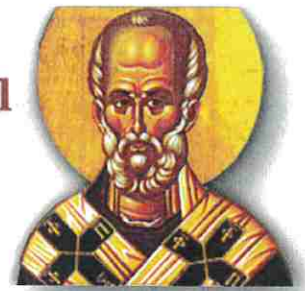




Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 1, 2021

Our father among the saints **Basil the Great** (ca. 330 - [January 1](#), 379), was [bishop](#) of [Caesarea](#), a leading churchman in the 4th century, known especially for his [philanthropic](#) labors. The Church considers him a [saint](#) and one of the [Three Holy Hierarchs](#), together with Saints [Gregory the Theologian](#) (Gregory Nazianzus) and [John Chrysostom](#). Basil, Gregory the Theologian, and Basil's brother Saint [Gregory of Nyssa](#) are called the [Cappadocian Fathers](#). The [Roman Catholic Church](#) also considers him a saint and calls him a Doctor of the Church.

Basil's memory is celebrated on [January 1](#); he is also remembered on [January 30](#) with the [Three Holy Hierarchs](#). In Greek tradition, he is supposed to visit children and give presents every [January 1](#). This festival is also marked by the baking of [Saint Basil's bread](#) (Gr. *Vasilópita*), a sweet bread with a coin hidden inside.

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/
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>

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Church email: 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
Archdiocese 212-570-3500 www.goarch.org

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

www.stnickspgh.org

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

January 1, 2021

Greetings of the New Year in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

May it be a blessed and healthy one for ALL of us, that will eventually close the book on this past year's trials and tribulations. And may it open a new page, filled with purpose and hope, that will liberate us from the plague that threatens us and allow us to resume our normal lives and pursuits! We have hard work ahead of us as a nation, if we are to restore our communities, revivify the economy, and foster a new spirit of peace and cooperation, where everyone has a place at the table and is treated with dignity and respect.

Closer to home, we must work to knit together once again the members of our own parish of St. Nicholas Cathedral into a strong and unified community, after such a long but necessary period of separation and isolation. We have so much more that unites us than divides us – and at the top of the list is our shared faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who mystically joins us into one Body, the Church. Thank you to all for your continuing support and for the love that stands behind that – love of God, love for this beautiful House of God and that has so wonderfully served us for over a century, and yes, love for each other.

In the Church, we are all brothers and sisters – one family in Christ. And as such, we follow in the footsteps of those who came before us, His disciples. The disciples were united by their love for Jesus, and their devotion to His teachings and example. But they would also come to be united by the love and respect they had for one another. As Jesus said at the Last Supper, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This commandment applies just as much to us today as it did to the original followers of the Lord that we read about in the New Testament.

We must never forget that none of the disciples were perfect – they all had character flaws, they all had past histories, and they sometimes would get angry with one another. For example, soon after His Transfiguration, Jesus found His disciples arguing among themselves over, "who was the greatest" among them (Mark 9:34). And yet, they still loved one another, as well as their Master, and stayed united in His name even after His physical departure from this world. Similarly, siblings often disagree and even argue with one another – but rarely does that mean that they do not also love one another.

In a healthy parish, love abides. It is not perfect, either; it is not ever universal, but it can be felt and appreciated by the entire community. A congregation is like a quilt that is made up of many unique squares. Some may be beautiful – even elegant – but others may look faded, or threadbare, or maybe just odd. Still, they all have a place on the blanket, and without every piece, the quilt would begin to fall apart.

To be sure, conflicts inevitably arise – because we are not like our Master, who loved each one infinitely – but they ought not lead to a break in communion. As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). It is not our job to vilify or to beatify those around us – that responsibility belongs to God. It is far better for the soul if we let each person be who they are – warts and all – and, having come to an understanding of how they function, adapt our responses so that they lead to a relationship based on cooperation, rather than condemnation.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

Rarely, a relationship may become toxic – antagonistic beyond repair. In such cases, we may have no other choice but to walk away. But it will not help to try first to “get even.” Revenge may be “sweet,” but it always comes back to choke us on the way down as we try to digest the consequences of what we have done. Better to remember what Hippocrates was reputed to have said regarding the duty of a physician: “First, do no harm.” This is good advice for all of us. Even better is what the Lord said, “Turn the other cheek” (Matthew 5:39).

If we genuinely want to succeed at rebuilding our community and making it even better, then we must also come to terms with the profound effect that *loneliness* has had on many, if not most, of us during this pandemic. Given that one of the hallmarks of this COVID-19 season is the necessity for us to avoid close contact with other people as much as possible, it follows that many people – especially those who live by themselves, as many seniors do – are profoundly *isolated*, deprived as they are of their usual contact with family and friends. As the weeks and months have passed, what at first seemed like just a temporary inconvenience has become a source of serious emotional distress for many, called *chronic loneliness*. This kind can bring on profound feelings of sadness, helplessness, and hopelessness, that can contribute to physical decline as well as to psychological distress. It can affect any of us, regardless of age or economic status. In fact, wealth is no help here – and can sometimes become a liability, if we have allowed the accumulation of it to become our highest priority, at the expense of the strong ties to family and friends that we once felt. Too late, we come to realize that true wealth is not found in the number of things we own, nor in the value of our estate. Rather, what matters most is the quality of the relationships that we enjoy with God and with other human beings – our relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Let us think about this for a moment. Each one of us, created in God’s image and likeness, has a spark of the divine within us that is unique to us, and which defines who we are. To discern that shining light within one’s neighbor is to see God’s handiwork in the flesh, and to be inspired to love both God and that individual. Thus, as we learn more about each other on this deeper level, we also gain new insight into the nature of our Creator and find even more reasons to love Him. Sometimes, that spark may be obscured within us by the dust of bad habits or mistakes that we have fallen into on the road, but it is still there, and still visible to the perceiving eye. Thus, every time we cultivate a new friendship, we both receive and give a gift that is beyond price.

Life on this earth, we now realize, is too fragile, too precious, for us to take it for granted. We have so much to live for! And yet, how easy it would be to lose all hope in this time of plague and political upheaval. How readily could we even come to agree with Shakespeare’s character Macbeth, who having lost everything including his wife and his kingdom, lapsed into total, nihilistic despair, declaring that “[Life] . . . is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” But we must resist this temptation, because, on the contrary, *this statement* is a damnable lie, told by an idiot. Life is more than just a humdrum, pointless existence: it is an exciting journey, wherein we take our first tentative steps together into God’s eternal Kingdom. And the closer we get to God, the nearer we come to one another, and the brighter that our inner spark begins to shine, reflecting God’s grace. For, as the Lord also told his followers during the Sermon on the Mount, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14).

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

It is my hope that, when God so wills and we can finally emerge from our enforced hibernation, we will indeed be able to come together as one community, one Body, in order to celebrate our liberation and our unity by giving thanks to God in the Holy Eucharist, and by sharing fellowship afterwards. We must never despair, or succumb to the darkness, because we are children of the light: we belong to Christ. And, as the Evangelist John declared, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

With love in Christ,

Rev. Father Christoph H. Bender

Protopresbyter Christopher Bender, Dean

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM

*It is with great joy that we welcome into the Body of Christ, the Church, our newest sister in Christ: **Olivia Andrianos**, daughter of Theodore and Emilee Andrianos who was born on February 10, 2020 and baptized on December 12, 2020. Sponsor was George P Nychis.*
Congratulations to her parents and sponsor, and may God grant her Many Years!

FUNERAL

*Our deepest condolences to the Family of **Peter Petropoulos** who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, November 30, 2020.. His funeral was on Monday, December 7, 2020 here at St Nicholas Cathedral.*

*Our deepest condolences to the Family of **Virginia Anthon** who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, December 5, 2020.. Her funeral was on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 here at St Nicholas Cathedral.*

*Our deepest condolences to the Family of **George Bardakos** who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, December 7, 2020.*

*Our deepest condolences to the Family of **George Mandros** who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, December 27, 2020.. His funeral was on Thursday, December 31, 2020 here at St Nicholas Cathedral.*

May their Memory be Eternal!

METROPOLITAN MAXIMOS – A REMEMBRANCE

Rev. Protopresbyter Christopher H. Bender

In this month's pastoral message, I addressed the theme of the imperative for Christians to learn what it means to follow the new commandment given by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to his disciples at the Last Supper, namely, to "love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34-35). Implicit in this directive is the expectation that the followers of Christ (i.e., His disciples in every era – including us!) have been given the possibility of learning how to love others as God loves us: fully and totally, without resentment, or conditions, or expectations. We must understand that this kind of love (called *agape* in Greek) is not inherent to us, in our fallen state as humans. It is truly a gift of the Holy Spirit, an expression of God's loving grace.

The theme of *agape* love was an essential part of my education as a seminarian at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, many years ago. We were taught where it comes from, what it means, and how necessary it is – especially for one who is preparing for the Holy Priesthood. After all, we are Christ's ambassadors on earth – and others will judge the God whom we preach by the love that we demonstrate to others in our ministry.

Although *agape* was a theme that was relevant to every subject I studied – including ethics, liturgics, pastoral care, and the New Testament – it was, surprisingly for me, also a central focus in one subject: Systematic Theology (Dogmatics), which was being taught in those days by a brilliant and charismatic theologian from Greece, named Fr. Maximos Aghiorgoussis (soon to become Bishop Maximos of Diokleia, and eventually, Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh, of blessed memory). He became my Spiritual Father, to whom I went for Holy Confession and counsel, and soon also became like a second father to me.

I know that each person's experience with any other person of necessity must differ, based on the experienced circumstances, interactions, and perceptions of the observer. Any person in authority is going to have his supporters and detractors. I would like to share a few words about my own experience with and memories of the Metropolitan, which, I suspect, might also be similar to those of the many students, clergy, and lay co-workers of his who had so much love and respect for him through the years.

First of all, Fr. Maximos was a brilliant scholar, who had numerous degrees and was fluent in at least five different languages. His breadth of knowledge was breathtaking, covering almost every subject under the sun, while his depth of knowledge of Orthodox theology was made all the more evident with every class lecture he delivered. He could easily speak for three hours about a subject such as one of the Persons of Holy Trinity, and not exhaust the theme.

Fr. Maximos was a superb spiritual father, who responded with understanding and firm but gentle direction to the confessions and concerns of his spiritual children. As with all the other spiritual fathers at the seminary, his job was to facilitate the process of priestly formation for each seminarian, by providing appropriate guidance and supervision. In my case, his efforts changed my life in profound and positive ways, boosting my self-confidence and self-respect, and guiding me into a clear confirmation and acceptance of my priestly calling. He demonstrated a degree of paternal concern for my welfare that I had never experienced before.

While all Orthodox priests can hear confessions (once they have received the blessing from their bishop to do so), only a few become spiritual fathers. These are individuals who, themselves having progressed significantly in their own spiritual journey and prayer life, have received the special charisma to be able not just to hear confessions, but also to offer wise spiritual direction, intended to help a person grow more self-aware and closer to the Lord over time.

METROPOLITAN MAXIMOS – A REMEMBRANCE

In the spring of 1978, Fr. Maximos was elected to the episcopacy by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A year later, he was installed as the first Bishop of the newly created Diocese of Pittsburgh. While his elevation was a great honor, we students were distressed to learn that this also meant that he would of necessity have to leave the seminary. At the same time, though, the fact that he had become the bishop of my hometown, and that the parish where I grew up would become his cathedral, brought me great joy, pride, and comfort. After graduation from Holy Cross, I spent several years in Thessaloniki, Greece, pursuing higher education, supported in part by His Grace through a Samer Fund Scholarship. While there, I met and married my future Presvytera, Filitsa Hatzivasileiou. Soon after returning to the States in 1984, my application for ordination was accepted by the Archdiocese, and Bishop Maximos was directed to ordain me to the Diaconate and Priesthood in one weekend. I was overjoyed that my beloved spiritual father would be the one to do so.

After a brief stint as an assistant priest in Lowell, Massachusetts, I ended up back in the Pittsburgh diocese, where I have remained ever since. I served in three parishes on Bishop and then Metropolitan Maximos's watch: Morgantown, West Virginia; East Pittsburgh; and Aliquippa, PA. He baptized both of my children, and presided at the funeral of my father. I found His Eminence to be a bishop with amazing pastoral insight. Always ready to take a phone call from one of his priests, he would respond to my questions about difficult or unusual problems with parishioners with solutions that would be simple, straightforward, and pastorally appropriate. He taught me much about being not just a good priest, but a good *shepherd* (pastor).

As the first official Bishop of Pittsburgh (and not just a titular auxiliary with a see somewhere in Turkey, as were his predecessors), Bishop Maximos got to work immediately to organize his Diocese. He created a Clergy Syndesmos (association) with officers and regular meetings and retreats. He also created a Diocesan Council, made up of leaders from both the clergy and laity of the diocese, to assist him and to approve the annual budgets for activities covered by local donations from parishes and individuals. He supported and encouraged the Diocese Philoptochos in their endeavors on behalf of those in need and expressed gratitude for their support of the Diocese and its ministries. He sponsored and regularly hosted the meetings of a local "St. Gregory Palamas Orthodox Theological Society," created by the Pittsburgh area Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood for our continuing educational benefit. He began and regularly published a remarkable diocese newspaper, called the *Illuminator*, which provided comprehensive coverage of both diocesan and local parish news, along with reports about His Grace's own activities as a participant in various theological dialogues and ecumenical events.

But, more so than any of these accomplishments, Bishop and then Metropolitan Maximos's top priority was always his ministry to the children and youth under his jurisdiction. His Eminence was always a strong believer in education. He was the first bishop in the country to hire a diocesan Religious Education Director, Phyllis Meshel Onest, who organized and offered seminars and parish visits for our teachers, as well as resource guides. He also insisted on hosting the annual finals for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival at the diocese/metropolis. In addition, he appointed a Greek Education Director, Maria Stamoolis, who organized similar seminars and programs for our Greek School teachers, and who continues her volunteer service to this day.

As important as these educational efforts were, they only begin to describe the Metropolitan's dedication to his children. He wanted to impact the whole child – mind, body, and soul – in an appropriately Orthodox way. His efforts were wildly successful and changed the lives of everyone involved – especially in the early years. Key to this success has been the quality and dedication of his full-time Youth Directors through the years – beginning with his first one, Damon Halkias, whose charismatic presence and love of Christ set the tone for all those who followed him.

METROPOLITAN MAXIMOS – A REMEMBRANCE

Various GOYA programs, for our youth in grades 7-12, were organized, such as the extremely popular basketball tournaments and annual Greek dance festivals, as well as retreats in the spring and fall. Programs for our younger children and for our altar servers were also carried out. But the ministry which had the most impact on all our children from seven years old and up was our annual Summer Camp program at Camp Nazareth, a Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese facility we have made use of for many years now.

From the beginning, the camp program His Grace put into place was inspired by the core message of the Gospel, namely that we worship a God who loves us unconditionally for all eternity, made the ultimate sacrifice (his Son) in order to save us, and wants us to love Him, and each other, in the same way. Each year His Grace would choose a different theme, but the central message was always the same. This message was echoed by the very able and loving clergy who would come every summer to inspire the children with their messages, and hear their confessions, as well as by the numerous seminarians and young adults who would come as counselors. And leading the parade every year, as the trainer and teacher for the counselors who would introduce them to that year's variation on the central theme, was Damon Halkias.

These were beautiful days. There was a spirit of acceptance – of love and respect for one another – that was infectious. It began with the Bishop, who tried to spend at least two days at camp every session, but was also conveyed to us by Damon, in the Bishop's name. People would greet each other by saying, "God loves you, and I love you," and really mean it! Everyone felt welcome and wanted – from the awkward skinny kid with glasses, to the shy girl who avoided eye contact, to the heavy guy who always had "brilliant ideas," to the young beauty who was just learning how a girl becomes a woman, to the gang from a working-class mill town who acted tough and tested the limits, but had hearts of gold.

Each day began with prayer in the chapel, and each day, before activities would begin, there would be quiet time for contemplation, followed by an hour-long presentation by a priest or seminarian on a subject related to the theme of the week, drawn from our Orthodox tradition, but made relevant to the children's lives. Discussion would follow. Only after that did the "fun" activities begin. One would think that most children would find such a program boring and oppressive, but the opposite was true. They kept coming back, year after year! And the number of campers being served kept growing.

Perhaps the most remarkable event, however, was the miracle with the weeping icons. In the spring of 1988, a bus trip from Pittsburgh was organized as a pilgrimage to a small Orthodox Church in Chicago where an icon of the Panagia had begun to weep. I was privileged to be on board, along with a few other clergy. It was a remarkable experience: the icon of the Virgin Mary on the iconostasis at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church clearly was streaming a fragrant liquid from her eyes. We were all anointed with this myrrh, we sang hymns to the Theotokos, and the host priest collected more of the substance from the bottom of the icon and gave it to the clergy who were present, including Fr. John Chakos.

That summer, Fr. John was the chaplain at Camp Nazareth for one of the sessions. He shared his experience in Chicago with the children on the last evening of that session, a Friday. I was not there to hear what he said, but perhaps he emphasized to them that this was a sign of God's love for us, while the tears of the Panagia could also be an expression of her passionate sorrow over the amount of suffering in the world. After he spoke, he anointed each child with the myrrh he had brought back from his trip.

METROPOLITAN MAXIMOS – A REMEMBRANCE

Now, as I understand it, all of the children that week had made their own icons by coloring images of the saints and pasting their artwork on wood. One of the girls asked Fr. John if he would anoint her icon, and he obliged her. She took it to her cabin and placed it on the makeshift icon stand with those of her cabin mates. When she returned, it had begun streaming just like the one they had heard about from Chicago, and it was exuding the most fragrant aroma, like roses. The girls and their counselors went to tell Fr. John, who immediately went to the chapel and rang the bell to call all the children together in the chapel to witness the miracle. Many went back to retrieve their own icons, which were subsequently also anointed. Soon, the odor of roses had begun to permeate the entire camp, growing stronger by the minute. It could even be discerned a half mile away by anyone driving in the direction of the camp.

What can account for this remarkable miracle? No one knows for sure, but I think that it was a way for the Lord to express, through His beloved Mother, His love for the children, as well as His concern for their welfare and future. I also think that it was a validation for how then Bishop Maximos had organized his camp ministry, together with Damon Halkias and dedicated priests such as Fr. Chakos, by centering it on the message of God's love for us, and how we are called in return to love one another. What I do know is that many lives were changed for the better that night, and dedicated, lifelong Orthodox Christians were formed.

I will always be grateful to Metropolitan Maximos of blessed memory for teaching me through both word and example what it means to be a man of God. I do not presume to compare myself to him in any way, other than to say that I know I fall short. Nevertheless, his example of faith, of love, of leadership, of creativity, and of dedication to Christ remains the ideal towards which I strive – and will till my dying day. Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη αὐτοῦ! May his memory be eternal!

Metropolitan Maximos Endowment For Youth and Young Adult Ministries

A legacy for the continuation of Metropolitan Maximos' love for and ministry to our Greek Orthodox Youth and Young Adults

Metropolitan Maximos shepherded the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh for over 32 years. Of all his ministries, his work with youth and young adults held a special place in his heart. Whether at GOYA and JOY summer camp, GOYA athletic tournaments, OCF conferences and dinners, or young adult retreats, his Eminence could always be seen with a smile on his face and a story to share.

In honor of our beloved "Metro Max," the Metropolitan Maximos Endowment will carry on his Eminence's sup youth and young adults, a labor of love which hallmarked his ministry.

The Mission

The Metropolitan Maximos Endowment was established in 2020 to continue Metropolitan Maximos' legacy of love for the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. The Endowments' purpose is to provide special funding and support for youth ministries, programs, and services to care for the life and future of the Church.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does one contribute?

In the spirit, love, and generosity exemplified by Metropolitan Maximos, your gift will be gratefully received by the Endowment.

There are two ways to donate:

By Check: Please make checks payable to **Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh with Metropolitan Maximos Endowment** written in the memo section.

Mail all checks to:

Metropolitan Maximos Endowment
c/o Metropolis of Pittsburgh
PO Box 645953
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5257

Online credit or debit card donation via the Metropolis website:
Pittsburgh.goarch.org/en/support. Please select
"Metropolitan Maximos Youth Endowment" as the recipient.

Is my donation tax deductible? The Metropolitan Maximos Endowment is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to the Endowment for Youth and Young Adult Ministries are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

How is the Endowment administered? The Endowment will be managed by a Board including the current Metropolitan of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, clergy, members of Metropolitan Maximos' family, and laypersons involved in youth and young adult ministries. The Endowment is also supported by an experienced investment advisor.

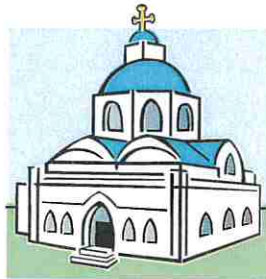
Who may answer my questions? You may contact a member of the Metropolitan Board via email:
MetroMaxEndowment@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NEWS

THE PHILOPTOCHOS OF ST. NICHOLAS will celebrate the CUTTING OF THE VASILOPITA in honor of ST. BASIL on SUNDAY, JANUARY 3. While Fr. Christopher will cut a single loaf as usual during the ceremony, the rest of the bread will be cut and bagged for the faithful to take along with their blessed bread cubes (antidoron) at the end of services. Due to COVID-19, the usual practice of calling the leaders or representatives of various organizations to come forward will not be followed. However, donations will gladly be accepted. They can also be mailed to St. Nicholas Philoptochos at the church address: 419 S. Dithridge St, Pittsburgh PA 15213. Proceeds will benefit St. Basil Academy.

ALSO: HOUSE BLESSINGS this year will still take place beginning on January 6, 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.

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DESK



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Many hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. were delivered to **Neighborhood Resilience Project** for their **Project Bundle-up**. We collected 29 Hats, 26 pairs of Gloves/Mittens, 6 Scarves and 1 pair of socks! Thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

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 December (and through the Spring, if need be)!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

GREEK SCHOOL

St Nicholas Greek School ended classes for the holidays with each class singing virtually a Christmas Carol in Greek. God willing next year the traditional annual Greek School Christmas party will be able to take place with merriment and carols.

Greek School Classes will resume by each of the teachers notifying their students during the week of January 4th. “Rebooting Greek” which is now renamed “Staellinika” will also be added to our classes shortly. Last year St. Nicholas Greek School had been selected to pilot the program but the program hadn’t been completed. Now the program is complete and is another tool to help our children acquire the skills to communicate in Greek.

The Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters Day will be celebrated on Saturday, January 30 which is the actual feast day. We will be planning to continue our tradition of holding our annual celebration with a Trisagion, an Artoclasia, and honoring students who were successful with the Ellinomatheas International Exams from Greece. However, we will not be holding our Annual Bake Sale this year on the Celebration of the Three Hierarchs.

The year, 2021, is also a very special year as it is also the 200th Anniversary of Greece’s Independence against the 400-year enslavement under the Ottoman Empire. More information will be forthcoming from our school, the Metropolis, as well as, the Archdiocese.

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!

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas, has followed the Clergy-Laity Congress's lead and extended the terms of current Parish Councils by 1 year. The Congress recognized the difficulty in conducting elections under the pandemic conditions in many places and amended the Regulations to allow for the term extension at the discretion of the local Hierarchy.

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
George Bellios	Michelle Kotsagrellos	Simon Barber
Vasili Copetas	Peter Krelis	Victor Bertolina
Art Dordas	Sophia Panagis	John Frentzos
Peter Nychis	Van Paras	James Machin
Maria Sfanos	James Stamatelos	Dean Panagulias

STEWARDSHIP

"A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven"

The Stewardship of Time

Ecclesiastes 3

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



2020 STEWARDSHIP		12/29/2020
Total Stewards		316
Total Amount Pledged		\$140,933.00
Average Pledge		\$ 445.99
% Parish Participation to Date		105%
2020 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		76%
2020 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 185,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 213,978.11
As of:		11/30/2020
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection, Greek2Go, Saturday Dinners, Grants & Loans	\$ 392,725.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$ 363,181.00	
	\$ 29,544.00	

STEWARDSHIP

2020 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 12/29/20

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aber
 Mr. & Mrs. James Agras
 Dr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis
 Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Anthony N. Andrews
 Mr. & Mrs. George Andrews
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen 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. Spiliot Argiropoulos
 Mrs. Lamona M. Athens
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Avery
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Bain
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Ban
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
 Ms. Andrea Beldecos
 Mr. John Nicholas Beldecos
 Mrs. Vange Beldecos
 Dr. & Mrs. George Bellios
 Fr. Christopher & Dr. Filitsa Bender
 Ms. Sophia Bender
 Ms. Alexandra Bergstrom
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Ms. Pamela Bertos
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Bouzos
 Mrs. Mary Brahmas
 Mr. & Mrs. Maury Burgwin
 Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas
 Dr. & Mrs. Antonios Christou
 Deacon E. P. Christulides
 Mr. & Mrs. George Chronis
 Mr. Panos Chrysanthis
 Mr. John Ciko
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Mrs. Afrodite Condos
 Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett
 Mr. Philip Contacos
 Mrs. Eleni Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. 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. & Mrs. Rob Day
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo
 Mrs. Christine Dickos
 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 H. Edgos
 Mrs. Sophia Edgos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos
 Ms. Alexandra Fatandas
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 Mrs. Alice K. Flocos
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl 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 (Karras)
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Goranitis
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. James P. Hages
 Mr. Ted Hages
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Beck Hall
 Ms. Aphrodite Halleran
 Mrs. Christina Hammerling
 Mrs. Antigone Hanna
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna
 Mrs. Frances Hanna
 Dr. John Haretos
 Mr. Theodore Haretos
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Mr. Andrew Jakomas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis
 Mrs. Evangelia Kalabokes
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Dr. & Mrs. George Kappakas
 Mr. Nicholas Karabetsos

Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin
 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
 Mrs. Mary Kleissas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Ms. Nicole Klidas
 Mr. Peter Kolios
 Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis
 Mrs. Estair Kotsagrellos
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos
 Mr. Chris Kouklis
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Ms. Georgia Krelis
 Mr. Peter Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian
 Mr. & Mrs. James T. Kukunas
 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. Steven Lardas
 Ms. Toni Lawson
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
 Mr. Richard Lepidi
 Mrs. Lucia Leventis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. David Levine
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lewis
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
 Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Mr. James L. Machin
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam
 Mr. & Mrs. Spero Maginas
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mrs. Kay Mandalakas
 Mr. & Mrs. George⁺ Mandros
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Mrs. Barbara Mannings
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos
 Ms. Valerie Mastandrea
 Mrs. Helen Mastro
 Mr. Kostas J. Mastro
 Ms. Alisa Mathews
 Ms. Dana Mathews
 Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Mavrogeorgis
 Mr. & Mrs. John McCann
 Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom McGuire

STEWARDSHIP, Con't

2020 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 12/29/2020

Mrs. Patricia McKee
Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinos
Mrs. Antigone Mellas
Mr. & Mrs. George Mellis
Mr. & Mrs. William Michaels
Dr. & Mrs. George Michalopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Miller
Mr. Conrad Mitchell⁺
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis
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
Mrs. Tara Pallas-Sheetz
Mr. Dean Panagulias
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Panagulias
Ms. Catherine Pandeladis
Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Panousis
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Papanikolaou
Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
Dr. George Pappas
Mr. Nick Pappas
Mr. John C. Paras
Mrs. Lillian Grace Paras⁺
Mr. Van Paras
Mr. & Mrs. David Parlour
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pease
Ms. Anna Pedos
Mrs. Astrid Peponidis⁺

Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger
Mr. & Mrs. George Peters
Ms. Stamatia Peters
Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Petesron
Mrs. Toulia Peterson
Ms. Constance Petros
Dr. & Dr. Emanuel Petroulakis
Mr. Thomas Plakidas
Mrs. Vera Poland
Mrs. Barbara Polimus
Mr. & Mrs. D. John Powers
Mrs. Esther Rafaloski
Ms. Alaina Raftis
Ms. Cynthia Raftis
Mr. & Mrs. George Raftis
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
Mrs. Irene Richmond
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rodites
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sahinidis
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sarioglou
Mrs. Angela Sfamenos
Mr. & Mrs. George Sideris
Mrs. Christina Silva
Mr. George Sockos
Dr. & Mrs. George 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 Stauch
Mrs. Argie Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher
Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis
Mrs. Kay Thimoleas
Mrs. Donna Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Thomas

Mr. Nicholas J. 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. Panagiotia Vasilakis
Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
Mr. & Mrs. Archilles Vassilicos
Mr. & Mrs. John Velisaris
Mr. & Mrs. Orestis Velisaris
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
Ms. Eugenia Vergis
Mrs. Angela Vergos
Ms. Elaine Vitsas
Mr. John Vitsas
Mrs. Frances Vlahos
Mrs. Tsambika Vlahoulis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Vrahas
Mr. Sarantos Vrettacos
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Walker
Mrs. Helen Waskoskie
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Whipple
Dr. & Mrs. Karl Smyrnes-Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Xilas
Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras
Dr. Katerina Zavaras
Mr. Joseph Konzier & Ms. Renee Zavitsanos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis
Mrs. Dorothea Zikos⁺
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zikos
Mrs. Sophia Zozos



STEWARDSHIP, Con't

“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

Goal
\$185,000



\$43,355
Raised

2021 STEWARDSHIP		12/29/2020
Total Stewards		53
Total Amount Pledged		\$ 43,355.00
Average Pledge		\$ 818.02
% Parish Participation to Date		18%
2020 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		23%
2020 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 185,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 8,130.00
As of:		11//30/2020
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection, Greek2Go, Saturday Dinners, Grants & Loans	\$ 392,725.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$ 363,181.00	
	\$ 29,544.00	

STEWARDSHIP, Con't

2021 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 12/29/20

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Andrews
Mr. Steven Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis
Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
Fr. Christopher & Dr. Filitsa Bender
Ms. Sophia Bender
Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas
Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett
Ms. Jamie Contis
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Countouris
Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
Mrs. Christine Dickos
Mr. Arthtur J. Dordas
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
Mrs. Elaine Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory
Mrs. Frances Hanna
Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis
Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas
Mr. Andron Kavouras
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy
Mr. & Mrs. Kemon Lardas
Ms. Constantina Lardas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
Mr. & Mrs. George⁺ Mandros
Mrs. Barbara Manners
Dr. & Mrs. George Michalopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis
Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
Mr. John C. Paras
Mr. Thomas Plakidas
Mrs. Barbara Polimus
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sarioglou
Mr. Bill Sfamenos
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher
Mrs. Kay Thimoleas
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
Ms Mary Vasilakis
Ms. Elaine Vitsas
Mrs. Frances Vlahos
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Xilas
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras
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.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR St. Basil the Great & Circumcision of Christ Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 Sunday before Theophany Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am VASILOPITA CUTTING	4	5 Forefeast of Theophany (Strict Fast) Vespers Divine Liturgy & Agiasmos 6:00 pm (No Bible Study)	6 Holy Theophany of Christ Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy & Great Agiasmos 10:00 am (No Fasting)	7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am	8	9
10 Sunday after Theophany Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	11	12 Philoptochos Zoom Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16 Greek2Go 12:00—6:00 pm
17 12th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 14th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	25	26	27	28	29	30 Three Hierarchs Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
31 15th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus) Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am			19			

St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
419 S. Dithridge Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-682-3866
www.stnickspgh.org

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