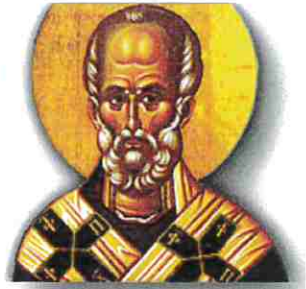




Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

419 S Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh PA 15213 412-682-3866



JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



"HARK THE HERALD ANGLES SING: JESUS IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM"

***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT***

FATHER'S MESSAGE

January 2020

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Greetings in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who condescended to be baptized in the river Jordan by the Forerunner and Prophet John for our salvation!

The Holiday season is always a time for celebration and joy – for both children and adults. Between Thanksgiving and Epiphany, feasting, parties, visits to Santa, dances, and concerts abound. Families come together – often from far-flung places – to reconnect and rejoice in one another's company (we hope).

Such events are important to our parish family, as well, because they bring us together and strengthen our sense of belonging and of identity. They express the joy of the season. They are also a lot of fun. As Ecclesiastes instructs us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh. . . a time for mourning and a time for dancing. . . a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing" (Eccl. 3:1, 4, 5b). We have had our time to laugh, to dance, and to embrace, and we thank God for it. We also thank those leaders and volunteers whose hard work and dedication made these events possible.

Having said this, however, we must also remind ourselves that the center and focus of what we are about as a church community is not, ultimately, ourselves. It is *Jesus Christ our Lord*. Born of a Virgin, He is the Messiah, the chosen one of God, revealed to us at the time of His Baptism when the heavens opened and the Voice of the Father was heard, declaring Him His "Beloved Son," while the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. He is the One who has accomplished our salvation on the Cross; He is the One who triumphed over death. Through Him, we have come to know and to worship our heavenly Father, "in whom," as St. Paul put it, "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). We come to know Jesus through God's Holy Spirit, who has taught us to address Him as "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Now, perhaps, as the New Year begins and Theophany is celebrated, it is the season and the time to turn our thoughts toward Christ, and what He means for our lives, both personally, and as a community.

Christ can be encountered in many ways – through our prayers, in our dreams, and, most especially, in the face of our neighbor, created in God's image and likeness. But what about in Church? This may seem like an odd question, but the answer is not immediately obvious to every person. After all, one might be thinking, there is much chanting, and ritual, and incense going on in an Orthodox Church – but is God actually present there? Yes, emphatically, YES. When we gather as the Church, we become more than the sum of our parts: we partake of divinity. That is because the Church is Christ's Body, and He is her Head. In the Church, we are privileged to experience God's grace in a special and mysterious way, through the *sacraments* which our Lord instituted. When the Divine Liturgy is celebrated, we are taken up, in an ineffable way, into heaven, where we worship in the presence of the saints and the angels. Through the Chalice, we are called to become one with Christ, by consuming His divine Body and Blood.

Parish events such as dances and festivals are wonderful and worthwhile, because they bring us together in pursuit of a common purpose, and allow us to express our love for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. But they pale in comparison to the unity that we experience, both with Christ and with each other, when we assemble as the people of God to sing His praise and to partake of the Holy Eucharist. I firmly believe that, if more of us (adults, especially) would attend services more often and take more seriously the Lord's command to "Take and eat," and to "Drink of this, all of you," each time the Holy Eucharist is offered, we would come to be aware of our union with both God and one another on a far deeper level.

FATHER'S MESSAGE , Con't

"Holy things are for the holy people of God," the priest proclaims, as he elevates the Host (Christ's Body) just prior to breaking it and placing it in the chalice. If we are to receive, we must be properly prepared. This does not mean that we have to be perfect. Constantly, the Church reminds us that holiness is a goal towards which we *strive* in this fallen world, but not necessarily one that we arrive at. Nevertheless, we are called to *try* –that is, to avoid sin and to embrace the good. And when we fall short, God does not abandon us in our sin. That is why the call to *repentance* – ("Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" – Matt.3:2), proclaimed by John the Baptist in the desert and repeated by Jesus with even more power, echoes down the ages, and is addressed to us, as well. Repentance, confession, and communion – these are the gifts that the Lord has provided for us, when we have fallen away, so that we can be restored to full spiritual health.

"To every thing there is a season. . ." May this New Year 2020 become a season for us to rededicate ourselves to the robust celebration of and participation in the Divine Liturgy, and all the sacraments of the Church. These are the gifts that the Lord has left us, as means for us to embark on what is surely the most exalted of all human endeavors: the encounter with the Living God.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Father Christoph H. Bender

Protopresbyter Christopher Bender, Dean

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

FUNERAL

Our deepest condolences to the families of:

Alexandros Zavaras, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 28, 2019. His funeral took place in Greece.

John Cominos, who fell asleep in the Lord in Florida on November 24, 2019. A private funeral service was held for him at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt.

Lebanon on December 7, 2019.

May their Memory be Eternal!

+ Bartholomew
By God's Mercy
Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the plenitude of the Church
Grace, mercy and peace from the newborn Savior Christ in Bethlehem

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Having once again arrived at the great feast of the Lord's Nativity, we glorify with hymn and spiritual song the One who emptied Himself for our sake and assumed our flesh so that He might redeem us from captivity to evil and open the gates of paradise to the human race. The Church of Christ rejoices as it liturgically experiences the whole mystery of Divine Economy and receives a foretaste of the glory of the eschatological kingdom, offering a good and godly witness to faith, hope and love in the world.

The character of the Church, while "not of this world," does not isolate the Church from historical and social reality, but inspires and strengthens its witness. The Church, then, ever in reference to the eternal destiny of man, serves his existential needs, pouring out, like the Good Samaritan, "oil and wine" on his wounds, becoming a "neighbor" for everyone "who falls among thieves" (cf. Luke 10.25–37), healing contemporary "cultural illnesses" and illuminating people's minds and hearts. As the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the faithful, spirituality means witnessing in word and deed to the hope that is in us and has nothing to do with barren introversion. The Holy Spirit is the giver of life, the source of goodness, the bestower of gifts, life and light. The Christian is a human being that is afire, loves God, humanity and beauty, active and creative.

The Gospel of the Nativity is again heard this year in a cultural environment where supreme value is attributed to "individual rights." Self-centeredness and the deceit of self-realization diminish social integrity, weaken the spirit of fellowship and solidarity, and objectivize interpersonal relations. Unrestricted emphasis on economy and secularization deepen the existential vacuum and lead to the diminishment of man's creative forces.

The Church cannot possibly ignore these developments, whose consequences are primarily endured by our youth through the enchanting mechanism of technology and the manifold promises of "false paradises." The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church (Crete, 2016) emphatically invited our youth "to become aware that they are bearers and at the same time the continuation of the ancient and blessed tradition of the Orthodox Church," to actively participate in the life of the Church, "to courageously preserve and dynamically cultivate the eternal values of Orthodoxy in order to convey the life-giving witness of Christianity." (*Encyclical*, § 8–9)

In this same spirit, adhering to the exhortation of the Holy and Great Council but also in light of the recent election and enthronement of the new Archbishops of America, Australia and Thyateira -Great Britain for three large Eparchies of the Ecumenical Throne in the Diaspora, we declare 2020 as the "year of spiritual renewal and due concern for the youth," inviting all our clergy and faithful to participate in and support this inspiring effort.

We aspire to the advancement of a “dialogical pastoral ministry” with imagination and vision, with unshakable faith in the eternally flowing grace of God and confidence in the power of human freedom. This pastoral ministry is centered on human persons and must turn young people away from “seeking their own interests” and “pleasing themselves” to a love that “does not seek its own” and “is pleasing to God,” from “material goods” to “the only One who is good,” from “endless needs” to the “one thing that alone is needed,” thereby contributing to the promotion of everyone’s charismas. Our truly free self is born by offering our self.

The foundation of the Christian conscience’s awakening remains to this day the experience and understanding of the meaning of Christian worship as well as its communal, Eucharistic and eschatological character. Young people must recognize that the Church is not a “union of Christians” but the “Body of Christ.” We call the reverend clergy of the Holy Great Church of Christ throughout the world to a “kenotic” pastoral mobilization. We should not wait for our young men and women to come to us, but we should reach out to them ourselves, not as judges but as friends, in imitation of the “good shepherd,” who “gives his life for his sheep” (John 10.11). A shepherd is always vigilant and on guard, aware of the pastoral needs of the youth and their social environment in order to act accordingly. His pastoral intervention draws inspiration and direction from the tradition of the Church, offering young people not merely “support” but the “truth” of freedom “to which Christ has set us free.” (Gal. 5.1)

With these thoughts, we devoutly worship the Holy Child of Bethlehem and wish all of you from the festive Phanar a blessed Holy Twelvetide as well as a fruitful new year of our Lord, invoking on you the life-giving grace and great mercy of our Savior Christ, who condescended to the human race, the “God with us.”

SIXTY CLUB NEWS

Friends of all ages are encouraged to attend the January 12 talk on **spiritual and medical end of life decisions**. Even if one has already made a Living Will, it may be beneficial to hear what a professional who deals with these matters on an everyday basis has to say. Have you seen the up-to-date forms for Living Wills?

We also know that the Church does not sanctify euthanasia, suicide and cremation. Why? Are we supposed to prolong life, no matter what the conditions? May there be exceptions to these decisions? Hear how the Church responds to these questions.

**Sunday, January 12
12:30
Crystal Room**

Coffee and a light lunch will be provided after Liturgy for those attending. Please let us know how many to expect by calling the church office at 412-682-3866 or Fran at 412-731-0790.

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL!

INVITATION to ALL
PREPARING for a "GOOD DEATH":
MEDICALLY and SPIRITUALLY

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
12:30
CRYSTAL ROOM

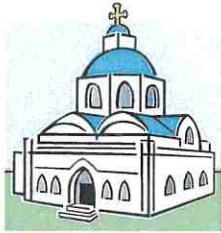


Orthodoxy does not sanction euthanasia, suicide and cremation. Why is that so? At the same time, though, does our faith require us to go to extremes to prolong life?

Fr. Christopher Bender will present the moral teachings of the Church relating to the end of life.

Dr. Jane Schell will discuss the purpose and content of the Living Will and its importance to both the patient and the doctor.

Coffee and a light lunch will be provided in the Crystal Room after Liturgy for those attending. Please let us know how many to expect by calling the church at 412-682-3866 or Fran at 412-731-0790.



St. Nicholas Church School

Now that the New Year has begun, it is time to say thank you for the jobs well done in 2019 and to look forward to the rest of the Church School year!

Church School, organized by Anna Kukunas, had a very successful Bake Sale and sponsored a Balloon artist at the **St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**. Thank you, Anna, for your efforts!

Many hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. were delivered to **FOCUS** for their **Project Bundle-up**. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

The Church School children presented their annual **Christmas Pageant** under the direction of Jenny DeMatteo, Kelly Gary and Aimee Walker on **Sunday, December 22, 2019**. It was a beautiful program enjoyed by the whole congregation. Thank you Jenny, Kelly, and Aimee!

The St. Nicholas Church School teachers, staff and students want to wish our GOYANs (and Church School students) Good Luck at their upcoming **GOYA Basketball Tournaments** at Sts. Constantine & Helen (Cleveland, OH) on 01/17-19/20, at St. Holy Trinity (Canton, OH) on 01/31-02/02/20 and Holy Cross (Pittsburgh, PA) on 02/21-23/20.

Church School students in grades 7th–12th have the opportunity to learn more about their faith and participate in the **St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival** that will be held in **March 2020**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or eve.m.elsen@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 8, 2020, the Church School students will participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** with their favorite icon!

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School Open House will be **Sunday, April 5, 2020**, where parents and grandparents attend Church School to see firsthand what their children are learning.

I appreciate the support from all of you and thanks for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle



Church School Students:

**Please bring an icon
Sunday, March 8, 2020
for the
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Icon Procession**

St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival

March 2020



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Church School Open House

Sunday, April 5, 2020



Join your Child or Grandchild for Church
Worship, Holy Communion & Church School!

GREEK SCHOOL

St. Nicholas Greek School ended 2019 on December 21 with the sweet sounds of children singing the Christmas Carols in Greek and in English as well as hymns in Greek. It was followed by a small party in the Fellowship Room. The children always do a wonderful job singing Christmas Carols in Greek. It's wonderful to see them singing Christmas Carols in both languages at church, home, parties, and at various places.

There was no school on December 28. During the Christmas break a group of Greek School children and parents will bring some happiness to residents of nursing homes by singing Christmas Carols. It is always heartwarming to see the smiles of the residents as they watch the children singing. And it reminds us of how important is to spread joy to others.

Classes will resume on Saturday, January 4, 2020 with the children learning about St. Basil, the vasilopita, and how Theophany is celebrated in the United States and abroad. They will also learn the hymn for the Theophany.

"Rebooting Greek," the interactive program funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation will begin in January and has had great reviews from the schools who have already started piloting it. This program will be used in addition to our curriculum and will also be done at home with students and their parents on the computer.

During the month of January, some children will be preparing for a few upcoming events. On Sunday, January 28, children will make a short presentation for the Celebration of the Three Hierarchs. On that day our annual Artoclasia, Trisagion, and Bake Sale will also be held. We will also honor students who have passed Ellinomatheas or Regents Exams, and those who have participated in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh's 7th Annual Greek Language Festival.

In the month of January, students will also be preparing for reading Prayers in Biblical Greek to Panaghia and Christ at the beautiful services of the Salutations to our Most Holy Theotokos. We are blessed to have Deacon Haralambos come and help the students prepare for reading the prayers for those services.

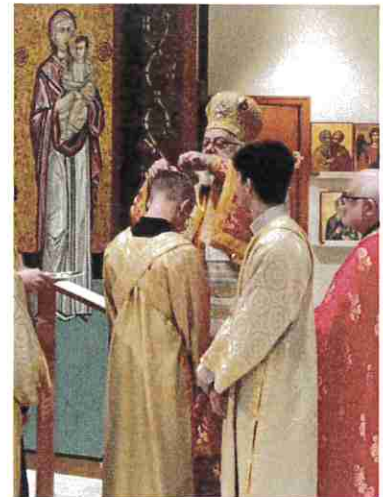
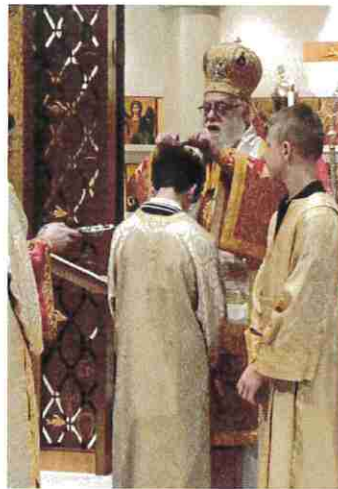
After January, preparations will be made for March 25th Celebrations of the Annunciation and Greek Independence. The 2020 Celebration will take place on Sunday, March 29. Keep that date open to celebrate Evangelismos and Greek Independence with St. Nicholas Greek School.

2019 ONLINE PHOTO YEARBOOK

One of the better features of our electronic age is the proliferation of color photographs that chronicle our lives – including our participation in the life of the Church. We try to fit as many photos as possible in our monthly newsletter, but space limitations only permit the inclusion of a few pictures each time, and the prohibitively-high cost of color printing limits us to black-and-white reproductions the vast majority of the time. This is the "bad news."

The "good news" is that we have come up with a potential solution to this dilemma. For the first time, we hope to post an **Online Photo Yearbook** looking back on 2019 that will be linked to our parish webpage (stnickspgh.org). Please send us your photo files from various events – religious services, sacraments, social events, the Food Festival, children's events, etc. – that you would like to share with the entire community (along with any comments you would like to share). We will post a representative sample from all those contributed as a permanent record – in color – of the year at St. Nicholas. The deadline for contributions is January 31, 2020.

If this project is successful, then we will continue it for the foreseeable future. Volunteers who might be able to help us curate the collection as well create and link the file to our website are kindly invited to speak to Fr. Christopher, or call the Church Office. 10



CONGRATULATIONS to our **ALTAR SERVERS**, who were honored by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas during his pastoral visit on December 15, 2019:

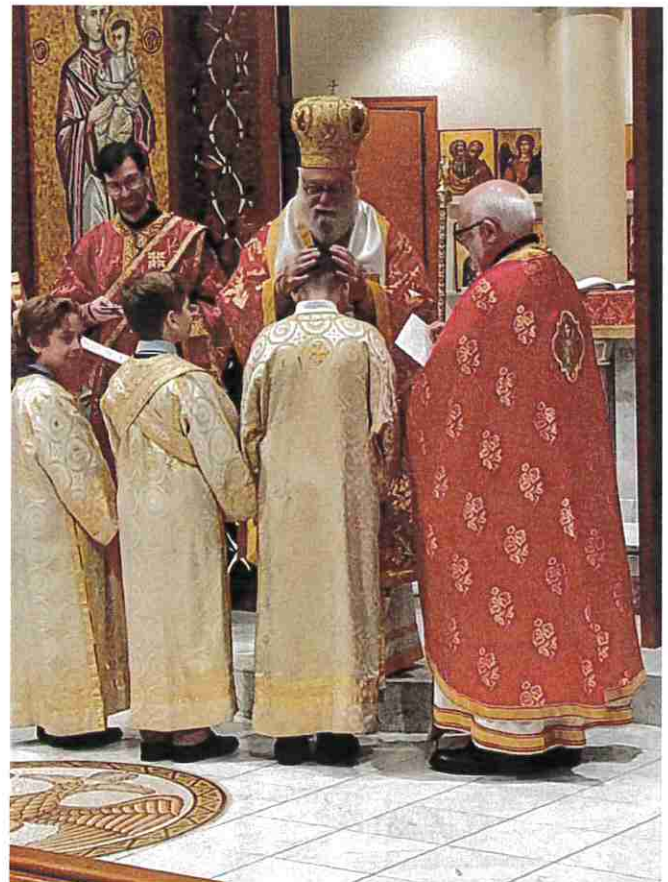
The following younger boys were **blessed** by the Bishop to enter into service in the Altar:

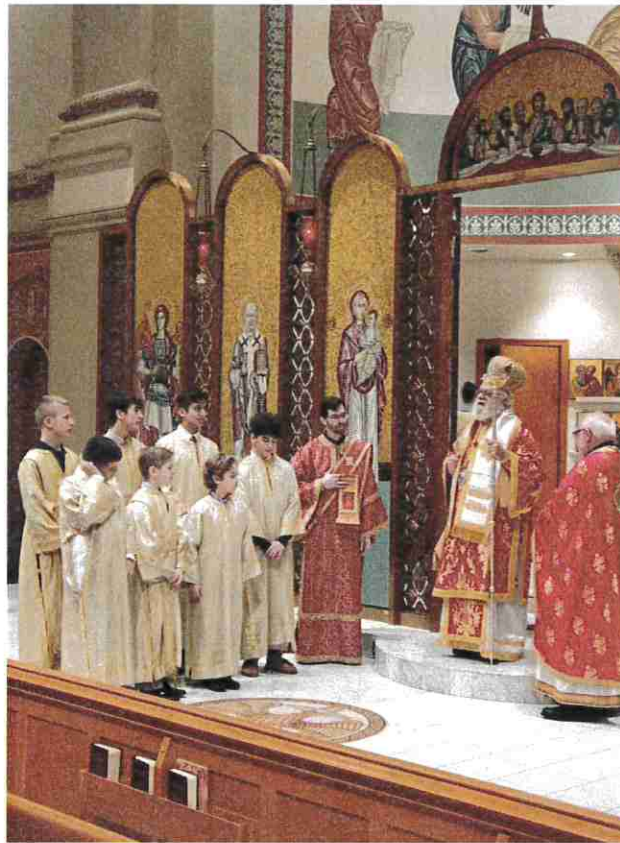
Dimitri Darakos, Haralambos Darakos, and Kingston Stamoolis.

The following older boys were tonsured as **Readers**:

Anthony Antoniadis, Ben Kefalos, Tommy Kristian, and Tasso Whipple.

(Parents, please note: Those boys who were not present can still be blessed for service in the Altar by the priest. Please speak to Fr. Christopher to make arrangements.)





FOOD FESTIVAL

Here we have it, our food festival cooking challenge for 2020. Please check it over and mark your calendars. Help is definitely needed. Wherever possible, weekend cooking has been included. Many, many hands are needed to provide the quantity of food required to accommodate all our festival guests.

St. Nicholas is indebted to those who came to make Spanakopita (December 3 - 9). Participation was minimal. Let's chalk it up to a busy time of the year. Your support and participation is invaluable to the success of the festival. Over the years, more and more seniors, who were the dedicated core of volunteers, are no longer able to help us.

The next generation of volunteers needs to fill the void. St. Nicholas hopes you find it in your heart, your conscience and your power to be present during the 2020 food preparations. It's very fulfilling!

2020 St. Nicholas Greek Food Festival Cooking Schedule

January

Moussaka	<u>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, January 7, 8, 9</u> <u>Possibly Friday, January 10</u>
Kourambiethes	Monday, January 20 Possibly Tuesday, January 21
Baklava	Friday, January 24 Saturday, January 25 Sunday, January 26 after Church Monday, January 27

February

Pastitsio	Monday, February 3
Souzoukakia	Saturday, February 8 Sunday, February 9 after Church Monday, February 10 Evening Cooking Possibly Tuesday, February 11
Finikia	Saturday, February 15
Galatoboureko	Monday, February 24 Tuesday, February 25 Evening Cooking

March

Pasta Flora	Sunday, March 8 After Church Monday, March 9 Possibly Tuesday, March 10
Koulourakia	Sunday, Monday, March 15 - 16

April

Tiropita	Sunday, April 5 After Church Monday and Tuesday, April 6 and 7
Diples	Tuesday, April 21

STEWARDSHIP

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

"All things are possible to the One Who Believes in Christ"

Mark 9:23

Re-dedicate yourself to God by participating
in the Divine Liturgy each Sunday and offer your
TIME, Talent and treasure.

HELP US REACH/EXCEED OUR GOAL



2019 STEWARDSHIP		12/18/2019
Total Stewards		302
Total Amount Pledged		\$140,942.00
Average Pledge		\$ 466.69
% Parish Participation to Date		101%
2019 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		76%
2019 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 185,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 172,902.08
As of:		11/30/2019
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection and Food Festival	\$ 413,527.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$ 414,093.00	
	\$ (566.00)	

STEWARDSHIP

2019 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 12/18/19

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aber
 Mr. & Mrs. James Agras
 Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Anthony N. Andrews
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis
 Mr. George Anthon
 Mrs. Virginia Anthon
 Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Antoniadis
 Mr. & Mrs. Spilius Argiropoulos
 Mrs. Betty Athens
 Mrs. Lamona M. Athens
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Avery
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Bain
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon A. Barber
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. Alexander Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
 Dr. & Mrs. George Bellios
 Ms. Andrea Beldecos
 Mrs. Vange Beldecos
 Dr. Barrett Bender
 Fr. Christopher & Dr. Filitsa Bender
 Mrs. Marion C. Bennett
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis
 Ms. Joanna Bourlogianis
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Bouzou
 Mrs. Mary Brahas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Chrisanthus
 Dr. Vasiliki Christopoulos
 Dr. & Mrs. Antonios Christou
 Archdeacon E. P. Christulides
 Mr. & Mrs. George Chronis
 Mrs. Mary Cominos⁺
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Mrs. Afrodite Condos
 Mr. Philip Contacos
 Mrs. Eleni Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Contis
 Dr. George Contis
 Ms. Jamie Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. John J. Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Dino Copetas
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen M. Copetas
 Mrs. Maria Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. Vasili Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Countouris
 Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Coutris
 Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig
 Mr. John Dakis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
 Ms. Bridgette Daugherty

Mrs. Denise Daugherty
 Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides
 Mr. Rob Day
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo
 Mr. & Mrs. Elias Diacopoulos
 Mrs. Christine Dickos
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Dinunno
 Mr. Arthur J. Dordas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Drapas
 Mr. & Mrs. Speros G. Drelles
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt
 Mr. John Edgos
 Mrs. Sophia Edgos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mrs. Penelope Falck
 Ms. Alexandra Fatandas
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 Mrs. Bessie Ferency
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fletcher
 Mrs. Alice K. Flocos
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl M. Florence
 Mr. Marshall Florence
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos
 Mrs. Kalliope Frentzos
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. William Gary
 Drs. Athan & Lydia Georgiades
 Dr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Gialamas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Glaser
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Goranitis
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hages
 Mr. Ted Hages
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Beck Hall
 Ms. Aphrodite Halleran
 Mrs. Antigone Hanna
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna
 Mrs. Frances Hanna
 Dr. John T. Haretos
 Mr. Theodore A. Haretos
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Ms. Vanessa Kachulis
 Mrs. Evangelia Kalabokes
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Dr. & Mrs. George Kappakas
 Mr. Nicholas Karabetsos
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kartsonas
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. Andron Kavouras
 Mr. Nicholas Kefal
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. George Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Dr. & Mrs. Georgios Kitsios

Dr. & Mrs. Georgios Kitsios
 Mrs. Mary Kleissas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Ms. Nicole Klidas
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kolias
 Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis
 Mr. & Mrs. Anest G.⁺ Kotsagrellos
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos
 Mr. Chris T. Kouklis
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Ms. Georgia Krelis
 Mr. Peter Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian
 Mr. James S. Kukunas
 Mr. & Mrs. James T. Kukunas
 Dr. Paul S. Kukunas
 Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas
 Mrs. Antigoni Kyros
 Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros
 Mr. Dean Langan
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Langan
 Ms. Maria Langan
 Ms. Constantina Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kemon Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
 Mr. Richard Lepidi
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. David Levine
 Ms. Elizabeth Lillios
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
 Rev. Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Drs. Nicoletta Machin & Suman Yadam
 Mr. & Mrs. Spero Maginas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Makricostas
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mr. & Mrs. David Malobicky
 Mrs. Kay Mandalakas
 Mr. & Mrs. George Mandros
 Dr. Eleni Maneta
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Mrs. Barbara Manners
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos
 Ms. Valerie Mastandrea
 Mrs. Helen Mastro
 Mr. Kostas J. Mastro
 Ms. Alisa Mathews
 Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Mavrogeorgis
 Mr. & Mrs. John McCann
 Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGuire
 Mrs. Patricia McKee
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinis
 Mrs. Antigone Mellas
 Mr. & Mrs. George Mellis
 Mrs. Maria Menas
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Menniti
 Mr. & Mrs. William Michaels
 Mr. Conrad Mitchell
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis

STEWARDSHIP, Con't

2019 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 12/18/2019

Ms. Evangelia Moreno
 Dr. & Mrs. Jose Moreno
 Mr. Paul Moses
 Mrs. Beulah Mougianis
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Nelson
 Mr. & Mrs. George Nychis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nychis
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Paljug
 Ms. Sophia Panagis
 Mr. Dean Panagulias
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Panagulias
 Ms. Catherine Pandeladis
 Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Mr. & Mrs. Stylianos Papakirk
 Mr. Vasil Papakroni
 Mr. & Mrs. Papanikolaou
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Papas
 Ms. Nicole Papas
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
 Dr. George Pappas
 Mr. Nick Pappas
 Mr. John C. Paras
 Mr. Van Paras
 Mr. & Mrs. David Parlour
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pease
 Mrs. Astrid Peponidis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Peters

Mrs. Stamatia Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mrs. Toula Peterson
 Mr. John Petrolias
 Ms. Constance Petros
 Mr. Thomas Plakidas
 Mrs. Vera Poland
 Mrs. Barbara Polimus
 Mr. & Mrs. D. John Powers
 Mrs. Esther Rafaloski
 Mrs. Anastasia Raftis
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Raftis
 Ms. Cynthia Raftis
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mrs. Irene Richmond
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rodites
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sahinidis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sarioglou
 Dr. Maritsa Scoulos-Hanson
 Mrs. Angela Sfamenos
 Mr. Bill Sfamenos
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sfanos
 Mrs. Christina Silva
 Mr. & Mrs. George Sockos
 Mr. Andrew Sotos
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos
 Ms. Catina Stamoolis
 Ms. Constance Stamoolis
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stathopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stratigos
 Mr. Nicholas Strauch
 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Strauch
 Mrs. Argie Stuart
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher

Mrs. Kay Thimoleas
 Mrs. Donna Thomas
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Thomas
 Mrs. Chrisoula Torlidas
 Dr. & Mrs. Anastasios Tousimis
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
 Mr. Athanasios Tsourekis
 Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
 Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis
 Ms Mary Vasilakis
 Mrs. Panagiota Vasilakis
 Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
 Mr. & Mrs. Achilles Vassilicos
 Mr. & Mrs. Orestis Velisaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
 Ms. Eugenia Vergis
 Mrs. Angela Vergos
 Ms. Elaine Vitsas
 Mr. John Vitsas
 Mrs. Becky Vlahoulis
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Vrahas
 Mr. Sarantos Vrettacos
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Vroulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Walker
 Mrs. Helen Waskoskie
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Welch
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Whipple
 Ms. Franceska Xhakaj
 Mr. & Mrs. Gus Xilas
 Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras
 Drs. Alexander[†] & Katerina Zavaras
 Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis
 Mrs. Dorothea Zikos
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zikos
 Mrs. Sophia Zozos

If you don't see your name, we do not have a **STEWARDSHIP CARD** recorded for you. Many of you have been contributing, but **PLEASE** complete a Stewardship Card or call the church office (412-682-3866) to rectify.





Bagged Lunches for FOCUS

We will be making sandwiches and bagged lunches for FOCUS on **Saturday, January 11th at 9:00 a.m.**

We invite volunteers of all ages to help with this service project! The lunches will be delivered to FOCUS at 11:00 a.m.

The Philoptochos Board Invites You To

Mimosas & Membership

**Sunday, January 26th
During Coffee Hour**

*Join us to celebrate our wonderful organization
and our amazing women as we kick off our
2020 membership drive.*

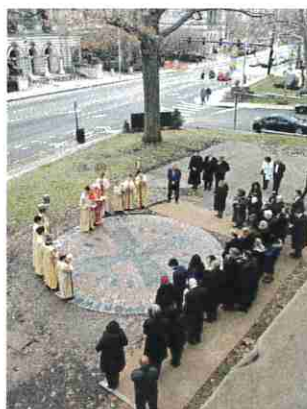
*Bring your membership donation to receive
your complimentary mimosa!*

Food Bank – The Food Bank supports several of our parishioners and 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 employer’s United Way contribution. Questions: contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

COMMEMORATIVE CIRCLE

COMMEMORATIVE CIRCLE DEDICATION

Our Cathedral's Commemorative Circle was dedicated on December 15, 2019, following services. It is a wonderful tribute to those honored and to those who have passed as well as a testament to those who follow for generations to come. We are blessed to have dedicated parishioners and friends who contributed to the elimination of the Cathedral's mortgage.



Saint Nicholas and The Committee are very grateful to Co-Chair Peter Tsudis who donated not only his time and talent to the project, but his treasure, as he generously underwrote the labor and materials cost (to create the circle and install the pavers). Thank you, Peter, to you and to your great crew.

As the year comes to a close, the CTZ Committee has a few updates.

The project has been completed as far as paver installation is concerned. It is an ongoing fundraiser for the Building Fund, thus installing pavers will be continuing, (though not in the winter).

As the parklet has never been a level area, grading, topsoil and possibly sod or grass seed is scheduled for the Spring, weather permitting. This will be Phase 2. Also, the section connecting the Commemorative Circle to the pad will be Phase 3.

For more information on how you can make a difference through the purchasing of a commemorative paver, please visit the website, www.stnickspgh.org. Click on the tab for Countdown to Zero to download paver order forms.

We wish all of our friends and parishioners of Saint Nicholas a Joyous Christmas and A Happy and Healthy 2020!

**SAINT NICHOLAS HUMBLY THANKS
THE FOLLOWING DONORS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED
AND MADE IT POSSIBLE
TO "COUNTDOWN TO ZERO"**

Anonymous (8).
James and Electra Agras
AHEPA
Steve Andrews
Elaine Andrianos
Harry and Joyce Athanasiou
Yianni and Carla Antoniadis
George Anthon
JoAnn** and Harry Avery
Van Backeris
Simon and Phyllis Barber
Vange Beldecos
Jay and Victoria Bedel
George Bellios
Fr. Christopher & Presbyteria Filitsa
Bender
Victor and Harriet Bertolina
Rebecca Bertos
Anthony Brahos M.D.
Mary Brahos
Deacon Euripides Christulides
Helen M. Copetas
Yianni and Maria Coutris
Taki & Argy Darakos
Liberty Darakos
Denise Daugherty
Kyriakos and Alexandra Davides
Christine Dickos

George and Marguerite Ellis
James & Eve Elsen
Virginia Fekaris
Alice Flocos
Peter Flocos
Timothy Flocos
John & Kelly Frentzos
Jim and Alice Gary
Athan and Lydia Georgiades
Anthony & Frances Gialamas
Michael Gregory
Jim and Linda Hages
Nick Hages
Maria Hnarakis
John Haretos
Callie Kamaras**
Dean Kamaras**
John & Joann Kartsonas
Martha Kartsotis
Peter & Jodi Katsafanas
Nicholas Kefal
Nick and Amy Kleissas
Mary Kleissas
Michelle Kotsagrelas
Kemon and Kalliope Lardas
Lucia Leventis
Peter & Debbie Leventopoulos

Deacon Robert & Nikki Lykos
Jim & Dae Machin
Jimmy Machin
Dina Machin and Jake Persinger
Kay Mandalakas
Manthya Educational Society
Tom and Dana McClure
Kris Paleos McCune & Family
Tom and Marcie McGuire
Patti McKee
Chris and Joanne Melacrinis
Milton and Elizabeth Moratis
Jose and Venetia Moreno
Paul Moses
Georgette and Brian Nelson
Robert and Lillian Panagulias
Stylianios & Lindsey Papakirk
Van Paras
John Paras
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Jim and Helen Stamatelos
Gus & Maria Stamoolis
Christina, Catina and Connie Stamoolis
Popie Tousimas
Peter & Carol Tsudis
Semie Tsudis
Perry and Tulla Velisaris
Yianni and Carrie Velisaris
Elaine Vitsas
John Vitsas
Jason and Amy Walker
Stacey and Scott Whipple
Peggy and Karl Williams
Suman and Niki Machin Yadam

Alexander** and Katerina Zavaras
Dorothea Zikos

****We apologize for any errors
and/ or omissions***

*****Deceased***



Our
children
of the
Church
School
prepare
for our
annual
Christmas
Pageant
on
Sunday,
Dec. 22,
2019





Theophany & the Blessing of the Waters

“WHAT IS THEOPHANY?” Every year on January 5 & 6 we celebrate the great feastday of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist presents us with a great mystery of God: “He who is the Master of all is baptized by a servant, and He gives mankind cleansing through water.”

“WHAT IS A HOUSE BLESSING?” In celebration of Theophany, Orthodox Christians invite Christ not only into their hearts, but also their homes. We call upon Him to bring the blessings and spiritual cleansing of the Jordan into our daily lives. We do this each year by having the priest bless our homes with the Holy Water from the service of Theophany, offering prayers for our health, our family, and the Lord’s abundant blessings in the coming year.

“WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?” When Fr. Christopher visits, please have ready: 1) a list of names of your family members, 2) an icon. He will begin the service in the dining room or in the area of your home where you keep your icons, and then he will ask you to guide him around the house so that he may sprinkle the Holy Water throughout it. During the service, please turn off televisions, radios, etc., and silence your cell phones, so that full concentration may be given to the service.

“WHAT ABOUT BUSINESSES?” You may also request a blessing for your office or business. What better way to offer thanks to the Lord for your livelihood which He provides and to ask for His continued blessings upon it?

BLESSING OF HOMES: After the Holy Water Service on January 6, Fr. Christopher will begin blessing the homes of our parish with holy water. This year he will be blessing homes from January 6th-31st.

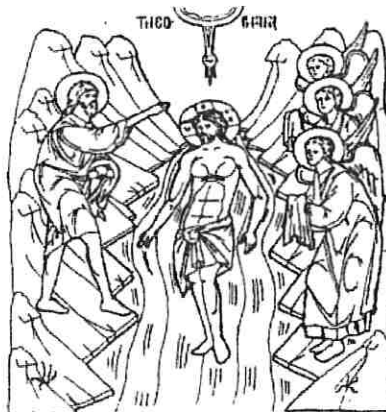
IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED, please fill out this form and return it to the church office. If you are mailing it, please address it to Fr. Christopher and mark it ATTN: HOUSE BLESSING. He will call you to schedule a time for your house blessing.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

PREFERRED TIME OF VISIT: Morning Afternoon Evening



January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Circumcision of Christ – St. Basil the Great: Orthros, 9 am <u>Divine Liturgy, 10 am</u> HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 Greek School, 10 am Tsudis Trains and Games Visit for Little Angels and JOY children, 1 pm
5 Sunday before Theophany – Orthros, 8 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am, followed by Blessing of the Waters & Philop. Vasilopita Cutting	6 HOLY THEOPHANY Orthros, 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy, 10 am, Gt. Blessing of the Waters follows	7 Synaxis of John the Baptist – Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy, 10 am	8	9	10	11 Greek School, 10 am, with Vasilopita Cutting at 12:15 pm
12 Sunday after Theophany – Orthros, 8:30 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	13	14	15	16 Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm	17 Anthony the Great – Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am <div>GOYA BB Tournament at Sts Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Ohio</div>	18 Greek School, 10 am
19 12th Sunday of Luke – Orthros, 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am <div>GOYA BB Tournament at Sts Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Ohio</div>	20	21	22	23	24	25 Greek School, 10 am
			Fr. Christopher away at Family Ministry Conference			
26 15th Sunday of Luke – Orthros, 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am Philop General Meeting	27	28	29	30 Three Hierarchs – Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	31 <div>GOYA BB Tournament at Holy Trinity, Canton OHIO</div>	Feb 1&2

PLEASE NOTE: Fr. Christopher will be attending a conference in Houston, TX on Pastoral Challenges in Marriage, sponsored by the GOA Center for Family Care, from January 22-25, 2020. In the event of pastoral need, please contact Deacon Robert Lykos (412-736-2762). He can also assist you in locating a priest, if needed.

St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
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