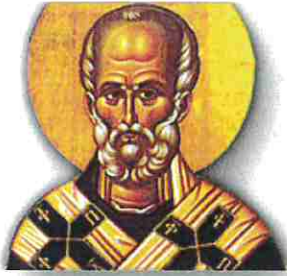


FEBRUARY 14, 2021 – 17TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW (the Canaanite Woman)

Our Righteous Father Afxentios of the Mountain

Tone (Mode) of the Week: 3

Orthros Gospel 3



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..

WELCOME, VISITORS! You are honored guests here at St. Nicholas Cathedral and welcome at all our services. We invite you to receive the Holy Eucharist (Communion) if you are an Orthodox Christian who has prepared yourself through fasting, prayer, and confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are Orthodox but have not prepared, we respectfully invite you instead to come forward at the end of the service for a blessing by the priest and a piece of blessed bread (antidoron).

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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- **Monday, Feb 15: Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, Feb 17: Orthodoxy Now 7:30pm (Zoom)**

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.

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Our Righteous Father Afxentios of the Mountain
Tone (Mode) of the Week: 3 Orthros Gospel 3

As the clergy exit the Altar for the Small Entrance, we hear the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 3: Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy. [SD]

*After the procession with the Gospel the usual **Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn)** is chanted:*

Δεῦτε 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 the Entrance Hymn the Priest enters into the Sanctuary, and the Resurrection Apolytikion is chanted again. Then, we hear the Hymn for St. Afxentios, whose memory we celebrate:

Τῆς ἐρήμου πολίτης καὶ ἐν σώματι ἄγγελος καὶ θαυματουργὸς ἀνεδείχθης θεοφόρε πατὴρ ἡμῶν Αὐξέντιε, νηστεία, ἀγρυπνία, προσευχῇ, οὐράνια χαρίσματα λαβὼν· θεραπεύεις τοὺς νοσοῦντας καὶ τὰς ψυχὰς τῶν πίστει προστρεχόντων σοι. Δόξα τῷ δεδωκότι σοι ἰσχύν, δόξα τῷ σὲ στεφανώσαντι, δόξα τῷ ἐνεργοῦντι διὰ σοῦ πᾶσιν ἰάματα. As a citizen of the desert and an angel incarnate and a wonder-worker you shone forth, O Afxentios, our God-bearing father. Since you received the spiritual gifts by fasting and vigilance and prayer, you can cure those who are ailing and heal the souls of those who run to you with faith. Glory to Him who gave His might to you; glory to Him who placed a crown on you; glory to Him who operates through you, providing cures to all.

Next, the hymn for St. Nicholas, our Church's Patron Saint, is chanted (Tone 4):

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ Ἱεράρχα Νικόλαε· πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

The truth of things have revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause you have achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Then the seasonal kontakion is heard (Tone 1):

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε. Μὴ παρίδης ἀμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἀεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.
O Protection of Christians unashamable, mediator with the Creator immovable, we sinners beg you, do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since you are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to you with faith: Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who defend now and ever those who honor you.

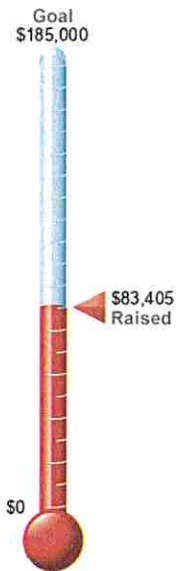
EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 6: 16-18; 7: 1. Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God. [RSV]

GOSPEL: Matthew 15: 21-28. At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. [RSV]

2021 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex ***(Just ask a member of Parish Council)***

If you have already submitted your 2021 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!!



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

<u>2021</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	148 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$83,405.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$563.55

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:

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

Church School students in grades 7th-12th, have the opportunity to learn more about their faith and participate in the **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival**.

This year it will be virtual on all levels (Metropolis and National).

For more information, please contact Chair Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or eve.m.elsen@gmail.com.

AND THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR CHILDREN WITH US!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

GOYA NEWS

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!

St. Nicholas Cathedral NEW Website – Your response needed!

Happy Valentine's Day!

To celebrate this holiday of LOVE, we are collecting pictures of all parishioner couples who were married at St. Nicholas. Yes, we want them all! A single picture of the couple in the church is preferred, including the date of the wedding, and the maiden name of the bride.

We would love to convert the "Wedding" link under "Photo Gallery" into an amazing archive of/for the parish. Imagine how many generations of some families were married at our Cathedral? We would love to celebrate these couples.

For the more 'newly-married', please send a digital pic to Stacie de la Parra at events@stnickspgh.org or sent via text to 412-901-3181. For anyone who would be using an actual photo to start, kindly scan and send, or just take a 'really good picture' of the photo and text it to me. (Or ask one of your children or grandchildren to help!)

We are working toward a very robust "Photo Gallery" with captions for photos, and grouping by subject. To that end, we probably won't stop asking for pictures! Again, pictures can be emailed to Stacie de la Parra at events@stnickspgh.org or sent via text to 412-901-3181.

Also, here is the link to the website: <http://stnickspgh.org/>

Sincere thanks from the Website Committee. And, again, Happy Valentine's Day!



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 27th, 2021 and will be broadcast to Greece via news and lifestyle social networks. To participate, please email us before February 15th at contact@pahellenicfoundation.org

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

Scheduled Events:

1. *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 5th, 2021, 8:30 PM

2. *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 6th, 2021, 8:30 PM

3. *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 7th, 2021, 8:30 PM

4. *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 13th, 7:30 PM

5. *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 14th, 7:30 PM

6. *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 20th, 6:00 PM

7. *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 21st, 7:30 PM

8. *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 25th, 8:00 PM

9. *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 27th, 7:30 PM

10. *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 Fitzgerald

Sunday March 28th, 6:00 PM

For updated information, please contact us at
contact@pahellenicfoundation.org

- Through our common memories, lives and dreams,
all of us have – inside of us - some part of Greece

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 Sunday of the Canaanite Woman Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	15 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	16	17 ORTHODOXY* NOW 7:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee – TRIODION BEGINS Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	22	23	24 ORTHODOXY* NOW 7:30 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						

*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.