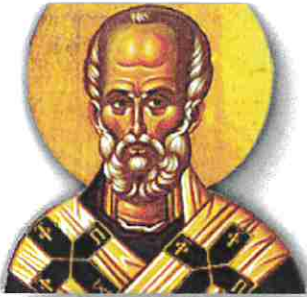


OCTOBER 18, 2020 – The Holy and Glorious Apostle and Evangelist LUKE

Martyr Marinos the Elder

Tone 2

Orthros Gospel 8



WELCOME TO ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL!

VISIT www.stnickspgh.org TODAY for news and updates about our parish!

CLERGY: Rev. Fr. Christopher Bender and Rev. Dn. Robert Lykos

Father's Cell & Email: 724-630-3483; frchbender@verizon.net

PROTOPSALTIS: Konstantinos Fekos

CHANTERS: Steve Andrews, & Michael Rodites

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steve Andrews

ORGANIST: Haley Cobb

ALTAR BOY CAPTAINS: TBA

Questions about our Parish? Email church@stnickspgh.org or call 412-682-3866

Our Sunday worship schedule: September 1 – June 13: Orthros 8:45 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

TODAYS TRISAGION SERVICE is being chanted for the souls of the servants of God, John Hanna (14 yrs), *Father George Christulides (31 yrs.), and Deaconess Mary Christulides (3 yrs).* May God grant them eternal rest.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the small hall hosted by GOYA and sponsored by the Hanna and Panagis/Christulides families. Physical (Social) Distancing will be practiced. And don't forget your mask.

TODAY – GOYA CAR WASH

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- **Monday, October 19:** Parish Council Meeting (Tentative)
- **Tuesday, October 20:** Bible Study 8:30 pm Zoom
- **Sunday, October 25:** Memorial Service for Eleftherios & Jennie Hages

New Church Website - We are working with an outside vendor to develop a NEW church website, and are very excited about our progress! If you are interested in helping - in any way - please contact Bunny at the Church Office. We welcome your contribution!

We are also looking for GREAT photos to add to our site. If you have any, kindly email them to Stacie de la Parra, Event Coordinator at events@stnickspgh.org.

Sincere thanks from the Website Committee! –
Bunny, Stacie, Michelle Kotsagrellos, Sophia Panagis

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! The Greek word for Church is *Εκκλησία* (Ecclesia), which means, “those who are duly called to assemble.” In other words, Christians are *called to gather* for worship and fellowship on a regular basis. When we do so, we become **Christ’s Body**. As St. Paul proclaims in I Corinthians 12:27 and at numerous other places in his letters, “Now you are the **body of Christ** and individually members of it.” Alone, we are only one part. But when we are together, we constitute the whole. That is why our faith was built on the premise that regular participation in the Divine Liturgy and other services is part and parcel of what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. Holy Communion mystically unites us with God and with each other.

COVID-19 has done a good job of disturbing and interrupting this age-old pattern, isolating us from each other and preventing the community from gathering. To a large degree, this has been necessary. The virus is real, and it can and does kill many who contract it – from the very youngest children to young adults and especially, to an alarming number of the elderly. The restrictions and limitations on the size of groups that have been imposed by our Governor and our Metropolitan are not intended to hinder or control us, but rather, to keep us safe and alive, in the face of a deadly threat for which there is not yet either a vaccination or a cure. Over time, however, due to changing circumstances and a better understanding of what works and what does not in preventing the spread of the disease, some restrictions have been loosened. For instance, did you know that our sanctuary has been set up so that over a hundred individuals or family groups can fit into it, while still remaining “socially distanced” by six feet from others?

Other steps are also being taken to limit exposure, such as serving the blessed bread (*antidoron*) in plastic cups and providing napkins for people taking communion to wipe their mouths on, rather than the traditional red cloth. The kollyva has already been packed in plastic bags before it is brought to the Church, to limit exposure to pathogens. Only the chanter, who stands away from others to begin with, chants the responses, as church choirs and congregational singing have been shown again and again to be sources of “super-spreader” mass contagion events. The entire sanctuary and narthex are treated with disinfectant after Sunday worship. Hand sanitizer is available for everyone as they enter or leave. The coffee hour is also organized in conformity with best distancing practices. And, it goes without saying that **everyone** is required to wear a face mask, whether indoors or out, when in the vicinity of the Church (don’t worry if you forget to bring one – we have a supply of those available, as well)!

The bottom line is that, while we cannot eliminate every possible risk, enormous effort is being made at St. Nicholas Cathedral to make the space as safe as possible for everyone who comes through our doors. We have also begun Greek School classes (virtually) and Church School classes (in person), and limited activities for our children and youth. So, please know that you and your family are welcome to join us at any scheduled service or event!

At the same time, please understand that this is an “open-ended” invitation. The decision as to whether to risk attending Church at the present time is a personal matter; there is no right or wrong answer. It is a good idea, in any case, to consult with your physician, if you have any concerns. This is especially true for those at higher risk for severe illness – including older adults and people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions. It is better to be safe than sorry.

I hope to see you in Church – if not now, then in the future, when this deadly pathogen has been defeated. Stay well, be at peace, for the Lord is with us – even in times of tribulation.

With love in Christ,
Rev. Fr. Christopher H. Bender

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SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

As the priest exits the Altar the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 2 is chanted: Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ Ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἅδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος, ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι. When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You. [SD]

Then, the usual Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) in Tone 2 is chanted:

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν (ἢ ὁ ἐν Ἀγίοις θαυμαστός), ψάλλοντάς σοι Ἀλληλούϊα.

“Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us O Son of God, who arose from the dead. We sing to you, Alleluia.”

After this, the Resurrection Apolytikion is repeated. Then we hear the hymn for the Evangelist:

Ἀπόστολε Ἄγιε, καὶ Ευαγγελιστά Λουκά, πρέσβευε τῷ ἐλεήμονι Θεῷ, ἵνα πταισμάτων ἀφεσιν, παράσχῃ ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν. O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Next, the Apolytikion for Patron saint of our church is chanted:

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ Ἱεράρχα Νικόλαε· πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν. The truth of things have revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause you have achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Finally, we hear the Kontakion in Tone 4 of the Theotokos:

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε. Μὴ παρίδῃς ἀμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἀεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε. A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, please reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

Epistle: Colossians 4: 5-11, 14-18. Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen. [RSV]

The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will." [RSV]

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DESK:

(The rooms are cleaned and the teachers & children will social distance and wear masks.)

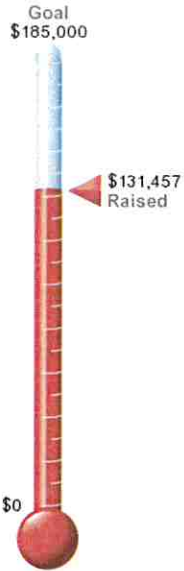
This year's Church School theme is "And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is **LOVE**." 1 Corinthians 13:13 Church School students are going to be encouraged to 'spread love' by emulating Christ by being good stewards by using their time, talent and treasure in Service to our Families, Friends, Neighbors, Community and Christ. Every week your child is encouraged to bring "a donation" to Church School (this will help them learn the lesson of "stewardship"), plus, be assigned homework: Do something nice for someone!

I would like to thank the parents in advance for sharing your children with us every Sunday! But, what can you do to help? You can help our Church School program, in the final analysis, your child, by bringing him/her every Sunday. Encourage your child to tell you about the lesson taught for the day, as well as, the craft brought home. Pray with your child. (Each lesson should begin and end with Prayer.) Attend worship services together as a **family**; Divine Liturgy starts at 10:00 a.m.

Yours in Christ,

Miss Michelle

2020 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex
(Just ask a member of Parish Council)



If you have already submitted your 2020 Stewardship Commitment, **THANK YOU!** If not, please take the time to make your financial Stewardship Commitment today and complete the talent portion of the card to enable **OUR Community** to grow and carry on the mission of our faith.

HELP US REACH/ EXCEED OUR GOAL!!

***"A Time for Every
Purpose Under Heaven"***

The Stewardship of Time
Ecclesiastes 3

<u>2020</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	285 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$131,457.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$461.25

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

Food Bank – The Food Bank continues to need your support! You can donate by making a check payable to the “St. Nicholas Philoptochos Food Bank” or through United Way by designating the St. Nicholas Food Bank (#3288) through your employers United Way contribution. Questions: contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

Neighborhood Resilience Project Food Drive – At this time, we are unable to collect food drive donations for Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly knowns as FOCUS Pittsburgh). There is a great need for support during this difficult time for many. We encourage parishioners to take non-perishable food donations directly to Neighborhood Resilience Project located at 2038 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. They appreciate your support!

GOYA NEWS

Thank you to everyone for supporting our St. Nicholas GOYA in their fundraising efforts.

GOYA Car Wash today after church. Please support our fundraiser with a \$5 donation.

Chestnut Hill Candle Fundraiser - Please see a GOYAn after church for more information.

GOYA is starting off the year with new merchandise. Please support the GOYA and purchase some of our new stuff. Orders may be placed today for the St. Nicholas Sweatshirt and Pants. Cost for the Sweatshirt is \$30 and for the Sweatpants is \$25. Please see a GOYAn after church to place your order.

Annual Walk for Missions - Sunday, November 1

Our GOYA will once again participate in the Walk for Missions to support the mission work in Guatemala. Donations are being accepted and checks written to "The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood" with Walk for Missions in the Memo Section. You can hand your check to any GOYAn.

GOYA Thanksgiving Food Drive

All parishioners are welcome to participate in this food drive. Your donation helps families in need during this holiday season. We are accepting the following donations through November 13. Please bring food items to church and place in the designated bin.

- * canned corn
- * green beans
- * peas
- * carrots
- * sweet potatoes
- * pumpkin
- * soups/stews
- * gravy
- * boxed mashed potatoes
- * cranberry sauce
- * boxed stuffing
- * 32oz of any flavored juice
- * applesauce
- * dried macaroni

**Registration Form
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Church School**

Parent's Names

Address

Phone Numbers

Home _____

Work _____

Cell _____

E-mail _____

Children	Grade	Birthday	Nameday	Allergies
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

May we call you to volunteer for one of our projects?

Substitute Teacher _____

Oratorical Festival _____

St. Nicholas Bazaar _____

Communion Breakfast _____

Christmas Pageant _____

Easter Egg Hunt _____

Snacks _____

Outreach Projects _____

Thanks for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

SOUND and WI-FI CAMPAIGN



Let the Message Be Heard—CLEARLY!

GOAL: \$25,000

To Date: \$17,020

AIMING FOR NEW YEAR INSTALLATION

- Clear sound for our streaming services with a digital connection to our video feed
- New microphones and sound boards to improve volume control and stop distortions and breakdowns
- Updated speakers with new acoustic compensating technology
- Strengthen the Wi-Fi signal throughout all our facilities.

These improvements will bring rewards for years to come. Please make checks payable to St. Nicholas G.O. Cathedral or donate on-line and memo Sound System.



To date, we have met with three companies to hear their recommendations for equipment and technical approach. Next, we will be finalizing the package and obtaining final quotes.

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
18 Luke the Evangelist Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am GOYA CAR WASH	19 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Bible Study 8:30 pm Zoom Boys Basketball 7-9pm	21	22 Girls Basketball 7-9pm	23	24 GOYA Fall Kickoff Party (@ the Bouzos')
25 6 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am General Assembly	26 St. Demetrios, the Myrrh-streamer Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	27 Bible Study 8:30 pm Zoom Boys Basketball 7-9pm	28	29 Girls Basketball 7-9pm	30	31

Watch Sunday services streaming live from St Nicholas Cathedral at www.stnickspgh.org/ and click on "Live Streaming Click Here."

On-Line Giving donations are up and running on our web page www.stnickspgh.org by clicking please donate button - or you may access the donation page by using <https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give>