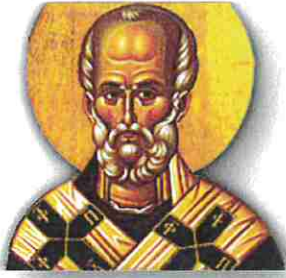


FEBRUARY 21, 2021 – 16th SUNDAY OF LUKE (The Publican and the Pharisee)

Timothy the Righteous; Patriarch John III (Scholastikos) of Constantinople

Tone 4

Orthros Gospel 4



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:

- **Wednesday, Feb 24: 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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SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

As the priest exits the Altar the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 4 is chanted: When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world. [SD]

Then, the usual Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is heard:

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι· Ἀλληλουῖα. 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.

The Resurrection Apolytikion is repeated, and then we hear the Apolytikion for our Patron saint, Nicholas of Myra the Wonderworker: 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.

Finally, we hear the Kontakion for the Publican and Pharisee:

Φαρισαίου φύγωμεν ὑψηγορίαν, καὶ Τελώνου μάθωμεν, τὸ ταπεινὸν ἐν στεναγμοῖς, πρὸς τὸν Σωτῆρα κραυγάζοντες· Ἰλαθι μόνε ἡμῖν εὐδιάλλακτε. Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican. Let us cry out to the Savior, "Have mercy on us, for through you alone are we reconciled."

Scripture readings follow this message: *Please note:* Today we begin the series of four preparatory Sundays that lead up to the beginning of the Great Forty-day Fast (Lent), as we hear the Parable of the Publican (Tax Collector) and the Pharisee, which teaches us the importance of acquiring humility. We also "open the *Triodion*" today – that is, the special book of hymns proper to the pre-Lenten and Lenten seasons, as well as Holy Week. To begin the transition to a fasting diet, we begin by not fasting at all! Thus, we are free to eat anything we want (including meat) any day this week (including Wednesday and Friday). Next week, we fast as usual (Wednesday and Friday). After that, during "Cheese-Fare Week," we abstain from meat, but are free to eat anything else. Finally, on Kathara Deftera (Clean Monday), March 14, Great Lent begins, and we begin our strict fast.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15. Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [RSV]

Gospel: Luke 18: 10-14. The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." [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 | 171 (GOAL 300) |
| Total Pledged | \$96,147.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00) |
| Avg. Pledge | \$562.26 |

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 knowns 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.

HELP PHILOPTOCHOS HELP THOSE IN NEED BY
ORDERING OUR NEW LENTEN FUNDRAISER

Sunday Soupa!

Choose from our delicious homemade
Lentil Soup (Fakes) or Bean Soup (Fasolada).
Can't decide.....order both!

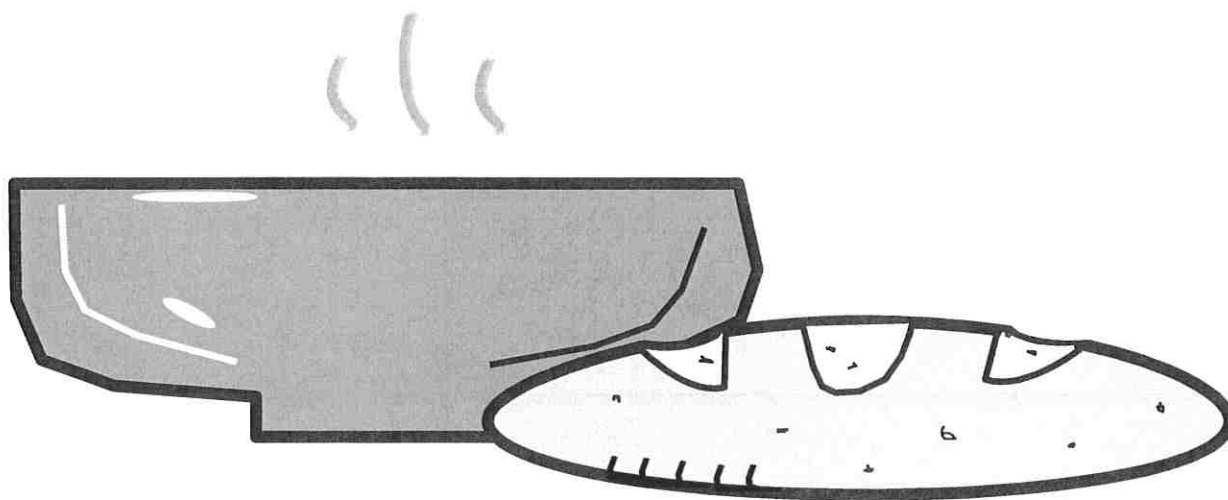
Soups are completely Lenten
and available **ONLY** on **Sunday, March 28, April 11 & 25**

Each quart-size soup comes with a fresh homemade loaf
of bread by Chef Joe Bardakos

\$10 *qt.*

PREORDERS ONLY

Orders must be placed by Thursday prior to pick-up date
by phone, text or email to Nikki Lykos 412.897.8208 / nvlykos@gmail.com
Cash or check made out to St. Nicholas Philoptochos



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!

We continue to be interested in creating an archive of St. Nicholas Weddings in the "Wedding" Category in the "Photo Gallery". Thanks to those of you who have sent in your wedding pics! A single picture of the couple in the church is preferred, including the date of the wedding, and the maiden name of the bride.

Send a digital pic to Stacie de la Parra at events@stnickspgh.org or send 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!)

Also, here is the link to the "Photo Gallery" on the website. Scroll down to see some of our amazing wedding pics, going back to Louis Vitsas and Barbara Flocos from May 8th, 1949: <https://www.stnickspgh.org/photo-gallery/>

Keep sending those pictures! Sincere thanks from the Website Committee.



**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.

Please visit the Celebrations website <https://pahellenicfoundation.org/2021> for a complete schedule of events. We will be updating the website with links to the specific events, which are summarized below. Commemorative Program Books will be available for download at these sites, on those days.

Among our very distinguished invited guests, who will be participating at scheduled events, are **Her Excellency Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki**, President of the “Greece 2021” Committee, **His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros** of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, **His Excellency Mr. Phillipe Etienne**, Ambassador of the Republic of France to the USA, **Her Excellency Dame Karen Pierce DCMG**, Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the USA, **His Excellency Mr. Anatoly Antonov**, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the USA, **Her Excellency Mrs. Alexandra Papadopoulou**, Ambassador of Greece to the USA, **Mr. Richard Fitzgerald**, Chief Executive of Allegheny County, **Mr. William Peduto**, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, **Mr. Isidoros Madis**, Mayor of the Municipality of Peania (Attica, Greece), and **Dr. Ariel C. Armony**, Vice-Provost for Global Affairs, Director of the University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh.

Scheduled Events:

1. *Greetings, Welcome, and Proclamations by Mr. Richard Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Allegheny County & Mr. William Peduto, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh designating the month of March 2021 as Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh “Celebration of, and Tribute to Greek-Americans in Western PA and Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821”*

Monday, March 1st, 2021, 8 PM

2. *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

3. *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

4. *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

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*

Saturday March 13th, 7:30 PM

6. *From the Partimenti to the National Anthem: First-in-History, Public Performance by a String Ensemble of selections of the unknown chamber music compositions of Nikolaos Mantzaros, Greece’s first modern National Composer*

Sunday March 14th, 7:30 PM

7. *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, GAPPA, and the Icarian Brotherhood

Saturday March 20th, 6:00 PM

8. *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

9. *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,

Co-sponsored by the American Society of Byzantine Music and Hymnology

Thursday, March 25th, 8:00 PM

10. *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

11. *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 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|--|
| | | | | | | |
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| 21 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee – TRIODION BEGINS Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. | 22 | 23 | 24 <i>ORTHODOXY*</i> <i>NOW</i> 7:30 p.m. | 25 | 26 | 27 <i>GREEK2GO</i> 12:00 p.m. –6:00 p.m. |
| 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.