

NO. 2025:1 | JANUARY 2025

THE DELIVERER

A Monthly Newsletter of St. George Upper Darby



The
The Divine Liturgy: Blessed is the Kingdom
by Fr. Thomas Hopko

The first exclamation of the Divine Liturgy reveals the key to the entire celebration:

Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

With these words the celebrant announces the source and the goal of the divine service of the People of God, the very context and contents of the entire liturgical action. It is the Kingdom of God brought to the world by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and mystically reigning already in the faithful disciples of Christ by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Kingdom of God is eternal life in communion with God in loving obedience to his divine will. It is life in union with the Blessed Trinity; life lived toward the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. It is the life which Christ has given to men by his incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and glorification. It is the life to be lived already in this world by the People of God.

(continued on page 2)

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- **January 5: Theophany; Matins 9:30 a.m.; Liturgy 10:30 a.m.**
- **January 20: Family Vespers (Reader's Vespers) at 4:30 p.m.**
- **January 14: Leavetaking of Theophany; Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**
- **January 17: St. Anthony the Great; Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.**
- **January 21: St. Maximos the Confessor; Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**
- **January 30: Three Great Hierarchs; Orthros & Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.**

(Continued from page 1)

To bless the Kingdom of God means to love it as one's most precious possession. The response of the people to the proclamation of blessing by the priest is with the word Amen, which means so be it. This is the solemn affirmation that indeed the blessing of God's Kingdom is fitting and proper. It is the official confirmation that this Kingdom is indeed the "pearl of great price" for the faithful, which once having found it, they will love it and serve it and desire to have it forever (Lk 13.14).

(Source: oca.org)



January Greeters and Readers

January 5

Greeter: Diala Matta

Reader: Ben Daniel

January 12

Greeter: Caitlin & Lexi Gordon

Reader: Matthew Gordon

January 19

Greeters: O'Connor / Harne boys

Reader: Xenia San Chirico

January 26

Greeter: Roxi Harne & Justine Leach

Reader: Peter Solomon

Interested in being a Greeter?

Contact the Office Administrator at
office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org

Interested in being a Reader?

If you're interested in becoming a reader for the Epistle on Sunday, please contact the church office.

Interested in hosting Coffee Hour?

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special celebration by hosting a Coffee Hour.

A luncheon will follow the January 19 Annual Meeting.

The last Sunday of the month is our Potluck Coffee Hour. **The January Potluck Coffee Hour is January 26th.**



Attention SOYO The Younger Participants!

Join us for our **FIRST EVENT** spending an evening in Chinatown:

1. Eating delicious Dim Sum
2. Writing get-well holiday cards for people in the hospital
3. Participating in some fun ice breakers
4. Planning for the year ahead!

Please meet at St. George's no later than 5:30PM on Saturday, January 11th for transportation to Center City.

If you would prefer to travel via public transit, the event will be hosted at 1001 Vine St.

SOYO the Elder (High School SOYO)

January 19:
Meeting after Liturgy

January 25:
5 p.m. Vespers followed by
Food, Games & Fellowship

Attention Parents:

**Registration for
for A.V. Summer Camp
opens on January 5th.**

**Register at
www.avcamp.org**



Save the Date

Sunday, January 19

Annual Parish Meeting
after Liturgy.

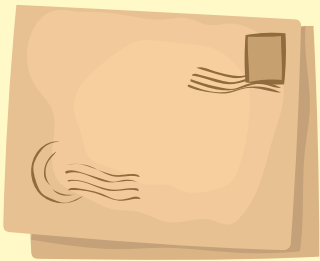
A luncheon will be served.



*Annual Meeting Alternate
Date (snow date)
will be
Sunday, January 26.*

Stewardship Notice

Families and Individual members of Saint George parish will soon be receiving a packet outlining the various aspects of Stewardship and ways in which anyone can be involved in parish life. In addition, a pledge card for 2025 will be enclosed in the mailing. God bless you for helping to make our community a wonderful place to worship.



Home Blessings

Sign up at
<https://tinyurl.com/4n4te88y>
or use this QR Code.



Reading Group

Wednesday nights,
starting January 15
7 - 8:30 p.m.



See Kerry San Chirico for information.



St. George Giving Chart



Ways to Give Your Time

SERVE AS A GREETER BEFORE LITURGY	BE A CLEAN UP DAY VOLUNTEER	JOIN HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
ADOPT A COLLEGE STUDENT	SPONSOR OR CLEAN UP AFTER COFFEE HOUR	JOIN PARISH COUNCIL
WELCOME VISITORS DURING COFFEE HOUR	ORGANIZE MEAL TRAINS FOR FAMILIES	HELP WITH 12 BASKETS OR THE UPPER DARBY FOOD BANK

Ways to Give Your Talents

TEACH OR ASSIST SUNDAY SCHOOL	JOIN THE CHOIR	SERVE AS A READER OR CHANTER
JOIN MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE OR ICON COMMITTEE	JOIN THE SAINT KATHERINE WOMEN	ORGANIZE TEEN SOYO EVENTS
MAKE HOLY BREAD OR KOLLYVA FOR THE DEPARTED	JOIN THE YOUNG FAMILIES OR ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRIES	DECORATE OR PREPARE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEASTS

The above are simply examples, and we acknowledge and appreciate all of the ways our parishioners give their time and talents to our community. You can contact office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org with any questions.

MINI ORATORICAL WORKSHOP

DATE

Saturday, January 11th, 2025

TIME

1:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Vespers at 6:00 PM

WHERE

St. Philip Orthodox Church
1970 Clearview Rd
Souderton, PA 18964

Who is invited?

Teens who are between ages 12* and 18. What is a Mini Oratorical? A brief 1-2 minute oration using skills learned in the workshop. What is the goal? Provide teens an opportunity to increase awareness and enthusiasm for the Parish Life Conference & National Oratorical Festivals by providing an opportunity to collaborate and present in front of a live audience.

*Oratorical Festivals is historically for ages 13-18, however, we welcome teens who will be maybe eligible in 2026

Registration

<https://forms.gle/yJjakv5pbQB5D18L8>

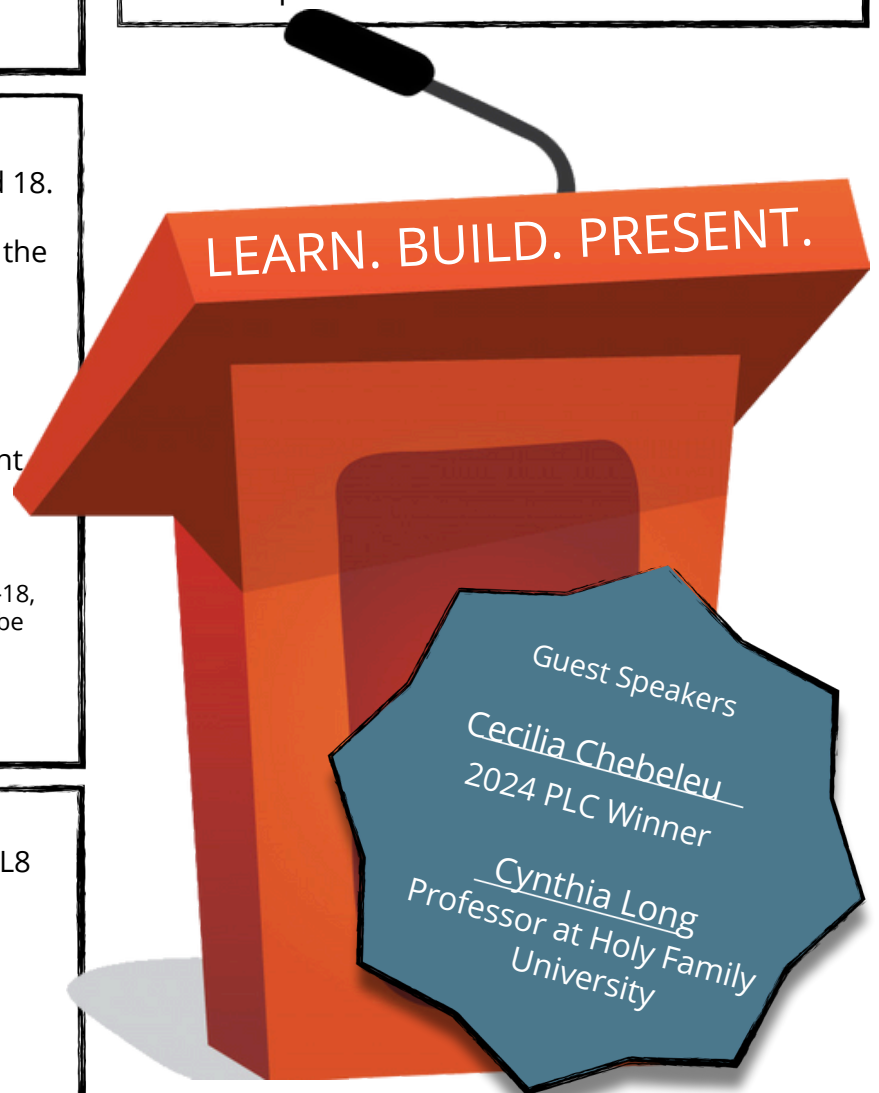
More Information

Contact Deacon Jason Flowers
Email: jason@jasonflowers.com
Cell: 610-405-6633 (call or text)



Schedule

- 1:00 - Welcome & Introduction.
- 2:00 - Learn what makes an effective Oratorical.
- 3:00 - Build an effective Oratorical.
- 4:00 - Present an effective Oratorical.
- 5:00 - Wrap Up & Pizza.
- 6:00 - Vespers.



Guest Speakers
Cecilia Chebeleu
2024 PLC Winner
Cynthia Long
Professor at Holy Family
University



Thank you

to all the parents, teachers, children, coaches, and stage hands who made the **2024 Sunday School Christmas Pageant** a great joy and success.





2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>JANUARY</p>  			<p>1 Orthros & Liturgy for St. Basil 9:30 a.m. Vespers 6 p.m.</p>	<p>2 Third Hour 9:30 a.m. 12 Baskets 8 p.m.</p>	<p>3 Royal Hours for Theophany 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>4 Bible Study 3 p.m. Vespers 5 p.m.</p>
<p>5 Matins 9:30 a.m. Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Great Vespers for Theophany 6 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Theophany Orthros & Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Maintenance Cmt 8 p.m. <i>online</i></p>	<p>7 Orthros 9:30 a.m. Akathist 7 p.m. <i>online</i></p>	<p>8 Vespers 6 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Third Hour 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 No Bible Study Family / Reader Vespers 4:30 p.m. Young Families Ministry 5:30 p.m. Younger SOYO 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>12 Matins 9:30 a.m. Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Parish Council 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Fellowship of St. Moses the Black 8 p.m. <i>online</i></p>	<p>14 Liturgy for the Leavetaking of Thophany 9:30 a.m. Akathist 7 p.m. <i>online</i></p>	<p>15 Vespers 6 p.m. Book Group 7 p.m.</p>	<p>16 Third Hour 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>17 Liturgy for St. Anthony the Great 9:30 a.m. Trisagion for BP. ANTOUN 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>18 Bible Study 3 p.m. Vespers 5 p.m.</p>
<p>19 Matins 9:30 a.m. Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting 12:15 p.m. SOYO the Elder (H.S.) mtg</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Liturgy for St. Maximos the Confessor 9:30 a.m. Akathist 7 p.m. <i>online</i></p>	<p>22 Vespers 6 p.m. Book Group 7 p.m.</p>	<p>23 Third Hour 9:30 a.m. Young Families Book Study 8 p.m. <i>online</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Bible Study 3 p.m. Vespers 5 p.m. H.S. SOYO 6 p.m. Food, Games & Fellowship</p>
<p>26 Matins 9:30 a.m. Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting (Snow Date) Choir 12:15 p.m. St. Katherine Women 12:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Orthros 9:30 a.m. Akathist 7 p.m. <i>online</i></p>	<p>29 Vespers 6 p.m. Book Group 7 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Orthros & Liturgy for Three Great Hierarchs 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>31</p>	