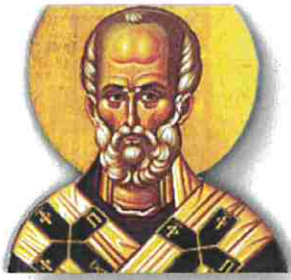


SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021 – REPOSE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Η ΚΟΙΜΙΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ

ORTHROS GOSPEL 8

GRAVE (7TH) TONE



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

CHANTER: Steve Andrews

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steve Andrews

ORGANIST: Haley Cobb

Questions about our Parish? Email church@stnickspgh.org or call 412-682-3866

Our Sunday worship schedule: June 20 – August 31: Orthros 8:15 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 9:30 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.

PLEASE JOIN US for coffee and fellowship following services hosted by Parish Council. If you have not had your vaccine yet, please wear your mask.

TODAY: GOYA Dance Practice 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- **Tuesday, Aug 17:** Open Gym 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, Aug. 22:** **WELCOME FATHER JOHN CHAKOS WHO WILL SERVE ORTHROS AND DIVINE LITURGY.**
GOYA Meeting

Please note: **THE SECOND TRAY** being passed today is for the relief of the victims of the recent fires in Greece. As you are probably aware, the combination of excessive heat and prolonged drought has made this year's forest fire season in Greece the worst in thirty years, and getting graver each day. Our national spiritual leader, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, has asked all our parishes to take a collection in support of those who have lost everything in this catastrophe. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GENEROSITY**

Father Bender will be away from today (afternoon) until Friday, September 3, 2021. Fr. Dean Kokanos of Presentation of Christ Church in East Pittsburgh has graciously agreed to serve as his backup, in the event that the services of a priest are needed. He may be reached at (412)-760-7203).

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ORTHROS GOSPEL 8

GRAVE (7TH) TONE

As the clergy exit the Altar for the Small Entrance, we hear the anthem for today's Feastday:

Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει, τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας. Ἐν τῇ Κοιμήσει, τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπες Θεοτόκε. Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωὴν, Μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη, ἐκ θανάτου τὰς ψυχὰς μὲν. You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

*At the procession with the Gospel the usual **Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn)** in Tone 2 is chanted. Then, the **Apolytikion** for the Feastday of the Dormition is repeated, followed by the Resurrection hymn in the Tone of the Week (7):* Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέφξας τῷ Ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας· ὅτι ἀνέστης Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος. By means of Your Cross, O Lord, You abolished death. To the robber You opened Paradise. The lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women You transformed, and You gave Your Apostles the order to proclaim to all that You had risen, O Christ our God, and granted the world Your great mercy. [SD]

Following this, we chant the Hymn for our Church's Patron Saint, St. Nicholas (Tone 4): Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνίᾳ σου, ἢ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτίσω 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 today's Kontakion: Τὴν ἐν πρεσβείαις ἀκοίμητον Θεοτόκον, καὶ προστασίαις ἀμετάθετον ἐλπίδα, τάφος καὶ νέκρωσις οὐκ ἐκράτησεν· ὡς γὰρ ζωῆς Μητέρα, πρὸς τὴν ζωὴν μετέστησεν, ὁ μήτραν οἰκήσας αειπαρθένον. The Theotokos is undying in intercession. Immovable is our hope in her for protection. Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb. [SD]

Today's Epistle reading: Phil. 2:5-11. Brethren, have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [RSV]

Φλπ 2:5-11. Ἀδελφοί, τοῦτο γὰρ φρονεῖσθω ἐν ὑμῖν ὁ καὶ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ· ὃς ἐν μορφῇ θεοῦ ὑπάρχων, οὐχ ἄρπαγμόν ἡγήσατο τὸ εἶναι ἴσα θεῷ, ἀλλ' ἐαυτὸν ἐκένωσεν, μορφὴν δούλου λαβὼν, ἐν ὁμοιώματι ἀνθρώπων γενόμενος· καὶ σχήματι εὐρεθεὶς ὡς ἄνθρωπος, ἐταπείνωσεν ἐαυτόν, γενόμενος ὑπήκοος μέχρι θανάτου, θανάτου δὲ σταυροῦ. Διὸ καὶ ὁ θεὸς αὐτὸν ὑπερύψωσεν, καὶ ἐχαρίσατο αὐτῷ ὄνομα τὸ ὑπὲρ πᾶν ὄνομα· ἵνα ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ πᾶν γόνυ κάμψῃ ἐπουρανίων καὶ ἐπιγείων καὶ καταχθονίων, καὶ πᾶσα γλῶσσα ἐξομολογήσῃται ὅτι κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ πατρὸς.

Today's Gospel Reading: Lk. 10:38-42; 11:27-28. At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" [RSV]

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσῆλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς κώμην τινά· γυνὴ δὲ τις ὀνόματι Μάρθα ὑπεδέξατο αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς. Καὶ τῇδε ἦν ἀδελφὴ καλουμένη Μαρία, ἣ καὶ παρακαθίσασα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἤκουε τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ. Ἡ δὲ Μάρθα περιεσπᾶτο περὶ πολλὴν διακονίαν· ἐπιστᾶσα δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, οὐ μέλει σοι ὅτι ἡ ἀδελφὴ μου μόνην με κατέλιπε διακονεῖν; εἰπέ οὖν αὐτῇ ἵνα μοι συναντιλάβηται. Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Μάρθα Μάρθα, μεριμνᾷς καὶ τυρβάζῃ περὶ πολλά· ἐνὸς δὲ ἐστὶ χρεία· Μαρία δὲ τὴν ἀγαθὴν μερίδα ἐξελέξατο, ἣτις οὐκ ἀφαιρεθήσεται ἀπ' αὐτῆς. Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ λέγειν αὐτὸν ταῦτα ἐπάρασά τις γυνὴ φωνὴν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου εἶπεν αὐτῷ· μακαρία ἡ κοιλία ἣ βαστάσασά σε καὶ μαστοὶ οὓς ἐθήλασας. αὐτὸς δὲ εἶπε· μενοῦνγε μακάριοι οἱ ἀκούοντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ φυλάσσοντες αὐτόν.

The Dormition of the Theotokos



Celebrated on August 15

The **Feast of the Dormition** or **Falling-Asleep of the Theotokos** commemorates the death, resurrection, and glorification of Christ's mother. To help us in our preparation of the feast, it is preceded by a two week fast. As with the **Nativity of the Virgin** (September 8/21) and the feast of her **Entrance to the Temple** (November 21/December 4), the Feast of the Dormition also comes from the Tradition of the Church. There we learn that Mary died as all people die because she had a mortal human nature affected by the corruption of this world. The Church proclaims that Mary needed to be saved by Christ just as all of us are saved from trials, sufferings, and death of this world. Having truly died, she was raised by her Son as the "Mother of Life" and already participates in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it." (**Luke 11:27-28**) Finally, we celebrate the fact that what happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience and love.

It is important to remember that there are no relics of the Theotokos. Their existence has never been mentioned throughout history. At one time in Constantinople there was a center of pilgrimage where the belt and veil of the Virgin were venerated.

*Adapted from **The Orthodox Church, Volume II: Worship**, by Fr. Thomas Hopko.*

From the Tradition of the Church

Following the day of Pentecost, the Theotokos remained in the city of Jerusalem, comforting the infant Christian community. She was living in the house of the beloved Apostle John, later the Evangelist. At the time of her death (tradition states she was in her early fifties) many of the Apostles were scattered throughout the world preaching the Gospel. All but Thomas were miraculously brought to the Virgin aloft on clouds.

As they stood around her bedside, she commended her spirit to the Lord and Jesus descended from Heaven, taking up her soul in His arms. The Apostles sang the funeral hymns in her honor and carried her body to a tomb in Cedron near Gethsemane. When a Jewish man tried to interrupt their solemn procession, an angel of the Lord came and punished him by cutting off his hands, which were later healed.

The Apostle Thomas arrived on the third day and wished to see the Virgin for the last time. They discovered an empty tomb. Church tradition relates that the Theotokos was resurrected bodily and taken to heaven, the same reward that awaits all the righteous on the Last Day.

About the Icon

The Theotokos is depicted upon the funeral bier.

Christ, standing behind the Theotokos, is her Son, Who has come to receive His Mother's soul into heaven; He holds in His left arm an infant in white, symbolizing the soul of the Theotokos reborn in her glory in heaven; Christ also is robed in white and appears in an aureole (elongated halo) depicting the Light of His Divinity.

The Apostles are depicted on either side of the bier stand the Apostles; the group on the left is led by St. Peter who stands at the head of the bier; the group on the right is led by St. Paul who stands at the foot of the bier.

Below the bier is a figure of Antonius the Jew, who tried to disrupt the procession, was punished, but later repented of his sins and embraced Christianity through Baptism.

*Taken from **The Icon Book**, by Boojamra, Essey, McLuckie & Matusiak.*

Troparion (Tone 1)

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity!
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos!
You were translated to life, O Mother of Life,
And by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life,
She was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb!

Terminology

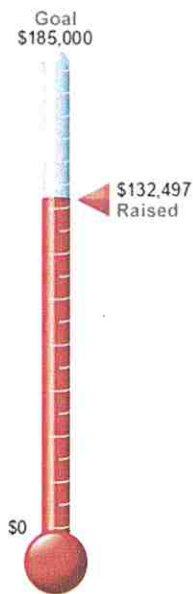
- ✓ *Theotokos* "God-bearer", "Mother of God"
- ✓ *Aiparthenos* "ever-virgin"
- ✓ *Panagia* "all holy"
- ✓ Dormition "passage through death"
- ✓ Assumption "ascension into heaven"

The name "Theotokos" was made official by the III Ecumenical Council (Ephesus, 431 AD) which decreed that the Virgin should be honored by this name which confirms the Orthodox belief in the Incarnation: that Christ was both true God and true man. As so often happened in those days, this action was a response to heretical teachings that needed to be addressed. Thus, once and for all, the Church affirmed her teachings about Christ and Mary.

Some Things To DO

- ✓ Come celebrate the Feast Day in Church as a family, if not on the day itself due to work, then at least on the eve of the feast at Vespers if offered in your parish.
- ✓ Use the section above to explain the significance of the Feast to your children.
- ✓ Use the Troparion and Kontakion hymns as prayers before and/or after meals, and as part of the children's evening prayers during the 8-day "afterfeast."
- ✓ If you have an icon of this feast, display it in your family's place of prayer for veneration. [Your parish bulletin might have the icon on it.] Discuss the icon with your children so that they are able to recognize all the figures and be able to tell the story.
- ✓ It is the custom in some parishes to bless flowers on this Feast. Have your children pick and prepare a bouquet of flowers to bring to the Church to be blessed. Use the flowers to decorate an icon or the family table. Make an extra bouquet for someone who cannot come to Church.

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	269 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$132,497.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$492.55

WELCOME BRUNCH

Volunteers are Needed for the Upcoming Welcome Brunch for College and Graduate Students

We are beginning to plan for our annual upcoming Welcome Brunch for new and returning college and graduate school students to be **held on Sunday, August 29** at St. Nicholas after Divine Liturgy.

Please consider donating a baked good or other meatless food item for this event. We are also in need of help for set up and servers on the day of the event. Monetary contributions are graciously accepted to offset the cost of food, decorations and welcome bags. Please note that this annual brunch is hosted by The Moms and Dads of St. Nicholas and totally funded by parishioners' donations.

Thank you for your continued support.

For more information on how to be part of this event, please contact:

Linda Hages 412-523-7938

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

Please let us know if you can help with our Food Festival this year.

We need volunteers to work in various areas:

- Pastry Cutting
- Pastry Pre-Packing
- Hot Food Scoring
- Servers at Food Lines.....

Please call the church office and give times and dates of your availability.

412-682-3866

THANK YOU.

Food Festival Committee



SERVING:

Thursday

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday/Saturday

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday

12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m.

GYROS SERVED ALL DAY OUTSIDE

DINE IN

or

TAKE-OUT



BRAVER ANGELS WORKSHOP (August 16, 2021):

Countering Political Polarization—Families and Politics Via Zoom

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/families-politics-workshop-registration-155855274321>

Do you have plans to be with family for Labor Day, birthdays or Thanksgiving? Have you ever had that awkward moment when a relative starts talking about politics and you disagree? Want to get rid of the awkwardness?

Family relationships are becoming casualties of our toxic political environment. Family members are having nasty political arguments, avoiding each other, or even cutting off lifetime relationships.

If you want to preserve important family bonds while still being true to your values and political beliefs, this workshop will offer you:

- Insight into why family differences over politics are uniquely challenging;
- Recognition of common roles that family members play in political conversations (for example, the Gladiator, the Defender, and the Sniper);
- Strategies and skills for handling family political differences in a constructive way.

Although the focus is on family relationships, you can use learnings in this workshop with any loved one. You'll laugh and have some fun in this workshop—it won't be all serious. After all, we all come from quirky families.

This is a two-part workshop combining an online eLearning course and an online, interactive workshop offered over Zoom.

- Part one consists of a 40 minute, interactive course. You complete this online before the workshop.
- Part two is joining us for the interactive online workshop where you will be guided in practicing listening and speaking skills.

Questions? Contact Lindy Ferriss at lferriss@braverangels.org

[Countering Political Polarization - Workshops Summer and Fall 2021 - JCC Pittsburgh \(jccpg.org\)](#)

MPASIS IN THE BURGH

LIVE AT ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



With Special Guest
Dimitra Stathopoulou



Friday, November 19th

Greece's most beloved vocalist of his generation....

DIMITRIS MPASIS Live in a memorable non-stop evening of music with DIMITRA STATHOPOULOU and the SynPhonia Band with Yiannis Sinanis (bouzouki to the famed Mitropanos) and Musical Director Achilleas Wastor.

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL - 419 S. DITHRIDGE STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Feastday	16 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	17 Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20	21
FATHER CHRISTOPHER AWAY 8/15/21 (afternoon) – 9/3/21						
22 9 th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	23	24	25	26	27	28 GOYA Kickoff Party @ Bouzos Home
29 Beheading of John the Baptist Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Welcome Back Brunch For returning College & Grad Students	30	31 Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	September 1	2	3	4