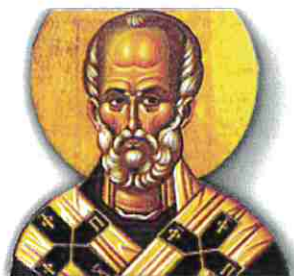


NOVEMBER 21, 2021 – Special Hymns and readings

## ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Orthros Gospel 11

Plagal First (5<sup>th</sup>) Tone



### WELCOME TO ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL!

VISIT [www.stnickspgh.org](http://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](mailto:frchbender@verizon.net)

PROTOPSALTIS: Konstantinos Fekos

CHANTER: Steve Andrews

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steve Andrews

ORGANIST: Haley Cobb

Questions about our Parish? Email [church@stnickspgh.org](mailto:church@stnickspgh.org) or call 412-682-3866

**Our Sunday worship schedule: Sept. 5 – May 31: Orthros 8:45 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10:00 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.

Watch Sunday services, which are still 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>

**TODAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE** is being chanted for the souls of the servant of God, *Peggy Smyrnes-Williams (40 days), Peter Petropoulos (1 year) and TRISAGION SERVICE for Theodore Andrews (21 years).*

**PLEASE JOIN US** for coffee and fellowship following services in the Large Hall, hosted by GOYA and sponsored by the Williams and Petropoulos families.

#### THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- **Monday, Nov 22:** GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov 23:** GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, Nov 25:** HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE  
St. Katherine the Great Martyr Orthros 9:00 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- **Saturday, Nov 27:** We regret to confirm that there will NOT be a Cathedral Ball that was noted on the November calendar earlier this month.

### Festival Cooking Update

Calling all peelers, slicers and helpers! We are a "GO" for making our festival **Moussaka** December 2, 3 and 4. Thursday and Friday, December 2nd and 3rd, we will be peeling, slicing and baking the eggplant. Saturday we will be making the bechamel sauce and assembling the pans. With that done we can say, "One done, 12 more to go!"

ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 – SPECIAL HYMNS AND READINGS

Orthros Gospel 11

Plagal First (5<sup>th</sup>) Tone

Today's special hymns at the Small Entrance are focused primarily on the Feastday of the Entrance of the Theotokos, without neglecting the Sunday Resurrection hymns proper to this week's tone. First, we hear: Σήμερον τῆς εὐδοκίας Θεοῦ τὸ προοίμιον, καὶ τῆς τῶν ἀνθρώπων σωτηρίας ἢ προκήρυξις. Ἐν Ναῶ τοῦ Θεοῦ τρανῶς ἢ Παρθένος δαίκενται, καὶ τὸν Χριστὸν τοῖς πᾶσι προκαταγγέλλεται. Αὐτῇ καὶ ἡμεῖς μεγαλοφώνως βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε τῆς οἰκονομίας τοῦ Κτίστου ἢ ἐκπλήρωσις.

Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation." [SD]

Next, we hear the usual Entrance Hymn:

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα. Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

*This week's Resurrection Hymn follows (Tone 5):*

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ. Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection. [SD]

*The festal hymn is repeated. Then, the Kontakion of the Feast is chanted:*

Ὁ καθαρῶτατος ναὸς τοῦ Σωτῆρος, ἢ πολυτίμητος παστὰς καὶ Παρθένος, τὸ ἱερὸν θησαύρισμα τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ, σήμερον εἰσάγεται, ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ Κυρίου, τὴν χάριν συνεισάγουσα, τὴν ἐν Πνεύματι Θείῳ· ἦν ἀνυμνοῦσιν Ἄγγελοι Θεοῦ· Αὕτη ὑπάρχει σκηνὴ ἐπουράνιος. The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she. [SD]

**TODAY'S EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 9:1-7.** Ἀδελφοί, εἶχεν ἡ πρώτη σκηνὴ δικαιοῦματα λατρείας τό τε Ἅγιον κοσμικόν. Σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη ἐν ἧ ἦτε λυχνία καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων, ἣτις λέγεται Ἅγια. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ δεύτερον καταπέτασμα σκηνὴ ἡ λεγομένη Ἅγια Ἁγίων, χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα θυμιατήριον καὶ τὴν κιβωτὸν τῆς διαθήκης περικεκαλυμμένην πάντοθεν χρυσίῳ, ἐν ἧ στάμνος χρυσεῖ ἔχουσα τὸ μάννα καὶ ἡ ράβδος Ἀαρὼν ἡ βλαστήσασα καὶ αἱ πλάκες τῆς διαθήκης, ὑπεράνω δὲ αὐτῆς Χερουβὶμ δόξης κατασκιάζοντα τὸ ἱλαστήριον· περὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔστι νῦν λέγειν κατὰ μέρος. Τούτων δὲ οὕτω κατεσκευασμένων εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίσαισι οἱ ἱερεῖς τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες, εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἅπαξ τοῦ ἔνιαυτοῦ μόνος ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, οὐ χωρὶς αἵματος, ὃ προσφέρει ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἀγνοημάτων.

Brethren, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people. [RSV]

**TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.** Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσῆλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς κώμην τινά· γυνή δέ τις ὀνόματι Μάρθα ὑπεδέξατο αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς. Καὶ τῆδε ἦν ἀδελφή καλουμένη Μαρία, ἣ καὶ παρακαθίσασα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἤκουε τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ. Ἡ δὲ Μάρθα περιεσπᾶτο περὶ πολλήν διακονίαν· ἐπιστάσα δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, οὐ μέλει σοι ὅτι ἡ ἀδελφή μου μόνην με κατέλιπε διακονεῖν; εἰπέ οὖν αὐτῇ ἵνα μοι συναντιλάβηται. Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Μάρθα Μάρθα, μεριμᾶς καὶ τυρβάζῃ περὶ πολλά· ἐνὸς δέ ἐστι 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 ἡ βαστάσασά σε καὶ μαστοὶ οὓς ἐθήλασας, αὐτὸς δὲ εἶπε· μενουῖνγε μακάριοι οἱ ἀκούοντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ φυλάσσοντες αὐτόν.

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]

## **FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS (NOVEMBER 21)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on November 21 each year. The Feast commemorates an important event in the life of the Virgin Mary, when, as a young child, she entered the Temple in Jerusalem.

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion. According to this account, when Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the sight of the torches, the young Mary followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.

The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days." Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.

The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25.



### ICON OF THE FEAST

The icon of the feast tells the story of Mary's entry into the Temple. The high Priest, Zacharias, is in his priestly robes standing on the step of the Temple. His arms are outstretched, ready to greet and receive the Virgin. Mary is shown as a small child, standing before Zacharias with her arms reaching up to him. In some icons the young maidens who served as her escort are depicted standing behind her. Also, we see her parents, Joachim and Anna, offering their child to God and His divine service. In the upper center portion of the icon, the Virgin is seated on the steps of the Holy of Holies. An angel is there, attending to the one chosen by God to bring the Savior into the world.

### ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the Feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At Vespers: Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35; I Kings 7:51, 8:1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-11; Ezekiel 43:27—44:4. At the Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56. At the Divine Liturgy: Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

### HYMNS OF THE FEAST

**Apolytikion** (Fourth Tone) Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly made manifest in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

**Kontakion** (Fourth Tone) Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

### RESOURCES

*Festival Icons for the Christian Year* by John Baggley (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000), pp. 16-20

*The Festal Menaion*. Translated by Mother Mary (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1969) pp. 51-52

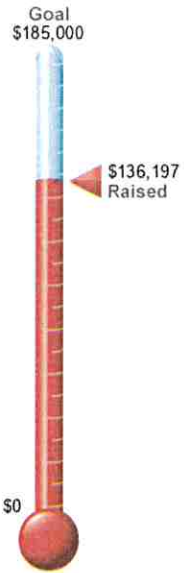
*The Incarnate God: The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary*, Catherine Aslanoff, editor and Paul Meyendorff, translator (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995)

*The Synaxarion: The Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church, Vol. 2*, compiled by Hieromonk Makarios of Simonos Petra and translated from the French by Christopher Hookway (Chalkidike, Greece: Holy Convent of the Annunciation of Our Lady, 1999) pp. 193-196.

© 2014 Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. (Reproduced by permission.)

This site has been made possible by a grant from [Leadership 100](#).

**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>
<b>Total Stewards</b>	<b>295 (GOAL 300)</b>
<b>Total Pledged</b>	<b>\$136,197.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)</b>
<b>Avg. Pledge</b>	<b>\$461.68</b>

## GOYA NEWS

**ANGELS** - Christmas Angels for the Neighborhood Resilience Project are available today. Please visit the GOYA table after church and help make a child's Christmas brighter. This is one of GOYA's outreach projects. Please plan on bringing your wrapped gift or gift card to church by Sunday, December 12. Thank you for helping make a difference in a child's life. For more information on receiving an angel you may call/text Linda Hages at 412-523-7938.

**Chocolate Sale** - SARRIS Christmas Chocolate orders are being taken today through Sunday, November 28. Please stop by the GOYA table during coffee hour and place your order or contact any GOYAn. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts.



### From the Church School Desk:

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.

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

We are looking for hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. for Neighborhood Resilience Project **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*



**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 Aliko Andrews 412-833-4596  
Joanne Melacrinos 412-563-4609

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR !**



## **Memorial Christmas Tree Ornament**

Remember your loved one by purchasing a Christmas ornament in their memory. It will be placed on the Christmas tree in the foyer during the Christmas season. **\$10 per name.** After Christmas, you may keep the ornament.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Loved one: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by Philoptochos of St. Nicholas. Checks payable to Philoptochos of St. Nicholas.

Please send money/ check to the church office.

## NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 <b>Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple</b> Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	22 <b>GOYA</b> <b>Girls Basketball</b> 6:30 p.m..	23 <b>GOYA</b> <b>Boys Basketball</b> 7:00 p.m.	24	25 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>  <b>St. Katherine the Great Martyr</b> Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	26	27  <b>NO GREEK SCHOOL</b>
28 <b>13th Sunday of Luke</b> Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	29 <b>GOYA</b> <b>Girls Basketball</b> 6:30 p.m..	30 <b>GOYA</b> <b>Boys Basketball</b> 7:00 p.m.				

### Wi-Fi at St. Nicholas Cathedral

Network: Guest/Visitor  
 Password: StNicksvisitor