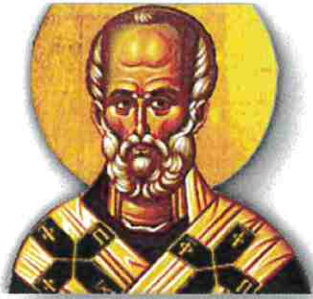


DECEMBER 13, 2020 –Eleventh Sunday of Luke

The Holy Forefathers of Christ. Holy Martyrs Efstratios, Afxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, & Orestis of Sebaste; Loukia the Virgin-Martyr; Righteous Arsenios of Latro; New-Hieromartyr Gabriel, Archbishop of Serbia (1659); Righteous Herman of Alaska.

Tone 2

Orthros Gospel 5



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.

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO the Family of *Virginia Anthon* who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, December 5. Her funeral took place on Tuesday, December 8th. Also, our condolences to the Family of *George Bardakos*, who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, December 7, 2020. Funeral arrangements were private.

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- Tuesday, Dec 15: Bible Study (Zoom) 8:30 pm
-

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>

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 Kotsagrelis, Sophia Panagis

DECEMBER 13, 2020 –Eleventh Sunday of Luke

The Holy Forefathers of Christ. Holy Martyrs Efstراتيجος, Αφξεντιος, Eugene, Μαρδαριος, & Ορεστις of Sebaste; Loukia the Virgin-Martyr; Righteous Αρσενιος of Latro; New-Hieromartyr Gabriel, Archbishop of Serbia (1659); Righteous Herman of Alaska.

Tone 2

Orthros Gospel 5

SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

First to be chanted as the priest exits the Altar at the Small Entrance is the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 2: 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:

Δεϋτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, 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, the Apolytikion for the Holy Forefathers is heard:

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, οἱ ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλείης, ἡ ἀσπόρος τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν. You justified the forefathers in faith, and through them betrothed yourself aforetime to the Church taken from out of the Gentiles. The saints boast in glory. For from their seed, there exists a noble crop, who is she who without seed has given You birth. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Then, we hear the Apolytikion for the patron saint of our Church:

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτίσω 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, the Kontakion in Tone 4 for the Nativity of Christ (Dec. 25) is chanted:

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν. Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. Dance for joy upon hearing this, all the world, and with the angels and the shepherds glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest as a young Child, the pre-eternal God.

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING: Colossians 3:4-11. Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free-man, but Christ is all, and in all. [RSV]

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: Luke 14: 16-24. The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many; and at the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot

come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'" [RSV]

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	306 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$138,583.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$452.89

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

Updated Parish Directory – Please make sure to pick up your updated parish directory from the church office! We also appreciate if those who are able to come to church can take and deliver copies for friends/family who you may visit. If you are a newer member of the parish and have never received the binder that the printed directory goes into, we have extras and would be happy to provide one.

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 – We are collecting non-perishable items for Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly known as FOCUS Pittsburgh). Please place non-perishable food donations in the bin outside the church office, and we will deliver them to Neighborhood Resilience Project. They appreciate your support.

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DESK:

Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and the recommendations of our state and local government, as well as, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, we will not be having in person Church School the remainder of this year (2020).

Father Christopher and I will reevaluate the situation at the beginning of the New Year.

In the meantime, Church School will be conducted via Zoom.

Thank you to Nicholas Hages for setting this up!

The Sunday dates are December 13 and December 20, 2020.

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle



PROJECT BUNDLE UP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES & GLOVES
FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT'S
PROJECT BUNDLE UP!



GOYA NEWS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: PASTICHIO! An annual crowd pleaser, Greek comfort food, easy to prepare and serve, made with love and delicious! The St. Nicholas GOYA is selling frozen pans of pastichio. The pans are 9"by 12" in size. Each pan is \$30. Check or cash is accepted. **For further information text Alea Melacrinis Mavrogeorgis @ 412 726 5940. Please state who you are in the text.** Pans are ready to sell for Thanksgiving and the holidays after church on Sundays or call the church office to purchase Monday-Friday.

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

Christmas Chocolate Sale - Thank you for supporting our SARRIS Christmas Chocolate fundraiser. Orders will be delivered [on Sunday, December 20.](#)



The Nationality Rooms Program at the University of Pittsburgh
VIRTUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE 2020
Presents the Greek Room Committee's

“The Twelve Days of Greek Christmas Trivia Game”

December 7th – December 19th, 2020

Did you know that-

- some key Greek Christmas traditions have their beginning in the time of ancient Greece?
- some ancient Greek festivals influenced the development of early Christian religious customs surrounding the feast of the Nativity of Christ?
- the Christmas Tree tradition began in Constantinople, during the time of the Byzantine Empire and was then carried north?
- the festive Christmas period begins in November and ends in January?
- St. Nicholas does not bring gifts to children, but instead, St. Basil does?

For more information and details, as well as for instructions for how to participate:

<https://pahellenicfoundation.org/ChristmasTriviaGame>

Game play takes place every day, beginning on December 7th and ending on December 19th, 2020, anytime between 7 AM - 10 PM. A donation of \$7 accesses a VIP code for one game. Two prize winners daily.

All donations will go to the Greek Room's Scholarship Fund.

Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!



PLEASE HELP US decorate
OUR BELOVED CATHEDRAL
with beautiful poinsettias for the
Nativity Season.

If you wish, please list the names of your loved ones to be
remembered in the Proskomidi (*Preparation of the Gifts*)
at every Divine Liturgy through Christmas.

For the Health of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Name & Address: _____

Suggested donation:

\$25 OR MORE, payable to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral (memo: Poinsettia)

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ORDERS IN NO LATER THAN December 13, 2020. Please, either place
in the Sunday offering tray or mail it to: 419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 11 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	14	15 Bible Study 8:30 pm Zoom	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday before Nativity Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	21 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	22 Bible Study 8:30 pm Zoom	23	24 Christmas Eve Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 6:00 pm	25 HOLY NATIVITY Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 Sunday after Nativity Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	28	29 NO Bible Study	30	31		