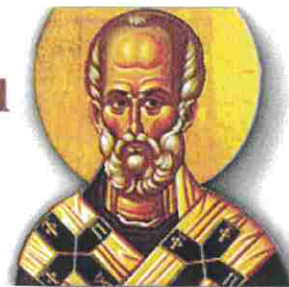




## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



### FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Candlemas, also called **Presentation of the Lord** or **Presentation of Christ in the Temple** or **Hypapante**, Christian [festival](#) on February 2 [commemorating](#) the occasion when the [Virgin Mary](#), in obedience to Jewish law, went to the [Temple in Jerusalem](#) both to be purified 40 days after the birth of her son, [Jesus](#), and to present him to God as her firstborn (Luke 2:22–38). The festival was formerly known in the [Roman Catholic Church](#) as the Purification of the [Blessed Virgin Mary](#) and is now known as the Presentation of the Lord. In the [Anglican](#) church it is called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. In the [Greek](#) church it is called Hypapante (Meeting), in reference to Jesus' meeting in the Temple with the aged Simeon.

### Our Mission & Vision Statements

The **MISSION** of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral is to Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a Spirit of Unity and Love for All through Worship, Service, Education, Fellowship and Outreach.

Our **VISION** is to be a Welcoming and Growing Parish, Striving to Live the New Life in Christ according to the Teachings and Traditions of the Greek Orthodox Faith.

**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
**419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213**  
**Reverend Father Christopher Bender, Dean**  
**Reverend Deacon Robert Lykos**

Watch Sunday services streaming live from St Nicholas Cathedral at [www.stnickspgh.org/](http://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](http://www.stnickspgh.org) by  
clicking please donate button - or you may access the donation page by using  
<https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give>

<b>Father Christopher</b>	724-630-3483	<a href="mailto:frchbender@verizon.net">frchbender@verizon.net</a>
<b>Barbara Manners</b>	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:church@stnickspgh.org">church@stnickspgh.org</a>
<b>Stacie de la Parra</b> ,	Event Coordinator	<a href="mailto:events@stnickspgh.org">events@stnickspgh.org</a>
<b>Vincent Nelson</b> ,	Maintenance	412-537-4073

Church Phone 412-682-3866  
Church Fax 412-683-4960  
Church email: [church@stnickspgh.org](mailto:church@stnickspgh.org)

**2021 Parish Council**

Vasili Copetas, *President*  
John Frentzos, *Vice President*  
Dean Panagulias, *Treasurer*  
James Machin, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Michelle Kotsagrellos, *Secretary*  
Sophia Panagis, *Assistant Secretary*  
Simon Barber, George Bellios, Victor Bertolina, Arthur Dordas,  
Peter Krelis, Peter Nychis, Van Paras  
Maria Sfanos, Jim Stamatelos

**Service Schedule**

Fall and Winter Hours (September-June):

Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

Summer Hours (July & August):

Orthros 8:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Hall Rentals**

If you are interested in renting either our small or large hall,  
please contact our events coordinator Stacie de la Parra, at  
412-901-3181 for more information and availability.

**Metropolis** 412-621-5529 [www.pittsburgh.goarch.org](http://www.pittsburgh.goarch.org)  
**Archdiocese** 212-570-3500 [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB**

[www.stnickspgh.org](http://www.stnickspgh.org)

[www.stnickscathedralroom.com](http://www.stnickscathedralroom.com)

And look for us on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Nicholas-Greek-Orthodox-Cathedral-Pittsburgh-PA>



## FATHER'S MESSAGE

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

God is holy, and wants us to be holy. . . (yawn). . . we've heard this message a thousand times, and most of us have probably dismissed it as impossible, or worse, undesirable. After all, it sounds so *boring* – standing around chanting all day, and denying oneself every possible pleasure in life. But to think this way is to fall into the trap of reducing the holy life to a false stereotype, so it can then be conveniently dismissed. When we do so, we short-change ourselves, because being holy does not mean boring, but rather whole, and wholesome – living life in the fullest sense of the word, to the best of our ability, at peace with ourselves, with our neighbors, our world, and – most importantly – with God. This was a lesson that my Dogmatics professor –Metropolitan Maximos of blessed memory – drove home to us time and again. For, the Orthodox faith sees the goal of the Christian life as union with God, which is actually a dynamic, never-ending process by which the believer, through God's grace, fulfills his or her humanity by becoming ever more God-like (holy). In doing so, we leave behind nothing but our sin – whatever that may be.

There is much to celebrate and take pleasure in, in this beautiful world: a sunny day, a reunion with loved ones, the mastery of a new skill, satisfaction in a job well done, sharing love with one's spouse, and much, much more. So, the problem is not with pleasure *per se*, but rather, with disordered pleasures – those which are contrary to God's will, because they are harmful to ourselves or to those who count on us. This is the bait that the evil one uses, in order to entice us into sinning. It is sin, then, which enslaves us and drags us down into bondage to the devil. This is the opposite of freedom. It cannot bring any lasting happiness.

What does our Lord offer us, instead? What can possibly make us more fully alive, more human, than we already are? What Christ offers us, by virtue of His sacrifice on the Cross for our sins, is nothing short of adoption into the family of God. Just as He is God's son by nature, so also has He given us the potential to become God's sons (children) by grace. And in doing so, we begin to understand and to taste what *true* freedom is: the "glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21). Freed from enslavement to our sin, we no longer need to succumb to the heartache and anxiety that characterized our former lives. We become "new persons," transformed by the grace of God working within us.

This new life of freedom does not necessarily require us to join a monastery or the priesthood – these are special vocations, which are only appropriate for those who have received them – but it does ask all of us to make some changes in our lives: first, to let go of that which keeps us far from God – such as our pride, our ego, and our destructive habits; and then, to allow God's Spirit to work within us, so that His gifts become our own: faith, hope, joy, peace, kindness, gentleness, and, especially LOVE.

February is the month when we begin the long road which leads to Great Lent and beyond. The Gospel readings call us to repent of our pride and learn humility (i.e., honesty about who we really are, and what we have done) (the Publican and the Pharisee); to return in humble repentance to our loving Father's embrace (the Prodigal Son); and to learn what it means to truly see the face of Christ in our neighbor in need (the Last Judgment). Here are three of the most important lessons, which, if heeded, can become the keys which unlock the chains which bind us.

Another valuable and necessary tool in throwing off the shackles of sin is the Sacrament of *Confession*. Through this mystery of our faith, our Lord comes to us just as the Father does in the parable of the Prodigal Son, to forgive, embrace, and reconcile Himself to us. Confession exists, not to humiliate the sinner or to entertain the priest, but rather, so that we can have a place to go to unload our burden of sorrow and guilt or true distress. It is the spiritual equivalent of going to see a doctor – like a vaccine for the soul, which helps to inoculate us against temptation and evil thoughts, in the same way that shots help to protect us from coming down with a deadly illness.

## *FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't*

Even more, it can heal the soul, by putting behind us that which binds us, restoring hope, and bringing our flagging faith back to life. Please take advantage of it during this holy season. You will not regret it. I am available at any time, by appointment, for this purpose.

Holiness is not boring; it is *exciting*! It is a great venture of self-discovery, which leads us beyond ourselves into the presence of the Living God. It brings us untold blessings, which change us from within into what we were actually destined to become all along. It is God's gift of Himself to us, mediated through His Son, our Savior. It is the living water, the pearl of great price, the lost coin, indeed, the "one thing needful," the "good portion, which shall not be taken away." (Luke 10:42).

May the gracious God who makes everything new – including our hearts – be with you and yours, now, and always.

In Christ's love,

*Rev. Father Christopher H. Bender*

Protopresbyter Christopher Bender, Dean

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## *SACRAMENTAL LIFE*

### **FUNERAL**

*Our deepest condolences* to the Family of ***Ernie Mandros*** who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.. His funeral was on Monday, January 11, 2021 here at St Nicholas Cathedral.

*May his Memory be Eternal!*

## *FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't*

**WELCOME, EVERYBODY, TO ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL! COME TRY OUT OUR NEW SOUND SYSTEM: HEAR AND WORSHIP IN PERSON OR HEAR AND WATCH FROM HOME!**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP** – on Sundays and weekdays, as scheduled. There are two good ways to do this – both of which just got better! That is because we are happy to announce that our new audio-visual system has finally been installed. That means that, if you are in the sanctuary, you will be able to hear the service far better and more clearly than you were before. And, if you are watching online from home, your viewing and listening experience should be greatly improved (it may take us a little time to tweak the new equipment).

**FIRST**, if your health permits, you can join us in person. Please be assured that the Cathedral has taken every possible step to minimize exposure to the COVID-19 virus or any other pathogen. This includes:

- 1) roping off a substantial portion of the seats, in order to enforce social distancing and keep individuals/family units isolated from one another;
- 2) Keeping a written record of everyone who attends each service for at least 30 days, in order to facilitate contact tracing, if needed;
- 3) limiting social interaction outside of services (i.e., no coffee hour or other social events);
- 4) communing the faithful in as prudent a manner as possible (please remember to open your mouth wide so the gifts can be dropped in and hold the paper napkin under your chin!)
- 5) distributing the antidoron (blessed bread) in separate paper cups, in order to minimize contact with human hands; and finally and most importantly,
- 6) requiring all present to wear facial masks at all times, with the exception of the clergy and cantor while celebrating the service.

As long as you are feeling well on any given day (i.e., no fever, no cough, no gastro-intestinal symptoms, no loss of smell or taste, etc.), you are more than welcome worship in person!

**SECOND**, you can join us from home! We are overjoyed to announce that, our new audio-visual system having finally been installed, you may access all worship services as usual on your computer from our website – but this time, with greatly improved audio and visual quality. Also, all public services will be recorded, so that you can watch them later, if desired.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to our committee from the Parish Council for their leadership in undertaking this project, and especially to all our incredibly generous donors who contributed in order to make this dream a reality. (It is not too late to make a donation: some expenses still remain. If interested, please send a check to the Church Office indicating that the gift is for the new sound system.)

With much gratitude and with love in Christ,

Father Christopher Bender, Dean

## ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE: PLEASE HELP US KEEP IT OPEN!

The St. Nicholas Cathedral Bookstore has been in existence for many years – always under the able care of these remarkable women: Paula Hall, Toulia Peterson, Semie Tsudis, the late Callie Kamaras of blessed memory, and later, Lillian Panagulias. The Bookstore has served an important need in our community, providing not just books about the Orthodox Church and faith, but also cookbooks celebrating Greek cuisine, children's books, aids for prayer in the home such as icons, hand censers, charcoal, incense, *kantilia* (oil lamps), and much more. One can even purchase *stefana* (wedding crowns) there. It has generally been open on most Sundays immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

We owe these intrepid and dedicated volunteers a great debt of gratitude for their faithful service over many years. Now however, they have all decided to it is time to pass the torch to a younger generation. Please consider coming forward to help us with this vital ministry – which is open to men as well as women, and to young people – not just seniors (hint: great way to accumulate service hours!). There is no better way to say “thank you” to those who have served so faithfully for so many years, than by offering to volunteer in their place. Please note that the work was done by a team – not one person. That way, each one would have the responsibility of opening up the bookstore after church only once a month, rather than having to do it every week. This is clearly the fairest and most equitable way to handle the responsibility, so that means that we are hoping to recruit multiple volunteers.

If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Christopher (724-630-3483). You may also speak to one of the ladies to find out in detail what the duties are.

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### *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.

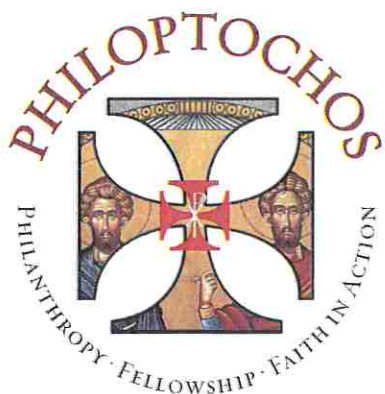
**Food Bank** – The Food Bank continues to need your support! You can donate by making a check payable to the “St. Nicholas Philoptochos Food Bank” or through United Way by designating the St. Nicholas Food Bank (#3288) through your employers United Way contribution. Questions: contact Elaine Andrianos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



# PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

*The 2021 Philoptochos Membership Campaign is underway! If you have already renewed your membership or joined as a new member for 2021, we thank you for your support and welcome you. If you have not yet submitted your 2021 membership, please return the form below with your donation to the church office by Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.*



## **2021 Membership**

You define what kind of member you will be. We are always looking for new skills, experiences and personalities, and we welcome you with open arms to join us in making a difference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my 2021 donation in the amount of:

( ) \$50      ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to St. Nicholas  
Philoptochos*

### **RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:**

St. Nicholas Philoptochos  
419 S. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Friends of St. Nicholas Philoptochos,

On behalf of our Philoptochos Board, I wish you and your family a safe, healthy and blessed new year!

As you know, 2020 was a unique year. Despite the limitations imposed on us by the pandemic, we successfully fulfilled our mission—helping those in need and supporting our community and parish. In fact, our Philoptochos chapter distributed more than \$20,000 in 2020 to help those less fortunate, including a \$2,000 year-end donation to our beloved Cathedral.

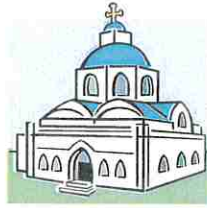
As we kick off our 2021 Membership Drive, I humbly ask for your support so that we may continue to fulfill our philanthropic mission. While the minimum membership donation is \$50, please consider donating more if you can. We are counting on your generosity as we embark on another year of outreach and charitable giving.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Nikki Velisaris Lykos  
President  
St. Nicholas Cathedral Philoptochos

*FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DESK*



Father Christopher and I are reevaluating the situation as to in person Church School versus Zoom Church School.

Thank you again, Mr. Nicholas Hages, for setting up the Zoom Church School for the month of January (and through the Spring, if need be)!

Yours in Christ,  
*Miss Michelle*

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## **IMPORTANT NEWS**

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** have begun for this year but will of necessity be different from the past.

The priest will stay **OUTSIDE** while reciting the prayers and bless the front of the house, and then leave a bottle of Holy Water for the family to use in blessing the interior.

If you would like to have your house blessed, please call the Church Office (412-682-3866) and leave a message for Fr. Christopher (extension 2) with your name and the names of everyone living in your house, as well as your address and phone number.

Father will let you know when he plans to come.

While you do not have to be home for the prayer service to take place, it would be best if you were.



# STEWARDSHIP

“And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is LOVE.”  
 Corinthians 13:13

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



2021 STEWARDSHIP		01/26/2021
Total Stewards		139
Total Amount Pledged		\$ 80,555.00
Average Pledge		\$ 579.53
% Parish Participation to Date		46%
2021 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		44%
2021 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 185,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 32,239.36
As of:		12/31/2020
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection, Greek2Go, Saturday Dinners, Grants & Loans	\$ 452,395.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$ 432,712.00	
	\$ 19,683.00	

## STEWARDSHIP, Con't

### 2021 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 01/26/21

Ms. Debra Adams	Mrs. Alice K. Flocos	Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinis
Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank	Mr. & Mrs. William Michaels
Mr. Anthony Andrews	Mrs. Alice Gary	Dr. & Mrs. George Michalopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Andrews	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Goranitis	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
Mr. Steven Andrews	Mrs. Alexandra Gregory	Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis
Mrs. Elaine Andrianos	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory	Mr. Dean Panagulias
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis	Mrs. Antigone Hanna	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Panagulias
Mr. George Anthon	Mrs. Frances Hanna	Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Antoniadis	Ms. Maria Hnarakis	Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
Mr. & Mrs. Spiliou Argiropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis	Mr. John C. Paras
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Ban	Ms. Lucia Kalaras	Mr. Van Paras
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber	Ms. Christine Kanakis	Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman	Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis	Mr. & Mrs. George Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel	Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas	Mrs. Stamatia Peters
Mrs. Vange Beldecos	Mr. Andron Kavouras	Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
Fr. Christopher & Dr. Filitsa Bender	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos	Mrs. Toulia Peterson
Ms. Sophia Bender	Mr. George Kefalos	Mr. Thomas Plakidas
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos	Mrs. Barbara Polimus
Mrs. Rebecca Bertos	Mrs. Mary Kleissas	Mrs. Esther Rafaloski
Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas	Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sarioglou
Presbytera Rozalia Christulides	Mrs. Estair Kotsagrelis	Mrs. Angela Sfamenos
Mr. & Mrs. George Chronis	Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelis	Mr. Bill Sfamenos
Mr. Greg Cominos	Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sfanos
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos	Ms. Christine Krelis	Mr. & Mrs. Raj Snyder-Aneja
Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett	Ms. Georgia Krelis	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
Mr. Philip Contacos	Mr. & Mrs. James T. Kukunas	Mr. & Mrs. James Stathopoulos
Mrs. Eleni Contis	Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher
Ms. Jamie Contis	Ms. Constantina Lardas	Mrs. Kay Thimoleas
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Contis	Mr. & Mrs. Kemon Lardas	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas
Mr. Charles G. Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
Mrs. Helen G. Copetas	Ms. Toni Lawson	Ms. Mary Vasilakis
Mrs. Theodora Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno	Mr. & Mrs. John Velisaris
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Countouris	Mrs. Lucia Leventis	Mr. & Mrs. Orestis Velisaris
Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky	Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
Mrs. Denise Daugherty	Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos	Mrs. Angela Vergos
Mrs. Christine Dickos	Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin	Ms. Elaine Vitsas
Mr. & Mrs. Jason DiNinno	Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam	Mrs. Frances Vlahos
Mr. Arthur J. Dordas	Mr. & Mrs. Spero Maginas	Mrs. Helen Waskowski
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris	Mrs. Thalia Mandros	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Xilas
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt	Mrs. Eugenia Manganas	Mr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos
Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis	Mrs. Barbara Mannors	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
Mrs. Elaine Ellis	Mrs. Valerie Mastandrea	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos	Mrs. Helen Mastro	Dr. Katerina Zavaras
Ms. Alexandra Fatandas	Ms. Alisa Mathews	Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis
Mrs. Virginia Fekaris	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire	Mrs. Sophia Zozos
	Mrs. Patricia McKee	

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.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

**THANK YOU** to all those parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas cathedral who responded to our request for additional donations to help us meet our 2020 budgetary obligations. As you know, we faced a considerable gap in our General Fund (Cathedral's operating budget), due to the loss of our traditional Food Festival and Hall Rental income, as we approached the year's end.

We are happy to report that, with your help, we were able to fulfill all our financial obligations, and ended the year in the black. Our parish was also helped by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas who, in recognition our faithful efforts over many years (including 2020) to fulfill our annual financial obligation to the Archdiocese, declared our parish a recipient of a "forgiveness grant" from the Archdiocese of over \$5000, that paid off what remained of our annual Fair Share obligation to the Archdiocese. Glory be to God!

**Thank you also** to everyone who donated towards the installation of our new audio-visual system in the sanctuary. We sincerely hope that it will make the worship experience far more pleasant and meaningful for all – whether you are with us in person, or watching the service online from your homes.

We hope and pray that we are turning a corner on Covid-19, so that all of us can get back together for Worship, Church Ministries, and even a Food Festival later in the year. We look forward to seeing everyone in Church, when the way be clear. In the meantime,

May the LORD bless you and keep you;

May the LORD cause his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

May the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

(Numbers 6: 24-26)

With gratitude and love in Christ,



Rev. Father Christopher Bender, Dean



Vasili Copetas, President





## Celebrating the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution in

### Western Pennsylvania:

A synaxis of friends; to remember where we started from, to realize where we stand, and to decide where we want to go.

**Dear Friends:** The working group consisting of members of the **American Hellenic Foundation of Western PA, the Greek, French, English, Russian Nationality Room Committees, and the European Art Center of Greece**, are very happy to announce the events that are now formally scheduled in the month of March 2021 to celebrate this once in a lifetime event in our area.

All the events are “virtual” (Website, Youtube, or ZOOM) and open to the public. Over the coming weeks, we will provide a link for the central landing page on the internet from which these events can be accessed on their scheduled day and time. Commemorative Program Books will be available for download at these sites, on those days.

\*\*\*We are kindly asking all of you to consider sending us a short video (you can shoot it on your smartphone) of up to 3 minutes offering your greetings to the people of Greece (in Greek and/or English), offering your thoughts about what the Greek Revolution means to you, as history, ethos, aspiration, challenge for Greeks in America. Families are highly encouraged to participate (as a group). These videos will be presented on the evening of Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will be broadcast to Greece via news and lifestyle social networks. To participate, please email us before February 15<sup>th</sup> at [contact@pahellenicfoundation.org](mailto:contact@pahellenicfoundation.org)

\*\*\*\*If anyone wants to co-sponsor any one, or all of these events, please let us know before February the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (email us at [contact@pahellenicfoundation.org](mailto:contact@pahellenicfoundation.org)). All donations are tax-deductible.

#### Scheduled Events:

*Το Ελληνικό Έθνος και η Επανάσταση Μέσα από το Κλέφτικο Τραγούδι (Μέρος Α')* [Στην Ελληνική γλώσσα (In Greek)]  
The Greek Nation and the Revolution inside the Klephtiko Song (Part 1)

[Program in Greek]

**Friday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 8:30 PM**

*Το Ελληνικό Έθνος και η Επανάσταση Μέσα από το Κλέφτικο Τραγούδι (Μέρος Β')* [Στην Ελληνική γλώσσα (In Greek)]  
The Greek Nation and the Revolution inside the Klephtiko Song (Part 2)

[Program in Greek]

**Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 8:30 PM**

*Το Ελληνικό Έθνος και η Επανάσταση Μέσα από το Κλέφτικο Τραγούδι (Μέρος Γ')* [Στην Ελληνική γλώσσα (In Greek)]  
The Greek Nation and the Revolution inside the Klephtiko Song (Part 3)

[Program in Greek]

**Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 8:30 PM**

*Greece in America – America in Greece: First-in-History, Public Unveiling of Correspondence between the Greek Revolutionaries and the American Founding Fathers on the Matter of the Greek Revolution (Part 1)*

**Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM**

*Greece in America – America in Greece: First-in-History, Public Unveiling of Correspondence between the Greek Revolutionaries and the American Founding Fathers on the Matter of the Greek Revolution (Part 2)*

**Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM**

*First Principles: What America's Founders Learned from the Greeks and How That Shaped Our Country-A Conversation with the Scholar and Best-Seller Author, Thomas E. Ricks;*

Co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy of the University of Pittsburgh, GAPA, and the Icarian Brotherhood

**Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**

*Giannis Davaris – A Revolutionary Hero at the Acropolis*

*A Narrative and Virtual Exhibit of a Lesser-Known Hero of the Greek Revolution* A Joint Presentation with the European Art Center (Peania, Attica, Greece)

**Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 PM**

*In the Beginning was the Logos and the Logos became Flesh:*

*A Byzantine Concert-Presentation Celebrating the Unparalleled Christologic Canon of the “Annunciation Dialogue”*

Featuring members of the Byzantine Choir of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

**Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 PM**

*Bridges of White and Blue: A Commemoration and Celebration of the Descendants in Western PA of the Lesser-Known Revolutionary Heroes* (A Joint Project with the European Art Center [Greece] under the Auspice of the “Greece 2021” Committee), Co-sponsored by the Icarian Brotherhood

**Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM**

*Prometheus Resurrected: The London Protocols- Celebrating the friendship of France, Great Britain, Russia, and Greece in the Rise of the Modern Greek Nation through the London Protocols of 1827-1830*

A Joint Program of the French, English, Russian and Greek Rooms of the Nationality Rooms Program at the University of Pittsburgh and the European Art Center [Greece]. Formal Bicentennial Proclamations by Mayor William Peduto and County Executive Richard Fitzger-

**ald Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**

*For updated information, please contact us at - Through our common memories, lives and dreams, contact@pahellenicfoundation.org all of us have – inside of us - some part of Greece*





# A Good Word—Λόγον Αγαθόν

## Monthly Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Volume 4 No. 2 (Issue 32) — February 2021



### St. John the Forerunner's Community Outreach – More Than Food

Every month for over a decade, St. John the Forerunner in Boardman, OH has been hosting a meal for, on average, 50 to 70 people. Led by the Philoptochos society, the parish prepares and serves the meal while also donating clothing and canned goods as well.

Until the pandemic arrived in March 2020, the monthly meal meant parishioners also time spent talking and interacting with those in need. The program was forced on hiatus for six months due to the pandemic out of concern for the safety of the participants and fear of spreading the Coronavirus.

"Many of us are comfortable and for want of nothing," said George Denney, immediate past president of the parish council. "We can learn much from the people who come through our doors. They are lonely, experiencing hardship and may not have a home. But their smiles come not only from the food but the connection made between people." The ministry resumed in November 2020 as a takeaway meal. But the question on everyone's mind was 'when can we resume coming into the hall, sitting down and enjoying our meal – and the company,' according to Denney.

The outreach to inspire and motivate parishioners. After the first takeaway meal had enough leftovers to serve about 150 people at a Youngstown-area soup kitchen, a parishioner was moved to donate 10 turkeys, cases of mashed potatoes, vegetables and pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving time. All as a result of a community meal offered out of love for the least among us. One more benefit from the meal: The number of dinners served at St. John doubled from November to December. "The diners said to us, 'We can't wait until we can come in for a meal again. We miss our friends.'"



### Support His Eminence and the Metropolis Ministries

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOY A retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



## 20th Annual Youth & Camp Workers Conference

Orthodox Youth Workers from around the country have the opportunity to attend a conference with fellow Youth Workers from other jurisdictions to learn from one another and share best practices. The 2021 conference, which was scheduled to take place in Cleveland, will take place online at a cost of \$25 per person.

Please visit [www.orthodoxyouth.net](http://www.orthodoxyouth.net) for more information and to register. The conference is being held Jan. 28 (from 6:30 to 9 PM Eastern) and Jan. 29

(from 11 AM to 5 PM).


SAVE THE DATE

# January 28th-29th 2021

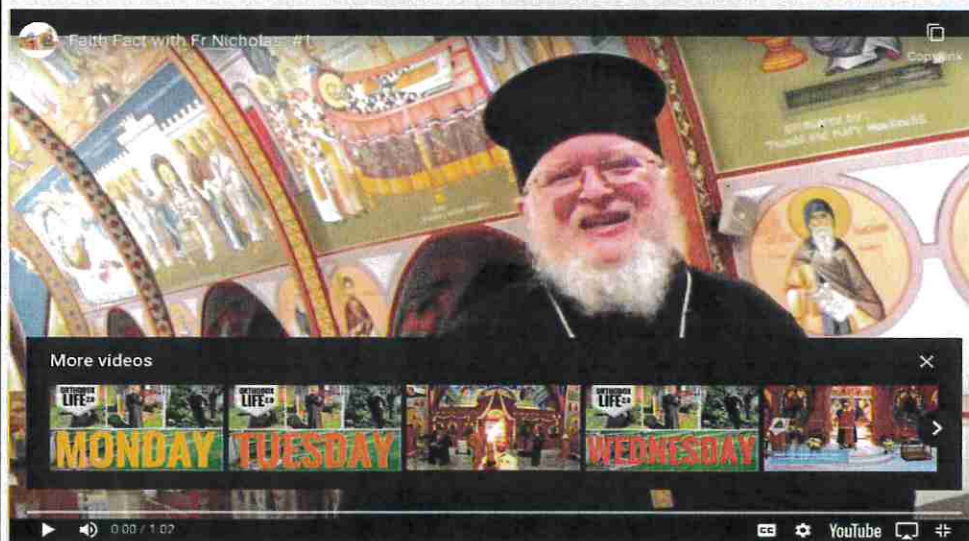
The Orthodox Youth Directors in North America present:

## Our 20th Annual Youth and Camp Worker's Conference

This year will be taking place virtually  
visit [orthodoxyouth.net](http://orthodoxyouth.net) for more!



## St. Nicholas's Preschool Curriculum Introduced



In the midst of the challenges of the pandemic, St. Nicholas G.O. Cathedral in Bethlehem, PA has introduced a 14-week curriculum for preschool students. The Academy of Orthodox Faith & Learning is an online outreach program offering daily emails with prayers and lessons for preschool students.

"This is a daily routine of prayers and other lessons meant to maintain the connection with church and develop children's mind and soul," said Fr. Alexandros Petrides, assistant priest at St. Nicholas. "It's a great way for kids and families to start their day."

You can sign up for this free daily email at [www.orthodoxfaithandlearning.org](http://www.orthodoxfaithandlearning.org) and can share it with others regardless of their location in the Metropolis or Archdiocese.

## Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 - <http://pittsburgh.goarch.org> - [info@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:info@pittsburgh.goarch.org) 412-621-5529 (Main) - 412-465-0460 (Camp) - 412-621-8543 (Youth) - 412-621-1522 (Fax)  
His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor  
Rhea Ballas, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director  
Stacey Stathulis, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar  
Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator  
Maria Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture



# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Presentation of Christ Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10 am	3	4	5	6
7 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew  Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am	8	9 Philoptochos Meeting (Virtual) 7 pm	10 St Haralambos the Hieromartyr Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10 am  <i>ORTHODOXY NOW 7:30 PM</i> (Fr. Christopher's new online -Zoom- program)	11	12	13  GREEK2GO 12—6 PM
14 Sunday of the Canaanite Woman  Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	15  Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	16	17  <i>ORTHODOXY NOW 7:30 PM</i>	18	19	20
21 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee – TRIODION BEGINS  Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>  <i>ORTHODOXY NOW 7:30 PM</i>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
28 Sunday of the Prodigal Son  Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am						

**PLEASE JOIN FR. CHRISTOPHER every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. for his new online program on Zoom: *ORTHODOXY NOW!***

**We will be discussing a variety of topics touching on current events as well as exploring our ancient faith in depth – its history, worship, sacraments, and traditions, as well as their connection to Holy Scripture.**

St. Nicholas Greek  
Orthodox Cathedral  
419 S. Dithridge Street  
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