

## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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

#### NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

# MPASIS in the BURG Friday, November 12th @ St Nicks

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

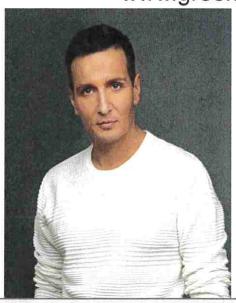
MPASIS Live in a memorable non-stop evening of music with

DIMITRA STATHOPOULOU and the SynPhonia Band with

Yiannis Sinanis (bouzouki to the famed Mitropanos) and

Achilleas Wastor, Musical Director

www.greekconcertstatus.com





#### **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 <a href="www.stnickspgh.org/">www.stnickspgh.org/</a> and click on "Live Streaming Click Here".

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

Father Christopher Barbara Manners Mary Olszewski Vincent Nelson.

724-630-3483 Office Manager Event Coordinator

Maintenance

frchbender@verizon.net church@stnickspgh.org events@stnickspgh.org 412-537-4073

Church Phone Church Fax 412-682-3866 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 Kotsagrelos, 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.

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 Mary Olszewski, at 412-628-9466 for more information and availability.

Metropolis 412-621-5529 <a href="https://www.pittsburgh.goarch.org">www.pittsburgh.goarch.org</a> Archdiocese 212-570-3500 <a href="https://www.goarch.org">www.goarch.org</a>

#### 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

2

#### FATHER'S MESSAGE

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

For this November 2021 edition of our Newsletter, I commend to you for your consideration the following article, by one of our greatest living Orthodox theologians, His Eminence Metropolitan John (Zizioulas) of Pergamon. While the main focus of the essay is on Orthodoxy and the Environment, it also has much to say about where the author finds the connecting link between this subject and our faith: in the very real material and spiritual character of the *Holy Eucharist*. Indeed, much of his life's work has focused on the connection between the life of the Church – centering on the Holy Eucharist – and the life of the world. He emphasizes the important role of faithful humanity in offering back to our Creator in *thanksgiving* the "bloodless sacrifice" of the consecrated bread and wine, through which all of creation is sanctified. You might say that "Thanksgiving is *baked into* our faith and our worship!"

Speaking of giving thanks, I hope that on Thanksgiving Day all of us will pause to *pray* before our meal, offering thanks for all our blessings, and praising God for His abundant kindness toward us (just as the Pilgrims did after their first successful harvest in the New World).

But, let's not stop there. An "attitude of gratitude" towards our Creator is not something that we should simply adopt once a year just prior to dinner, during the commercials and commentary that fills the time before the early football game on TV and the later one we plan to watch. It is something that can benefit us every day of the year because it helps us to put things in the proper perspective. As we pray at the end of every Divine Liturgy (based on James 1:17), "For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of lights."

Saying "Thank you" to God is appropriate every day of the year, because a day never passes when we are not blessed by Him. Even on our hardest days, or at our darkest hours, He is still there with us, helping us to find a way forward through the fog of confusion and doubt. Every day, then, is truly a "thanksgiving day."

To be sure, bad things happen to good people every day, in this fallen and chaotic world. Sometimes we are passive victims, sometimes we bring it upon ourselves. And one day, we will confront our own mortality. But, through it all, the Lord is still there, still by our side. As David said, in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me." (Psalm 23:4, NRSV).

Metropolitan John's words, which align with the those of our own beloved Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew, are a message of hope. They remind us that we, as members of the "royal priesthood of all believers" (I Peter 9), are part and parcel of the people of God. Our purpose in being present at the Divine Liturgy is not simply to passively watch what the clergy are doing inside the Altar, but rather to actively participate, through our prayers, as the celebrating bishop or priest leads us together on a journey, accompanied by the angels, into God's presence. We are invited multiple times to give thanks along with the celebrant to God during the Holy Anaphora (the holiest part of the Divine Liturgy, when the congregation kneels). Perhaps that is why we call what results the «Θεία Ευχαριστεία» (literally the "Divine Thanksgiving," also called "Holy Communion" in English. What was once simple bread and wine has become the Body and Blood of Christ, which is then offered to us "for the remission of sins and life everlasting." What can we say, in the presence of such a sacred gift, except a humble "Thank you?"

In Christ's love,

Protopresbyter Christopher H. Bender, Dean

Rev. Fath Christoph A. Berch

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

#### Orthodoxy and Ecological Problems: A Theological Approach

by Metropolitan John (Zizioulas) of Pergamon

The ecological crisis is the most serious contemporary problem facing us. To some extent the Christian tradition bears responsibility for causing it; certainly the ecological crisis has important spiritual dimensions which need to be examined. The Orthodox theological tradition in particular has important things to say on this subject.

From a historical perspective biblical thought has a positive view of the natural world and of our human bodies. Thus creation initially was seen as good and the material world as worthy of survival. But in the first century Gnosticism distinguished between the material world, which is bad, and the true and real world, which is spiritual. This approach was adopted by Christian theologians such as Origen in the East and the Catechetical School of Alexandria in the Third Century, who stressed the spiritual significance of everything material. That is, everything material is a degradation of the original creation of God and meant simply to be a symbol of higher things. Origen influenced very much the Eastern and especially the monastic tradition.

In the West similar influences appeared. Great theologians such as St. Augustine made an impact on Western theology and on the Western Church. Augustine himself was influenced by Neoplatonism. His conviction was that what matters is the spirit and soul of the human being and that even in the Kingdom of God what will survive is the soul and not the body. He believed in the resurrection of the body but regard God's Kingdom as consisting of bodies but of souls. When we move to the Middle Ages we find a more rationalistic approach to the world and to the human being in particular. In Scholastic theology the capacity of the human being to think is regarded as the image Dei– the image of God– in human beings. Descartes, who was himself an Augustine monk, defined this rationalistic approach with his famous saying "cogito ergo sum" —I think, therefore I am. What matters in order to exist is to be capable of thinking. The material world is to be used by us in order to develop our spiritual and mental capabilities. Although the Enlightenment was accompanied by the development of a respect and love for nature, this did not involve regarding nature as having an intrinsic value in itself.

Protestantism, and especially the Puritans, made use of the first Genesis creation story to justify human domination of the natural world. The Calvinists did the same, and this has contributed to the contemporary view that human beings have the right to exploit natural resources. Protestantism has generally fostered individual enterprise and rights, utilitarianism and the pursuit of happiness (hedonism). This pursuit of happiness was even enshrined in the American constitution and became every individual's entitlement. Thence nature becomes simply the raw material which we use to achieve this individual happiness. It is not difficult to see the domination of this ideal in our culture today, which is centered on offering the individual happiness, either spiritual or material.

From this it becomes clear that there are spiritual dimensions to the ecological problem which confronts us. Not only has Christian theology contributed to the emergence of the problem but it has given spiritual validation to its root cause.

The belief in human superiority received a blow from Darwinism when it was proved that not only humans but also animals are capable of thinking, although to a lesser degree. So, if the human is the image of God he must be so due to other capabilities than his ability to think, and it is these capabilities which we must learn to value.

Another spiritual dimension which needs to be reassessed is the individual approach, the idea that each of us can be conceived of as individuals without relation to others or to the world. This idea that we can be isolated from our natural environment and conceived of as autonomous individuals must be eliminated, because it helped justify the treatment of nature which resulted in the ecological disaster. The human being is not an individual but a person, and there is a big difference. An *individual* is a single entity which can be conceived of in itself without reference to other entities. A *person* is a unique entity which cannot be conceived of without relation to other entities, not only to other humans but to nature as a whole.

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

Finally, we cannot disassociate our search for pleasure and happiness from the ecological disaster. We must learn not to view the world as a means to our individual happiness. The world is not there to satisfy our desires and offer us pleasure; it is there for a higher purpose.

How can Orthodoxy and Orthodox theology help us to relate creatively these spiritual dimensions to the environmental crisis?

Orthodox theology, in essence, is the way the Greek Fathers understood, interpreted, and presented the biblical faith which all Christians share, but it is also shaped by the experience and reality of the church. For Orthodoxy, Christian faith is not intellectual but is to be lived. This experience of Christian faith can only be found by one as a member of the Church; it is an ecclesial and communal experience and not an individualistic one.

The basic theological dimensions of Orthodoxy which relate to our ecological task are as follows:

- 1. The world has a beginning in a radical sense; it was created out of nothing, and is constantly threatened by the return to nothingness. It is not eternal, rather it is fragile, like a precious vase of crystal, and must be approached with reverence, fear and trembling.
- 2. This careful handling was entrusted by God to human beings, as distinct from all other beings and from angels. According to Patristic theology man was created, material and spirit, to be a microcosm of creation. Angels, being spiritual creations only, cannot bring the material world into contact with God. As the priests of creation we have the unique mission and great responsibility of uniting God and the material world. Our task is not simply to preserve creation but to purify it and elevate it to the level of divine existence. This act of elevation, the referring of creation to its creator; is the essence of our priesthood; thus creation is sanctified and partakes of the blessings that participating in divine life involves.
- 3. The salvation of human beings which is offered by and in Christ, is for us a cosmic event. Through human beings all creation will be saved. Christ not only saves us from ourselves, he offers the redemption of the whole of creation. The incarnation of the Son of God as man was nothing but assuming human nature, not to save man in his own right, but because it carries with it the rest of creation by implication.
- 4. The Eucharist characterizes Orthodox theology not so much as a mental discipline but as an experience. Ever since Saint Irenaeus it has been understood that the Eucharist is not simply a memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, but is a cosmic event involving the whole of creation. Bread and wine are not just symbolic elements linking the Church to the Last Supper but are representative of the material world and of creation. Equally, human beings, by participating in the Eucharist, participate in a redeemed material world. Thus the material world has its place in the Eucharistic experience and in the Kingdom of God. The Orthodox Christian, by constantly experiencing the Eucharist, affirms that the material world must survive and be redeemed from whatever prevents it from developing into a world which will unite finally with God.
- 5. The ascetic experience, as affirmed by the Orthodox Church, has unfortunately often been mistaken as a negative attitude to material creation. The ascetic is seen as one who depreciates or rejects the material world. This is a Neoplatonic way of thinking and is not typical of the true asceticism of the Church. The ascetic abstains from the material world not because he regards matter as inferior but because he respects matter very much and does not want to exploit it for individual pleasure. Another often forgotten dimension of the ascetic experience is that the true ascetic participates in the suffering of the whole of creation, even to the extent of weeping over the death of a bird or animal. This sensitivity towards nature is not negative, rather it reflects a very positive attitude towards nature resulting from love and respect for the material world.

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

Some Christian sects regard the material world as bad and therefore conclude that the sooner the ecological crisis destroys it the better. Others regard the material world as divine and believe that we need not worry about its welfare, but should respect and perhaps even worship it. I believe that as more and more people realize that for the sake of its survival we must not regard the world as bad, this paganistic approach will soon replace the first attitude, and there are many signs of this happening.

There is however a third alternative, which is to regard the material world as fragile and precious, and to regard human beings as having the responsibility of sanctifying and referring back to God his creation, so that it may live forever. This places the responsibility for solving the problem firmly on humans. While we can achieve nothing without God's help, we cannot pass the environmental problem over to God and free ourselves from our responsibility.

While ethics and political legislation can offer a lot they are powerless without the participation of the people. If we want to solve the environmental crisis in a democratic way people must be persuaded to sacrifice many things and to a great extent this can only be done through the right ecclesiastical experience. With specific regard to education, I would like to make the following points:

What we normally understand as education – scientific and technical knowledge, convincing people through reason and logic, etc. – though important, will not get us very far. I would like to propose education through worship. By this I mean the acquaintance of a human being from childhood with a holistic approach to reality involving all of creation. When children go to church (despite all the distracting noises they make to disturb us adults) they are educated to regard the material world as part of their relationship with God. All senses participate in Orthodox worship, and unless we get acquainted with our relationship with God and the material world through our senses, we cannot hope to understand the significance of material creation.

In addition, the value of ascetic education should not be underestimated. For example, fasting is an educational process through which we learn not to regard the world as an unlimited resource to satisfy individual pleasure. The same is true of almsgiving, hospitality, etc. If people learn these values they will learn to solve the ecological problem.

We must teach ourselves and our children that we are members of a community which regards creation as Christ's body. Finally, education should involve creativity and culture. We must extend the Eucharistic experience to artistic activities and everyday life. Such an education through involvement in the life of the Church will result not just in the preservation of creation, but in bringing forth all the possibilities for a world in which man will be in perfect communion with God.

The Most Reverend Metropolitan John of Pergamon was born in 1930. He studied at the Theological Schools of the Universities of Thessaloniki and Athens, and became a Doctor of Theology in 1965. He has taught Theology at a number of universities abroad, including fourteen years at the University of Glasgow. He has represented the Ecumenical Patriarchate on many international church bodies and at international academic conferences, and is the author of many scholarly studies in various languages. He was elected Metropolitan in 1986.

#### SACRAMENTAL LIFE

#### **Baptism**

With much joy, let us welcome into the Family of Faith George Nicholas Pilafas II, son of George Michael Pilafas and Francesca Barillas, sponsor was Corinna Barillas and baptized on October 23, 2021.

#### **Funerals**

Our deepest condolences to the family of:

Peggy Smyrnes Williams who passed away on Sunday, October 10, 2021. The funeral was on Friday, October 15th at St Nicholas Cathedral.

May her memory be eternal.

#### ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH SCHOOL



Attention all Nounos, Nounas and Special Friends! Sunday, November 14, 2021, is Godparent/Special Friend Sunday. Please join your Godchild/Special Friend in worshiping during the Divine Liturgy, receive Holy Communion together and attend Church School to see what they learn there (and make cards to send to children at Children's Hospital for Make a Difference Day). Afterwards attend the Godparent Sunday Coffee Hour sponsored by Philoptochos. It should be the start of a wonderful day together

This year, Church School, will again have a Bake Sale at the **St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**, as well as, sponsor a Balloon artist.

The Church School children will present their **Christmas Pageant** on Sunday, December 19, 2021. Please refer to the enclosed practice schedule for further details.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School is preparing for their Holiday Outreach Project:

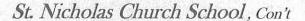
We are looking for hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. for FOCUS' Project Bundle-up to decorate our tree. Thanks in advance for your warm winter accessories and teaching the children the gift of giving.

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

Yours in Christ Miss Michelle St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Godparent Sunday Church School Open House Sunday, November 14, 2021



Join your Godchild for Church Worship, Holy Communion, & Church School!









## St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**During Church School for all children

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**During Church School for Nursery-6<sup>th</sup> Graders

Saturday, December 18, 2021 12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. Final Rehearsal for all children

Sunday, December 19, 2021 Christmas Pageant in Church

Questions? Contact Aimee (Kotsagrelos) Walker at 412-398-6094

## PROJECT BUNDLE UP



WE ARE LOOKING FOR HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES & GLOVES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT'S PROJECT BUNDLE UP!





#### St. Nicholas Church School, Con't





WHO: CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS

WHAT: CHURCH SCHOOL BAKE SALE

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

> WHERE: ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR

WHY: CHURCH SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

**HOW:** BRING 2 DOZEN BAKED GOODS

**QUESTIONS:**CONTACT 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**



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2021 STEWARDSHIP		10/25/2021
Total Stewards		289
Total Amount Pledged		\$ 135,397.00
Average Pledge		\$ 468.50
	*	
% Parish Participation to Date		96%
2021 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		73%
2021 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 185,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 155,562.19
As of:		09/30/2021
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection, Fall Food Festival and Greek2Go	\$ 321,592.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$ 309,754.00	
	\$ 11,838.00	

## STEWARDSHIP, Con't

#### 2021 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards 10/25/21

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Mrs. Helen Waskoskie Dr. & Mrs. \* Karl Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Whipple

Ms. Franceska Xhakai

Mrs. Argie Xilas

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras

Mr. & Mrs. George Zaras

Dr. Katerina Zavaras

Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis

Mr. & Mrs. Michael B. Zikos

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.



#### 2021 ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL CONFIDENTIAL FAMILY STEWARDSHIP CARD

	-	CATALLY THE ELECTION	(TENTERED E DE EL)	THEODILL	CAND
Last Name	Fi	rst Name			
Address		City		State	Zip
(Alternate address if applicable)					
Home Phone	Work Phone		Cell	Phone	
Email					
PLEASE provide pertinent in	formation on reve	erse side about	your family i	nembers- <b>T</b>	HANK YOU!
TREASURE- Total Gift for 2021 \$ _	Contri	bution Frequency	: □ Weekly □ M	onthly 🗆 Qua	irterly 🗆 Annually
□ Please send Stewardship Envelop	es □ I don't use env	/elopes	Stateme	nt delivery: c	uS Mail □ Email
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cat Pittsburgh, PA	TALEN'	T- Please check the has some expert specific family i	ise or interest.	Place initials	of the
□ Visitation of Elderly to The State of The State	Church School Outreach Ministry _ Gardening Other	□ Website	Mgmt	🗆 Cooking	Choir g/Festival
TIME-St. Nicholas	Cathedral is grai	teful for our r	nany volur	teers. The	ank you!
Name & relationship i.e., self, spouse, c	hild, etc. Date of bir	rth Marital Statu	s Occupation	n OR school/gr	ade
					ATTENDED TO THE PERSON OF THE

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 <a href="https://www.stnickspgh.org">https://www.stnickspgh.org</a> or call the church office (412-682-3866) to rectify.

#### GREEK SCHOOL

#### St. Nicholas Greek School

With the opening of St. Nicholas Greek School in September, events and activities have been in full swing. A number of students had prepared and were administered the international Ellinomatheas Exams from Greece, the first week of October. They had been postponed from May and hopefully registration for the 2022 May Exams will be back on track again.

All classes learned about our celebrating OXI day and Aghia Skepi (Holy Protection)—October 28 at the end of October. There is an excellent World War II project done by St. Nicholas Cathedral in Bethlehem, PA which interviews many older parishioners and their challenges of either being in battle or life in Greece during that war. There are also testimonials given of miracles and seeing Panaghia while on the battle field. It is a must see video for everyone.

Adult classes in Intermediate and Advanced Levels started mid-October with Toula Protopapa. If you are interested, please email Maria Stamoolis at mstamoolis@verizon.net.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Language Festival and Quiz Bowl is postponed until Spring of 2022. All the material was prepared and students have more months to get ready.

On November 9 at 8 p.m. Dr. Elias Petrou from the University of California, Irvine, is making a special presentation for our Metropolis through zoom. The presentation is "The Saga of 1821: From the Revolution to the establishment of the Modern Greek State." It is open to everyone who is interested.

### New Wi-Fi System at St. Nicholas Cathedral

A new Wi-Fi system is now operating throughout our St. Nicholas Facilities. The system has a much stronger signal and is broadcast from many more locations. We now have a good signal in all the halls, conference rooms, and classrooms. (However, the devices for two of the twelve broadcast points are still on backorder.) The system also has content filtering enabled to block undesirable websites.

The password for Wi-Fi access is:

Network: Guest/Visitor Password: StNicksvisitor

#### PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

## Philoptochos News

As we get back to normal operations, we will need your help in the kitchen and beyond. Our General Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> went well, the next general meeting is Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>. As always members and non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

November starts out making spanakopita rolls. A special thank you to Steve Andrews who will squeeze 198 pounds of spinach for us. We will be making the rolls November 7<sup>th</sup>, starting after church through November 9<sup>th</sup>. November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> will be all day including and evening session on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Last time we made them we were nearly done after the Monday evening session. With your much appreciated help we can do it again.

Mpasis will be performing in the large hall on Friday November 12<sup>th</sup>. A link to buy tickets and mezethes is available. Philoptochos is chairing the mezethes, which means...you guessed it...I am graciously asking for your help. We will be prepping Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm and Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm. An online sign up has been sent or you can access using this link: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49ABA829AAFB6-mpasis">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49ABA829AAFB6-mpasis</a>
There are 15 slots, but there is always room for additional helpers! Sign up is not required, find yourself with some extra time, unplanned help is always welcome too!

Godparents Day is Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> and is sponsored by Philoptochos. We look forward to seeing everyone with those who have guided them in their faith.

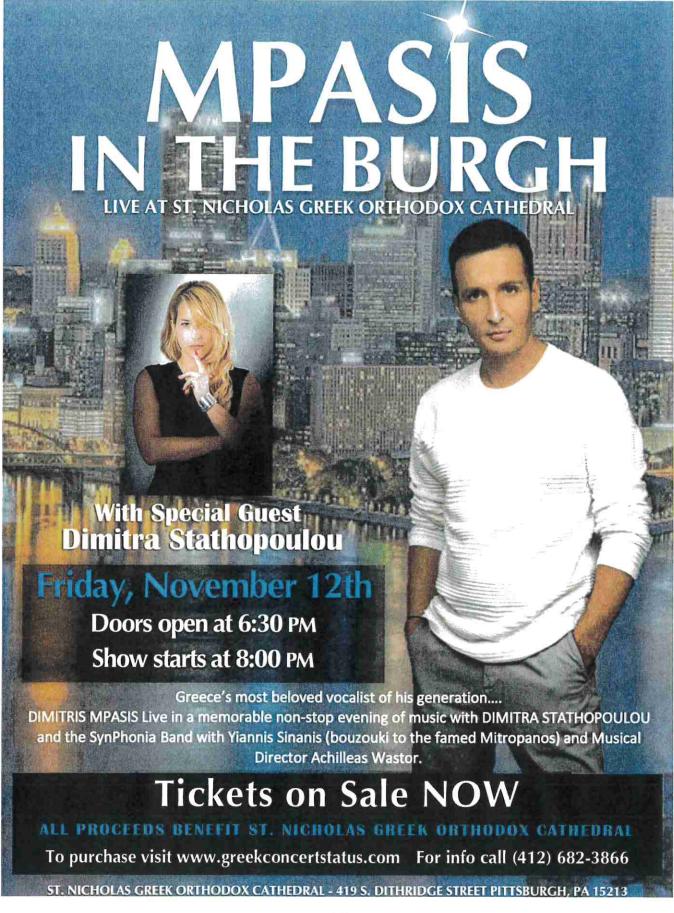
We are looking for donations for raffles for the Bazaar. In the past we have had items like Penguins tickets, Steelers tickets, and a Gift Card basket. We are always open to suggestions and greatly appreciate any generosity you can provide.

This year we did a Lenten Soup Fundraiser, we are looking into doing that again and adding an earlier soup fundraiser in January or February and are looking for your favorite soups. Please let one of the board members know your favorite soup. I'm sure you're wondering if we're going to have the same amazing bread made by Bridge City Brinery and the answer is YES! The owners have graciously agreed to again donate the bread to accompany the delicious soup.

December is another busy month for us. December 5<sup>th</sup> will be our next general meeting and there is an evening Vespers for St. Nicholas day. Monday December 6<sup>th</sup> is the St. Nicholas Feast Day Lunch sponsored by Philoptochos. Please contact me (call, text, email) if you plan on attending so we can adequately plan set up and food.

As always, we are open to suggestions and your support is greatly appreciated. I thank you for assisting us in our mission to help others.

Respectfully, Maria Bardakos 412-519-8684 marbard47@gmail.com



### JOIN CHAPTER ICAROS FOR A GLENDI / DANCE!

# Saturday, November 13, 2021 9:00pm-2:00am

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church Hall, 12 Washington Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139

Adults: \$25.00 Children (12 and under) \$5.00

Cash Bar ♦ Mezethes



## Live Music with Ta Filarakia Featuring Victoria Mavrogeorgis on Violi!

\*Please wear a mask if not yet vaccinated\*

For more information, contact Michelle Kotsagrelos at 412-680-1416 or mmk8317@hotmail.com

#### GOYA NEWS

St. Nicholas GOYA got off to a great start this October. We held our annual Mission Walk for Guatemala on October 3rd after our monthly meeting. Thank you to everyone who walked and supported this worthy mission with their donation. This year we raised \$2,155.

The annual car wash fundraiser took place on October 17. Thank you to everyone who participated. Even though there were a few rain drops, all the cars came out shiny and clean. Funds raised help support our programs and activities. On October 23, we volunteered to distribute food boxes through the Pittsburgh Food Bank..

After Sunday Liturgy on October 24, the GOYAns played spike ball in the large hall. Everyone had a great time.

**GOYA** is currently selling Chestnut Hill Candles. They are perfect for the holidays and make great Christmas gifts. Please see a GOYAn after church for more information.

GOYA is once again offering the St. Nicholas merchandise sale. Please see the information in this Newsletter.



## GOYA NEWS, Con't



### GOYA NEWS, Con't



Hello everyone! Now that the official Goya season has begun, the St. Nicholas merchandise is available for purchase. We will be selling sweatshirts, customizable with a last name on the back. (Cost=\$30) There are also sweatpants with the logo on St. Nicks down the pant leg. (Cost=\$25). If you are interested in purchasing you can text the number 412-576-6603, or reach out to Alexis Hammerling.

**GOYA SWEATSHIRTS** 

September 26, 2021





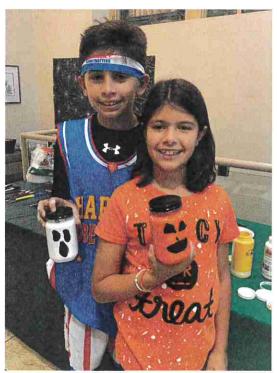
September 27, 2020



## JOY, HOPE, & Little Angels



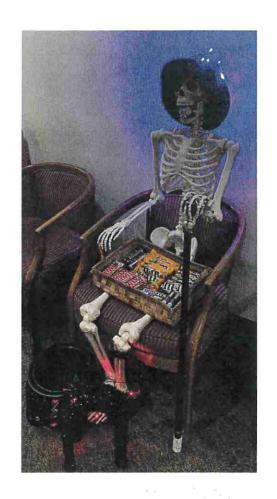
Although the rain kept them inside, the JOY,HOPE and Little Angels enjoyed a fun evening of trick or treating and fellowship!

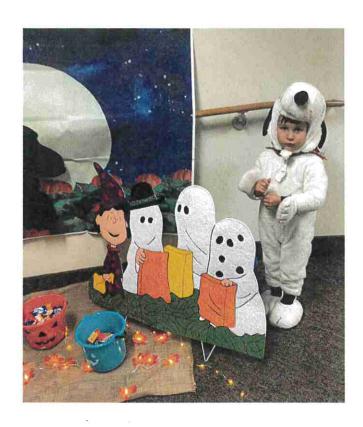


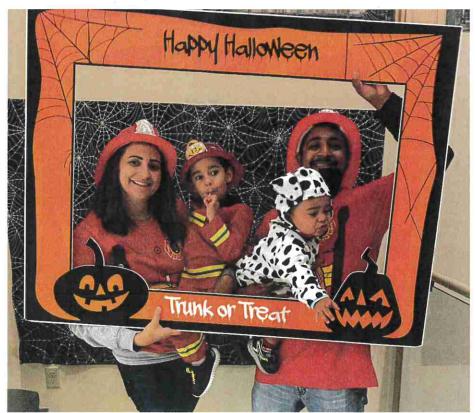












### SIXTY CLUB NEWS

Many thanks to all who supported the Fall Luncheon at the Central Diner and Grille. There was more than enough food and the fellowship was outstanding! It was especially gratifying to see several new faces who had not traveled with us in the past and a few that we missed recently.

The new Planning Committee is open to suggestions for future events. We really want to know your interests. Contact any of us—use your church directory for our numbers.

Alice Gary Fran Hanna Lillian Panagulias Argie Stuart Helen Waskoskie

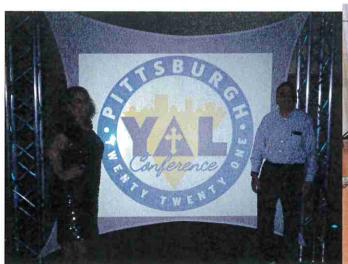
#### 2021 YAL Conference/Dinner/Dance

On October 9th, St. Nicholas Cathedral proudly hosted the 2021 YAL Conference Dinner Gala, welcoming nearly three-hundred participants from across the country. Geared toward Orthodox Christians between the ages of 18-35, the conference provided an opportunity for young adults from across the country to gather, worship, and celebrate.

For the first time in over 30 years, the weekend event returned to Pittsburgh for an exceptional schedule of events. Weekend activities kicked off with a welcome reception at PNC Park, a guest speaker series with Keynote Speaker Dr. Albert Rossi, followed by a Dinner Gala with musical guest Vasili Patrikis & Band.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director Alyssa Kyritsis teamed up with the Parish Council and Events Team at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral to put together a spectacular evening of dinner, dancing and enjoyment for the event guests. A delectable dinner catered by All the Best was blessed by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas Reverend Protopresbyter Christopher H. Bender - Dean of St. Nicholas, as well as ,Reverend Protopresbyter Christopher H. Bender - Dean of St. Nicholas. Dinner was followed by an uninterrupted night of musical entertainment featuring Vasili Patrikis and his band, along with several musical guest performers joining in as members of the participant crowd. Dobil Laborities AV worked with Theanne Gagianas on the decor - creating a unique atmosphere with true industrial-city aesthetics. Another thank you goes to Dr. Peter Gagianas for capturing the memorable photos of the event.

The event finished up on Sunday with a very special Devine Liturgy and relaxing luncheon on Sunday. Participants from the event continue to provided amazing feedback regarding all aspects of the event-weekend activities and are eager to have the event return to Pittsburgh again soon.













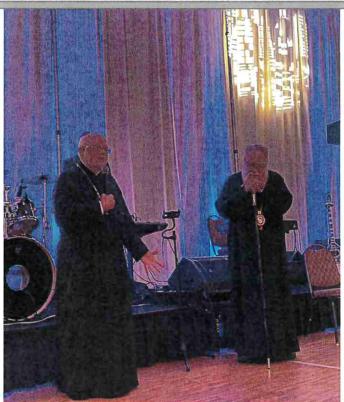
















## SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

WITH THE 2021 ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CARD

**Donation only \$20...** You can save money on your Christmas cards and help our beloved Cathedral at the same time!

Name & Address:
Your list of names to read ( <i>please print</i> ):

Kindly return this form, along with your check, and mail to: St. Nicholas Cathedral, 419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

All names MUST be submitted NO LATER than December 6, 2021!!

# Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



If you wish, please list the names of your loved ones to be remembered in the Proskomidi (*Preparation of the Gifts*) at every Divine Liturgy through Christmas.

For the Health of:	
	-
In Memory Of:	
Name & Address:	

**Suggested donation:** 

\$25 OR MORE, payable to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral (memo: Poinsettia)

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ORDERS IN NO LATER THAN December 12, 2021. Please, either place in the Sunday offering tray or mail it to: 419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

#### **GAPA**

Socrates-Daphne Lodge of Pittsburgh cordially invites you to the

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

## Friday December 17, 2021

Cocktails and Appetizers at 6 PM Festive Dinner Buffet at 7 PM

> Crowne Plaza Hotel Fort Couch Road

Dinner and Dance \$60

Dance only \$10

Music by the
FILARAKIA
FEATURING SOTIRI TSOUREKIS
and a performance by
THE GRECIAN ODYSSEY DANCERS

We have missed all of you and can't wait to ring in the holiday season. Join us with your dancing shoes and don't forget your kefi—Opa!

Please R.S.V.P. by December 10th to Rebecca Bertos 412-421-9427 or Aliki Andrews 412-833-4596 Joanne Melacrinos 412-563-4609

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	I GOYA Girls Basketball 6:30 p.m	GOYA Boys Basketball 7:00 p.m.  Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Orthodoxy 101 (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.	4	5	Greek School 10:00 a.m.
7 7th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	8 Synaxis of the Archangels Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Holy Unction 7:00 p.m. (St Nektarios)  GOYA Girls Basketball 6:30 p.m	9 GOYA Boys Basketball 7:00 p.m.	10 Orthodoxy 101 (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.	11	Dimitris Mpasis Concert 6:30 p.m. (Doors Open) 8:00 p.m. (Concert begins)	Greek School 10:00 a.m.
8th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Nativity Fast Begins  Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.  GOYA Girls Basketball 6:30 p.m	16 Church School Teachers Meeting 7:00 p.m. GOYA Boys Basketball 7:00 p.m.	17 Orthodoxy 101 (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.	18	19	Greek School 10:00 a.m.
Entrance of the Theoto- kos into the Temple Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	GOYA Girls Basketball 6:30 p.m	GOYA Boys Basketball 7:00 p.m.	24	25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  St. Katherine the Great Martyr Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	26	CATHEDRAL BALL 8:00 p.m. NO GREEK SCHOOL
28 13th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	29 GOYA Girls Basketball 6:30 p.m	GOYA Boys Basketball 7:00 p.m.				

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral 419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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