

May 20, 2012

Sunday of the Blind Man

Thalilaianos & Companions ❖ Mark the Hermit



ENTRANCE HYMNS

Apolytikion of the Feast - Christos Anesti ("Christ is Risen")

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Resurrectional Apolytikion - Ton Sinanarhon Logon ("The Word Who Always Was")

O, The Word Who always was with the Father and Spirit, who for us and our salvation was born of a Virgin let us faithful believers praise and adore, For it did please Him to ascend the Cross in the flesh and Death to endure. And to raise up the dead with Him through His own glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape

Greek

Ὁς ελαία κατά καρπος ανεβλάστησας, ἐν ταῖς ἀνλαῖς τοῦ Κυρίου, Σοφία μάρτυς σεμνή, καί προσήγαγες Χριστῷ καρπὸν ἢ δύτατον, τοὺς τῆς νηδύος σου βλαστούς, διὰ τῶν γῶνων εὐάγων, Ἀγάπην τε καὶ Ἐλπίδα σὺν τῇ θεόφρονι Πίστει, μεθῶν δυσώπει ὑπὲρ πάντων ἡμῶν.

English

As an olive tree laden with fruit you spouted forth, in the courtyards of the Lord, Sophia martyr dignified, and you brought to Christ a fruit most sweet, Namely your womb's own sprouts, brought up by instructive deeds: your daughters Faith and Hope, along with God-minded Love; together intercede with God for us all.

English Phonetics for Greek

Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyriou Sofia martyis semni, ke prosigages Christo karpon idytaton, tus tis nidyos su vlastus, di' agonon evagon, Agapin te ke Elpida, syn ti theofroni Pisti; meth' on dysopi yper pandon imon.

Kontakion for the Feast – I ke en tafo ("Though You went down into the tomb")

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrhbearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

GLENWOOD MEMORIAL GARDENS

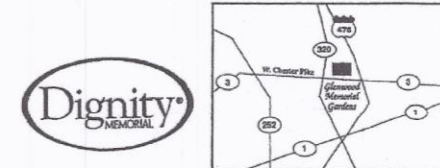
featuring the "Garden of Agape"
Greek Orthodox Section



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΟΙΜΗΤΗΡΙΟ

Protect your family and loved ones from the emotional and financial burden of an inevitable loss by planning ahead. Reserve spaces in the Garden of Agape, a beautiful cemetery section developed exclusively and economically for the Greek Orthodox community.

**Call for a complimentary
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Glenwood Memorial Gardens

2321 West Chester Pike
(Between Routes 476 & 320)

Broomall, PA 19008

610-356-1144

Iconography and Special Giving Program

Below is a listing of immediately available giving opportunities.

Iconography	Donation
Pendentive Scene #1—Nativity of Christ	\$25,000-Sponsored
Pendentive Scene #2—Baptism of Christ	\$25,000-Sponsored
Pendentive Scene #3—Crucifixion	\$25,000
Pendentive Scene #4—Resurrection--reserved for the Community Giving Program. Sponsor one or more "shares" of the Anastasi Icon	\$500 per Share
The Annunciation—located in middle above the altar	\$20,000-Sponsored
Icon of St. Sophia over Front Doors	\$30,000
Nave Icons of (4) Evangelists to be located between the pendentive icons	\$7,500 each -Matthew – Still Available Mark Sponsored Luke Sponsored John Sponsored
Iconastasion Icons (6)	Call for Pricing

Church Building Naming Opportunities	Donation
Outdoors	
Vehicle Drop Off in Front	\$50,000
Memorial Gardens (3 available)	\$35,000
Courtyard/ Entry Plaza	\$100,000
Exo Narthex (outside entry to the Church)	\$75,000
Inside Church	
Nave Large Dome	\$250,000
Nave	\$150,000
Sanctuary	\$150,000
Soleas	\$75,000
Semi Columns on Walls (4 available) in rear of Nave	\$7,500
Dormer Windows in Dome (12 available)	\$5,000
Small Exedra Windows (6 available)	\$3,000
North & South Exedras	\$75,000

Ecclesiastical Items	Donation
Altar Table	\$15,000-Sponsored
Bishops Throne	Call for Pricing
Iconastasion	Call for Pricing
(360) Chairs for the Church	\$20,000
Floor Medallions to be imbedded into the marble floors on the Soleas, in the middle of the church and selected locations (5)	Call for Pricing
Pangari Furniture	Call for Pricing
Chimes for the Bell Tower	Call for Pricing

Check out our St. Sophia Ecclesiastical Item catalogue for more giving opportunities for the new church. All are welcome to participate!

EPISTLE READING

The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς
Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 16:16-34

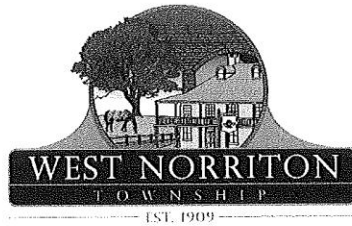
Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, ἐγένετο δὲ πορευομένων ἡμῶν εἰς προσευχὴν παιδίσκην τινὰ ἔχουσαν πνεῦμα πύθωνος ἀπαντῆσαι ἡμῖν, ἣτις ἐργασίαν πολλὴν παρέιχε τοῖς κυρίοις αὐτῆς μαντευομένη. αὕτη κατακολουθήσασα τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλᾳ ἔκραζε λέγουσα· οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι δοῦλοι τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου εἰσίν, οἵτινες καταγγέλλουσιν ἡμῖν ὁδὸν σωτηρίας. τοῦτο δὲ ἐποίει ἐπὶ πολλὰς ἡμέρας. διαπονηθεὶς δὲ ὁ Παῦλος καὶ ἐπιστρέψας τῷ πνεύματι εἶπε· παραγγέλλω σοι ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐξελεῖν ἅπ' αὐτῆς, καὶ ἐξήλθεν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ. Ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ κύριοι αὐτῆς ὅτι ἐξήλθεν ἡ ἐλπίς τῆς ἐργασίας αὐτῶν, ἐπιλαβόμενοι τὸν Παῦλον καὶ τὸν Σίλαν εἴλκυσαν εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἄρχοντας, καὶ προσαγαγόντες αὐτοὺς τοῖς στρατηγοῖς εἶπον· οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἐκταράσσουσιν ἡμῶν τὴν πόλιν Ἰουδαῖοι ὑπάρχοντες, καὶ καταγγέλλουσιν ἔθνη ἃ οὐκ ἔξεστιν ἡμῖν παραδέχεσθαι οὐδὲ ποιεῖν Ῥωμαίοις οὕσι. καὶ συνεπέστη ὁ ὄχλος κατ' αὐτῶν. καὶ οἱ στρατηγοὶ περιρρήξαντες αὐτῶν τὰ ἱμάτια ἐκέλευον ῥαβδίσειν, πολλὰς τε ἐπιθέντες αὐτοῖς πληγὰς ἔβαλον εἰς φυλακὴν, παραγγείλαντες τῷ δεσμοφύλακι ἀσφαλῶς τηρεῖν αὐτούς· ὃς παραγγελίαν τοιαύτην εἰληφώς ἔβαλεν αὐτοὺς εἰς τὴν ἐσωτέραν φυλακὴν καὶ τοὺς πόδας αὐτῶν ἠσφαλίσατο εἰς τὸ ξύλον. Κατὰ δὲ τὸ μεσονύκτιον Παῦλος καὶ Σίλας προσευχόμενοι ὕμνον τὸν Θεόν· ἐπηκρῶντο δὲ αὐτῶν οἱ δέσμιοι. ἄφνω δὲ σεισμὸς ἐγένετο μέγας, ὥστε σαλευθῆναι τὰ θεμέλια τοῦ δεσμοτηρίου, ἀνεώχθησάν τε παραχρῆμα αἱ θύραι πᾶσαι καὶ πάντων τὰ δεσμὰ ἀνέθη. ἔξυπνος δὲ γενόμενος ὁ δεσμοφύλαξ καὶ ἰδὼν ἀνεωγμένας τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, σπασάμενος μάχαιραν ἔμελλεν ἐαυτὸν ἀναιρεῖν, νομίζων ἐκπεφευγέναι τοὺς δεσμίους. ἐφώνησε δὲ φωνῇ μεγάλῃ ὁ Παῦλος λέγων· μηδὲν πράξης σεαυτῷ κακόν· ἅπαντες γὰρ ἐσμεν ἐνθάδε. αἰτήσας δὲ φῶτα εἰσεπήδησε, καὶ ἔντρομος γενόμενος προσέειπε τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλᾳ, καὶ προαγαγὼν αὐτοὺς ἔξω ἔφη· κύριοι, τί με δεῖ ποιεῖν ἵνα σωθῶ; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· πίστευσον ἐπὶ τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ σωθήσῃ σὺ καὶ ὁ οἶκός σου. καὶ ἐλάλησαν αὐτῷ τὸν λόγον τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ αὐτοῦ. καὶ παραλαβὼν αὐτοὺς ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ τῆς νυκτὸς ἔλουσεν ἀπὸ τῶν πληγῶν, καὶ ἐβαπτίσθη αὐτὸς καὶ οἱ αὐτοῦ πάντες παραχρῆμα, ἀναγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ παρέθηκε τράπεζαν, καὶ ἠγαλλίασατο πανοικί πεπιστευκῶς τῷ Θεῷ.

Community Iconography Program
Help Sponsor the Resurrection Icon!



Christos Anesti!! As part of the beautification of our new church, we invite everyone to participate in the iconography by sponsoring a “share” of the magnificent Anastasi (Resurrection) icon. The icon covers one of the four pendentive regions and is located in the front left near the altar. Each share is \$500.

Forms are available at the Pangari and the Cultural Center. Or call the office at 610-650-8960. Thank you!



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May 8, 2012

Reverend Father Peter Thornberg
St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church
900 S. Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Dear Father Thornberg:

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township, I would like to extend to you and your congregation our heartfelt congratulations on the completion of the addition to your church. The building is nothing short of magnificent, and one which should make your congregants and the residents of this Township proud.

We wish you many years of joyful celebration in your newly expanded sanctuary.

Sincerely,



George J. Stojanovich

GJS:kkf

cc: Board of Commissioners

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GOSPEL READING

The Reading is from John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 9.1-38

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, παράγων εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον τυφλὸν ἐκ γενετῆς. Καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ῥαββί, τίς ἤμαρτεν, οὗτος ἢ οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἵνα τυφλὸς γεννηθῆ; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς· οὔτε οὗτος ἤμαρτεν οὔτε οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῆ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ. ἐμὲ δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πέμψαντός με ἕως ἡμέρας· ἔρχεται νύξ ὅτε οὐδεὶς δύναται ἐργάζεσθαι. ὅταν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ᾖ, φῶς εἰμι τοῦ κόσμου. ταῦτα εἰπὼν ἔπτυσσε χαμαὶ καὶ ἐποίησε πηλὸν ἐκ τοῦ πύσματος, καὶ ἐπέχρισε τὸν πηλὸν ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τοῦ τυφλοῦ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὕπαγε νίψαι εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ, ὃ ἐρμηνεύεται ἀπεσταλμένος. ἀπήλθεν οὖν καὶ ἐνίψατο, καὶ ἤλθε βλέπων. Οἱ οὖν γείτονες καὶ οἱ θεωροῦντες αὐτὸν τὸ πρότερον ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν, ἔλεγον· οὐχ οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ καθημένος καὶ προσαιῶν; ἄλλοι ἔλεγον ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν· ἄλλοι δὲ ὅτι ὅμοιος αὐτῷ ἐστιν. ἐκεῖνος ἔλεγεν ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ· πῶς ἀνεώχθησάν σου οἱ ὀφθαλμοί; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· ἄνθρωπος λεγόμενος Ἰησοῦς πηλὸν ἐποίησε καὶ ἐπέχρισέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς καὶ εἶπέ μοι· ὕπαγε εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ καὶ νίψαι· ἀπελθὼν δὲ καὶ νιψάμενος ἀνέβλεψα. εἶπον οὖν αὐτῷ· ποῦ ἐστιν ἐκεῖνος; λέγει· οὐκ οἶδα. Ἔγουν αὐτὸν πρὸς τοὺς Φαρισαίους, τὸν ποτε τυφλόν. ἦν δὲ σάββατον ὅτε τὸν πηλὸν ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἀνέωξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. πάλιν οὖν ἠρώτων αὐτὸν καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι πῶς ἀνέβλεψεν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πηλὸν ἐπέθηκέ μου ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς, καὶ ἐνίψαμην, καὶ βλέπω. ἔλεγον οὖν ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων τινές· οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐκ ἔστι παρὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅτι τὸ σάββατον οὐ τηρεῖ. ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· πῶς δύναται ἄνθρωπος ἀμαρτωλὸς τοιαῦτα σημεῖα ποιεῖν; καὶ σχίσμα ἦν ἐν αὐτοῖς. λέγουσι τῷ τυφλῷ πάλιν· σὺ τί λέγεις περὶ αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν ὅτι προφήτης ἐστίν. οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι περὶ αὐτοῦ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέβλεψεν, ἕως ὅτου ἐφώνησαν τοὺς γονεῖς αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀναβλέψαντος καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτοὺς λέγοντες· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ὑμῶν, ὃν ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη; πῶς οὖν ἄρτι βλέπει; ἀπεκρίθησαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ εἶπον· οἶδαμεν ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ἡμῶν καὶ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη· πῶς δὲ νῦν βλέπει οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἢ τίς ἠνοιξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς ἡμεῖς οὐκ οἶδαμεν· αὐτὸς ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε, αὐτὸς περὶ ἑαυτοῦ λαλήσει. ταῦτα εἶπον οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἐφοβοῦντο τοὺς Ἰουδαίους· ἡδὴ γὰρ συνετέθειντο οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἵνα, ἐάν τις αὐτὸν ὁμολογήσῃ Χριστόν, ἀποσυνάγωγος γένηται. διὰ τοῦτο οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπον ὅτι ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε. ἐφώνησαν οὖν ἐκ δευτέρου τὸν ἄνθρωπον ὃς ἦν τυφλός, καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ· ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος ἀμαρτωλὸς ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· εἰ ἀμαρτωλός ἐστιν οὐκ οἶδα· ἐν οἶδα, ὅτι τυφλὸς ὦν ἄρτι βλέπω. εἶπον δὲ αὐτῷ πάλιν· τί ἐποίησέ σοι; πῶς ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς· εἶπον ὑμῖν ἡδὴ, καὶ οὐκ ἠκούσατε· τί πάλιν θέλετε ἀκοῦειν; μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς θέλετε αὐτοῦ μαθηταὶ γενέσθαι; ἐλοιδόρησαν αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπον· σὺ εἰ μαθητῆς ἐκείνου· ἡμεῖς δὲ τοῦ Μωϋσέως ἐσμὲν μαθηταί. ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι Μωϋσεὶ λελάληκεν ὁ Θεός· τοῦτον δὲ οὐκ οἶδαμεν πόθεν ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐν γὰρ τούτῳ θαυμαστόν ἐστιν, ὅτι ὑμεῖς οὐκ οἴδατε πόθεν ἐστίν, καὶ ἀνέωξέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι ἀμαρτωλῶν ὁ Θεὸς οὐκ ἀκούει, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις θεοσεβῆς ἦ καὶ τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ ποιῆ, τούτου ἀκούει. ἐκ τοῦ αἰῶνος οὐκ ἠκούσθη ὅτι ἠνοιξέ τις ὀφθαλμούς τυφλοῦ γεγεννημένου. εἰ μὴ ἦν οὗτος παρὰ Θεοῦ, οὐκ ἠδύνατο ποιεῖν οὐδέν. ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· ἐν ἀμαρτίαις σὺ ἐγεννήθης ὅλος, καὶ σὺ διδάσκεις ἡμᾶς; καὶ ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω.

Ἦκουσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω, καὶ εὐρών αὐτὸν εἶπεν αὐτῷ· σὺ πιστεύεις εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπε· καὶ τίς ἐστι, Κύριε, ἵνα πιστεύσω εἰς αὐτόν; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καὶ ἑώρακας αὐτὸν καὶ ὁ λαλῶν μετὰ σοῦ ἐκεῖνός ἐστιν. ὁ δὲ ἔφη· πιστεύω, Κύριε· καὶ προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

2012 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster is leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 6 through 15, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Peter Patukas at 610-304-4774 or e-mail him at peter.patukas@verizon.net.

Business Village 2012: We are asking our parishioners for help in obtaining the names of potential businesses that might be interested in participating in the Business Village. Every day we come into contact with business professionals and/or professionals in the service industry. Please spread the word to these individuals about the Business Village. This is a tremendous opportunity for exposure for the businesses that participate. If you have a name of someone who might be interested, **please contact Constantine Samios at (610)308-2225** and give him the businessperson's name **OR** you can have the businessperson contact Constantine directly. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to speak to Constantine Samios.

Granite Raffle: In an effort to help raise an additional \$15,000 for our new church building, we will be distributing raffles (\$1 per raffle) for which the grand prize is 50 square feet of granite countertop (fully installed) to be provided by Colonial Marble. We are asking our parishioners not only to buy these raffles but to sell them to their family, friends, business associates, neighbors, etc. You are encouraged to sell to **ANYONE AND EVERYONE!!**

WE NEED FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS! Festival packets were mailed to your homes recently. Our Spring Grecian Festival is 1 ½ weeks away. Thousands of dollars (for supplies, ingredients, advertising, etc...) have already been spent towards this event, not to mention the countless hours of planning and preparation that are necessary. In order to have a successful festival, we need **YOUR** help to organize it and to ensure that it runs smoothly. We need the help of **everyone** -- young or old -- for as much or as little time as you can offer. Please take a moment to sign up on the **Yellow Volunteer Sign Up Sheet** that was mailed to your home and bring/send it in as soon as possible. **(On the reverse of that sheet you can donate items for the festival.)** It is important that we know who is coming so that we can best plan for this very important event of our parish. **Our next planning meeting is this Monday evening, 5/21, at 6:30 pm and each Monday evening thereafter. All those interested in participating in the organization of the festival are welcome to attend.**

Yiayia's Attic Treasures: If you plan to do some household clean up, please keep St. Sophia Church in mind. Once again, the Ladies' Philoptochos will be selling donated "treasures" in the balcony during the Spring Grecian Festival. We are in search of items to sell. The list of items that you can donate is limited only to your imagination. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of clothing, mattresses, pillows, any type of quilted items, stuffed animals or food products. Any items unsold will be donated to a local thrift store. So, start cleaning out that garage, basement, spare room or even that junk drawer today. **Any items brought in can be placed directly in the balcony.** Volunteers are needed during the festival hours to sell these treasures. Please call Maria or Kathy Tsipras (610)539-5413 to sign up or if you have any questions.

Camp Good Shepherd: This year, for the first time, Registration for Camp Good Shepherd can be done online. Please see the instructions below.

Please note that each child should be registered and paid for online by their parents. If they register early, it is only \$430. Any children who meet the "perfect attendance" criteria will have the \$430 reimbursed by St. Sophia Church.

Go to: <http://nj.goarch.org/youthyal/goodshepherd.htm>

Follow the link to the Camp Good Shepherd website and click on the Registration link. Once you reach the registration site you will first need to create a new account. Once the account has been created you will log into the Registration site with your new account information and then follow the directions on the first page. Once you have completed the process and paid for your camper(s) through PayPal, your child(ren) will be officially registered for CGS this summer and all that will be left for you to do is to fill out the forms that you will be instructed to download (Camper Health, Code of Conduct, and Parental Release) and **send them to the Metropolis by June 15, 2012** at the following address:

Metropolis of New Jersey
Attn: Camp Good Shepherd
215 E. Grove Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

Is your child graduating from high school or college? Please complete the information below so that we can share with our community the achievements of our young men and women. Please complete and return this form to the Parish office by June 3rd.

2012 GRADUATE

Full Baptismal Name _____

Parents' names _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Graduating from _____ School _____

Or University _____

Degree from University _____

NICENE CREED

(The Confession of Faith)

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages;

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And He rose on the third day according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

AMEN

RESURRECTION HYMN

Χριστός Ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καί τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἡρισάμενος.

Christos anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi zoin harisamenos.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

At the conclusion of each service during the Paschal season until the eve of Ascension, the following responses are made:

Priest: Christ is Risen!
Ιερεύς: Χριστός Ανέστη!
Christos Anesti

People: Truly, He is Risen!
Ο Λαός: Αληθώς Ανέστη!
Alithos Anesti

Priest: Glory to His third-day Resurrection.
Ιερεύς: Δόξα τῇ Αὐτοῦ τριημέρῳ ἐγέρσει.
Doxa ti Aftou triemero egersei

People: We worship His third-day Resurrection
Ο Λαός: Προσκυνούμεν Αὐτοῦ τὴν τριήμερον ἐγερσιν.
Proskinoumen Aftu tin triameron egersin.

English:	Christ is Risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Albanian:	Khrishti unjal!	Vertet unjal!
Armenian:	Kristos hanyav ee merelotz!	Orhnial eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese!	Vo istina voskrese!
French:	Le Christ est ressuscite!	En verite il est ressuscite!
German:	Christus ist erstanden!	Er ist wahrhaftig erstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Polish:	Khristus zmartvikstau!	Zaiste zmartvikstau!
Romanian:	Cristos a inviat!	Adevarat a inviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!

May 20, 2012

Sunday of the Blind Man

Thallessaios & Companions ❖ Mark the Hermit



Today's coffee hour is being sponsored by St. Sophia's PTO in celebration of the graduation of our Sunday school and Greek school classes.

Today has been designated AHEPA Sunday by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. In his Encyclical for AHEPA Sunday, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios stated: "On AHEPA Sunday we recognize and honor the members of our Greek Orthodox community in the United States who continue to offer this witness and service through their support for the work of the Church and through numerous philanthropic, educational and civic programs."

Today has also been designated Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday by SCOBA, (now the Assembly of Bishops.) Please see the bulletin insert for more information.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 21 st	10:00 am – Divine Liturgy - Feast of Ss. Constantine & Helen 6:30 pm – Festival Planning Meeting
Tuesday, May 22 nd	
Wednesday, May 23 rd	5:15 pm – Greek School Scheduling Meeting for 2012-2013
Thursday, May 24 th	10:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Holy Ascension
Friday, May 25 th	

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

- ❖ Monday, 5/21 Feast of SS. Constantine & Helen – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
- ❖ Thursday, 5/24 Holy Ascension – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
- ❖ Wed. thru Sun 5/30 – 6/3 Spring Grecian Festival
- ❖ Sat., 6/2 Saturday of Souls – Divine Liturgy at 8:00 am
- ❖ Sun., 6/3 Holy Pentecost – Divine Liturgy at 8:00 am
- ❖ Fri., 6/22 American Red Cross Blood Drive in St. Sophia's Cultural Center. The hours of the blood drive are 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information or to register, please call Elaine in the Parish Office.

Stewardship News: Just a reminder that if you have not yet returned your 2012 Stewardship Pledge Card, please do so as soon as possible. Also, we ask that you fulfill your 2011 pledge **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. In addition, when paying by check, it is imperative that you indicate "**Stewardship 2011**" or "**Stewardship 2012**" in the memo line so that your account is properly credited. Also, if you make cash donations, please be sure to include your name either on the outside of the envelope or on a slip of paper attached to the cash. Should you have any questions, please see Tom Cox, our stewardship chairperson.

**Stewardship Update
May 20, 2012**

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Many of us answer our phones multiple times during the day (and even some in the church!). Did you know that God is calling you as well? Are you picking up the spiritual call He is making to you? Throughout the year, and especially during the Paschal season, it is very appropriate to consider our relationship with God.

Stewardship is our way of thanking God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. To be considered good stewards of our parish and the faith, we must give back in gratitude to Him by giving of our time, talent and treasure. Our faith and parish need all three from us!

Did you know it costs us about \$8,000 EVERY WEEK to run our parish? That is over \$2,000 for every stewardship unit (single or family). Please consider increasing your stewardship level to the Pacesetter level (\$2,080 / \$40 per week). If we average the Pacesetter level from each steward, we can meet our operating and Ministry expenses from stewardship. We can then put

The Festival is Coming May 30th – June 3rd!!! LOTS AND LOTS of help is needed from everyone. Please share your time and talent!

other fundraising toward finishing the new church and renovating our current hall.

Thank you for your support of God's work and our Ministries through your generous and sacrificial stewardship. God bless you and your family.

	2011 (5/18/12)	2012 (5/18/12)
Pledge Unit Goal	210	225
Pledge \$ Goal	\$185,000	\$200,000
Number of Pledges	191	144
Amount Pledged	\$162,092	\$147,644
Average Pledge	\$848.65	\$1,025.31
New Stewards	20	17

**Building Committee Update
May 20, 2012**

Our iconographer, Dr. George Kordis and two of his associates, Chronis and Ioannis, departed for Greece this past Monday after their brief visit with us to repair the damage in the dome caused by the sprinkler repair required to fix a leak detected last month. We are grateful that they came to help us. All costs for the repair will be covered by contractor insurance. They are scheduled to return in early July to perform some additional work.

In the meantime, additional punch list work is being completed as we proceed towards closing out our construction contract with Horst Construction Company. Our site contractor, Plymar Construction, will be completing the grading of the basin in the front of our property in the upcoming weeks. Most of the water you see will be drained and the basin will be planted with water-loving plants.

A comprehensive plan for interior furnishings and artifacts has been developed. We have contacted vendors and obtained bids for an icon screen, altar table and bishop's throne among other items. For example, we have pricing from two marble carriers for a possible Byzantine icon screen design. When funds become available, we will be able to place the orders; there is generally a several month time frame for delivery.

Each item represents a sponsorship or donation opportunity for all who would like to assist in the decoration and furnishing of our new sanctuary. Iconography sponsorships are also available in the large pendentive murals below the dome, please ask if you would like to contribute or memorialize a loved one.

It is important to remember that although the church has been built, we have a significant mortgage of \$1,300,000 and an additional credit line with a balance of \$100,000 plus we still owe our contractors well over \$300,000 for building construction and site work. Please pay any amounts still due on your pledge as soon as possible so we can meet these obligations.

We thank all of you who have supported the effort to preserve and advance our Christian faith in part by building our new church.

Capital Campaign News May 20, 2012

Xristos Anesti! Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported His work and our community to fulfill our dream of a magnificent Byzantine church—just in time for Pascha, as promised. It is wonderful to hear some many compliments about our parish and magnificent church which truly glorifies God and proclaims our faith for all to see. How gratifying to see a miracle happen before our eyes!

Although we have opened our doors, our work in many ways is just beginning! We still need everyone's help and ongoing support to raise funds to pay our mortgage. We especially need to hear from several of our regular stewards who have not yet done their part to support Christ and our parish. As Orthodox Christians, it is ALL of our responsibility to give sacrificially to support the faith.

We need to raise \$1.8 million to pay off our debt. Of that amount, we need to pay off at least \$500,000 by the end of this year! Please be sure to tell your family and friends of our miracle. We have received much support from outside the parish and look forward to continuing to spread the Word around the world!

**Join us as we realize a true MIRACLE! Please help us close our immediate funding gap by raising another \$140,000 in new donations/pledges this month!
Check out our website for the latest pictures! www.stsophiavf.org**

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for parts of the church as well as the beautiful iconography. Please talk with any member of the Capital Campaign Committee or Parish Council for more information!

God Bless you for your glorification of Him and support to build Him a new house of worship!

Building Funds Available as of 5/13/2012

Estimated Total Cost of Project	\$4,150,000
Number of Pledges	221
Amount Pledged	\$1,981,836
Average Pledge	\$ 8,962
Amount Collected	\$1,692,438
Amount Remaining	\$ 289,398
Building Fund Balance (Cash in the Bank)	\$ 12,738
Project Expenses Paid	\$2,457,087
Total Funds for Project (Raised + Expected NET Collections)	\$2,759,223
Permanent Mortgage	\$1,300,000
<u>SHORTFALL after Mortgage</u>	(\$155,777)

Help Build Our New Church by donating a Brick or Paver!

Placement in Front of our New Church by the Flagpoles



- Memorials
- Baptisms
- Weddings
- Honoring Veterans
- Family Sponsorships
- Other Similar Recognition

Bricks (8 x 4 inches): \$100

Pavers (12 x 12 inches): \$350

**Sign up today at the Welcome Booth! Bricks will be installed
in Spring 2012 after completion of the church.**