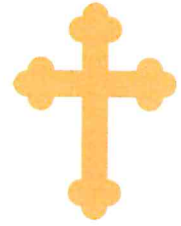
With brotherly love and pastoral blessings,



# Parish Life

## Forty-Day Blessings

On July 21, 2024, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Nicholas Degermentzidis**. Congratulations to **Thomas & Roula Degermentzidis** as we anticipate the Baptism!



On August 11, 2024, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Niko James Papougenis**. Congratulations to **Nicholas & Andrea Papougenis** as we anticipate the Baptism!

## Weddings

**Evan DeVaney & Elaina Millas** were united in Holy Matrimony on July 28, 2024. **Nickolas Millas** stood by their side as the sponsor and the witness was **Deanna Slusher**.



**Brandon Snyder & Eleni Florakis** were united in Holy Matrimony on August 17, 2024. **Mary Youssef** stood by their side as the sponsor and the witness was **Christina Florakis**.

*May their married life together be blessed with spiritual joy always.*

## Funerals



The servant of God, **George Manos**, fell asleep in the Lord on July 27, 2024. His funeral service was held on August 2, 2024.

The servant of God, **Chrysanthe Vaganos**, fell asleep in the Lord on July 31, 2024. Her funeral service was held on August 9, 2024.

The servant of God, **Phillip Frangos**, fell asleep in the Lord on July 27, 2024. His funeral service was held on August 10, 2024.

The servant of God, **Sultana Bonatsos**, fell asleep in the Lord on July 30, 2024. Her funeral service was held on August 7, 2024.

The servant of God, **Dr. Charles Panos**, fell asleep in the Lord on August 12, 2024. His funeral service was held on August 28, 2024.

The servant of God, **Mary Filis**, fell asleep in the Lord on August 19, 2024. Her funeral service was held on August 22, 2024.

The servant of God, **Jerry Kyriakatos**, fell asleep in the Lord on August 19, 2024. His funeral service was held on August 26, 2024.

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

# September 2024 Ecclesiastical Calendar

**Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Ecclesiastical New Year**

Symeon the Stylite; 40 Women Martyrs of Thrace

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



**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Nativity of the Theotokos**

Sophronios, Bishop of Iberia

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

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

**The Elevation of the Cross**

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

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday After Holy Cross**

Nikitas the Great Martyr; Philotheos the Righteous

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

**Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Luke**

Phocas, Bishop of Sinope; Phocas the Gardener

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

**Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**



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

Kyriakos of Palestine; Martyr Petronia

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



# SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  <i>OFFICE CLOSED!!</i>	3 10am Senior Men	4 8pm Boys Basketball	5 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	6 7pm Philoptochos Bowling Night	7
8 12:15pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6pm Baking Prep	10 10am Senior Men 10am Baking	11 8:00pm Boys Basketball	12 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CC – Festival of Ministries and Pizza Party	16 <i>Greek Affair Preperation</i>	17 10am Senior Men <i>Greek Affair Preperation</i>	18 <i>Greek Affair Preperation</i>	19 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal <i>Greek Affair Preperation</i>	20 	21 
22 	23 <i>Greek Affair Clean-up</i>	24 10am Senior Men	25 8:00pm Boys Basketball	26 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal	27	28
29 10:30am Sunday School	30					

## September 1<sup>st</sup> - Ecclesiastical New Year

September 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day of the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Year. It is called the beginning of the "indiction". The word "indiction" is a Latin word meaning "impose", to make somebody do something. It was first applied in imposing taxes in Egypt. The Roman Emperor Diocletian extended the system of taxing conquered people to the whole Roman Empire. The first official worldwide indiction originated with Emperor Constantine in 312AD when he saw a miraculous vision of the "sign of the cross" on the skies. The Church picked this day to begin its calendar year for various reasons:

Before the Julian calendar, the Romans began their year on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

According to Holy Tradition, it was on September 1<sup>st</sup> that our Blessed Lord first entered the Jewish Synagogue (Luke 4) to preach His mission to men. Jesus, quoted from the 61<sup>st</sup> chapter of the book of Isaiah: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord had anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek, he has sent me to bind up the openings of the prison to them that are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn."

Tradition also tells us that it was during the month of September that the Hebrews finally entered the Promised Land.

It has always been accepted within the church community that the month of September was the time to gather all the fruits of the summer months and prepare for the beginning of the winter months ahead. At the start of the new year, hymnographers also prepared beautiful hymns to be chanted during church services. The hymns were offered to Almighty God so that we might receive His divine blessings throughout the coming year.

### ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

The First Ecumenical Council decreed that the Church's year should begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The month of September was, for the Jews, the beginning of the civil year (see Exodus 12:2), the month of the gathering of fruits and the bringing to God of sacrifices of thanksgiving. It was at the time of this feast that the Lord Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth, opened the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance' (Is. 61: 1-2; cf. Luke 4: 16-21). This month of September is also noted in the history of Christianity because it was during September that Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian faith, a victory followed by the granting of freedom of confession of the Christian faith throughout the whole Roman Empire. For a long time, the civil year in the Christian world was reckoned in the same way as the Church's year, from September 1<sup>st</sup>, but it was later changed to January 1<sup>st</sup>, first in western Europe and then also in Russia in the time of Peter the Great.



## September 8<sup>st</sup> – Nativity of the Theotokos

The establishment of four major feast days to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary took place in the days of the apostolic era and has significance in the Greek Orthodox Church which has remained unaltered through twenty centuries of Christianity. The mother of the Son of God is honored on March 25<sup>th</sup>, the day of Annunciation when the Archangel Gabriel told Mary she was to become the mother of Jesus Christ; the Repose of the blessed Virgin Mary on August 15<sup>th</sup>; on November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Entrance of the Blessed Theotokos to the Temple; and on February 2<sup>nd</sup> when the Mother of God brought the infant Jesus to the temple for presentation forty days after His birth.

A fifth day of commemoration is celebrated on September 8<sup>th</sup>, honoring the Virgin Mary on the day of her birth. This day was set aside by the Orthodox Church in the early first century, but not observed until the eighth century when Pope Sergios saw fit to join with the Orthodox during his reign which extended from AD 687 to 701. All of Christendom agreed on the date that the Virgin Mary was born, but for some reason the date was not an official feast day in the Roman sector for more than a third of the length of existence of the Christian Church. The lack of communication between east and West ended in the Schism of 1054, a break which now appears to be an ever-narrowing gap, hopefully to be closed in a reunion upon which the Mother of God is sure to smile.

The familiar story of Mary's birth has had variations in splinter groups of Christianity, but there is no doubt that her birth came about as an act of God. Her parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless and were fast approaching the years which would place Anna beyond the age of childbearing. Perhaps it was because of the intensity of their prayers that a child be born to them that their prayers were not only answered, but their child would, in turn, bear a child ordained by God as His Son.

Although Mary is known as the mother of God, she has been accorded numerous titles in the Orthodox Church. They include, in addition to *Mary, Mother of God: The Repose (Koimisis) of the Blessed Virgin, Mary Pantanissa, Mary of Tenos, Mary of Malcheon and Mary of Vlacherne* just to mention a few of the many honors applied to her name, dozens more were listed in last month's bulletin). Considered the Mother of Mothers and the Mother of all Mankind, she is venerated in a manner which helps to sanctify the role of motherhood and the preservation of the family as the only hope for civilization.

It is regrettable that the immaculate conception not to be confused with the virginal birth of the Savior, is a concept of the Mother of God which the Roman Church has assumed in 1854 and with which the Orthodox Church is in disagreement. This concept holds that Mary was born without the stain of original sin brought upon all mankind by Adam and Eve. But the Orthodox position holds that since Jesus Christ is God, He is, therefore, the only one who is without the original stain. The point could be argued endlessly; but in spite of dogmatic differences, there is no lessening in the adoration of Mary as the Mother of God. There can be no doubt that she was made pure on the day of the Annunciation when told by Gabriel she was going to be the Virgin Mother of the Messiah. The Orthodox position stems from the concept that if the immaculate conception is taken literally, then Mary would assume the stature of goddess alongside God.

## HOSPITAL VISITATIONS



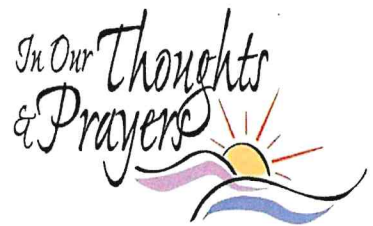
are Father Christ's priority.

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

All hospitals do not notify parishes of hospitalized parishioners.

## St. Luke Prayer Group

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



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

*How do I register?*

Email Presbytera Michele at [SaintLukePrayer@gmail.com](mailto:SaintLukePrayer@gmail.com)

## REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

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





## FESTIVAL OF MINISTRIES, SEPT 15<sup>TH</sup>

It is an exciting time for us at St Luke as we are ramping up our activities for the Fall. September 15th is Registration Sunday for all Youth and Adult Ministries and the beginning of Sunday School. Please join us at the conclusion of liturgy for the 3rd Annual **St Luke Festival of Ministries Pizza Party**.



Groups/Committees represented:

***Little Angels Playgroup - JOY/HOPE - GOYA - Basketball - Dance Troup - Sunday School - Greek School - Altar Boys - Parish Council - Philoptochos - FTIN - Choir - Diakonia - Senior Men's Group - Senior Women's Group - Stewardship - Greek Affair - Bible Study/Elements of Orthodoxy - Book Club - YAL - Prayer Group - Golf Classic***





**FOCUS North America...**

is searching for a qualified candidate to fill the position of Center Director for its FOCUS Philadelphia ministry location. The time frame is immediate. Interested applicants can use the QR to view details or send two reference letters and a resume to [info@focusna.org](mailto:info@focusna.org). Phone: 866-267-3083.



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

2024 GREEK AFFAIR BAKING SCHEDULE (all sessions begin at 10:00am)

Pastry	Date	Chairs
KOURABIEDES	Sept 10 <sup>th</sup>	Angelique Demetris, Niki Tsetsekos

If you should have any questions, please contact any of the GREEK AFFAIR BAKING chairladies. All are welcome ...mothers, daughters, husbands, fathers and sons. We promise a good time and you will leave with something more valuable: the feeling of good will, being part of the embrace of our beloved St. Luke Community.

Thank you in advance for your participation,  
Diane Sioutis [diansioutis@yahoo.com](mailto:diansioutis@yahoo.com)  
Karen Kotapka [mkotapka@aol.com](mailto:mkotapka@aol.com)  
Maria Carafides [mcarafides@gmail.com](mailto:mcarafides@gmail.com)  
**GREEK AFFAIR BAKING CHAIR**





# THE GREEK AFFAIR

**SEPTEMBER 20, 21 & 22, 2024**

*What can YOU do to support the Greek Affair??*

1. Visit [www.thegreekaffair.com](http://www.thegreekaffair.com) to
  - ✓ For volunteer Sign-up (sign-up early and solicit friends and family)
  - ✓ For link to solicit ads for the program group. Sell at least one ad to a local merchant.
2. Pick up a lawn sign in August and display on your yard
3. Distribute flyers and let your friends and neighbors know about the Greek Affair

# Stewardship CORNER

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

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

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

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

**Total Pledges: 414**

*Total Pledged as of 7/31/2024 - \$482,205.04*

*Total Received as of 7/31/2024: \$358,328.70*

**Stewardship Chairperson:** NIKI THOMPSON

**Stewardship Administrator:** MICHAEL COOK

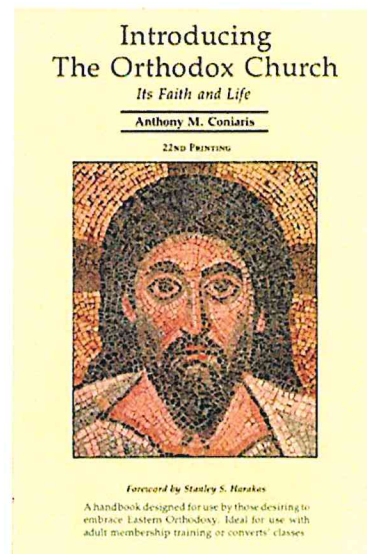
**Contact Niki & Michael at:** [StLukeGiving@gmail.com](mailto:StLukeGiving@gmail.com)

**Stewardship Spiritual Advisor:** Fr Christ Kontos [fatherck@gmail.com](mailto:fatherck@gmail.com)

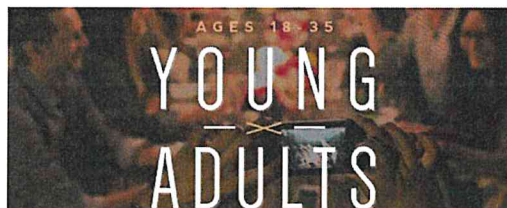


# St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church Book Club 2024-2025 Announcement

With the blessings and guidance of Fr Christ, St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church is proud to announce it has a new Book Club. This book club will focus on discovering and exploring our rich Orthodox Christian Faith through a variety of texts. We will start with Father Anthony M. Coniaris' *Introducing the Orthodox Church: It's Faith and Life* for our inaugural year. We plan on meeting once a week every Thursday (with exceptions) from 8:00 to 9:00 P.M. online via ZOOM. The St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church Book Club is open to any and all who have a desire to seek more knowledge and understanding about our Faith. It is meant to help answer and help ask questions about our various services, feast days, saints, and holidays etc. If you are interested please email Dean Vlahos or Evangelos Sariyanidi at [BCofStLuke@gmail.com](mailto:BCofStLuke@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 8:00 P.M.



## New St. Luke's Group!



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

Our first monthly meeting will be in October at the church. Future events that we host may be activities like bowling, eating out for dinner, movie watching, and exploring nature!

To express interest on joining this YAL group and to be informed on all YAL events, please contact YAL Group Leader Alexander Arcidiacono at [yalstluke@gmail.com](mailto:yalstluke@gmail.com) or 610-888-6117.

## **CHOIR NEWS**

**All who enjoy singing are invited to join the St. Luke Senior Choir. New member sessions can be arranged to acquaint you with our choir music. For more information about joining the St. Luke Choir please contact Choir Director, Dena Papadopoulos at [dena80papa@gmail.com](mailto:dena80papa@gmail.com)**

### **SUNDAY YOUTH CHOIR PROGRAM**

**If your children enjoy singing, please encourage them to participate in the Sunday Youth Choir. Students in grades 5 through 12 are welcome to join the Sunday Youth Choir. Participating in the Sunday Youth Choir is a meaningful way to learn our liturgical music.**

**On Sunday mornings, Youth Choir proceeds directly to the choir loft at 10:00 AM and joins the Senior Choir to participate in the singing of the Divine Liturgy. Then, before the start of the children's sermon, Youth Choir joins the Sunday School seated in church. Sunday Youth Choir members do not miss Sunday School. Altar boys may also participate in Sunday Youth Choir on the Sundays they are not serving in the altar. There are no rehearsals for Sunday Youth choir.**

**If your child would like to participate or if you have questions, please contact Dena Papadopoulos at [dena80papa@gmail.com](mailto:dena80papa@gmail.com)**





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

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

September, 2024 *Epistle*

***For Those In Need (FTIN)*** helps in St. Luke's outreach to the community, offering basic necessities such as food, school supplies, clothing, shelter, etc. to those in our local area who lack them. FTIN also works with other parish groups to provide discretionary assistance to fellow parishioners and others in need.

On **July 30<sup>th</sup>** FTIN made its bi-monthly delivery to re-stock the Salvation Army's food pantry specifically oriented towards their senior and homeless populations.

During our August Cook, FTIN's volunteer Chefs prepared some 190 evening meals for our partners at The Life Center (TLC) and the Salvation Army.

No Cook is scheduled for September; instead, FTIN will be treating our recipients to foods from The Greek Affair, compliments of and with thanks to John Solomon and The Greek Affair. Our **October Cook** is scheduled for Monday, **October 7<sup>th</sup>**.

And FTIN was privileged to join in supporting the Sunday School's FOCUS Back to School Backpack campaign.

### **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](mailto:apcsolyar@comcast.net) or 610-457-6033

## Saint Luke Greek Folk Dance Groups

Our Greek Folk Dance Groups are looking forward to a new year and we're excited to welcome new members! No previous dance experience is necessary!

Children entering Second Grade through Sixth Grade can join **Ellinakia**  
Youth entering Seventh Grade through Twelfth Grade can join **Olympians**

Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at Saint Luke. Our first practice of the new season with new members is scheduled for Thursday, October 10th. Join us for fun and friendship!

Please access our online registration form at [Greek Dance Registration 2024-25](#)

Or by using the QR code below



We'll also have a staffed table for the Festival of Ministries on Sunday, September 15th, in the Community Center following Divine Liturgy.

Please contact Cynthia Costanzo at [ckarakantas@gmail.com](mailto:ckarakantas@gmail.com) with any questions.

Don't forget to watch our current Ellinakia and Olympian Dancers at this year's Greek Affair September 20th and 21st!



## St. Luke Greek Language School

Another incredible school year is about to start at St. Luke Greek School. Ayiasmos and the first day of the 2024-2025 school year is on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Administrators and teachers have been working hard in preparing for the year.

St. Luke Greek School operates every Tuesday from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Please scan the QR code below and register your child/children no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>.



We look forward to an exciting and successful year full of Greek language, culture, and tradition for students, parents, and teachers alike!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our administrator Angelique Demetris at [angeliquedemetris@gmail.com](mailto:angeliquedemetris@gmail.com).

For more information visit our website [www.stlukegreeksschool.com](http://www.stlukegreeksschool.com).

*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all!”*

-Aristotle-

**Καλή Χρονιά!**

**Kali Hronia!**

**Have a great school year!**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

For this first Newsletter of the 2024-2025 Sunday School year, we greet you with a special message from Father Christ:

*We begin the month kicking off the many activities of the Church with the Festival of Ministries on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Following Holy Communion, our youth will go to their first Sunday School class where they will be greeted by their dedicated teachers and administrators. Our Sunday School team is especially blessed this year as Panayota Kevgas is returning to Sunday School as one of our directors. Together with Sophia Milinkovic and Jane Kelly, Panayota brings a wealth of administrative experience, teaching excellence, and above all, a great deal of love for our faith and our youth. Welcome Panayota!*

Here is the Sunday School Schedule for September 2024:

- September 15 Worship and Classes-Classes Begin, Agiasmos for new school year; Open House/Festival of Ministries Pizza Party; Registration Sunday for all youth activities
- September 22-No classes, Greek Affair
- September 29 Worship and Classes

The calendar for the entire 2024-2025 Sunday School year is posted on the Sunday School website (<https://www.ss.st-luke.org>) and will also be emailed to all families who register their children.

As Father Christ explained above, the entire Sunday School staff is very excited to begin the 2024-2025 Sunday School year by welcoming all students and their families to this year's **Sunday School Open House on Sunday, September 15, 2024!** After communion, students of all grades should go to the Education Building with their parents or other family members, and join the class that matches the grade they attend at their regular school:

## First Floor:

3 year olds	room I03	Lisa Palmieri, Kathy Zarvalas
Pre-K	room I01	Faithe Kalisperis, Marinela Tsapournas
Eleventh-Twelfth	room I00	Danny Milinkovic, Evan Palmieri

## Second Floor:

Kindergarten	room 201	Marilena Ristas
First Grade	room 205	Thomas Ristas, Nysia Petrakis
Second Grade	room 203	Eleni Kornblatt
Third Grade	room 202	Sophia Tsakiris
Fourth Grade	room 207	Marina Despotopoulou
Fifth Grade	room 204	Sophia Milinkovic
Sixth Grade	room 200	Carnation Karros
Seventh-Eighth	room 206	Arthur Karros
Ninth-Tenth	room 209	Peter Pavlis



**Open House** will enable the teachers to: meet their new students; connect with you, their families; introduce the curriculum for each grade; and determine the best way to communicate with families and students throughout the coming year. **Snacks and activities/games** will be available in each room, which are meant to engage both students and parents on the first day of the new Sunday School year, as well as to, hopefully, forge bonds that will last throughout the year. Parents and family members, be sure to visit the classrooms of your children's Sunday School classes on September 15, 2024, before heading downstairs to visit the **registration tables of all the St. Luke Youth Ministries AND a pizza party** to kick off the year!

Is your child not registered for Sunday School yet? No problem! Register your child or children, visit the Sunday School table at the Festival of Ministries in the gym on September 15, 2024; OR, click on the following link:  
<https://www.ss.st-luke.org/registration>; OR use the QR code:



For further information about registration, or general information about the Sunday School program, please contact Jane Kelly, Panayota Kevgas, and Sophia Milinkovic at [stlukesundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesundayschool@gmail.com).

### Teachers Needed!

Do you enjoy working with kids- of all ages? Would you like to grow further in our Orthodox faith by teaching our young people about it? The Sunday School is looking for primary, assistant, and substitute teachers. We can work with your availability and we also provide the teaching materials. If you are able to provide love, compassion, and support, on top of devotion to the tenets of the Greek Orthodox faith, you're qualified, and we'd love to hear from you at [stlukesundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesundayschool@gmail.com).

### FOCUS Back-to-School Backpack Fundraiser-

It is with heartfelt gratitude and deep humility that we recognize the immense kindness and generosity of our St. Luke family, enabling us to raise \$8,075.00 to provide 323 backpacks to children in the School District of Philadelphia and at the Chester Charter Scholars Academy. We are profoundly indebted to Father Christ for his leadership, support, and promotion of this important community outreach project. The success of our fundraising and the involvement of our St. Luke family were due to his blessed work.

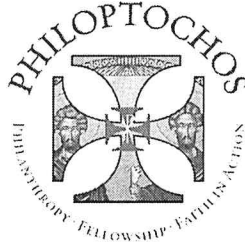
While the backpacks and supply kits purchased from FOCUS for children in Philadelphia were sent directly to their respective Districts, our Sunday School students and their families came together following the Liturgy on Sunday, August 18 for a *flash fill event* to fill 56 backpacks with supply kits for the third-grade classes at CCSA. Our Sunday School students and families were energized by the project and their service was remarkable. We are gratified that our young people had an opportunity to see that the FOCUS Back-to-School Backpack program was about more than just raising money. It was also about service to those of their peers in greatest need. We celebrated the work of our donors and all those present with a pizza party, thanks to Stephanie Carroll, with promises to do this again next year. The backpacks were delivered to CCSA on Monday, August 19.

In that regard, please know that we, as Co-Directors, are constantly brainstorming about new programs, including those about both our faith and service to our community at large, to bring to you and your children throughout the year. We recognize that hands-on work is as important as book learning to a holistic approach to embracing our Orthodox faith. We look forward to your feedback about your children's Sunday School experience. Please help us to do the best job possible to educate and inspire your children about our faith.

Finally, most of our teachers have been religious educators for many years, and their experiences have demonstrated that the religious education of our youth begins and ends in the home. Please allow our Sunday School team to guide and inspire your family's religious education efforts at home. We are at your disposal and will be honored to support your family's spiritual journey in any way possible.

*May God bless our students and families with the knowledge of Christ our Savior and grant us all a spiritually uplifting year in Sunday School!*

Jane Kelly, Panayota Kevgas, and Sophia Milinkovic  
Co- Directors St. Luke Sunday School  
stlukesundayschool@gmail.com



## **Philoptochos Society News**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Ladies Philoptochos Bowling Night - Friday, September 6, 2024**

**Tenth Annual Boutiques and Greek Treats**

Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024

**General Assembly - Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

**Summer Coffee Hour**- The 2024 Summer Fellowship Hour was enjoyed by our parishioners over a cup of coffee and pastries. We are thankful for the invaluable help of Spiridoula Bottos, Sue Clark, Deeta Fiorentino, Helen Kopitas, Sandie Liacouras, Renee and Derek Matonti, Phyllis Roebas, Diane Sioutis, Georgia and Michael Vlahos. Gratefully, Dee Karras and Alexandra Perrot

**Ladies Philoptochos Bowling Night**- Members are invited to our first ever Philoptochos Bowling Night!

**When:** Friday, September 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Where:** Sproul Lanes

**What's included:** Pizza, snacks, soft drinks and bowling shoes.

Gather your friends and strike up some fun as we kick off a new year! RSVP by September 2 to our website, or email ladiesphiloptochos@gmail.com to sign up.

**General Assembly**- Our first General Assembly of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024. Please plan to attend and embrace the chance to learn about our plans for the coming year as well as opportunities for involvement. We look forward to another year of fellowship and philanthropy within our Army of Agape. Thank you!

**Philoptochos Charity Committee**- On the evening of June 13, 2024, Angelique Demetris, Phyllis Roebas, Sandi Liacouris crafted with residents at **St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter** in Phoenixville, PA. The Charity Committee arranged



delivery of feminine hygiene products to be distributed to residents at the various shelters overseen by CHOP/Homeless Health Initiative.

The Charity Committee donated to **Ronald McDonald** to send two children to camp (more details below).

A donation was made to **Waves to Wellness** which supports people in need of rehabilitation who are recovering from medical illness and addiction.

**FOCUS North America** received a donation from Philoptochos for back packs.

**Grands Stepping Up** was given a donation towards School Supplies for the children in their care.

**Ronald McDonald House-** Every year the Ronald McDonald House sponsors a Camp in the Poconos for children with cancer who are living at the Ronald McDonald House with their families while they are being treated at our various hospitals. For approximately 10 years our Philoptochos has sponsored 2 children to go to camp where they have fun and games and no one speaks about their cancer. I thank our generous Philoptochos who once again have sponsored 2 children in the amount of \$1500.00 to join the group at the Camp.

Mary Missiras and Mary Ellen Trimble, Chairs

*\*Information for all Philoptochos Charity Events may be found on the Philoptochos website under the Donate tab.*

**10th Annual Boutiques & Greek Treats 2024-** Saturday, December 7th & Sunday, December 8th, 2024. **Save the dates!** Interested vendors and volunteers, please contact [boutiquesgt@stlukephiloptochos.org](mailto:boutiquesgt@stlukephiloptochos.org) or 610-246-7163.

**Philoptochos Stewardship Information-** January was Stewardship month, but we continue to accept your 2024 commitment through the end of the year. Your support is vital to ensuring our positive impact on local, national and international charities. To fulfill our charitable mission, it is crucial to have the full participation of our members. The minimum recommended stewardship amount is \$35; any additional offering above that will serve to enhance our philanthropic efforts. Please submit your check by mailing to St Luke Greek Orthodox Church, by hand delivering to the church office or by scanning the QR code below. Please note that members must be logged into the website to be able to access the form to pay online with the QR Code. We thank you for your participation and generosity in our mission to serve those in need and are looking forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Contact me with any questions or concerns at 267.808.4160 or email [kiablazakis@gmail.com](mailto:kiablazakis@gmail.com). Kia Blazakis, Membership Chair.



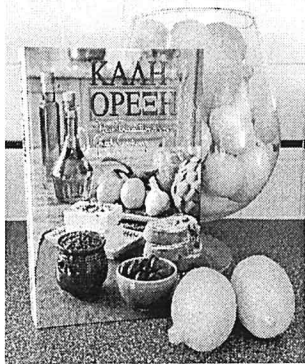
**Sponsorship of Floral Décor-** Icon and Floral Sponsorship opportunities are available throughout the year for ecclesiastic feast days. Sponsorship can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or for the well-being of your family.

**Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include-**

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Nativity of the Theotokos

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – The Elevation of the Cross

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](mailto: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](mailto:president@stlukephiloptochos.org), or Phyllis Roebas, at [proebas@gmail.com](mailto:proebas@gmail.com).

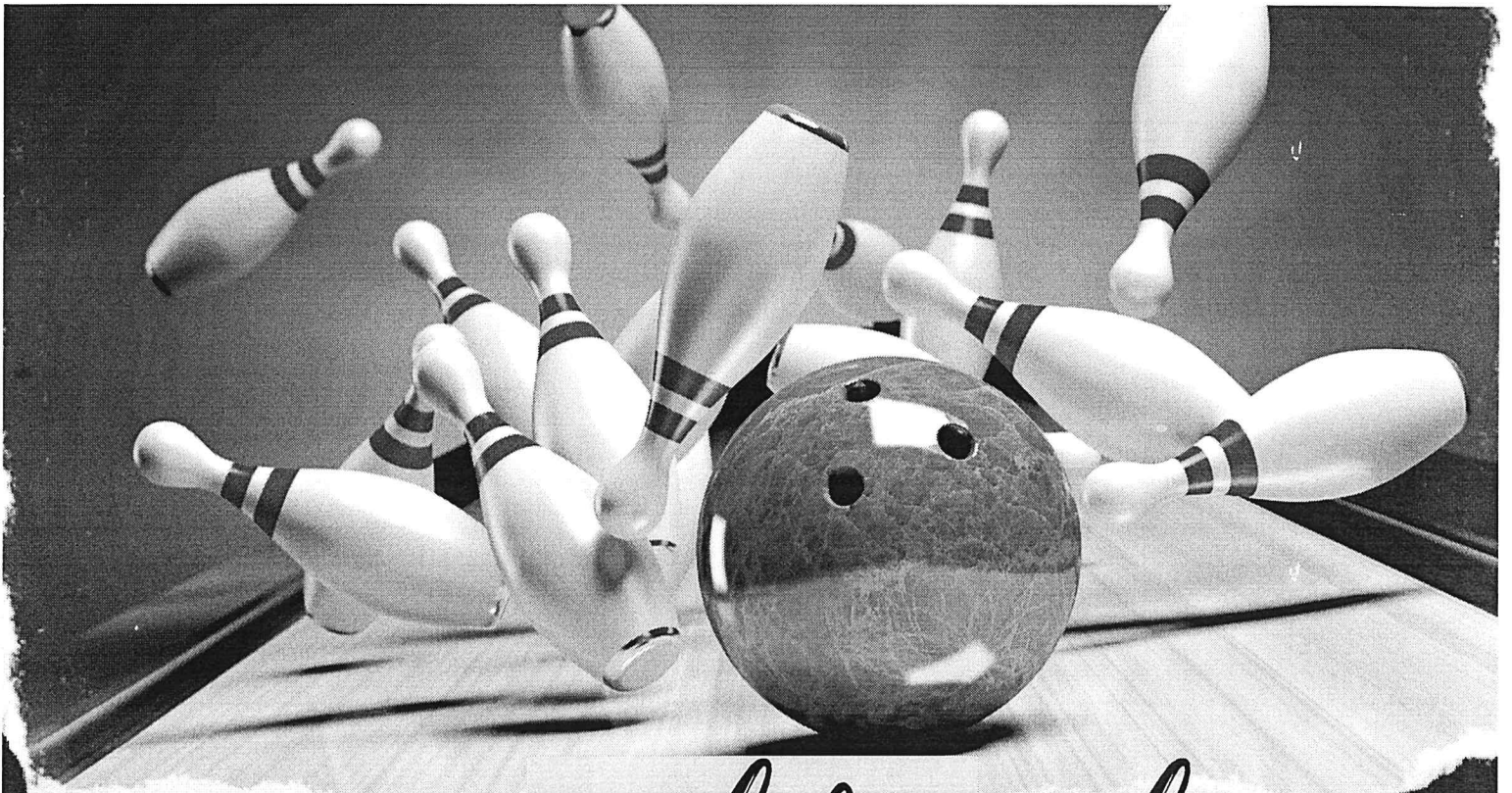
**Philoptochos Members - OUR DIRECTORY IS NOW ONLINE!**

Please register with our website [www.stlukephiloptochos.org](http://www.stlukephiloptochos.org) for access to the Members Only Online Directory.

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

*Paper directories are available by request.*





*Ladies Philoptochos*  
**BOWLING**  
*Night*

at Sproul Lanes

**Friday**  
**September 6**  
7:00-9:00

**ENTRY**  

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**\$20**

**Includes**  
Shoes,  
Pizza, Snacks  
& Soft Drinks

All Members Welcome!

To sign up, please email by September 2  
[ladiesphiloptochos@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesphiloptochos@gmail.com)



St. Luke Ladies Philoptochos Presents

*"Cape May Escape"*  
**Raffle**  
*Back By Popular Demand!*

A 2-night stay in historic  
Cape May, New Jersey



*\$20.00*  
*per*  
*ticket*



*Drawing to be held on*  
*Sunday, December 8, 2024 at*  
*Boutiques and Greek Treats in the*  
*St. Luke's Community Center*

**Includes a \$1000 Gift Certificate for any  
Cape Collection Resort  
Plus a Dining Gift Card  
NO date restrictions apply!**  
**[stlukephiloptochos.org](http://stlukephiloptochos.org) to purchase your tickets**



*Need not be present to win.*

SAVE THE DATE!

NOV 8, 9, 10 2024

**GOYA FALL**

**RETREAT**

INNABAH CAMP &  
RETREAT CENTER



Metropolis of  
New Jersey

A DVYC EVENT

FAITH/FUN/FELLOWSHIP!



**PENNAUSEUM**  
University of Pennsylvania Museum  
of Archaeology and Anthropology



**Celebrating Cyprus' Cultural Heritage in American Life and Learning**  
**The Penn Museum**  
**Sunday, November 24, 2024, 2:00 - 5:00 PM**

**SAVE THE DATE!** Enthusiasts of Cypriot food and culture, lovers of archaeology, members of Cypriot families eager to recover your origins and traditions, bring your love and your *kefi* to an afternoon of celebration honoring the millennia-long dynamism of Cyprus' cultural legacy. Two organizations that deserve your support--the **Cyprus Society of Greater Philadelphia** and the **Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI)** in Nicosia--are joining to offer an afternoon of Cypriot archaeology, culture, and cuisine at **The Penn Museum**. Admission to the Museum with special access to the Museum's recently installed Eastern Mediterranean Gallery is part of the event. The afternoon will include:

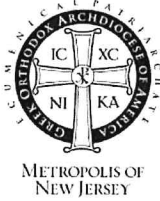
- \* Guests will be greeted by Mr. Evangelos Savva, Ambassador of Cyprus to the USA
- \* CAARI and the Cyprus Society will introduce their work fostering knowledge of Cyprus
- \* Ambassador Savva and a panel of archaeologists from CAARI will discuss current archaeological projects on Cyprus and the opportunities they offer for students.
- \* After a brief introduction to the Eastern Mediterranean Gallery, guests will be free to move through it and talk with Penn Curators about the Cypriot treasures exhibited there.
- \* A reception will follow for all, featuring good Cypriot cuisine and Cypriot wine.

**Tickets: \$75 per person**

**All proceeds go to the Cyprus Society's Scholarship Fund and CAARI's Fellowship Fund.**  
For information about registration, public transportation and parking, and opportunities to register your dietary preferences and accessibility needs, contact: [anna.hadgis@gmail.com](mailto:anna.hadgis@gmail.com)

**Sponsorships are warmly solicited.**





# ST. LUKE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

35 N. Malin Rd., Broomall, PA, 19008 · Tel: (610) 353-1592

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

Dear St. Luke Golf Classic Supporter,

On behalf of Fr Christ, we are excited to announce the annual St. Luke Golf Classic in support for St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, PA. The event will be held at Paxon Hollow Golf Club in Broomall on October 14, 2024.

Proceeds from the event will go to benefit the Church and its programs which serve an important role in the local community. St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church needs your help in our effort in consistently striving to live up to the Vision of the Church:

*"The Vision of St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church is to be a parish in which we actively connect/participate in the life of the Church of Jesus Christ and grow in faith through worship and education; enrich the life of the parish family through fellowship and love for one another; express our faith and Christ's love through our obligation to offer our time, talent and treasure; and impart, sustain and perpetuate our Christian values and traditions for our children's children."*

Come out and join us, your fellow parishioners, and other members of the community for a great day of golf and fun. Know that your support is needed to help our parish continue to grow and flourish.

We would greatly appreciate your support through the donation of a sponsorship or item. If you donate a gift certificate, we request that it not expire for one year after the date of the event (valid until October 2025).

Donations can be mailed to the address listed on the bottom of the page, or by visiting us at <https://tinyurl.com/StLukeRegistration>.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call Demetrios Fragogiannis at (610) 637-9775, or e-mail at: [demetrios326@yahoo.com](mailto:demetrios326@yahoo.com); or Andrew Papageorge at (610) 517-9235 or email at: [abpapa@comcast.net](mailto:abpapa@comcast.net).

Sincerely,

*Demetrios*

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church Golf Classic Chairmen  
35 N. Malin Rd

[www.St-Luke.org](http://www.St-Luke.org)



[FatherCK@gmail.com](mailto:FatherCK@gmail.com)



# St. Luke Golf Classic

## Monday, October 14, 2024

### Paxon Hollow Country Club

850 Paxon Hollow Road, Broomall, PA 19008



Registration – 11 AM  
Shot Gun Start – 12PM

\$200 - Golf, Lunch, Beer/Soda  
Cart, Golfer Gift &  
After Party Dinner

### Contests Include:

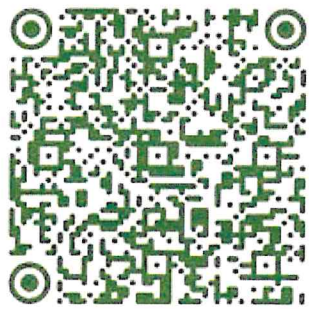
- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- Putting Contest
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Teams

\$70 - Dinner Reception Only

**Registration Deadline – October 1st**

Checks Payable to:  
St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church  
Memo: 2024 Golf Outing

**REGISTER HERE**



## Sponsorship Opportunities

**Sponsorship Deadline – October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Platinum: \$7,000

After Party: \$6,000

Gold: \$4,000

Silver: \$2,000

Beer/Soda Cart: \$1,000

Putting Contest: \$500`

Hole Sponsor: \$250

Contact Demetrios Fragogiannis (610) 637-9775 demetrios326@yahoo.com or  
Andrew Papageorge (610) 517-9235 abpapa@comcast.net for more info



# St. Luke Golf Classic



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



## Golfer Registration Form

**Paxon Hollow Golf Club**  
**Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Registration: 11am  
Shotgun Start: 12pm

**Register By: October 1st**

**\$200** - Golf, Lunch, Golfer Gift  
& After Party Dinner

**\$70** – Dinner Reception Only

### Contests Include:

- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- Putting Contest
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Teams

### Golfers Option 1, Complete form below:

*You may be paired with other  
golfers if you're not in a foursome*  
Golfer 1:

---

Golfer 2:

---

Golfer 3:

---

Golfer 4:

---

### Golfers Option 2: Register Online

<https://tinyurl.com/StLukeRegistration>

**For Check payments to: St Luke**  
**in the memo: St Luke Golf**

**For Credit/Debit/Paypal Payments**  
<https://tinyurl.com/StLuke2024>

**For Questions or more Information Contact:**

**Demetrios Fragogiannis**  
**(610) 637-9775**  
[demetrios326@yahoo.com](mailto:demetrios326@yahoo.com)

**Andrew Papageorge**  
**(610) 517-9235**  
[abpapa@comcast.net](mailto:abpapa@comcast.net)



# St. Luke Golf Classic



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



## Sponsor Registration Form

**Paxon Hollow Golf Club**

**Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Registration: 11am

Shotgun Start: 12pm

**Register By: October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**\$200** - Golf, Lunch, Golfer Gift  
& After Party Dinner

**\$70** – Dinner Reception Only

### Contests Include:

- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- Putting Contest
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Teams

### Sponsorship Opportunities:

Platinum:	\$7,000
After Party Dinner:	\$6,000
Gold:	\$4,000
Silver:	\$2,000
Beer/Soda Cart:	\$1,000
Hole Sponsor:	\$250

*Sponsorship Deadline: October 1, 2024*

**Company Sign Name**

---

**Contact Name/Phone**

---

**Email (for logo)**

---

**For Check payments to: St Luke**  
**In the memo: St Luke Golf**  
**For Credit/Debit/Paypal Payments**

<https://tinyurl.com/StLuke2024>

**Sponsorship Opportunities can be  
made online also at:**

<https://tinyurl.com/StLukeRegistration>

### For Questions or more Information Contact:

**Demetrios Fragogiannis**  
**(610) 637-9775**  
**demetrios326@yahoo.com**

**Andrew Papageorge**  
**(610) 517-9235**  
**abpapa@comcast.net**

# 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

**Address service requested**

**St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church**

**35 N. Malin Road**

**Broomall, PA 19008**

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Broomall, PA

Non-Profit Org