

THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

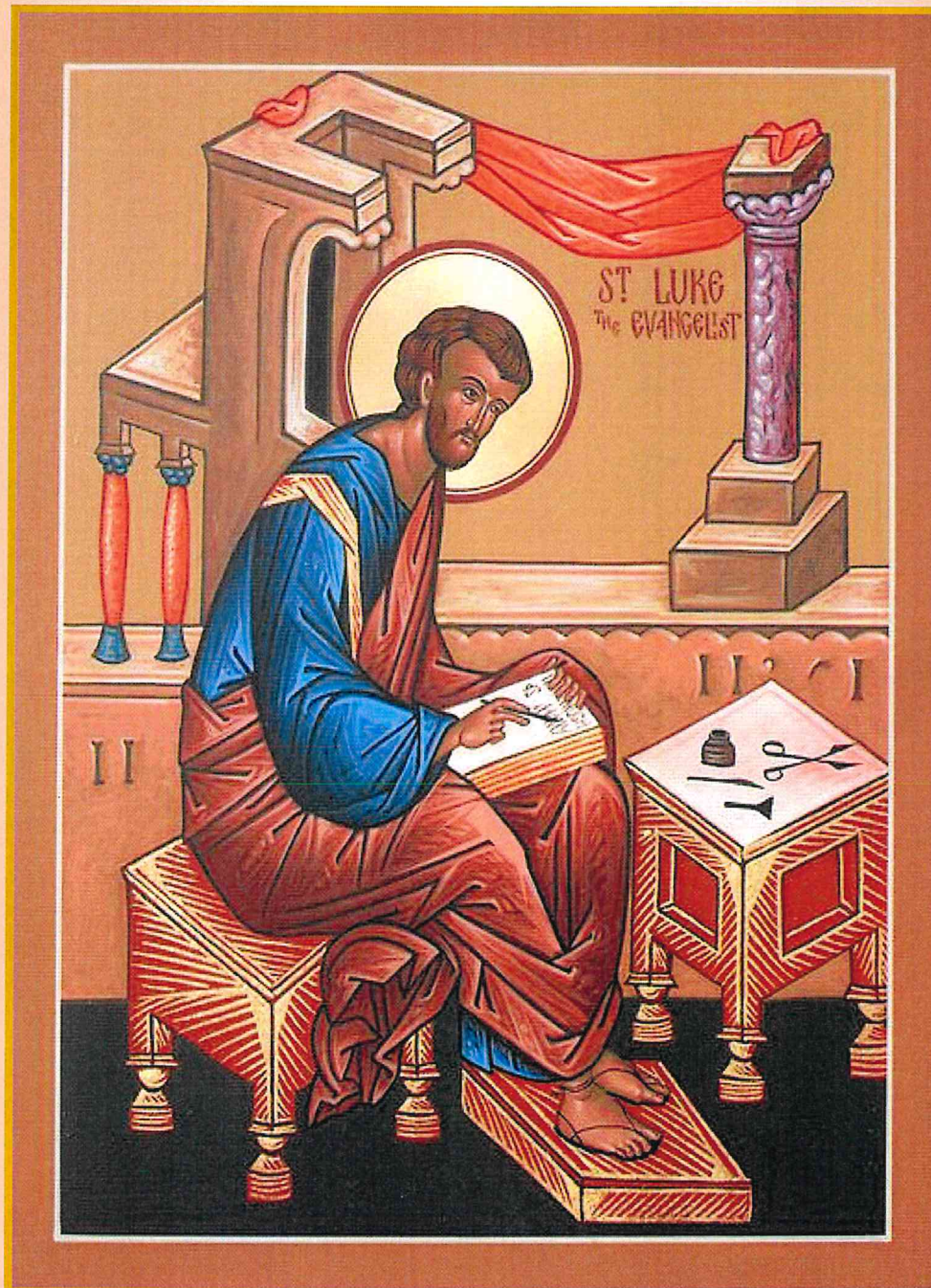
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

610-353-1592

www.st-luke.org

November 2024





GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

October 22, 2024

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy,
Esteemed Members of the Metropolis Council, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Sisterhood,
All Tonsured Acolytes, And all devout Orthodox Christians of the
Greek Orthodox Communities of the sacred Metropolis of New Jersey

My beloved,

I hope and pray this this letter finds all of you well. On Friday, November 22, 2024, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey will be celebrating the for the first time the Feastday of our new Metropolis Patron Saint, St. Iakovos (Tsalikis) of Evia. It is therefore with much joy and enthusiasm that I announce to you the schedule for the Divine Services which will be taking place to mark this most important Feastday in the life our sacred Metropolis:

Thursday, November 21, 2024

**6:00pm Great Hierarchical Vespers
At Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090**

All tonsured Acolytes are invited to attend and to participate in the Great Vespers Service. They are to bring their Altar Boy Robes with them for the service. At the end of the Vespers His Eminence was bestow upon each of the Acolytes a cross for them to wear at the divine services.


Friday, November 22, 2024

**9:00am Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
At the St. Iakovos of Evia Chapel at the Metropolis Headquarters
215 E. Grove Street, Westfield, NJ 07090**

Please know that all of the faithful of our sacred Metropolis are wholeheartedly invited to attend and participate in these beautiful Divine Services so that we may join together as one spiritual family and worship together in honor of our new beloved Patron Saint. A celebratory reception will follow both the Great Vespers and the Divine Liturgy.

Praying that our loving Lord, through the intercessions of St. Iakovos of Evia, continues to bless all of you, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,


† APOSTOLOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey

Parish Life

Baptisms



The son of **Luke & Christina Miller** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on October 6, 2024. His sponsor, **Maria Karalis**, baptized him with the name **George**. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **George Stephen Miller**.

The daughter of **Nicholas & Elena Bottos** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on October 6, 2024. Her sponsor, **Panagiotis & Dimitra Bottos**, baptized her with the name **Dimitra**. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Demi Bottos**.

The son of **Keith Parks & Mary Beth Funderburk** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on October 3, 2024. His sponsor, **Gus Costalas**, baptized him with the name **Anthimus**. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Austin McLean Parks**.

Weddings

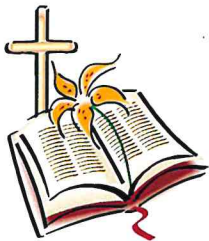
Basil Paffas & Tessa Wisniewski were united in Holy Matrimony on October 4, 2024. **Sophia Paffas** stood by their side as the sponsor and the witness was **Sydney Wisniewski**.



Brandon Caliendo & Elena Markos were united in Holy Matrimony on October 5, 2024. **Louis Hewett & Christina Eliades** stood by their side as the sponsor and the witness was **Diana Sandmeyer**.

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

Funerals



The servant of God, **Dina S. Hariitonidis**, fell asleep in the Lord on September 28, 2024. Her funeral service was held on October 4, 2024.

The servant of God, **Nicholas Karamatsoukas**, fell asleep in the Lord on October 9, 2024. His funeral service was held on October 17, 2024.

The servant of God, **George Kopitas**, fell asleep in the Lord on October 10, 2024. His funeral service was held on October 21, 2024.

The servant of God, **Eugenia Carafides Xydis**, fell asleep in the Lord on October 14, 2024. Her funeral service was held on October 23, 2024.

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

November 2024 Ecclesiastical Calendar

Sunday, November 3rd **5th Sunday of Luke**
Church of St. George in Lydda; Aceptimas of Persia
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy



Sunday, November 10th **8th Sunday of Luke**
Olympas of the 70; Arsenius of Cappadocia
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy




Friday, November 15th – Nativity Fast Begins

Sunday, November 17th **9th Sunday of Luke**
Gregory the Wonderworker; Gennadios I
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, November 24th **13th Sunday of Luke**
Clement, Pope of Rome; Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria
8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Weekday Services are paused until Fr. Christ regains strength in left arm*

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 11am Sunday School / SPARK Sunday 12:15PM Choir Rehearsal 4pm Ambassador Awards Banquet	4	5 <i>Election Day!!</i> 10am Senior Men 5:30pm Elements of Theology	6 11am Bible Study 6pm Girls Basketball 7:15pm Boys Basketball	7 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 8pm Book Club	8	9
10 11am Sunday School 12pm General Assembly (if quorum is not met) 12:15pm Choir Rehearsal	11 2pm Red Cross Blood Drive 	12 10am Senior Men 10am Baking 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 7pm Parish Council Meeting 8pm Adult Volleyball	13 11am Bible Study 6pm Girls Basketball 7:15pm Boys Basketball	14 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 8pm Book Club	15 10am Ronald McDonald	16
17 11am Sunday School	18 4:30pm FTIN 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	19 10am Senior Men 10am Baking 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	20 11am Bible Study 6pm Girls Basketball 7:15pm Boys Basketball	21 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 8pm Book Club	22 Philoptochos Trip to Lancaster 	23 3pm GOYA Lock-in
24 12:15pm Choir Rehearsal	25 <i>OFFICE CLOSED!!</i> FTIN Turkey Pick-up	26 <i>OFFICE CLOSED!!</i> 10am Senior Men 10am Baking 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	27 <i>OFFICE CLOSED!!</i> 11am Bible Study 6pm Girls Basketball 7:15pm Boys Basketball	28 <i>OFFICE CLOSED!!</i> THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!! 	29 <i>OFFICE CLOSED!!</i> THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!!	30

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

are Father Christ's priority.

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

All hospitals do not notify parishes of hospitalized parishioners.



St. Luke Prayer Group

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



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

How do I register?

Email Presbytera Michele at SaintLukePrayer@gmail.com

REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

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





STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

As we enter the month of November, 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: 432

Total Pledged as of 9/30/2024 - \$491,705.04

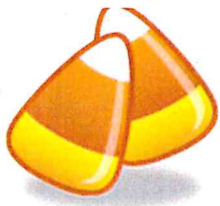
Total Received as of 9/30/2024: \$406,738.64

Stewardship Chairperson: NIKI THOMPSON

Stewardship Administrator: MICHAEL COOK

Contact Niki & Michael at: StLukeGiving@gmail.com

Stewardship Spiritual Advisor: Fr Christ Kontos fatherck@gmail.com



Candy Care



ST LUKE CANDY CARE **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

Homeless people get lots of packaged dinners and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, but CANDY never makes it to their plates. We collect Halloween Candy and give it to children, women, and men who are totally homeless with only the shelters to provide any food, clothes, or beds.

Imagine - children that NEVER see a candy bar!! Impossible, right? It's true! All the people at these shelters LOVE and WANT the candy. The adults like the candy because, well, its candy :) But, many of them are alcoholics or drug addicts and need the sugar in their system. Plus, they like a sweet candy in their pockets when they get back on the street.

You are going to make life a little sweeter this year for those in need. During the month of November, bring some Halloween candy that you've collected to Church *from November 1-22, 2024 8am-3pm and leave it in the Candy Care room near the church office.*

Please help and give generously this Halloween!!!



CHOIR NEWS

National Church Music Sunday

On Sunday, October 6, we celebrated National Church Music Sunday at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church. The Church commemorates National Church Music Sunday, the Sunday nearest the Feast Day of St. Romanos, patron saint of church musicians. This Sunday has been designated as a time to recognize Church musicians in local parishes throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We thank those who give many hours of dedicated service to our Church Music Ministry - the chanters, choir director, choir singers, and youth choir singers. Theirs is a meaningful stewardship, and they play a vital role in the liturgical life of our Church. We congratulated our St. Luke Church Musicians on this special day. During coffee hour a cake reception was offered in gratitude of our beloved St. Luke Choir.

Nick Tsiadis, Protopsalti

Noel Kelly, Assistant Psalti

Senior and Youth Choir Director – Dena Papadopoulos

Senior Choir: Maria Armenti, Max Armenti, Veronica Crisp, Carol Crouse, Robert Jaquette, Noel Kelly, Alexandra Kokonos, Renee Lamprinakos, Madeleine LeBouteiller, Carol Leon, Ted Leon, Patricia Missiras, Peter J. Missiras, Evan Palmieri, Nicole Papadopoulos, Peter Pavlis, Alexandra Perrot, Deme Peters, Ilias Plakakis, George Poole, Pamela Sande, Cathy Vinnicombe, Janine Voudouris, Maria Zissimos

Youth Choir: Sophia Goudouvas, Melina Intzes, Evangelia Papadopoulos, Gabriela Papadopoulos, Katerina Poole, Andonia Pylaras

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Many thanks to our St. Luke Senior Choir and Choir Director for their participation in the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 29. Our choir prepared with additional rehearsal and careful preparation for the elaborate service. The Choir participated beautifully in the Divine Hierarchical Liturgy. The Choir is thanked for their dedication as Church Musicians.

Church Musician Ambassador Award

Congratulations to St. Luke Senior Choir member Cathy Vinnicombe on being an honoree for the Church Musician Ambassador Award. Axia! The award will be presented by his Eminence Metropolitan Apostlos at the 2024 Delaware Valley Region Ambassador Awards Banquet.

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

In **October** FTIN prepared and distributed evening meals for approximately 155 people being served by The Life Center and the Salvation Army.

And **November's Thanksgiving Cook** will take place on Monday evening, **November 18th** beginning at **5:00pm**. In addition to preparing more items, the scale of this traditional Thanksgiving meal is expanded to feed 230 people, reflecting invitations extended in a broader holiday outreach to our partner organizations' communities.

FTIN's annual **Frozen Turkey Drive** has begun and will continue to accept turkeys of all sizes through Sunday, NOV 24th. They may be placed in the large cart in the Kitchen walk-in freezer. Further details may be found in the recently-distributed e-mail announcement.

Finally, we are once again launching the **Winter Clothing Project** in support of the *Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County* for survivors of domestic violence and abuse served by them. Please place any hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks or any other items of apparel offering winter warmth in the container in the lower lobby area by December 1st.

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!

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.

For more information about FTIN, to be added to our mailing list and how you can volunteer or make a donation, please contact:

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



WINTER IS COMING!

For Those In Need (FTIN) is collecting warm ...

Hats ~ Scarves ~ Gloves ~ Mittens ~ Socks

**... for children, teens & adults in support of the
*Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County***

Please help make a difference.

**All donations can be dropped in the container in the
downstairs lobby beginning**

October 27th until December 1st.

Thank you for your assistance!

Please contact Stephanie Abramides-Carroll

with any questions

SACarroll0121@verizon.net



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE

LITTLE ANGELS PLAYGROUP

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

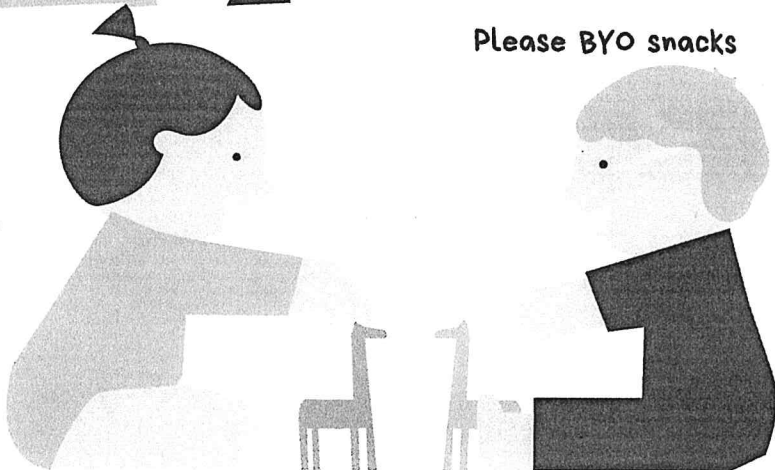


THINGS TO NOTE:
It's all about friendship and
community!
Enjoy a range of toys, fun
activities, and storytime.

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.



Saint Luke Greek Folk Dance Groups

Congratulations to our Ellinakia and Olympian Dance Groups for their outstanding performances during September's Greek Affair!



Our 2024-25 dance year is off to a great start! Our Greek Folk Dance Groups have already welcomed many new members, and there's still time to join. 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**.

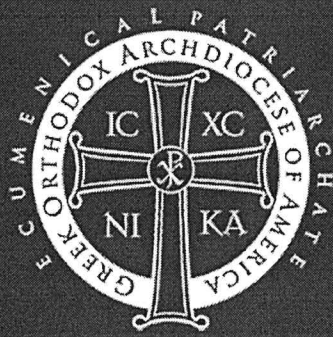
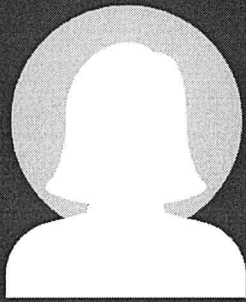
Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings at Saint Luke from 7:00-8:30pm. We hope you'll join us!

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

Or by using the QR code below



Please contact Cynthia Costanzo at ckarakantas@gmail.com with any questions.

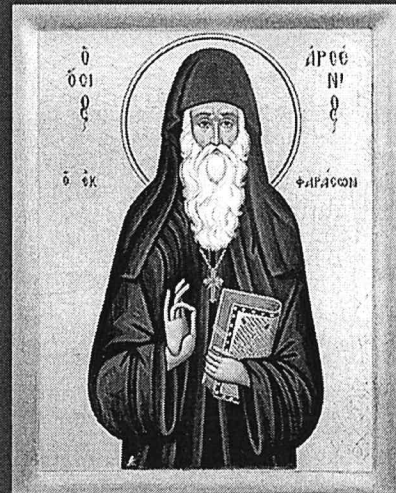


Metropolis of New Jersey



YOU ARE THE SAINTS

How God calls us all to sainthood!



Join us for this year's

DVYC FALL GOYA RETREAT



NOVEMBER 8TH- 10TH, 2024



INNABAH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT 27TH



\$235/GOYAN, \$215/ADD. SIBLING



DVYOUTHCOMMISSION@GMAIL.COM

GOYA'S GREATNESS! Grow together towards Christ!

Saint Luke's GOYA holds many events for the youth to grow closer to their faith, build long-lasting relationships with their peers, and a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We have had a great start to our year! We had our first meeting where we discussed all the upcoming events and activities! Hosted our first home basketball game! As well as a fun fall hayride and bonfire at Linvilla Orchards! This was a great opportunity to get to know each other and bond while enjoying the fall season!

Congratulations to our Metropolitan of NJ Ambassador Awards Honorees!

Sophia Goudouvas – Ambassador of Hope

Paige Katsapis – Ambassador of Love

Evangelia Papadopoulou – Ambassador of Faith

Talia Siokos – Ambassador of Peace

This past month, the Sunday School and GOYA hosted the first 'Spark Sunday'! The goal of Spark Sunday is to spark participation, friendships, and a deeper love for our faith. This is held on the first Sunday of every month. The Spark Sunday in October focused on the theme of Casting all your cares upon God.

Upcoming events this year include the DVYC GOYA kickoff weekend November 8-10 at the Innabah camp and retreat center! It is a three-day retreat full of faith, fun and fellowship! This year's theme is "You are the Saints: How God calls us all to sainthood." Coming up in November we are excited to have our annual Goya lock in (dates TBD).

The events listed, as well as many others, provide opportunities for the St. Luke's youth to feel more connected to their faith and to enjoy fellowship. If anyone is in grades 7 through 12, we highly suggest you join GOYA, as it allows our youth to get involved, share, learn, and grow spiritually while having fun! Please reach out to stlukesgoya@gmail.com if you have questions or want to register as a Goyan!

St. Luke Greek School



The St. Luke's Greek School began our new school year on October 1st with the traditional Ayiasmos (blessing) in the church and a warm welcome from Father Christ. After the blessing, students met their teachers and got to know each other, while the parents had a meet and greet. There are over sixty students in our Greek School this year.

Our wonderful and dedicated staff includes longtime administrative director Angelique Demetris; academic director Yianna Dimos; Pre-K teachers Olia Dimou and Alexandra Georgiou; Kindergarten teacher Carnation Karros; Level 1A teacher Vicky Ntontos; Level 1B teacher Eleni Evangelopoulos; Level 2 teacher Dimitra Klapakis; Level 3 teacher Nick Andrews; Level 4 teacher George Karaviotis; Level 5 and Adult Class teacher Yianna Dimos; and Level 6 teacher Athanasios Karros.

If you are interested in more information about the Greek School program, please contact Angelique at angeliquedemetris@gmail.com or Yianna Dimos at yiannadimos@gmail.com

Upcoming events:

October 22: Fall PTO meeting

November 12: Open House for parents

December 10: Christmas program and party with Lenten meal

January 7: Vasilopita Cutting

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Sunday School families,

We apologize for an error in the official 2024-2025 Sunday School calendar. Thanksgiving takes place this year on November 28th, not November 24th, as we marked on the original calendar released. **There are classes on Sunday, November 24th. However, classes will not be held on Sunday, December 1, 2024.** The modified calendar for November and December is below.



NOVEMBER

- November 3: Worship and Classes, **Spark Sunday**
- November 10: Worship and Classes
- November 15: Advent/Nativity Fast Begins
- November 17: Worship and Classes. *Registration for Christmas Pageant in the Community Center following the Divine Liturgy.*
- November 24: Worship and Classes. *Registration for Christmas Pageant in the Community Center following the Divine Liturgy.*

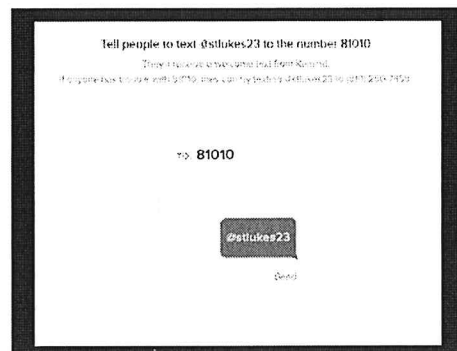
DECEMBER

- December 1: No classes, Thanksgiving Break
- December 8: Worship and Classes, **Spark Sunday, Christmas Pageant Practice #1**
- December 15: Worship and Classes, **Christmas Pageant Practice #2**
- December 22: **No Classes**, Christmas Pageant immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Christmas Pageant- This year the St. Luke Christmas Pageant, a highlight of the Sunday School year, will take place following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 22, 2024. There are no classes that day. Two mandatory rehearsals for the pageant are scheduled on December 8th and 15th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Each rehearsal will take approximately one hour. Please be on the lookout soon for a letter containing all of the necessary information about the pageant, including details about how to sign up your children to participate in this wonderful Christmas tradition.

Sunday School Communications- Throughout the year, our Directors and Sunday School teachers will be in touch with you via text and email with Sunday School news, so please be sure that we have your up-to-date contact information. Some of you may

have already received the message. If you didn't get the text, please do the following: Text @stlukes23 to 81010



In addition, join us on Facebook and Instagram for updates, photos, community service opportunities and more:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1572M7Nvic/>,



and **Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukesundayschool?igsh=MTk2dm5vb2llcHJzZW==>.



Sunday School Thanksgiving Outreach- The St. Luke Sunday School is currently collecting Thanksgiving-themed paper plates, napkins, cups, tablecloths, aluminum pans, and serving spoons for a Thanksgiving meal for 300 incarcerated women at the Philadelphia Industrial Corrections Center (PICC). This annual Sunday School outreach to 300 women incarcerated on the Thanksgiving holiday is coordinated with the charity Why Not Prosper, which serves both presently and previously incarcerated women by offering them a hand up, not a hand out (<https://www.why-not-prosper.org/>). If you are able to contribute to this initiative, please use this link to commit to donating one or more items:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2oFoB48AFAD2CA6FC1-51284934-thanksgivingtheme>

Items may be left in the bin in the lobby of the Education Building until **Friday, November 10, 2024**. Donations cannot be accepted after Nov. 10 as we will be delivering our items to Why Not Prosper immediately thereafter. We thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and for teaching our children by your

actions to follow our Lord's teaching: *'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'* Matthew 25: 40.

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

2025 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival- As soon as the 2025 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival topics are released, we will send them to the teachers and to the families of 7th -9th graders (Junior Division), and 10th-12th graders (Senior Division). The Festival begins at the parish level, then successful participants may advance to the District, Metropolis, then National levels. Here is some general information about the Oratorical Festival: participants at the National Finals receive awards from the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund, ranging from \$500 to \$2000, the Faith Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism Scholarships, and the Chrysostom Scholarship Program of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Parents, please discuss this opportunity for your children to delve deeper into their faith by asking them to review the topics, when released, and by encouraging them to participate in the first step of the Oratorical Festival ladder, the St. Luke Parish Oratorical Festival. Further details will be forthcoming, but the parish festival is projected to take place in either February or March 2024. For questions about the Parish Oratorical Festival, please contact Art Karros, akarros@gmail.com, or Peter Pavlis, ppavlis7104@gmail.com.

Have you registered your child for Sunday School yet? If not, no problem! To register your child or children, click on the following link: <https://www.ss.st-luke.org/registration>; OR use this QR code



Questions about Sunday School? Please contact our Directors, Jane Kelly, Panayota Kevgas, and Sophia Milinkovic at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com for more information about Sunday School. Or, visit <https://www.ss.st-luke.org>, which will be updated throughout the year with additional information and resources for families.



Philoptochos Society News

SAVE THE DATES

St. Luke Christmas Card and Poinsettia Offerings

Christmas Card deadline: November 9, 2024

Poinsettia Offering deadline: December 20, 2024

Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024

Tenth Annual Boutiques and Greek Treats

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

Fall Raffle

Drawing during Boutiques & Greek Treats

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Coffee Hour Volunteers- The coffee hour schedule for volunteers has been released for this year and may be found elsewhere in this Epistle. Please look for your name and, hopefully, you will be able to come and volunteer on the day that you are assigned. If you cannot make it for that day, please find a replacement. We thank you all for your help.

Betsy Pappas and Diana Palumbo, Chairladies

Philoptochos Stewardship 2024 and 2025- Please click on the QR code below to pay your 2024 Stewardship. You may continue being a good standing steward by clicking the QR code and offer your 2025 Stewardship. In addition, we are offering an Auto-Renew feature, so you do not have to arrange payment for each year. Your stewardship will be automatically auto renewed on January of each year. Your stewardship helps our Philoptochos mission and outreach! Whatever you give, however much you give, give joyfully! Please reach out to membership chair. Kia Blazakis at Kdsblazakis@aol.com with any questions or concerns.



St. Luke Christmas Card and Poinsettia Offerings- It's that wonderful time of year again, and we're thrilled to announce the Annual St. Luke Christmas Card and Poinsettia

Offering, proudly sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. **The Christmas Card** is our heartfelt gesture to all our cherished St Luke Church members, spreading warmth and joy during this festive season. **The Poinsettia** a symbol of the holiday spirit, will grace our church, serving as a beautiful tribute to our loved ones or as a loving remembrance of those who are no longer with us. To place your order please visit our website at stlukephiloptochos.org or use the QR code provided below to submit your order and payments electronically. **Order deadlines: Christmas Card: November 9th / Poinsettias: December 20th.** Contact us at Christmas@stlukephiloptochos.org with questions or for further information. We greatly appreciate your generosity and wish you and your families a truly blessed Christmas season, Philoptochos Christmas Committee



Philoptochos Charity Committee- Our chapter donated to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities), a wonderful humanitarian organization that helps people in more than 60 countries across the world. Its motto: "Inspired by Faith. Driven by Purpose". IOCC has provided more than \$830 million in worldwide relief and development programs over the past 30+ years. They are now offering financial support to those affected by the recent hurricanes. Several of our members are on the Board of the Philadelphia Metropolitan Committee for IOCC, and attended the 13th Annual Benefit Banquet for IOCC at the Adelphia in Deptford, NJ on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

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

Boutiques & Greek Treats Wreath Workshop- You are invited to the Ladies Philoptochos Boutiques & Greek Treats Wreath Workshop! The event will be held again this year in the Community Center at St. Luke's on Sunday, December 1 at 3pm. BYOB and bring a friend, your own hand pruners and glue guns! Appetizers and treats will be served! Tickets are \$35 for Philoptochos members (\$40 for non-members) and include the second wreath you make. Your first creation will be donated for Boutiques and Greek Treats. There is limited space so please reserve your spot by November 22nd by visiting St Luke's Philoptochos website: <https://www.stlukephiloptochos.org/>.

10th Annual Boutiques & Greek Treats 2024- "Save the Dates"! Saturday & Sunday, December 7 (10-4) & 8 (12-4). Join us for friendraising, Greek food, pastries, raffles, wreaths, Yia Yia's Attic, craft and vendor shopping! **Baking "Tuesdays at 10"**- November 12th (Baklava & Fenekia), 19th (Kouriabiethes). **Wreath Workshop-** Sunday, December 1st. Don't forget to register! **"Yia Yia's Attic"** donations: We are currently looking for

donations to YiaYia's Attic, such as home and holiday decor, collectibles, crystal, jewelry, artwork, and china. We are **not** accepting books, DVD's, CD's, VHS tapes, clothing, or handbags. Drop off items in the Board Room from Monday-Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. The deadline for donations is Wednesday, November 20, 2024. **Raffles:** take a chance and win! **Volunteers:** Look for the "Sign Up Genius" by email and on the website- see below! Help is needed for Baking, Setup and the Event!

Questions, vendors or to volunteer contact us: 610-353-1592, 610-246-7163, boutiquesgt@gmail.com or boutiquesgt@stlukephiloptochos.org. We thank you for helping us to help others!

Fall Raffle- Back by popular demand from our Ladies Philoptochos. Purchase a chance to win a luxurious getaway in historic Cape May! \$20 per ticket. The winner will receive a \$1000 gift card to any of the luxurious and romantic Cape Collection Resorts PLUS \$225 in dining gift cards. Total value \$1,225! No date restrictions apply. Please visit stlukephiloptochos.org to purchase your tickets. Drawing to be held Sunday, December 8, 2024 at Boutiques and Greek Treats in the St. Luke Community Center. Winner need not be present. Please see the flyer elsewhere in this Epistle for additional details. Proceeds to benefit the charitable works of Philoptochos.

Sponsorship of Floral Décor- Our Ladies Philoptochos would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations:

- Maria Scavitto, in loving memory of Nicholas A. Papageorge, for her icon sponsorship of the Holy Ascension icon on June 13.
- Anna Andreadis, for her floral sponsorship for August 15, Dormition of the Theotokos, in memory of loved ones
- Joanne Kusturiss, for the well-being of her family, for her icon sponsorship of the Dormition of the Theotokos icon on August 15.
- Anonymous, in loving memory of loved ones, for her sponsorship of Nativity of the Theotokos icon on September 8.
- Maria Kalisperis, in loving memory of Stavros Kalisperis, for her sponsorship of The Elevation of the Cross icon on September 14.
- Angelique Messari Demetris, in loving memory of Catherine Vassilakis, for her sponsorship of St. Luke the Evangelist icon on October 18.
- Anonymous, in memory of a loved one, for his sponsorship of St. Luke the Evangelist floral on October 18.

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:

No sponsorship opportunities for November

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.

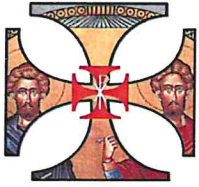


Philoptochos Members - OUR DIRECTORY IS NOW ONLINE! Please register with our website www.stlukephiloptochos.org for access to the Members Only Online Directory.



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 St. Luke
Chapter 1082**

35 North Malin Road
Broomall, PA 19008

Dear Members of St. Luke:

It's that wonderful time of year again, and we're thrilled to announce the Annual St. Luke Christmas Card and Poinsettia Offering, proudly sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

The Annual Christmas Card is our heartfelt gesture to all our cherished St Luke Church members, spreading warmth and joy during this festive season.

The Poinsettias a symbol of the holiday spirit, will grace our church, serving as a beautiful tribute to our loved ones or as a loving remembrance of those who are no longer with us.

You have the option to participate in one or both offerings and write *ONE check for both*. Alternatively, for your convenience, you can also visit our website at stlukephiloptochos.org or use the **QR code** provided below to submit your order and payments electronically.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and wish you and your families a truly blessed Christmas season. With sincere appreciation,
Philoptochos Christmas Committee



Scan QR code to order: OR [complete form below](#)

CHRISTMAS CARD

Donation: \$20

DEADLINE: **NOVEMBER 3, 2023**

POINSETTIA OFFERING

Donation: \$10 (minimum)

DEADLINE: **December 20, 2023**

Print your Name: _____
Phone #: _____

Christmas Card **Donation \$** _____

Please print clearly the name/s as it is to appear on the card-up to 55 spaces - (sorry, we cannot refer to previous years)

NAME/S: _____

Poinsettia Offering **Donation \$** _____

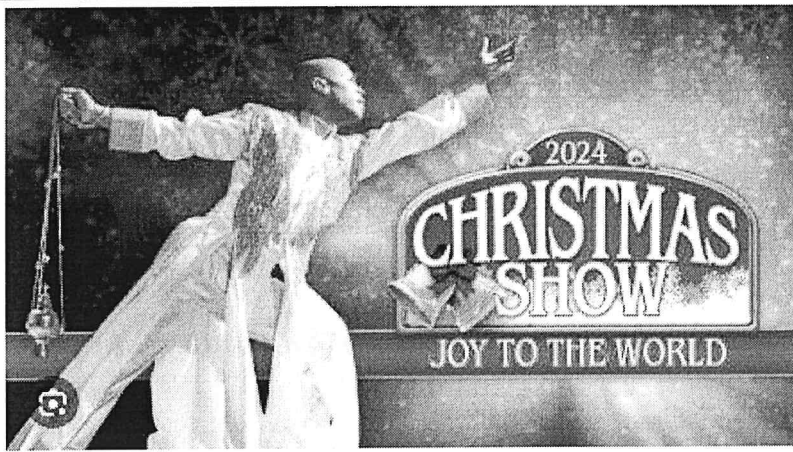
In Memory/Honor of:
(Print FIRST NAMES ONLY) _____

If you are not already a member and would like to be included in the Christmas card, you may provide your address on the back of this form to receive a card as well.

_____ I am a friend and not currently on your mail list

*Check payable to: St. Luke Ladies Philoptochos

Total Donations: \$ _____



ST. LUKE'S PHILOPTOCHOS and
Touriffic Travel present



**AMERICAN
MUSIC THEATRE**

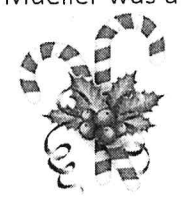
Lancaster, PA

Friday, November 22, 2024

The ringing of church bells in a quaint town square sets the scene for Joy to the World. Evoking the revered holiday nostalgia of hometown America, our stage transforms into a small-town winter carnival brimming with family, friends, and entertaining elves. Awe-inspiring music and dance, phenomenal voices, and light-hearted holiday humor are the ingredients for this holiday extravaganza! This year's all-new holiday show features your favorite seasonal and sacred Christmas songs – songs brought to life by marvelous vocal talent from across the country, accompanied by our masterful American Music Theatre Orchestra.

Daytrip Itinerary:

- 10:30am Depart St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church, 35 N. Malin Road, Broomall, Pa via deluxe Motor coach
- 12:00pm Enjoy a delicious Lunch in at the lovely Greenfield Restaurant whose chef, John Mueller was a former chef at the White House.
- 2:15pm Arrive at the American Music Theatre. Take your Center Orchestra Seat
- 3:00pm Show begins. . . Enjoy!
- 5:30pm Departure from American Music Theatre
- 7:00pm Return to St. Luke's Church



\$172.00 per person

For Reservations, please contact **Chrisanthi Katsanos** ~ yiyiakat@aol.com

Booking Information: Payment is required as soon as possible to confirm your reservation. No refunds unless a replacement is made. Times are approximate and subject to slight change. Touriffic Travel, their employees, representatives and suppliers act solely as agents in arranging for transportation and other services and do not assume any liability whatsoever for injury, damage, loss, virus, accident or delay due to any act, negligence or default of any company or person engaged in rendering any services for any tour.

Make checks payable to St. Luke's Philoptochos and remit with coupon to:
Chrisanthi Katsanos, 303 Glendale Road, Havertown, Pa 19083

St. Luke's Philoptochos/Touriffic Travel/AMT/11-22-24

NAME(S) _____ Today's Date: _____

Phone: _____ mobile no: _____ Date: _____

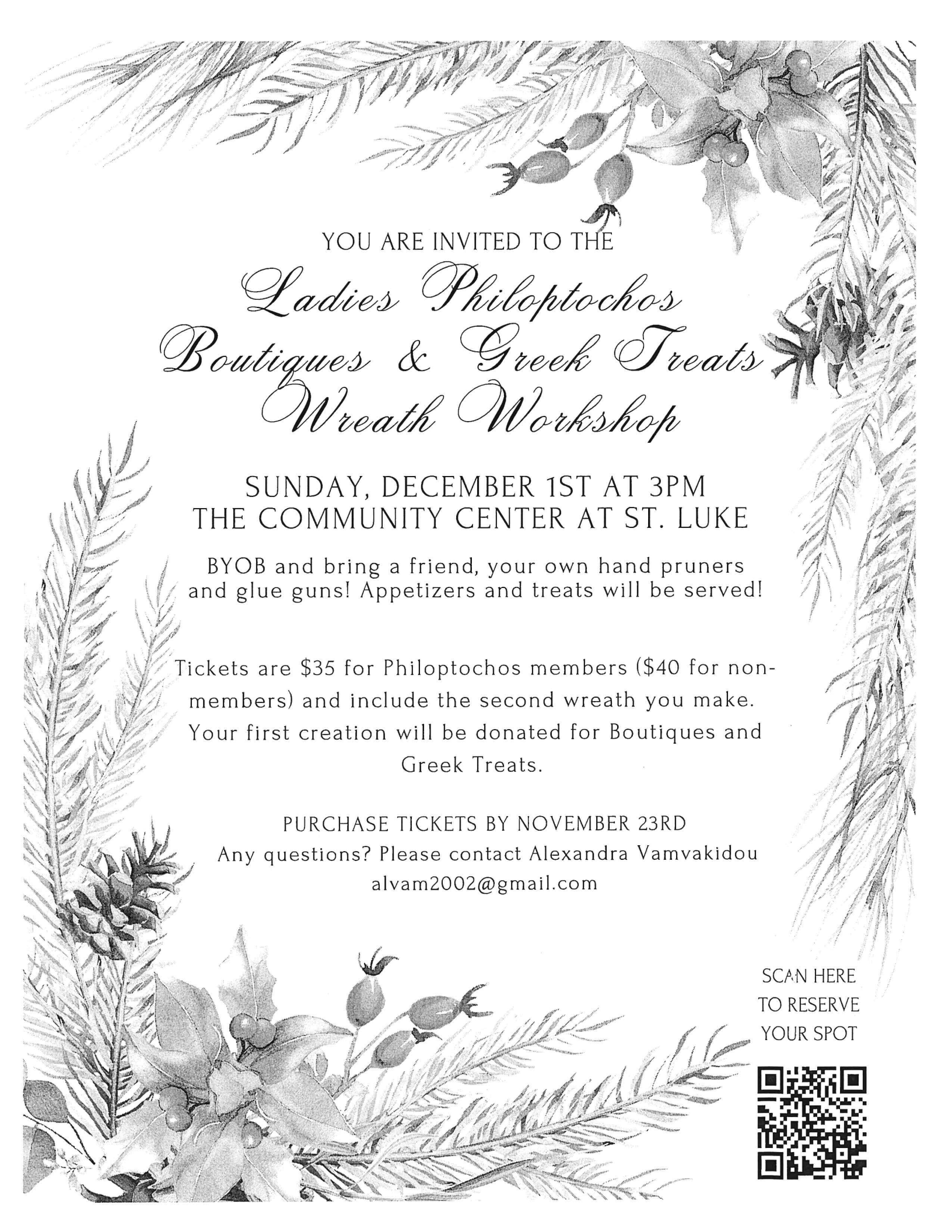
ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL: _____ Special Request: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone: _____

Traveling Partner: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please select one entrée: _____ GRILLED SALMON * _____ Lemon & Pepper Chicken * _____ Vegetarian



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

*Ladies Philoptochos
Boutiques & Greek Treats
Wreath Workshop*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT 3PM
THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT ST. LUKE

BYOB and bring a friend, your own hand pruners
and glue guns! Appetizers and treats will be served!

Tickets are \$35 for Philoptochos members (\$40 for non-
members) and include the second wreath you make.
Your first creation will be donated for Boutiques and
Greek Treats.

PURCHASE TICKETS BY NOVEMBER 23RD
Any questions? Please contact Alexandra Vamvakidou
alvam2002@gmail.com

SCAN HERE
TO RESERVE
YOUR SPOT



**BOUTIQUES &
GREEK TREATS**

**Collecting donations for
Yiayia's Attic**



**Home & Holiday Decor
Collectibles Crystal
Jewelry Artwork China**

**We are not accepting books, DVDs
CDs, VHS Tapes, clothing or handbags.**

Drop off items in Board Room

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Deadline is Wednesday November 20

**"LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY"
ST. LUKE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**



10TH ANNUAL 2024

BOUTIQUES & GREEK TREATS

DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH
SATURDAY 10-4 SUNDAY 12-4

VENDORS



WREATHS

GREEK LUNCH
PASTRIES

RAFFLES

YIA YIA'S
ATTIC

610
353-1592

ST LUKE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
35 N MALIN RD BROOMALL PA 19008

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 \$225 in Dining Gift Cards

NO date restrictions apply!

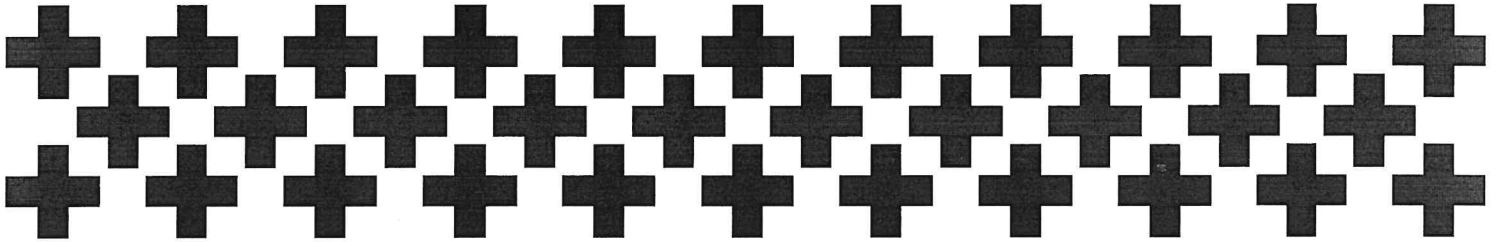
stlukephiloptochos.org to purchase your tickets

Need not be present to win.



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church

**Community Center-Gym
35 N Malin Rd
Broomall, PA 19008**

**Monday, November 11, 2024
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: **STLUKESPA** to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



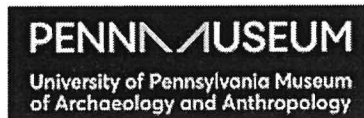
Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Come give blood Nov. 1-17 and get a \$10 gift card by email. PLUS, get a chance to win a \$7,000 prize! There will be two lucky winners. Terms apply:
rcblood.org/thanks**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



**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

Sponsorships are warmly solicited.

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

PRSR STD

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Permit 54

Broomall, PA

Non-Profit Org