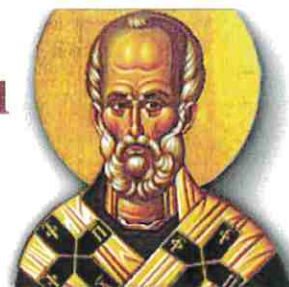


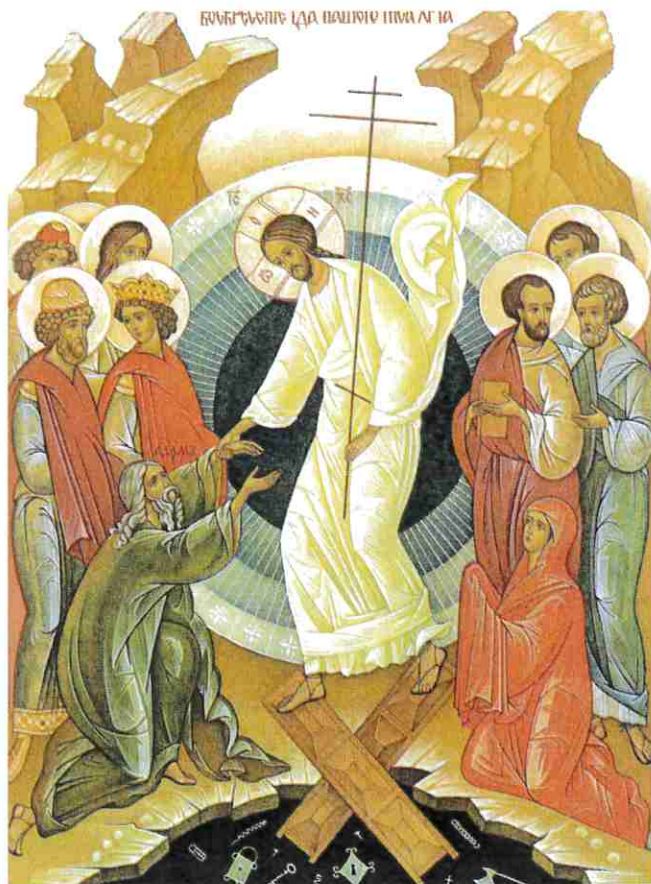


## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



### *MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER*



GREAT & HOLY PASCHA  
Sunday, May 2, 2021

This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion on Orthodox Good Friday.

### **Our Mission & Vision Statements**

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

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

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

Watch Sunday services streaming live from St Nicholas Cathedral at [www.stnickspgh.org/](http://www.stnickspgh.org/)  
and click on "Live Streaming Click Here".

On-Line Giving donations are up and running on our web page [www.stnickspgh.org](http://www.stnickspgh.org) by  
clicking please donate button - or you may access the donation page by using  
<https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give>

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

Church Phone 412-682-3866  
Church Fax 412-683-4960  
Church email: church@stnickspgh.org

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

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB**

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

And look for us on our Facebook page:

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



## FATHER'S MESSAGE

*"Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?"*  
(Luke 24:26 – the words of the Risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus)

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our salvation!

In recent months, our nation is once again reeling from numerous unprovoked and vicious gun attacks on multiple innocent people – too many too often, in fact, to even keep track. Each one is a terrible and senseless tragedy. Certainly, the ready availability of high-capacity weapons only serves to increase the number of victims. But regardless, only one other country on earth – Brazil – exceeds the United States of America in the number of senseless firearm killings that take place in a year.

During this period of a deadly pandemic, which continues to take more human lives here in the U.S. than in any other country, one would have thought that the number of violent incidents would have gone down. Sadly, though, this has not been the case. On the contrary, the numbers have gone up. In fact, 39,532 Americans lost their lives to gun violence in 2020 – the most in at least 20 years, according to the Gun Violence Archive. Even though it tends to be the mass attacks that get the most attention, the vast majority of acts of gun violence and murder take place on a far smaller, more intimate scale – in one's neighborhood or, especially, in one's home. Both suicide attempts and cases of spousal and/or child abuse have risen considerably. And, when firearms are present, someone's death is far more likely to be the final outcome.

Americans have had a love affair with guns for generations, and own far more of them per capita than any other country in the world. No doubt, in the vast majority of cases these firearms were legally purchased for hunting season or for self-defense. But, when troubles arise, their mere presence in the home can sometimes become a catalyst for their use against oneself or someone else who lives there. Out of fear, we purchased a gun. But, out of anger we end up using it. Guns can also tempt a curious child to somehow get ahold of one and accidentally discharge it – with tragic consequences.

Consideration of these sad realities during our own Lent and Holy Week brings special poignancy to this year's commemoration. We are reminded of the brief and fragile nature of human life, and come to realize that the seeming calm and order of both our civic and our personal lives is perhaps more illusion than reality. Indeed, one cannot help but wonder: why are human beings – not just in America, but around the world – so enamored with guns and violence? Why this fascination with the instruments of death? Why the quick rush to employ a permanent solution – the death of one's opponent – for a temporary problem? How did warfare and violence, with all the loss of life, destruction, and confusion they engender, come to play such dominant roles in human history? Who actually benefits from such madness – apart from gun manufacturers?

Warlords and empire-builders throughout history have reveled in the intoxicating chaos of battle and the satisfaction that comes from defeating defending armies and enslaving or massacring the losers. But no empire lasts forever, and, eventually, the conquerors become the conquered. Then, the former victors, now the vanquished, will ask: Was all that death and destruction actually worth it? Similarly, "crimes of passion" often end with the killers regretting their hasty resort to an act of violence, which only serves to end one life and make their own unlivable from guilt.

There *is* one who revels in this chaos, because he despises humanity – that is, Satan, the adversary. In the Gospel of John, Jesus discusses the devil: "He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). He also refers to the devil as a thief: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." The epidemic of gun violence truly does Satan's bidding, because it robs victims, both young and old, of their lives before their time.

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

And there is One who understands the value of human life more than all the rest of us: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. By contrast, He proclaims: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Indeed, Christ is the Good Shepherd, who also voluntarily "lays down [His] life for the sheep" (John 10:15) – that is, while He promises abundant life to His flock, He Himself must die in order that they may receive it: " 'Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to myself.' He said this to show by what death he was to die" (John 12:31-33). From the Cross, His extended arms tell us that He is ready to embrace all of humanity. In doing so, he fulfills the will of His Father: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This is not an act of vengeance on the part of the Father, but rather, the highest expression of His infinite love for us. Jesus died, that we might live. And in doing so, He rendered it pointless for human beings to go on "solving" their problems by killing one another. Instead, He offers another gift, which costs nothing, but which has the potential to save countless human lives: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Our problems and conflicts, apart from Christ, have the power to tear us apart and create enemies for life. This is especially true in this era of political polarization (which can often have a religious dimension to it). But there is a way to overcome our fear and rancor: In the light of the Resurrection, all things are made new, and even the unthinkable becomes possible, by God's grace: forgiving those who have wronged us or who have harmed us; letting go of our hurt and anger; asking for forgiveness and admitting wrong when we are at fault; replacing silent rancor with openness and honest but respectful dialogue; removing from our homes and our lives the things that may tempt us into destructive behavior, beginning with all firearms and ammunition, as well as alcohol and other mind-altering substances; learning anger management; and seeking help from our clergy or from a professional counselor. In this way, resentment and despair are replaced by understanding and hope. Peace can begin to reign in its own humble way, beginning with each one of our hearts. A new day has dawned: the Eighth Day, the first day of the New Creation.

In the light of the Resurrection, we also have another task ahead of us: to become advocates for sane restrictions on firearms in our country – especially for those which are designed for or which can be easily converted into instruments of mass murder. The continuing bloodletting solves nothing; all it accomplishes is to cut lives short, and it must stop.

Beloved brothers and sister in Christ: it is time for us to take seriously the words of St. Paul, who wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). And what is the content of that Gospel? It is the reality of the Cross, and of the Empty Tomb. This is the truth that anchors our life, that gives it meaning and purpose. This is the source of our faith, and the reason for our hope. Because of this truth, St. Paul can also say, regarding Christ, "For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." (Ephesians 2:14). God has the power, through His Son, the Prince of Peace, to heal our hearts and make us one. He can restore our peace, on every level – if only we have the will to let Him do so.

The services of Holy Week are a journey, which take us from the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, through a time of vigil with the Bridegroom, to the Last Supper, the Betrayal, the Trial, the Crucifixion, and beyond. Through them, the Church invites us to enter with Jesus into the very mystery at the heart of our salvation: namely, that the Incarnate God gave His life, He "suffered these things," so that we might be renewed from within, and, having learned the ways of forgiveness and mercy and truth, live with Him in glory forever in Heaven.

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

For Orthodox Christians, the New Life in Christ is not something to be lived by us strictly as individuals, or even in the private company of our families. It is something to be experienced in the context of the entire community of faith, which is the Church. As we grow closer to God, we also grow closer to one another. Come, then, and worship with us; come and receive the Light from the Light which knows no night; come, and be renewed in heart and soul; come, and, putting all bitterness aside in sharing the Common Cup, experience the sweet taste of the Peace which "passes all understanding!"

Wishing you and yours a most blessed and holy celebration of our Lord's Resurrection 2021, I remain,

With love in Christ,

*Rev. Father Christoph H. Bender*

Father Christopher Bender, Protopresbyter

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## *SACRAMENTAL LIFE*

### **FUNERAL**

*Our deepest condolences* to the Family of **James Stathopoulos** who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, April 10, 2021. His funeral was on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 here at St Nicholas Cathedral. It was private.

*Our deepest condolences* to the Family of **Toula Peterson** who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Her funeral was on Friday, April 16, 2021 here at St Nicholas Cathedral.

*May their Memory be Eternal!*



# *Foundation Blessing Service May 15, 2021*

*Please join us on Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.*

*Your Prayers, Love & Support have made this possible!*



**His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh presiding**

**Gerontissa Theophano & the Sisterhood invite you to this Sacred event - lunch follows  
with Mosites Construction Company & MCF Architects & Planners**

**RSVP: [info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org](mailto:info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org)**

**Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery  
121 St. Elias Lane Saxonburg, PA 16056 (724) 352 3999**

*Information will also be posted on our website: [www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org](http://www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org)*

## GOYA NEWS

Our GOYA had the opportunity to attend a one day Metropolis Basketball Tournament hosted by All Saints, Canonsburg on April 3. It was a wonderful day for our GOYAns. We had four teams participate with all them receiving trophies: Boys Senior 1st, Girls Senior 2nd, Boys Junior 1st and Girls Junior 1st. Thank you Fr. Chris, GOYAns, Coaches, Chaperones, Parents, and Advisors for all their support and commitment. We all attended church at St. Nicholas on April 4th and after Liturgy had the presentation of the trophies.

GOYA volleyball practice has started on Tuesday evenings. Our GOYAns are looking forward to attending the upcoming Metropolis Volleyball Tournament hosted by Holy Cross on May 15.

Our GOYAns will be spending Holy Friday in church helping with Kouvouklion/ Epitaphio decorating, candle assembling, Altar service, and attending services.

The GOYAns will be volunteering for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank on May 22.

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## PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

**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](mailto: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!



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH PHILOPTOCHOS  
**DAFFODIL VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER**



## **Join us in our Fight Against Hunger!**

Help us raise money for the regional Food Banks throughout the Metropolis to provide meals for those individuals and families in need.

100% of all monies raised will be donated directly to the Food Banks.

This year rather than enjoying a luncheon together, support us in our effort to feed others!



**Make checks payable to  
The Metropolis of  
Pittsburgh**

**Philoptochos: c/o Paula  
Makris Larance  
46 Maple Avenue  
Wheeling, WV 26003**

**Donations can be made by  
scanning this QR Code:**







## FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DESK

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

### Upcoming dates to remember:

**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 Kotsagrelos (412) 680-1416**



# 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		04/20/2021
Total Stewards		226
Total Amount Pledged		\$ 119,872.00
Average Pledge		\$ 530.41
% Parish Participation to Date		75%
2021 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		65%
2021 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 185,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 75,686.64
As of:		03/31/2021
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection and Greek2Go	\$ 106,102.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$ 105,930.00	
	\$ 172.00	



# STEWARDSHIP, Con't

## 2021 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 04/20/21

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. Spilios 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. Terry Carlisano  
Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas  
Presbytera Rozalia Christulides  
Mr. & Mrs. George Chronis  
Mr. Greg Cominos  
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos  
Mrs. Afrodite Condos  
Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett  
Mr. Philip Contacos  
Mrs. Eleni Contis  
Ms. Jamie Contis  
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Contis  
Mr. Charles G. Copetas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Copetas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dino P. Copetas  
Mrs. Helen G. Copetas  
Mrs. Maria Copetas  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Copetas  
Mrs. Theodora Copetas  
Mr. Vasili Copetas  
Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Countouris  
Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos  
Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos  
Mrs. Denise Daugherty  
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Day  
Mr. & Mrs. J.R. de la Parra  
Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias  
Mrs. Christine DeMatteo  
Mrs. Christine Dickos  
Mr. & Mrs. Jason DiNinno

Mr. Artthur J. Dordas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt  
Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis  
Mrs. Elaine Ellis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Ellis  
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Mrs. Virginia Fekaris  
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Mr. & Mrs. Karl Florence  
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Mrs. Alice Gary  
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Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Glaser  
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory  
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Mr. & Mrs. Van Beck Hall  
Ms. Aphrodite Halleran  
Mrs. Antigone Hanna  
Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna  
Mrs. Frances Hanna  
Dr. John Haretos  
Ms. Maria Hnarakis  
Mr. Andrew Jakomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis  
Ms. Christine Kanakis  
Mr. Nicholas Karabetsos  
Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis  
Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas  
Mr. Lee Katsafanas  
Mr. Andron Kavouras  
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Mr. Chris Kouklis  
Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy  
Ms. Christine Krelis  
Ms. Georgia Krelis  
Mr. Peter Krelis  
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Mr. & Mrs. Ilya Kulidi  
Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros  
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Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas  
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Mrs. Lucia Leventis  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos  
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Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos  
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin  
Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam  
Mr. & Mrs. Spero Maginas  
Ms. Karen Malobicky  
Mrs. Kay Mandalakas  
Mr. Christopher Mandros  
Mrs. Thalia Mandros  
Mrs. Eugenia Manganas  
Mrs. Barbara Manners  
Ms. Electra Markopoulou  
Mr. Greg Markopoulou  
Mrs. Helen Mastro  
Mr. Kostas J. Mastro  
Ms. Alisa Mathews  
Ms. Dana Mathews  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. McCann  
Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire  
Mrs. Patricia McKee  
Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinou  
Mr. & Mrs. William Michaels  
Dr. & Mrs. George Michalopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Paljug  
Mrs. Tara Pallas-Sheetz  
Mr. Dean Panagoulas  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Panagoulas  
Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis  
Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages  
Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas  
Mr. John C. Paras  
Mr. Van Paras  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pease  
Ms. Anna Pedos  
Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger  
Mr. & Mrs. George Peters  
Mrs. Stamatia Peters  
Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson  
Mrs. Toula Peterson<sup>+</sup>  
Mr. Thomas Plakidas  
Mrs. Barbara Polimus  
Mr. & Mrs. D. John Powers  
Mrs. Esther Rafaloski  
Ms. Alaina Raftis  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy  
Mrs. Kristen Rowlette  
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sarioglou  
Mrs. Angela Sfamenos  
Mr. Bill Sfamenos  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sfanos  
Mr. & Mrs. George Sideris  
Mr. George Sockos  
Mr. & Mrs. Raj Snyder-Aneja  
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis  
Mr. & Mrs. James<sup>+</sup> Stathopoulos

## STEWARDSHIP, Con't

### 2021 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 04/20/21

Mr. & Mrs. James Stratigos  
Mr. Nicholas Strauch  
Mrs. Argie Stuart  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher  
Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis  
Mrs. Kay Thimoleas  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas  
Mrs. Chrisoula Torlidas  
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Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis  
Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis  
Ms Mary Vasilakis  
Mrs. Panagiota Vasilakis  
Mrs. Stella Vassilaros  
Mr. & Mrs. John Velisaris  
Mr. & Mrs. Orestis Velisaris  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris  
Mrs. Angela Vergos  
Ms. Elaine Vitsas  
Mr. John Vitsas  
Mrs. Frances Vlahos  
Mrs. Helen Waskoskie  
Dr. & Mrs. Karl Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Whipple  
Ms. Franceska Xhakaj  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Xilas  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras  
Dr. Katerina Zavaras  
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis  
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.

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.

## GREEK SCHOOL

The St. Nicholas Greek School year is coming to a close soon with only the month of May and the first week of June remaining. We are planning to return to in-person classes on Saturday, May 15 with the last day being Saturday, June 5, 2021. It will provide a time for the children to see each other, as well as their teachers. It is also a more effective way to prepare students for an end of year program. An end of the year program will be held on Saturday, June 5 with the theme being the Bicentennial of Greek Independence. Students will also receive their promotional certificates at that time. The 2021, St. Nicholas Greek School Graduates will be acknowledged on Sunday, June 6, and will receive their graduation gifts.

On another note, students preparing for taking the Ellinomatheas Exams will not be taking them in May of 2021. The test is postponed until October of 2021.

The entire Greek School wishes to everyone "Καλή Ανάσταση!"



## *GREEK SCHOOL, Con't*

### St. Nicholas Cathedral Greek School History

A few months ago I spoke with Mr. James Agras about his father, Mr. Rudolph Agraphiotis, and the beginnings of our beloved Greek School. Mr. Rudolph Agraphiotis was a very special person with many gifts given to him by our Lord and whose gifts he used to help the communities and ministries flourish and grow for decades. The following article is written by Mr. James Agras and Mrs. Electra Agras, with their permission to have it printed, and is an enlightening and inspirational article to be archived in our community and our nation.

#### **The Genesis of Greek School at St. Nicholas Cathedral**

As a result of the Turkish oppression, Rudolph Agraphiotis fled Smyrna and emigrated to Mitelene on the Island of Lesbos. There he met his wife-to-be, Sophia, whose family had also emigrated from Smyrna. He received his high school and college education in Mitelene and then attended the Sorbonne in Paris where he received his Masters degree in French in 1920. He then accepted a faculty position to teach French at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

After three years there he accepted the position/challenge to launch a new Greek school program at St. Nicholas, as well as manage the church office. Simultaneously, Reverend Athanasios Avlonitis, Sophia's father, and family came to the USA where he accepted the position of parish priest at the Church of the Annunciation in Norfolk, Virginia. Rudolph and Sophia were married there in 1924 in a ceremony officiated by her father.

Greek classes were taught to elementary and high school students after public school hours on the second floor of the small social hall behind the church, three days a week including Saturdays. Within the first year news of the school's rapid success circulated in the Greek communities in the Oakland and East Liberty neighborhoods, and beyond. Score of younger students enrolled guaranteeing the perpetuation of the Greek school as additional teachers were hired...Mr. Sithergos...Mr. Diacoyannis and Mr. Tsikerdanos.

red pencil and return them. He was lovingly nicknamed "**Aggie.**" Note: a similar story is told by "**Aggie's**" son, Jim, who while on active duty would write to his father in French which Jim majored in college. Likewise, those many letters were appropriately corrected in red pencil and immediately returned to him. This, in truth, was the dedicated and consummate teacher.

Around 1926 Mr. Agraphiotis founded the St. Nicholas choir. While studying at the Sorbonne he became assistant choir director of the St. Stephen's Cathedral the Metropolis of Paris. With that meaningful experience he was able for the first time create a choir at St. Nicholas. Over the years scores of the students taught in Greek school became members of the choir, as did many of their children over nearly 30 years.

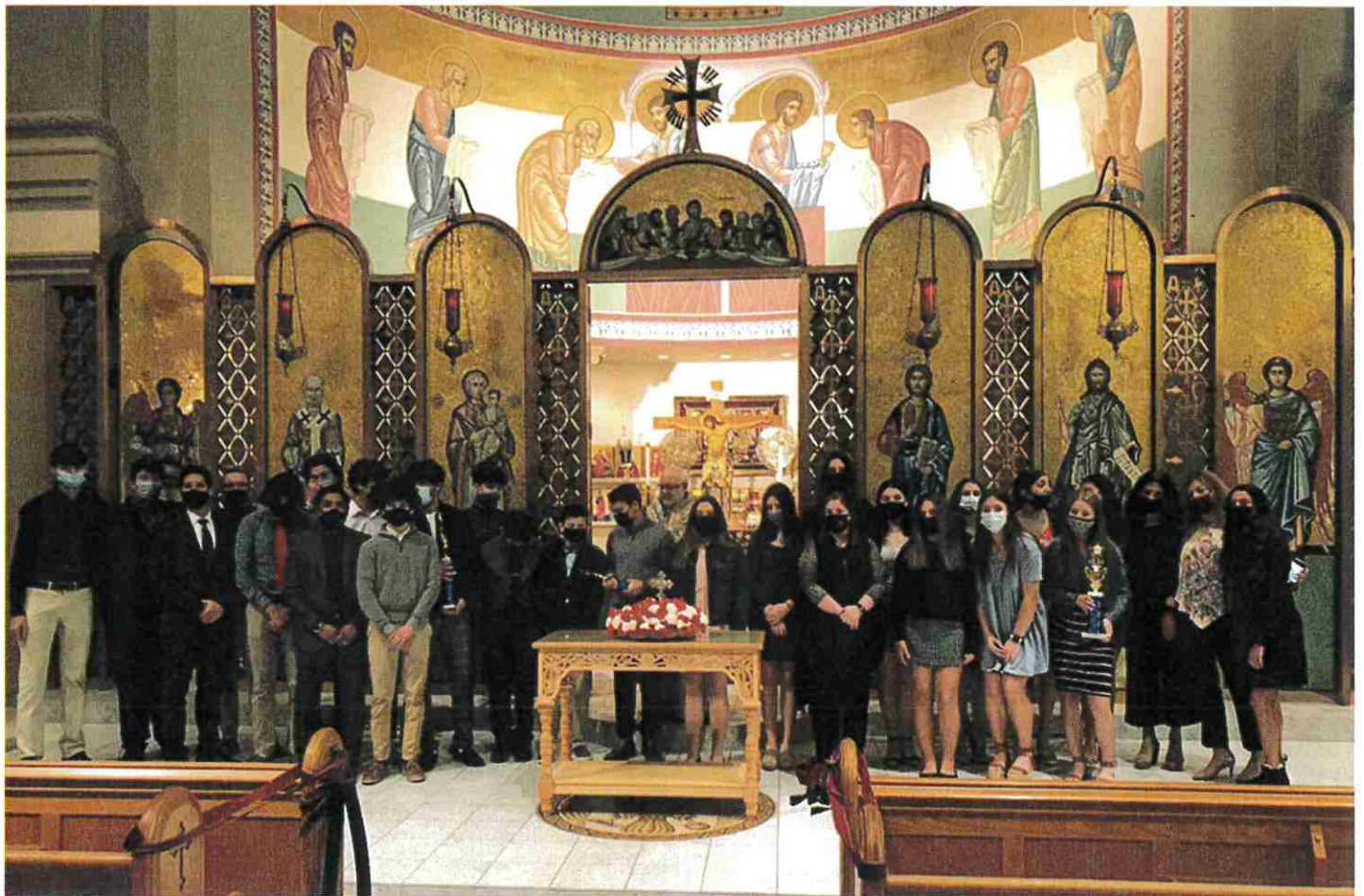
He personally arranged this sacred music into beautiful four part Byzantine choral. Those choir members made a serious commitment to attend all rehearsals (some on Friday nights) and attend the Sunday services...choir door locked promptly at 9:55 AM for a 10:00 AM service. The choir became acclaimed regionally as the finest.

In closing it is ironic that on December 24, 1952, while preparing for midnight Christmas services with the choir, Mr. Agraphiotis suffered a severe heart attack and was rushed to Allegheny General hospital. He passed away Christmas day at age 56.

# GOYA Basketball Tournament Photos









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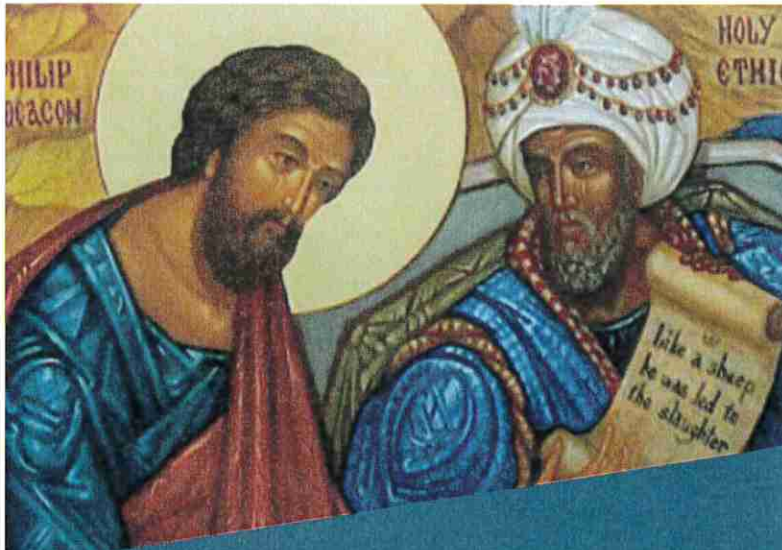
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When wanting to know more about the Scriptures from an Orthodox perspective, many people turn to Fr. Stephen De Young. He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from Amridge University and he studied at Balamand University where he received a Masters Degree. On Ancient Faith Radio, he is the host of the "[Whole Counsel of God](#)" podcast and co-hosts a live call-in show/podcast, "The Lord of Spirits" and is the author of the [Whole Counsel Blog](#).

For eight years, he served in Charleston, WV as the priest of St George Orthodox Cathedral before heading to [Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church](#) in Lafayette, LA where he has been since 2017.

NO PUBLICATION FOR MAY  
JUST YET.

# MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Great and Holy Saturday Vespersal Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  Vigil Service 10:45 pm Resurrection Service & Paschal Liturgy 11:45 pm
<b>2</b> <b>GREAT &amp; HOLY PASCHA</b>  Vespers of Agape 1 pm Easter Egg Hunt follows	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  GREEK2GO DAYS	<b>7</b>  GREEK2GO DAYS	<b>8</b>  GREEK2GO DAYS
<b>9</b> <b>Thomas Sunday</b> Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am  MOTHER'S DAY	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Philoptochos General Meeting 7 pm (Zoom) Elections	<b>12</b>  Orthodoxy Now! 7:30 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Myrrh-bearers Sunday</b>  Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	<b>17</b>  Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Orthodoxy Now! 7:30 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Ss. Constantine & Helen Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b>  Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am Church School Graduation/ Exercises	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Orthodoxy Now! 7:30 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b>  Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am	<b>31</b> <u>Memorial Day</u>  Divine Liturgy/ Trisagion at Homewood Cemetery, 9:30 am Trisagion at Wilkinsburg Cemetery, 12 noon Church Office Closed					



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