

THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

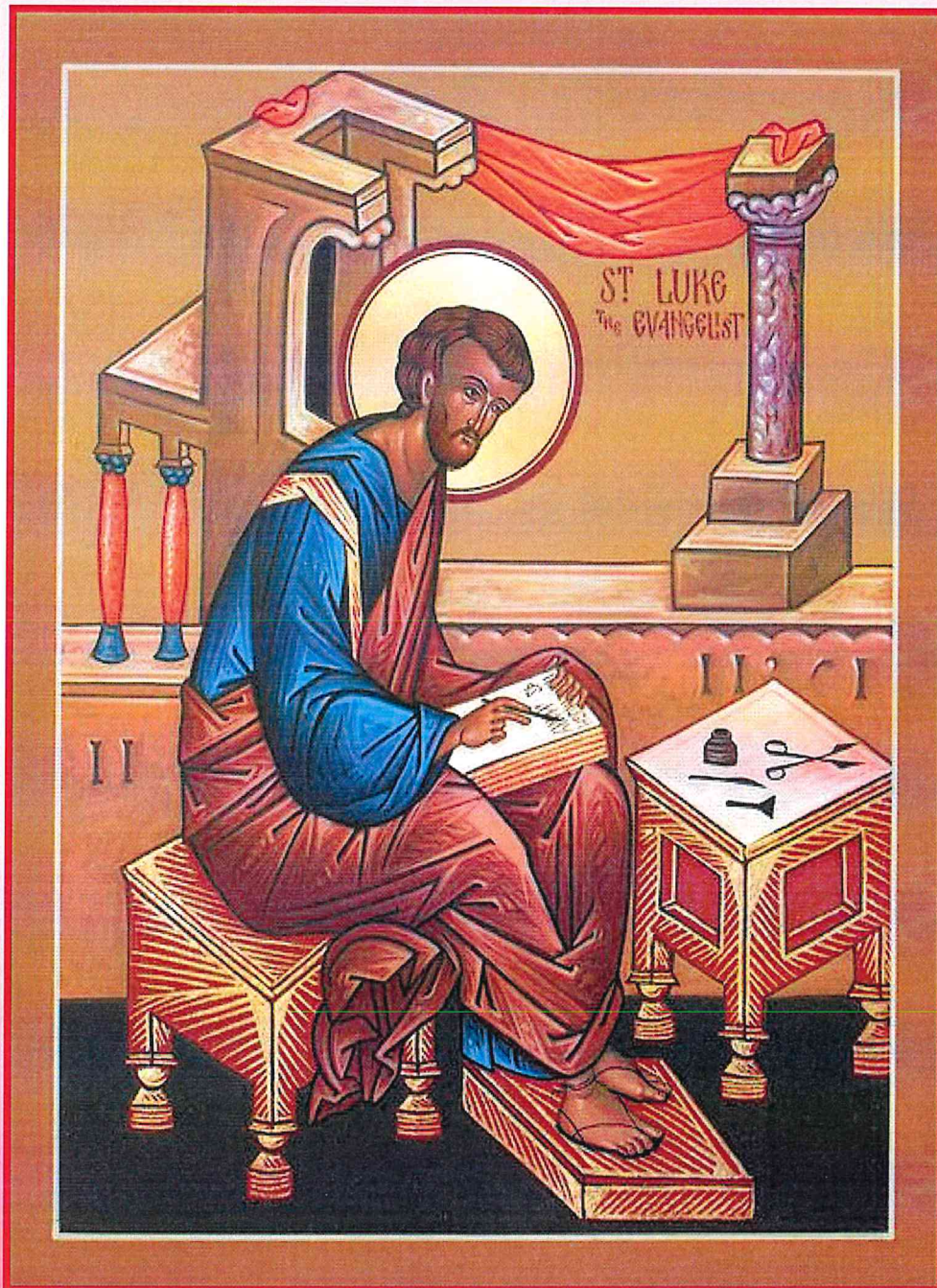
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

(610) 353-1592

www.st-luke.org

FEBRUARY 2025



FEBRUARY PASTORAL MESSAGE

Beloved,

What an exciting month February offers us. Our Stewardship Committee's Online Stewardship Program which we've been tweaking the last year+ is 100% functional and user friendly. There are many ways to become a Steward, the easiest of which is to simply text **"STLUKEGIVE" to 73256**. For a physical copy of your stewardship card, you can print it online or contact the Church office.

The highly anticipated MDF (Music and Dance Festival) is taking place the weekend of February 14-16th. We have a huge delegation of youth and adult teachers/advisors attending this inaugural event which brings all the youth of our Metropolis to the downtown Philadelphia Sheraton. It will be a memorable weekend of Greek Dance, Liturgical Song, Live music, Saturday Glendi night and topping it off with Awards Banquet on Sunday evening. Complete details can be found on our Metropolis website nj.goarch.org. Reach out to me if you have any questions.

On the evening of February 22nd, we are given the opportunity to come together as a family once again for the Apokreatiko Glendi which is hosted graciously by our St Luke Greek School. This evening fellowship of great food, music, dancing, and drinks is a great opportunity for young and old, teens and young adults, to relax and enjoy one another's company. Complete details are in the flyer found in this Epistle.

If that isn't enough, February ushers in the pre-lenten season with the Triodion. The Sunday Gospel readings leading up to lent will assist us in preparing for Great Lent. With the Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee (February 9th) we are shown the ugliness of false pride and the beauty of true humility before God. On the Sunday of the Prodigal Son (February 16th) we are reminded of the importance of repentance as we are also told of the great and loving Father who awaits to embrace & forgive us regardless of how long we have been away, regardless of how great our sins are.

Friends, let us celebrate all the events in the life of the Church; spiritual, social and charitable. Join me and your brother and sister Christians weekly for worship, receiving Holy Communion, and fellowship. "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them," Matthew 18:20.

With brotherly love and pastoral blessings,



Rev Father Christ Kontos,
Protopresbyter

PARISH LIFE

Forty-Day Blessings

On December 22, 2024, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Banks Joseph Williams**. Congratulations to **Donald & Kelly Williams** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On December 22, 2024, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Magdaliny Anastasiou**. Congratulations to **Socrati & Georgia Anastasiou** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On January 12, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Evianna Maria Dempsey**. Congratulations to **Adam & Demetra Dempsey** as we anticipate the Baptism!

On January 26, 2025, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Evangelia Sharo**. Congratulations to **Scott Sharo & Elizabeth Kusturiss** as we anticipate the Baptism!

Baptisms & Chrismations

The son of **Roman & Alexis Franzone** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on November 3, 2024. His sponsor, **Effimia Guthrie** baptized him with the name *Aristotle Santino*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Aristotle Santino Franzone**.

Phoebe Lowe duPont, Stephen Nicholas Harris, Coleman duPont Harris, and Nicholas Stephen Harris was chrismated on November 27, 2024. Their sponsor, **Katina Fisfis & Nicholas Fisfis**, chrismated them with the name *Phoebe, Stephanos, Thomas, and Nicholas*.

The daughter of **Dominic & Maria Paranzino** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on December 1, 2024. Her sponsor, **Christophoros Georgiou Kyvernitis**, baptized her with the name *Athena*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Olivia Grace Paranzino**.

Laura Maalouf was chrismated on December 1, 2024. Her sponsor, **Anthony Maalouf**, chrismated her with the name *Laura*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Laura Maalouf**.

The son of **Nicholas & Andrea Papougenis** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on December 1, 2024. His sponsor, **Dean & Victoria Vlahos**, baptized him with the name **Niko**. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Niko James Papougenis**.

The daughter of **Harry Wilson III & Irene Psihogios** was baptized in the Holy Mother Church on December 8, 2024. Her sponsor, **Panagiotis Psihogis**, baptized her with the name *Athena*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Annalise Frances Psihogios-Wilson**.

Funerals

The servant of God, **Pepina Mangos**, fell asleep in the Lord on December 10, 2024. Her funeral service was held on December 17, 2024.

The servant of God, **Ekaterini Spyratos**, fell asleep in the Lord on January 12, 2025. Her funeral service was held on January 17, 2025.

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

FEBRUARY 2025 – ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR

Sunday, February 2nd

Presentation of our Lord

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

Sunday, February 9th

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

Leavetaking of Presentation; Nicephoros of Antioch

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

Monday, February 10th

St. Haralambos the Martyr

Anastasios, Patriarch of Jerusalem

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

Sunday, February 16th

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Pamphilus & Companions; Flavianos, Pat Constantinople

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

Saturday, February 22nd

1st Saturday of Souls

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

Sunday, February 23rd

Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna; Proterios, Abp. Of Alexandria

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



Music & Dance Festival
Philadelphia - February 14-16, 2025
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 11am Sunday School	3 7pm Parish Council	4 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	5 11am Bible Study	6 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 8pm Book Club	7 6:30pm YAL Movie Night 	8
9 11am Sunday School	10 4:30pm FTIN Cooking	11 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	12 11am Bible Study	13 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal	14 Music and Dance Festival 	15 Music and Dance Festival
16 Music and Dance Festival	17	18 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	19 11am Bible Study	20 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 8pm Book Club	21	22 6:00pm Greek School - Apokriatiko Glendi 
23 Godparents Sunday 11am Sunday School	24 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	25 10am Senior Men 5pm Greek School 5:30pm Elements of Theology 8pm Adult Volleyball	26 11am Bible Study	27 9am Playgroup 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance Rehearsal 8pm Book Club	28	

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.



February Stewardship Corner

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” - Mark 12:30

Love is more than just a feeling; it's an action. It's shown through what we do, especially in how we give. Just as God demonstrated love by giving Jesus for us even when we were far from perfect, we're called to show love to others through generosity.

Everything we have is a blessing, and we're meant to use those blessings to help others. The resources we've been given aren't just for personal gain or showing off—they're opportunities to make a difference in someone else's life, and the Church offers us the venue to do so.

When you're willing to meet the needs of others with what you have, it shows that love is at work within you. Love isn't static—it moves, connects, and grows as we share it with others.

God is love and His Church is His instrument of love. His very nature and essence are rooted in love. He demonstrated this profound love by giving His only Son to die for our salvation. When you invite Him into your life, His love transforms you, filling your heart and naturally guiding you to show compassion toward others.

Happy Valentine's Day and thank you for your Stewardship of Love!

Niki Thompson, Stewardship Chair

2024 Stewardship as of 1/14/2025

Pledged \$659,172.92

Received \$617,328.48



Diakonia is looking for Volunteers

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

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

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

Diakonia Schedule

February 2	Dee Karras	Diane Sioutis
February 9	Dee Karras	Vasie Marinakos
February 16	Anna Hadgis	Stephanie Carroll
February 23	Maria Carafides	Linda Lempere
March 2	Sonya Pappas	Gus Pappas
March 9	Martha DiCamillo	Barbara Papageorge
March 16	Kathy Fisfis	Marta Laynas
March 23	Tom Trantas	Vasie Marinakos
March 30	Martha DiCamillo	Stephanie Carroll



FEB:	Chairs:	Katina Dollos	Helen Dollos
2-Feb	Stephanie Migias	Dimitra Migias	Soula Archidiacono
9-Feb	Lisa Shaiko	Beth Ratchford	Christina Katsapis
16-Feb	Patricia Geaneotes	Carol Grimes	Deborah Lamprinakos
23-Feb	Maria Kanteliotis	Maria Canakis	Patricia Berryman
MAR:	Chairs:	Demetra Karras	Sue Clark
2-Mar	Ginny Markos	Debbie Karalis	Michelle Karalis
9-Mar	Patty Karalis	Aleka Agapitides	Georgia Chletcos
16-Mar	Pres. Michele Kontos	Renee Matonti	Derek Matonti
23-Mar	Kathleen Fisfis	Helen Poulos	Elaina Kostopoulos
30-Mar	Marta Laynas	Sofia Sosangelis	Linda Lempere



CHOIR NEWS

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

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

St. Luke Choir Director: Dena Papadopoulos

St. Luke Senior Choir:

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

Pageant Singers : Beatrice Papa and Claudia Papa

New Senior and Sunday Youth Choir Members Welcome!

Choir Director Dena Papadopoulos invites all who enjoy singing to join the St. Luke Choir. New member sessions can be arranged to acquaint you with our music. For more information about joining the St. Luke Senior or Sunday Youth Choir please contact Dena Papadopoulos at dena80papa@gmail.com

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

February, 2025 Epistle

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, FTIN continues to support the **Salvation Army's food pantry** with a particular emphasis on their **homeless & senior populations' needs**, with deliveries scheduled on a bi-monthly basis (Tuesday, FEB 4th this month).

Supporting FTIN – How can I help?

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

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

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



YAL's Movie Night and Discussion!

On Friday February 7th at 6:30 pm in the social hall, we invite all young adults to see one of the best movies of all time: *The Truman Show*! After watching the 1998 classic, we will talk about the main theme of free will and pre-determination to examine its application to us.

To RSVP or for any YAL info, please text Alexander Arcidiacono at 610-888-6117 or Vaughn Yanko at 610-368-5784. You could also email yalstluke@gmail.com or look up @stlukeyal on Instagram!



St. Luke Greek School

The winter season is very busy at the Greek School! After a wonderful Christmas program, we ushered in the new year with the cutting of the Vasilopita with Father Christ. There were a lot of lucky coin recipients among the students! On January 26 at St. Demetrios Church, we are participating in a Metropolis event to celebrate the Day of Greek Letters and The Three Hierarchs.

February 22 is our annual Apokreatiko Glendi. This year's theme is "Mamma Mia." Bring family and friends and join us for a fun night of singing and dancing. One lucky raffle winner will get an autographed Jason Kelce Eagles jersey. All proceeds directly benefit the students' educational experience.

JASON KELCE
EAGLES GAME JERSEY
AUTOGRAPHED WITH CERTIFICATE
OF AUTHENTICITY



DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
AT APOKREATIKO GLENDI

DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN
DONATION \$20 TO BENEFIT ST LUKE GREEK SCHOOL PTO

JASON KELCE
EAGLES GAME JERSEY
AUTOGRAPHED WITH CERTIFICATE
OF AUTHENTICITY

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
AT APOKREATIKO GLENDI

DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN
DONATION \$20 TO BENEFIT ST LUKE GREEK SCHOOL PTO

MAMMA MIA!

**ST LUKE GREEK SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO OUR
ANNUAL APOKRIATIKO GLENDI**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND | 6PM

FOOD | DRINKS | GAMES | DJ

St. Luke Community Center

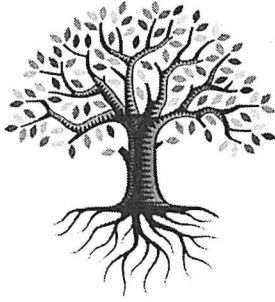
Adult - \$35 | Kids (2-15) - \$15 | Kids under 2 - Free

RSVP by February 8th at alvam2002@gmail.com

Payments can be made via Venmo to [@stlukegreeksschool](https://www.venmo.com/@stlukegreeksschool) or drop off check at the Greek School office, payable to St. Luke's Greek School

St. Luke Greek Sch
@stlukegreeksschool





Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together

Hello Sunday School Students and Families,

Below is the Sunday School class schedule for February 2025:

February 2 Worship and Classes, **Spark Sunday**; Sunday School readers for Commemoration of the Three Hierarchs

February 9 Worship and Classes

February 16 No Classes, Presidents Day Weekend

February 23 Worship and Classes, **Godparents Sunday**

Readers for Commemoration of the Three Hierarchs- On Sunday, February 2, 2025, at the end of Liturgy, our Sunday School students Lilyana and Demetrius Georgiou will represent the Sunday School by reading short biographies of the Three Hierarchs being remembered on this day: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. We are very proud of Lilyana and Demetrius for volunteering to share the life stories of these 3 holy men, who are so important to the theology and practice of our Orthodox faith. Thank you, Lilyana and Demetrius!

Godparents Sunday- On Sunday, February 23, 2025, we will honor the godparents of our St. Luke community with special prayers and blessings during the Divine Liturgy. There will be Sunday School classes held that day, and we invite the godparents to join their godchildren in their Sunday School classes on that day to witness the religious education of their godchildren. The Sunday School will welcome you with open arms!

Monastery Trip- The St. Luke Sunday School is in the process of planning a trip for students and their families to Holy Protection Monastery in White Haven, PA at the beginning of March, 2025. Stay tuned for more details!

St. John Chrysostom Parish Oratorical Festival- On Sunday, March 2, 2025, our Junior and Senior Division speakers will compete in the St. Luke Parish Oratorical Festival immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The topics for each division may be found below. To our fellow adult parishioners: Which topic is most interesting to you? Which topic could motivate you to write a speech and present it to other parishioners? The young people who choose to participate in this valuable program of the Archdiocese's Department of Religious Education are brave, wise beyond their years, and spiritual models for us all. Join us on March 2nd to enjoy the fruit of their labors.

For further information about the Parish Festival, please contact Parish Chairperson Art Karros at akarros@gmail.com.

Psalm Readers for Salutation Services- We are very happy to offer the opportunity to read Psalms 50, 69, and 142 at the very beginning of each of the 5 weekly Lenten Salutation Services to the Panagia to our Sunday School students. The dates are Friday, March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4, 2025. We will send you the readings in advance so that your child can prepare to read aloud in church on their chosen Friday. This is a meaningful Lenten offering to the Panagia and to our St. Luke community that will greatly enhance your child's Lenten journey. To sign up your child, please go to:<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAEAA2CA7F8CE9-54359332-psalm>. Thank you and your families for participating in this joyful Lenten tradition.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL 2025 TOPICS
JUNIOR DIVISION
(GRADES 7-9)

1. Philanthropy is an important part of the Church's mission. It involves more than giving money. Why is it important to support people in different ways besides just donating? In what ways can we offer support, and how can these other forms of help make a difference in the lives of individuals and the community?
2. In Psalm 4, we are told to "be angry, but sin not." Why would we be encouraged to be angry? How does anger fit into the life of an Orthodox Christian?
3. The Orthodox Church is filled with repetition: we sing "Lord, have mercy" dozens of times every service, we sing the Paschal Troparion all throughout Pascha, and we repeat the same Divine Liturgy every single time. What is the importance of repetition in the Orthodox Church?
4. The Russian Orthodox novelist, Fyodor Dostoevsky, once said that "Beauty will save the world." What is the role of beauty in the Church and in the world at large?
5. What is the symbolism of the liturgical vestments worn by a deacon, priest, and bishop, and how do these vestments reflect and correlate to their specific roles and responsibilities within the Divine Liturgy?

SENIOR DIVISION
(GRADES 10-12)

1. His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch, is recognized as the highest Primate in the Church. This title signifies a unique leadership role within the Orthodox Church, where authority and primacy are balanced with equality among Patriarchs. Discuss the practical implications versus the theoretical aspects of His All-Holiness' role in the

Orthodox Church. What does it mean for him to be both "first among equals" and "first without equals"?

2. The Seven Ecumenical Councils are regarded as seven of the most important parts of Church History, which came after the completion of the Bible. Pick one of the Council's and explain why it is important.

3. The Bible is full of figures, both good and bad, who, while not talked about frequently, can be hugely helpful in understanding both salvation history and our place in it. Pick a lesser-known figure from the Bible, explain who they are, how they fit into the Biblical narrative, and what we can learn from them.

4. While every church building is different, there are specific guidelines and practices that describe how and why they are built the way they are. Research them and then explain their theological significance.

5. As the world grows increasingly tumultuous and fearful, today's youth appear to be more anxious about the future. Discuss Christ's role as the bringer of hope and how that fits into modern life.

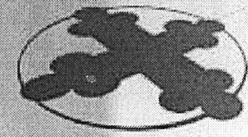
ST. JOHN CHRYSOTOM ORATORIC

Readers for Divine Liturgy- Please encourage your children to **volunteer to read the Epistle or the Communion Prayer** during Divine Liturgy. This is a great way for your child to become involved in the worship of our faith. We will send you the reading(s) ahead of time so that your child can practice and become comfortable with the texts beforehand. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for church on the day when he or she is scheduled to read- modestly and respectfully, as is common for all weekly services, a special Feast Day, or when celebrating a Holy Sacrament of the church. For example, athletic or workout clothes would not be appropriate for a reader to wear while leading the congregation in prayer or a reading from the Holy Bible. To volunteer your child, or to ask a question, please contact our Sunday School Directors at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com.

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

☑ Are you a high school junior or senior?

Fill Your Summer With What Counts



CROSSROAD
INSTITUTE



Application Deadlines

Priority: January 21, 2025

Regular: February 18, 2025

Four Sessions

Session 1 | Boston June 7-17

Session 2 | Boston June 21-July 1

Session 3 | New York July 5-15

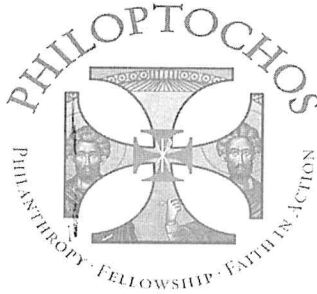
Session 4 | SoCal July 20-30



APPLY TODAY:
[CrossRoadInstitute.org](https://www.CrossRoadInstitute.org)

CrossRoad is a ten-day immersive summer program designed for **YOU** as you prepare to make big life decisions and start new adventures.

By connecting with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way, you will find a place to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.



Philoptochos Society News

SAVE THE DATES

Rise Against Hunger - Saturday, March 29, 2025

Philoptochos Scholarship Application

Postmark Deadline: March 31, 2025

2025 Annual Bid 'n Buy - Thursday, May 8, 2025

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

Philoptochos Stewardship 2025- January marked the beginning of the St. Luke Philoptochos' Stewardship Month and your support is vital to ensure a continued effective impact on local, national and international charities. To fulfill our charitable mission, it is important to have the full participation of our members. The Philoptochos calendar year began on January 1, 2025 and we would like to have all members' stewardship collected by April 30, 2025. **The minimum stewardship amount is \$35**; an offering over and above that will serve to enhance our ability to help those in need. Members and potential members may submit their 2025 stewardship by mailing to St Luke Greek Orthodox Church, hand delivering to the church office, visiting us online, or scanning the QR code below. Please note that members must be logged into the website to be able to access the form to pay online with the QR Code below. We appreciate our members who have already fulfilled their 2025 commitment!

We humbly thank you for your participation and generosity in supporting our mission to serve others and look forward to working with you in the coming year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 267.808.4160 or email at kiablazakis@gmail.com. With Philoptochos love, Kia Blazakis, Membership Chair



10th Annual Boutiques & Greek Treats 2024-

Thank you everyone for making our event a successful friendraiser & fundraiser: Our "Tuesdays at 10" Greek pastry bakers, our American desserts bakers, committee chairs & volunteers, donors & restaurant owners, vendors, shoppers, our President Lisa Palmieri, Father Christ Kontos, St. Luke Staff & Parish Council.

Committee

American Bakery Shop Joanna Mattis

Greek Pastries Maria Carafides, Diane Sioutis

Raffles Alexandra Perrot

Raffles/Restaurant Gift Cards Niki Tsetsekos

Taverna & Kitchen John Solomon, Effie Guthrie, Toulia Nikolos

Taverna Kitchen Volunteers Bradd & Jeannie Fischer, Ted Leon, Joanne Solomon, Nick & Terry Vastardis

Taverna Cashiers Andy Papageorge

Treasurers Sue Clark & Olympia Corbino

Welcome & Door Prizes Carnation Karros, Lisa Palmieri & Alexis Limberakis

Wreath Workshop & Wreath Booth Alexandra Vamvakidou, Demetra Peters & Martha DiCamillo

Yiayia's Attic Sandie Liacouras

"Deco With Deme" Demetra Peters

Bar, Signs, Vendors Turners

Website, Sign Up Genius, Communication, Social Media Katherine Kennedy, Nikki Serafim, Savvina Karros

Office Manager Vida Bona

Custodians Garnett & Anthony

"Restaurant Gift Card Raffle" Participating Restaurants

Parishioners: Ale House, Carmine's, Charlotte's, Country Squire, Estia, Minella's Diner, Olive Tree, Opa

Locals: Capital Grille, Chipotle, Dan Dan, Fearless Group, First Watch, Il Granaio, Maggiano's, Panera Bread, Polpo, Seasons 52, Veekoo, Wawa, Win

Rt 3 "signs" parishioners, for displaying our signs! Maria Argyropoulos, Charlotte's, Country Squire, Mylonas Law

Thank you all for all of your help!

Vasilopita Baking-Thank you Maria Carafides, Dee Karras, Maria Pagiotas, and Diane Sioutis for making the baking of the Vasilopitas for our church parishioners a success. And a big thank you to all the Philoptochos members that help cut and bagged the pieces. Happy New Year to all! Maria Pagiotas, Chair

Rise Against Hunger 2025- Save the Date! In partnership with Rise Against Hunger, the St. Luke Philoptochos will host a **Meal Packaging Event on Saturday, March 29th**, in our St. Luke Community Center. **Please Scan the QR Code on the flyer found elsewhere in this Epistle to register.** Set-up is 8:30-10 AM, meal-packaging shifts are 10-11 and 11-12, and clean-up shift is 12-1 PM. **Please feel free to register for more than one shift!** We look forward to working with our St. Luke Community volunteers to help end world hunger. Please contact Katherine Kennedy at katherine.kennedy314@gmail.com or www.stlukephiloptochos.org for more information.

Philoptochos Scholarship- The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Luke now offers a **\$3,000 scholarship** to one high school student who is a United States citizen and whose parents or legal guardian are stewards of Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. Please see the application form elsewhere in this month's Epistle. **All applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, March 31, 2025. Incomplete applications or those**

postmarked after this date will not be processed. All information received from applicants will be treated as confidential. The scholarship winner will be notified by **May 30, 2025**. For further information, please contact Anna Hadgis, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at anna.hadgis@gmail.com

2025 Annual Bid 'n Buy - *Save the date!* The 2025 Bid 'n Buy has been scheduled for **Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 6 pm**. This year's theme will be "Havana Nights". Tickets for admission and dinner are \$35.00. For further information, contact bidnbuy@stlukephiloptochos.org. Please also see the flyer elsewhere in this month's Epistle. Scan the QR code below to visit our Havana Nights Bid 'n Buy page and to make a donation to our Bid 'n Buy fundraiser. Thank you!



Philoptochos Charity Committee- Our Charity Committee "elves" were very busy over the November and December holidays to be sure that we supported our charities with traditional year-end donations:

- The Home of the Sparrow received fall and winter donations, in the form of 50-\$25.00 gift cards (16 from Wawa, 17 from Giant, and 17 from Target), for a total donation of \$ 1,250.00.
- Our chapter also gave Grands Stepping Up 44-\$20.00 Giant gift cards to be distributed to Grandfamilies during Thanksgiving and Christmas, totaling \$880.00.
- We presented \$1,000.00 to the Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children to purchase gift cards to be used by the residents for Christmas.
- Chester Charter Scholars Academy (CCSA) received \$1,406.55 to be distributed for literacy and numeracy programs in the lower school, as well as an additional gift of \$1,000.00.
- CHOP/HHI received a donation of diapers, wipes, and gift cards worth \$678.66.
- Hope PHL (formally PEC, People's Emergency Center) was given \$1,000.00 to help support the services and needs of the youth and teens at HOPE.
- Salvation Army New Day to Stop Trafficking was given \$1,000.00 to fulfill "Wish List" needs for residents of New Day, New Home.
- As part of the Veterans Holiday Giving initiative, \$1,000.00 worth of Walmart Gift Cards were given to residents of the Coatesville Veterans Medical Center.
- At the end of December, City Team Ministries in Chester, PA received \$2,500 for its Women's Housing Program.

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

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.

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

- Anonymous donor for Friday, December 6, 2024 Nicholas the Wonderworker; Nicholas the New Martyr icon.
- Anonymous donor for Friday, December 6, 2024 Nicholas the Wonderworker; Nicholas the New Martyr floral for the well being of her family.
- James Grinias, in honor of Eleftheria Grinias, for his floral sponsorship of Sunday, December 15, 2024 Eleutherios, Bishop Illyria; Susannah the Deaconess

- Anonymous donor for her floral sponsorships for Tuesday, December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve/Midnight: Nativity of our Lord, in loving memory and honor of her loved ones.
- Our Philoptochos President, Lisa Palmieri, for her sponsorship of Tuesday, December 31, 2024 St. Basil the Great Icon, in honor of The Hard-Working Women of Philoptochos, especially our Board Members.
- Anonymous donor, for her floral sponsorship of Tuesday, December 31, 2024 St. Basil the Great.
- Anonymous donor, for her sponsorship of Monday, January 6, 2025 Holy Theophany Icon, in loving memory of her departed family members.

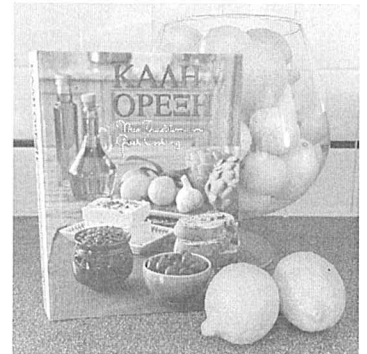
Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:

- Friday, January 17th: Anthony the Great
- Thursday, January 30th: Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs
- Sunday February 2nd: Presentation of our Lord
- Monday February 10th: St. Haralambos the Martyr

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 'Ορεξη, 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.





JOIN US FOR

VALENTINE'S DAY HIGH TEA

February 8

AT 3 PM

The Painted Tea Cup

220 S STATE RD, UPPER DARBY, PA 19082

\$45.00 per person (gratuity included in total)

High Tea includes:

2 types of unlimited tea for your party; a luncheon plate with scones, tea bread, and 5-6 sandwiches per guest; a dessert plate with 3 small desserts per guest.

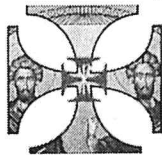
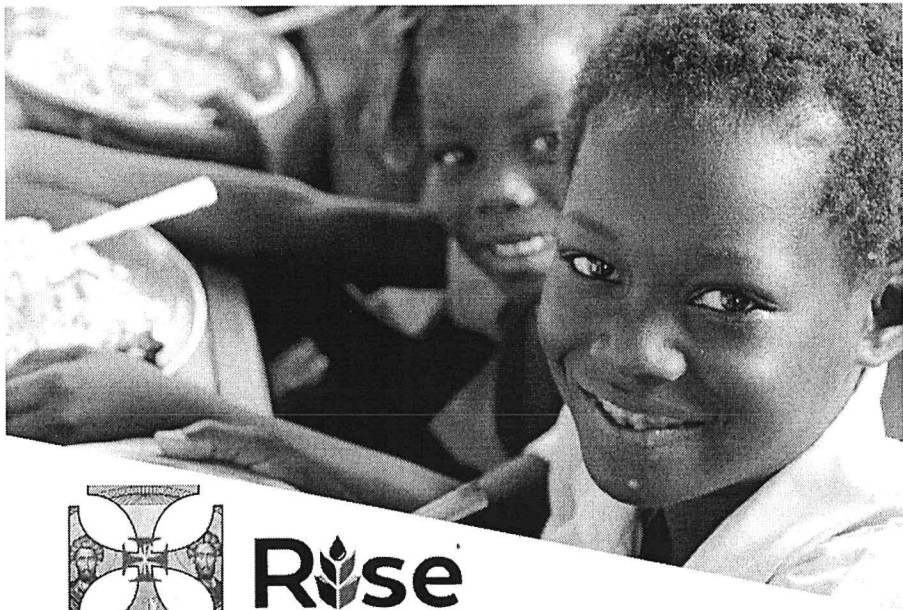
Gluten free and vegetarian diets can be accommodated.

RSVP by January 15

Limited seating available. Reservation and payment can be made on a first come, first served basis by contacting Carnation Karros at falia@karrosfamily.com or +1 (215) 917-5014. Payment will confirm reservation.

Scan to Reserve Your Seat





Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

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

A MEAL PACKAGING EVENT

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

**SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2025 • 10AM TO NOON
ST LUKE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Contact: katherine.kennedy314@gmail.com
www.stlukephiloptochos.org

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER



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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Luke offers a **\$3,000 scholarship** to one high school student who is a United States citizen and whose parents or legal guardian are stewards of Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. This is a competitive scholarship based on need and merit. The award winner is selected by the Scholarship Committee and its recommendation is made to Rev. Fr. Christ Kontos for approval. Applicants must be accepted into an accredited college or university or an accredited vocational program in the United States.

Student's Name: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Male () Female ()

Name of High School: _____

Address of School: _____

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

Grade Point Average: _____ SAT or ACT test scores: SAT: Math _____

Evidence Based Reading and Writing: _____ ACT: Composite Score _____

School for which aid is requested: _____

Address of School: _____

Telephone Number of School: _____

Major Field of Study: _____

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

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

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

Activity	Number of years	Honors/Offices held
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Employment History:

Name of employer

Dates of employment and duties

Financial Need:

Estimated total cost of school per year: _____

Estimate of applicant's contribution: _____

Applicant has applied for other financial aid assistance as follows:

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

2. Grants from all other sources (specify): _____ Amount received: _____

Personal Statement:

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

Please supply the following required information to the Scholarship Committee:

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

All applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, March 31, 2025. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed. All information received from applicants will be treated as confidential. Scholarship winner will be notified by **May 30, 2025.**

Mail completed application to:

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Luke

Scholarship Applicant

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

JOHN PAKURIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The John Pakuris Memorial Scholarship offers a \$2000 scholarship to one student who is a United States citizen and a parishioner whose family is in good standing with the St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church of Broomall, Pennsylvania. This is a competitive scholarship based on merit and need with the award winner to be selected upon recommendation by the Scholarship Committee to the parish priest. Applicants must be attending or accepted into an accredited undergraduate four-year college or university in the United States or in any other country. Any candidate who has been accepted into an Orthodox seminary and is pursuing a life in the ministry of our Greek Orthodox Church will be given first priority. Recipients may not re-apply in successive years for the scholarship.

Student's Name: _____

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

Home/mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Male () Female ()

Name of most recent High School, College or University: _____

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

Email address and telephone number of Guidance Counselor/Advisor:

_____ Phone _____

Grade point average _____

Student Rank: _____ out of _____ number of students

SAT or ACT test scores:

SAT: Math: _____ Evidence Based Reading and Writing: _____

ACT: Composite Score _____

Name of college or university for which aid is requested: _____

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

Major Field of Study: _____

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

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

Church and Community Service Organization

Months/Years Involved

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

Activity

Number of years

Special honors/Offices held

Employment history:

Name of employer:

Dates of employment:

Financial Need: (include the following)

Estimated total cost of school per year:

Estimate of parents' contribution toward yearly expenses:

Estimate of applicant's contribution towards yearly expenses:

Applicant has applied for other financial aid assistance as follows:

1. Grant from college Yes () No () Amount received _____

2. Grants from all other sources (specify): Amount received _____

Personal Statement:

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

Please supply the following information to the scholarship committee:

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

All applications must be postmarked no later than March 31 2025. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed. All information received from applicants will be treated as confidential. A personal interview may be required of finalists. Notification will take place by May 20, 2024.

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

Mail completed application to:

John Pakuris Memorial Scholarship

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

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

Address of Parent/Guardian _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date _____

GO GREEN?

For your convenience, our monthly bulletin,

The Epistle is now online and can be accessed by visiting the church website

www.st-luke.org

Just click on "Monthly Epistle". If you would like to receive the Epistle in this digital format only and not by mail, please email our Office Manager:

stlukeoffice@gmail.com or call (610) 353-1592

Address service requested

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 N. Malin Road

Broomall, PA 19008

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Broomall, PA

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