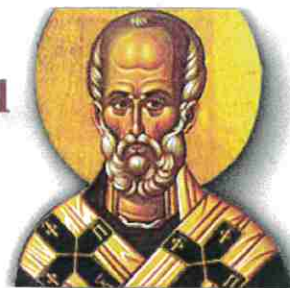


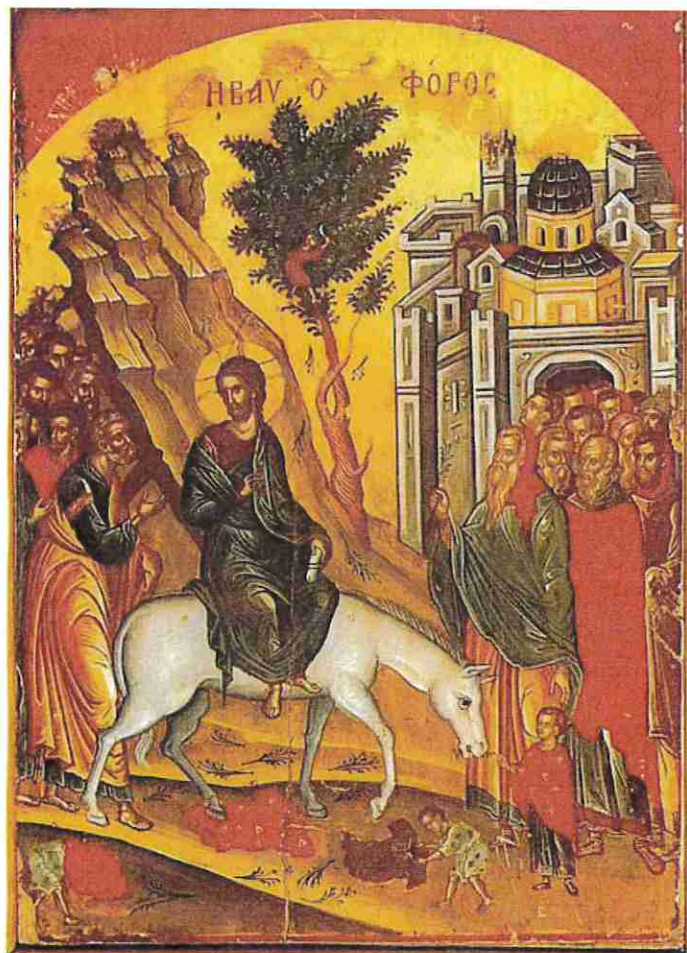


Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year.

Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honour and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.

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/
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>

Father Christopher	724-630-3483	frchbender@verizon.net
Barbara Manners	Office Manager	church@stnickspgh.org
Stacie de la Parra	Event Coordinator	events@stnickspgh.org
Vincent Nelson	Maintenance	412-537-4073

Church Phone 412-682-3866
Church Fax 412-683-4960
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 8:45 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

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As most of us know, in a few short weeks Orthodox Christian faithful around the world will once again gather, either in person at church or online at home, to commemorate and celebrate the central event at the heart of our faith: the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the clock approaches the appointed hour on Holy Saturday night, the sanctuary will be bathed in darkness, save for the small votive lamp on the Holy Table. Lighting his paschal candle from that flame, the celebrant (bishop or priest) will emerge from the altar, chanting this age-old invitation to the faithful:

"Come receive the light that is never overtaken by night, and glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead!"

Why do we use the symbol of *LIGHT* to proclaim the Resurrection? Let us consider that, in the Bible, the phenomenon of light (i.e., *energy and illumination*) speaks to us about how God acts in the world to organize it, nurture it, save it, and sanctify it. Thus, it was the creation of light ("Let there be light" – Genesis 1:3) that began the process that brought life and order into the newly-formed but chaotic world. At the same time, it is the Son, God's Logos (through whom God the Father created everything in the first place - see John 1:2), who rescues fallen humanity from the deadly lies and chaos sown by the evil one, thus restoring to us the promise of eternal life. This is the light of God's grace made manifest: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [overcome] it" (John 1:4-5). And as Jesus Himself said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

It is this light of Christ that shines in the darkest places of our soul and shows us the futility of sin and the grim reality of death. But the purpose is not to fill us with guilt and despair; rather, it is to show us that deep in our inner being is where we find Christ! As the psalmist wrote, "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in hell, you are there. . . If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you" (Psalm 139:7-8, 11-12).

The Paschal candles also remind us of our own baptismal experience, when (if we were baptized as infants) a candle was held on our behalf by the sponsor (or by us as well, if adults). This was also our own personal "Pentecost," when we were "born again," having been immersed in the font three times and having been anointed with the Holy Chrism, which imparts the "gifts of the Holy Spirit."

Christ is our Light. While at His Father's side in heaven, He also makes His abode in our hearts. There, He opens the doors to self-knowledge and repentance for us, teaches us humility, and gives us the courage to throw off our yoke of slavery to egotism and selfishness. Indeed, if God so wills and we so desire, we can be consciously illuminated from within with God's Holy Spirit, which fills our hearts with gratitude and love for our fellow human beings and, indeed, all living creatures. This is a gift of God's grace, not something we can purchase or expect, just because we are "privileged characters" as members of the Church. May the light of Christ fill your homes and your hearts with hope and joy, on Holy Pascha and always. Καλή Ανάσταση! (Have a blessed celebration of our Lord's Resurrection!)

With love in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Father Christoph H. Bender

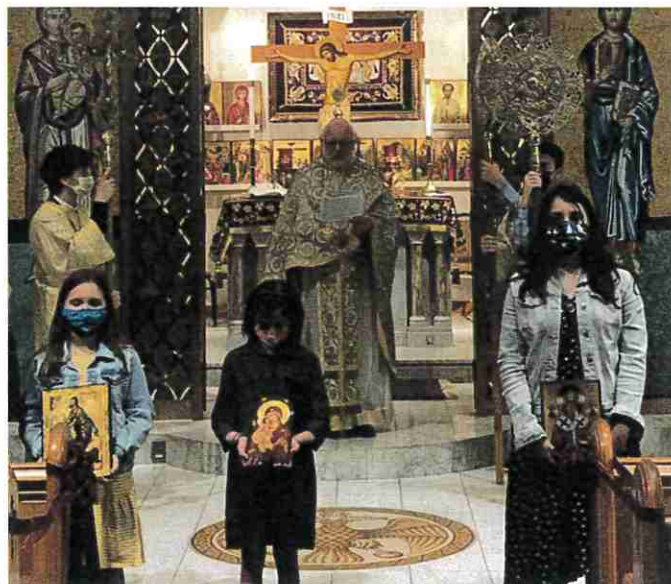
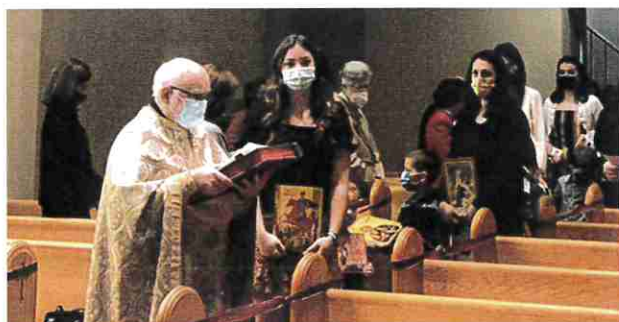
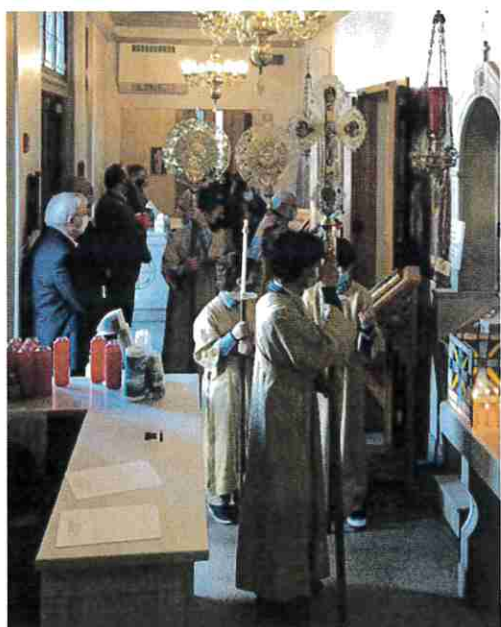
SACRAMENTAL LIFE

WEDDING

Congratulations to **Valerie Mastandrea and Terry M. Carlisano** who were united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony on March 6, 2021. Sponsor was Christine Panos.

May God bless our newlyweds with many loving years together

3.21.21 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY – ICON PROCESSION



FASTING ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH

By Mother Mary and Bishop Kallistos Ware

The inner significance of fasting is best summed up in the triad: *prayer, fasting, almsgiving*. Divorced from prayer and from the reception of the holy sacraments, unaccompanied by acts of compassion, our fasting becomes pharisaical or even demonic. It leads, not to contrition and joyfulness, but to pride, inward tension and irritability. The link between prayer and fasting is rightly indicated by Father Alexander Elchaninov. A critic of fasting says to him: "Our work suffers and we become irritable. . . . I have never seen servants [in pre-revolutionary Russia] so bad tempered as during the last days of Holy Week. Clearly, fasting has a very bad effect on the nerves." To this Father Alexander replies: "You are quite right. . . . If it is not accompanied by prayer and an increased spiritual life, it merely leads to a heightened state of irritability. It is natural that servants who took their fasting seriously and who were forced to work hard during Lent, while not being allowed to go to church, were angry and irritable".

Fasting, then, is valueless or even harmful when not combined with prayer. In the Gospels the devil is cast out, not by fasting alone, but by "prayer and fasting" (Matt. 17:21; Mark 9: 29); and of the early Christians it is said, not simply that they fasted, but that they 'fasted and prayed' (Acts 13: 3; compare 14: 23). In both the Old and the New Testament fasting is seen, not as an end in itself, but as an aid to more intense and living prayer, as a preparation for decisive action or for direct encounter with God. Thus our Lord's forty-day fast in the wilderness was the immediate preparation for His public ministry (Matt. 4: 1-11). When Moses fasted on Mount Sinai (Exod. 34: 28) and Elijah on Mount Horeb (3 [1] Kgs. 19: 8-12), the fast was in both cases linked with a theophany. The same connection between fasting and the vision of God is evident in the case of St. Peter (Acts 10: 9-17). He 'went up on the housetop to pray about the sixth hour, and he became very hungry and wanted to eat; and it was in this state that he fell into a trance and heard the divine voice. Such is always the purpose of ascetic fasting - to enable us, as the Triodion puts it, to "draw near to the mountain of prayer."

Prayer and fasting should in their turn be accompanied by almsgiving - by love for others expressed in practical form, by works of compassion and forgiveness. Eight days before the opening of the Lenten fast, on the Sunday of the Last Judgment, the appointed Gospel is the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matt. 25: 31-46), reminding us that the criterion in the coming judgment will not be the strictness of our fasting but the amount of help that we have given to those in need. In the words of the Triodion:

Knowing the commandments of the Lord, let this be our way of life:
Let us feed the hungry, let us give the thirsty drink,
Let us clothe the naked, let us welcome strangers,
Let us visit those in prison and the sick.
Then the Judge of all the earth will say even to us:
"Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you."

This stanza, it may be noted in passing, is a typical instance of the 'evangelical' character of the Orthodox service-books. In common with so many other texts in the Triodion, it is simply a paraphrase of the words of Holy Scripture.

FASTING ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH

It is no coincidence that on the very threshold of the Great Fast, at Vespers on the Sunday of Forgiveness, there is a special ceremony of mutual reconciliation: for without love towards others there can be no genuine fast. And this love for others should not be limited to formal gestures or to sentimental feelings, but should issue in specific acts of almsgiving. Such was the firm conviction of the early Church. The second-century *Shepherd of Hermas* insists that the money saved through fasting is to be given to the widow, the orphan and the poor. But almsgiving means more than this. It is to give not only our money but our time, not only what we have but what we are; it is to give a part of ourselves. When we hear the Triodion speak of almsgiving, the word should almost always be taken in this deeper sense. For the mere giving of money can often be a substitute and an evasion, a way of protecting ourselves from closer personal involvement with those in distress. On the other hand, to do nothing more than offer reassuring words of advice to someone crushed by urgent material anxieties is equally an evasion of our responsibilities (see Jas. 2: 16). Bearing in mind the unity already emphasized between man's body and his soul, we seek to offer help on both the material and the spiritual levels at once.

“When thou seest the naked, cover him; and hide not thyself from thine own flesh.”
The Eastern liturgical tradition, in common with that of the West, treats Isaiah 58: 3-8 as a basic Lenten text.

So we read in the Triodion:

While fasting with the body, brethren, let us also fast in spirit.
Let us loose every bond of iniquity;
Let us undo the knots of every contract made by violence;
Let us tear up all unjust agreements;
Let us give bread to the hungry
And welcome to our house the poor who have no roof to cover them,
That we may receive great mercy from Christ our God.

Excerpted at goarch.org from the Introduction by Bishop Kallistos Ware to the English translation of *The Lenten Triodion*, edited by Mother Mary and Bishop Kallistos Ware (London: Faber and Faber, 1984).



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2021

Lazarus Saturday, April 24 – Σάββατο του Λαζάρου, 20 Απριλίου
Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Όρθρος, 8:45 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία, 10:00 π.μ.

PALM SUNDAY, April 25 – ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ, 21 Απριλίου:
Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Όρθρος, 8:30 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία, 10:00 π.μ.

1st Bridegroom Service, 7:00 p.m. – 1^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου, 7:00 μ.μ.

Holy Monday, April 26 – Μεγάλη Δευτέρα, 22 Απριλίου:

2nd Bridegroom Service, 7:00 p.m. – 2^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου, 7:00 μ.μ.

Holy Tuesday, April 27 – Μεγάλη Τρίτη, 23 Απριλίου:

3rd Bridegroom Service, 7:00 p.m. – 3^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου (Τροπάριον της Κασσιανής), 7:00 μ.μ.

Holy Wednesday, April 28 – Μεγάλη Τετάρτη, 24 Απριλίου:

Holy Unction and Anointing, 5:00 p.m. – Το Ευχέλαιον, 5:00 μ.μ.

Holy Thursday, April 29 – Μεγάλη Πέμπτη, 25 Απριλίου:

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.

Εσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, 9:30 π.μ.

Service of the Holy Passion of our Lord, 6:30 p.m.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 30 – ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ, 26 Απριλίου:

Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m. – Ακολουθία των Βασιλικών Ωρών, 9:00 π.μ.

Great Vespers (Descent from the Cross), 2:30 p.m. – Εσπερινός της Αποκαθήλωσης, 2:30 μ.μ.

The Lamentations Service, 7:00 p.m. – Ο Επιτάφιος Θρήνος, 7:00 μ.μ.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY, MAY 1 – ΜΕΓΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ, 27 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ:

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9:30 a.m.

Εσπερινός και Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, 9:30 π.μ.

Vigil Service, 10:45 p.m. – Παννύχτις, 10:45 μ.μ.

RESURRECTION SERVICE AND DIVINE LITURGY, 11:45 p.m.

ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ, 11:45 μ.μ.

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA, SUNDAY, MAY 2 – ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ, 28 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ

Vespers of Agape, 1:00 p.m. – Εσπερινός της Αγάπης, 1:00 μ.μ. (Volunteers are kindly invited to read the Gospel in various languages – please see Fr. Christopher)

CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! HRISTOS A ÎNVIAT!

Good Friday Luminary Memorials



Remember your loved ones with Luminaries
on Good Friday, April 30, 2021.

To include your loved one,
please fill out the form below.

Luminaries will have names included on the bags and
will be displayed on the steps of the church on
Good Friday Evening, as we walk with the
“Epitaphio” around the church.
Names will also be published.

Please fill out the form below and give to one of the parish council members or mail to the parish office. Donations of \$10.00 per Luminary to be paid to St. Nicholas Cathedral by Monday, April 26th.

Names to be commemorated:

Paid By	
Check #	
Amount	
Date Rec'd	

"May their memory be eternal!"

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

2021 EASTER & LENTEN SPONSORED ITEMS

Your Donation is Greatly Appreciated!

ITEM

COST

NAME:

SALUTATIONS (five Fridays) Decorated Icon of Panagia		
1ST FRIDAY	40	
2ND FRIDAY	40	Helen G Copetas
3RD FRIDAY	40	Alice Gary
4TH FRIDAY	40	
5TH FRIDAY	40	
Flowers for Holy Cross Procession	200	
Lazarus Sat Icon (white)	100	
Palm Sun Icon (white)	100	
PALM CROWNS	60	Micheele Kotsagrelis
VASE OF PALMS	40	McGuire's
VASE OF PALMS	40	
FERNS	70	
ICON OF BRIDEGROOM - Palm Sun Evening until Holy Wed.	100	Anna Saker
HOLY WEDNESDAY		
HOLY UNCTION SERVICE-5 p.m.		
Oil	20	
Flour (used for Pascha Prosforo)	20	
HOLY THURSDAY EVENING		
A. Crucifixion Wreath (purple)	110	
B. Candle (1)	10	
Candle (1)	10	
Candle (1)	10	
C. 12 Gospel Candles	60	
D. Icon of Christ on the Cross (purple-Holy Thurs., p.m.)	100	Fran Hanna
GOOD FRIDAY - Epitaphion Candles (4)	40	
White Cotton Cloth (sheet)	-	
Epitaphios Flowers	100	Taki & Argy Darakas
Epitaphios Flowers	100	Keli & John Frentzos

Epitaphios Flowers	100	Dr Karl & Peggy Smyrnes Williams
Epitaphios Flowers	100	George & Joanna Darakos
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HOLY SATURDAY/ PASCHA		
Resurrection Icon- Narthex (white)	100	Bellios Family
Resurrection Icon- Pulpit (white)	150	Taki & Argy Darakas
Lily Plants	40	
Lily Plants	40	
Lily Plants	40	
Lily Plants	40	
Lily Plants	40	
Lily Plants	40	
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Lily Plants	40	
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Lily Plants	40	
Lily Plants	40	
Wreath for Empty Cross (white)	100	Georgia Pandeladis
Large Vase Arrangement for Royal Doors 1 of 2	70	
Large Vase Arrangement for Royal Doors 2 of 2	70	
Smaller Vase Arrangement	50	
Smaller Vase Arrangement	50	

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

St. Nicholas Philoptochos would like to thank Joe Bardakos, co-owner of Bridge City Brinery, for leading a wonderful Zoom cooking demo for us on Sunday, March 21st. We enjoyed a fun afternoon and prepared a delicious dinner together!



2021 Philoptochos Elections – St. Nicholas Philoptochos will hold our Chapter elections at the next General Meeting on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.** If any members of Philoptochos are interested in serving on the Philoptochos Board, please contact Nikki Lykos (nvlykos@gmail.com or 412-897-8208).

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!

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, April 11 & 25, 2021**

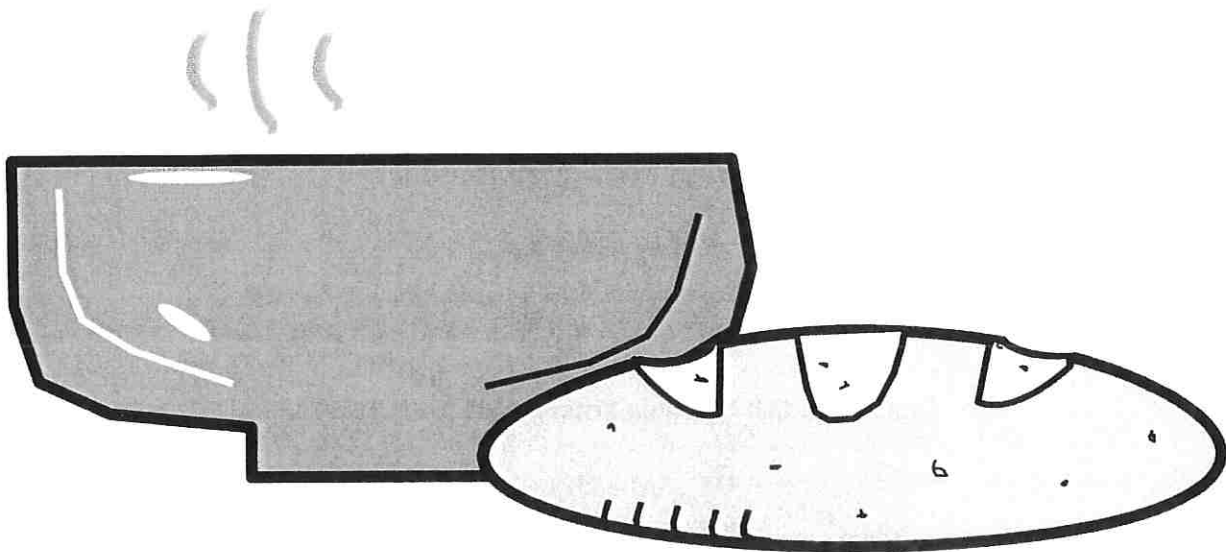
Each quart-size soup comes with a fresh homemade loaf of
bread by Chef Joe Bardakos

\$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!)

Upcoming dates to remember:

Palm Making

Saturday, April 24, 2021
(Following the Divine Liturgy)

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, May 2, 2021
(Following the Agape Service)

Church School Graduation

Sunday, May 23, 2021

I appreciate the support from all of you and thanks for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

Wishing you a Blessed Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle



Please join us for our annual

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, May 2, 2021

Following the Agape Service

If you wish to help,
please bring one dozen pre-filled plastic eggs on Sunday
and drop them off in the Narthex before Church.

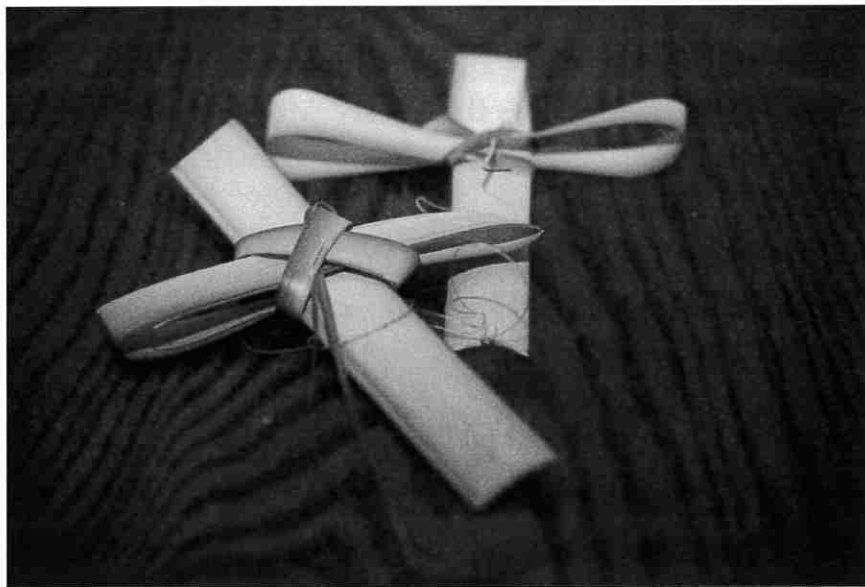
Questions: Call Michelle Kotsagrellos (412) 680-1416



ATTENTION:

Palm Making

**Saturday, April 24, 2021
Following the Divine Liturgy
in the Small Hall**



**Remember
there is
Church School
on
Palm Sunday,
April 25, 2021!**

GREEK SCHOOL

The month of March has always been a very busy and exciting one for our Greek School; but things are different this year. With the school not open in person yet, it has been very challenging. This year marks the 200th year of Greece declaring its independence against the Ottomon Turks. If things work out, we would still like to have some program in May for our celebration of 1821. A small procession and doxology is scheduled to take place on March 28. In the meantime, teachers and students are working hard through the e-books of Papaloizos along with games and other supplementary material to teach the children through zoom.

This past month, our seventh graders have participated in a Metropolis wide video of the entire 158 stanzas of the poem by Dionysios Solomos "Hymn to Liberty." The first two stanzas are the National Anthems of Greece and Cyprus. The video has 17 schools of the Metropolis participating, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas has prepared a new translation in poetic rhythm and rhyme, as well as giving an enlightening description of the life of Dionysios Solomos and the poem. Opera star Alexandra Loutsion sings the Greek National Anthem. And all was put together by Mike Politis whose profession has been the use of video technology. Over 900 people saw the video in less than a day. Make sure to watch this inspirational video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBCqNnfqY6Q>

March was the beginning of Great Lent and also the start of our beautiful Salutations to our Most Holy Theotokos services. Alumni and others are scheduled to read or chant the beautiful prayers to Panaghia and Christ. Do not miss attending these beautiful services.

Some of our students registered to take the Ellinomatheas Exams from Greece and the Comprehensive Exams of Modern Greek for Regents credit from New York. Both exams have been postponed. Ellinomatheas is now scheduled for October instead of May. We were informed the Comprehensive Exams of Modern Greek will not be given this June. No more information has been given at this time. Both exams are administered at St. Nicholas Cathedral.

This past month, I spoke with Mr. James and Mrs. Electra Agras on the history of the beginning of St. Nicholas Greek school which was started when Mr. Rudolph Agras came to Pittsburgh. It is a fascinating history which will be shared with everyone soon.

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		03/25/2021
Total Stewards		216
Total Amount Pledged		\$ 115,672.00
Average Pledge		\$ 535.52
% Parish Participation to Date		72%
2021 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		63%
2021 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 185,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 64,059.44
As of:		02/28/2021
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection and Greek2Go	\$ 89,477.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$ 73,182.00	
	\$ 16,295.00	

2021 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 03/25/21

Ms. Debra Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. James Agras
 Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Anthony Andrews
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Andrews
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis
 Mr. George Anthon
 Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Antoniadis
 Mr. & Mrs. Spiliotis Argiropoulos
 Mrs. Lamona Athens
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Avery
 Ms. Rhea Ballas
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Ban
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
 Mr. John Beldecos
 Mrs. Vange Beldecos
 Fr. Christopher & Dr. Filitsa Bender
 Ms. Sophia Bender
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Ms. Pamela Bertos
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis
 Mrs. Mary Brahos
 Mr. & Mrs. Maury H. Burgwin
 Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas
 Presbyteria Rozalia Christulides
 Mr. & Mrs. George Chronis
 Mr. Greg Cominos
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 Mrs. Afrodite Condos
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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. Our NEW Website may be used to fill out a stewardship card and make a payment <https://www.stnickspgh.org> or call the church office (412-682-3866) to rectify.

Foundation Fund Donation

The St. Nicholas Cathedral Foundation Fund recently received a \$12,000 bequest from the estate of Dean Kamaras. His legacy donation has been added to the Foundation Fund's principal, helping to support our parish's needs for many more generations. We are deeply grateful for this generous gift and Dean's efforts as one of the founders of this fund nearly 40 years ago. May God grant him eternal rest, and may his memory be eternal!

The annual income generated from the Fund's principal is used to support the needs of the parish. In previous years, the Foundation Fund income was used to assist with mortgage payments and for funding specific building upgrades. Last year, the Fund's income was provided to our General Fund, given the detrimental impact Covid-19 has had on our budget.

We are deeply grateful to the founding donors of the Fund for their foresight and generosity in creating this trust for us. It has served us well – especially in times such as these, when external circumstances have reduced our annual income so much. Indeed, we are sincerely thankful to all of our donors – old or new, in life or at the end of life. Their love for our Cathedral shines through, and their generosity is helping us to weather the storm, now and in the future. May our gracious God bless them and all of us.

Greek2Go

Saturday April 10

**St. Nicholas is offering its famous Greek Dishes
Delicious Entrees, Sides, and Pastries**

Featuring Gyros this Month!

Order On-Line; greek2go.org

Order by Thursday April 8, 8:00 pm

Pickup on Saturday April 10, 12:00 to 6:00



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GREEK2GO DAYS!

The same delicious Festival food you know and love!

Delicious Greek Entrees, Sides and Pastries

Our Annual Festival Will Not Be Stopped
(just changed a little)

Thursday May 13 through Sunday May 16

Order On-Line Starting Sunday, May 9

greek2go.org



A Good Word—Λόγον Αγαθόν

Monthly Newsletter of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Volume 4 No. 4 (Issue 34) — April 2021

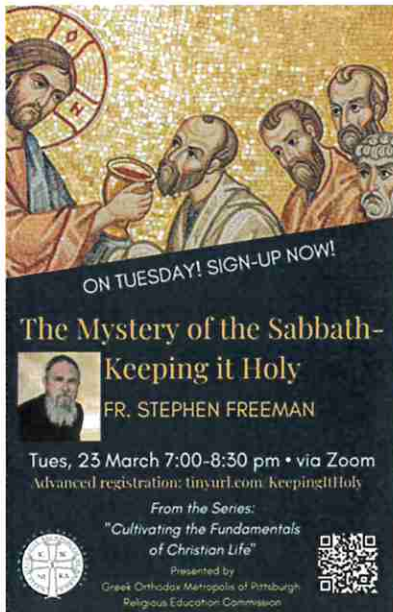


Fundamentals of Christian Life

First Video Conference is March 23 at 7 pm

The Religious Education Committee of the Metropolis Council has created an initiative to improve our literacy of the Orthodox Christian faith by focusing on the fundamentals of Christian life – even as parishes, clergy and families contend with the worldly things that often compromise a life in Christ.

“We believe it is accurate to say that the average Orthodox Christian family is struggling with ‘Christian literacy.’ This is not a criticism but a common lament among clergy and parish religious education leaders,” said Fr. Demetrius Tsikouris, who co-chairs the committee along with Sundry Gulu.



In promoting the ‘Fundamentals of Christian life,’ the Committee is making an emphatic, unified, consistent and repetitive promotion of the following:

- Love of the Sabbath (and worship in general)
- Love of the Scripture
- Love of Prayer
- Love of Service to Others

“There is a teaching from Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol that asks the question, ‘How do we learn to pray?’” said Gulu, “and the answer lies in the principle that ‘Appetite comes with eating.’ We want to cultivate an appetite for the fundamentals of Christian life in our parishes.”

Throughout 2021, there will a video conference discussing each of the four areas of focus. The first video conference is slated for March 23 at 7 PM with Fr. Steven Freeman as guest speaker. In May, Fr. Stephen DeYoung will offer his thoughts on the love of scripture. The final two video conferences of the year are tentatively scheduled for October and November.

Stewardship Supports Religious Education

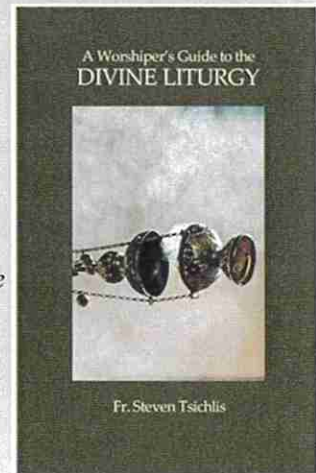
First Video Conference is April 1 at 7 pm

In an effort to amplify the ‘Fundamentals of Christian Life’ initiative by the Religious Education Committee, the Metropolis Stewardship Committee is offering additional video conferences that discuss the Sabbath, Scripture, Prayer and Service to Others.

The first video conference is being held April 1 at 7 PM (please note the new time) and will feature Fr. Steven Tsichlis, author of A Worshippers Guide to the Divine Liturgy.

All stewardship chairs, co-chairs, parish stewardship committee members and clergy are invited to participate in the meeting (normally) held on the fourth Thursday of each month.

*Please note:
This meeting has been moved to 7 PM in an effort to include more participants.*



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 GOYA 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>

YOUNG ADULT SPRING RETREAT

Saturday, March 27th

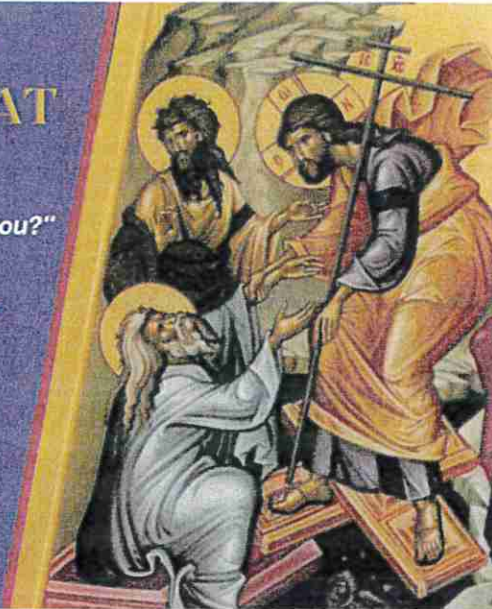
God asked Adam, "Where are you?"

Keynote Speakers:
Fr John Cox, Fr John Touloumes

*If you knew God was looking for you, would
you hide too? If we are lost, let's be found
together too.*

Via Zoom. No fee. Registration required.

Sign-up: tinyurl.com/YASpring2021



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH AND
THE GOA CENTER FOR FAMILY CARE

Jesus – the Resurrection and the Life of the Family A FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT



Saturday, April 17th, 10-11:30 am

Zoom registration link:
tinyurl.com/GOMoP-FamilyRetreat



Jesus – the Resurrection and the Life of the Family A FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT

Retreat Schedule

- 10:00 am - Welcome
 - Opening Prayer
 - Comments
- 10:15 am - Keynote Address -
Fr. Alex Goussetis
- 10:30 am - Guided Discussion
- 10:45 am - Breakout Groups
- 11:15 am - Wrap-up Discussion
- 11:30 am - Closing Comments

More info? Fr. Joseph DiStefano
Email: frjdistefano@yahoo.com
Phone: 724.304.1230

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

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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

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Salutations to the Theotokos 7 pm	3
4 Sunday of the Holy Cross Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	5	6 Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00 pm (Zoom)	7 Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm	8	9 Salutations to the Theotokos 7 pm	10 Greek2Go 12:00—6:00 pm
11 Sunday of St. John Climacus Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am Sunday Soupa! 11:30 am	12	13	14 Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm	15	16 The Akathist Hymn 7:00 pm	17
18 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	19 Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	20	21 Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm	22	23	24 Lazarus Saturday Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am
25 Palm Sunday Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Sunday Soupa! 11:30 am Bridegroom Service 7 pm	26 Holy Monday Bridegroom Service 7 pm	27 Holy Tuesday Bridegroom Service 7 pm	28 Holy Wednesday Holy Uction & Anointing 5:00 pm	29 Holy Thursday Vesperal Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Mystical (Last) Supper 12 Gospels (Crucifixion) Service 6:30 pm	30 Great and Holy Friday Royal Hours 9 am Apokathelosis Vespers 2:30 pm Lamentations 7:00 pm	MAY 1 Great and Holy Saturday Vesperal Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Vigil Service 10:45 pm Resurrection Service & Paschal Liturgy 11:45 pm
MAY 2 GREAT & HOLY PASCHA Vespers of Agape 1 pm						

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