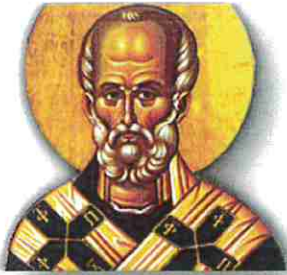


JANUARY 2, 2022 – Sunday before Epiphany – Forefeast of Theophany

Sylvester, Pope of Rome; Cosmas, Archbishop of Constantinople; Juliana the Righteous

Tone 3

Orthros Gospel 6



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: Amy Hogg

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: 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/ and click on "Live Streaming Click Here."

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

PLEASE JOIN US for coffee and fellowship following services in the Small Hall, hosted by GOYA.

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- **Monday, Jan 3:** GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Jan 4:** GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Jan 5:** Eve of Theophany Vespers Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. w/Great Agiasmos
- **Thursday, Jan 6:** Theophany of Our Lord God & Savior Jesus Christ
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. w/ Great Agiasmos
- **Friday, Jan 7:** Synaxis of St John the Baptist Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- **Saturday, Jan. 8:** Greek School 10:00 a.m. / Souzoukakia Prep.
- **Sunday, Jan 9:** Memorial Service for Ernie Mandros (1 year) / Souzoukakia Prep.

SPECIAL HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

First to be chanted as the clergy exit the Altar at the Small Entrance is the Resurrection Apolytikion (Tone 3):

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιásthω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἧδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος. Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy. [SD]

Then, the usual Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) in Tone 2 is chanted: Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι Ἀλληλούϊα. "Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us O Son of God, who arose from the dead. We sing to you, Alleluia."

The Resurrection Apolytikion is repeated, followed by the hymn for the Forefeast of Theophany:

Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλὼν, καὶ εὐτρεπίζου Νεφθαλεμί. Ἰορδάνη ποταμέ, στήθι ὑπόδεξαι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρχόμενον τὸν Δεσπότην. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Ἀδὰμ σὺν τῇ Προμήτορι, μὴ κρύπτετε ἑαυτοὺς, ὡς ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρὶν, καὶ γὰρ γυμνοὺς ἰδὼν ὑμᾶς ἐπέφανεν, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολὴν, Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσαι. O Zebulon, prepare, and be ready, Naphtali. * Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive * the Master who is coming to be baptized. * Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. * No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; * for having seen you naked He has appeared * to clothe you in your former vesture. * The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew * the entire creation.

Next, we hear the Apolytikion for the patron saint of our Church:

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω 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, the Kontakion in Tone 4 for the Forefeast of Theophany is chanted:

Ἐν τοῖς ρείθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονῶς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ. Μὴ δειλιάσης βαπτίσαι με, σῶσαι γὰρ ἦκω, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον. In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all cries to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4: 5-8: Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. [RSV]

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8: The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." [RSV]

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	313 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$144,749.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$670.13

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Upcoming Events:

Attention All Parish Organizations and Greater Pittsburgh Hellenic Organizations! St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's **Vasilopita Cutting will be on Sunday, January 9, 2022**. Please have a representative from your organization present to receive your Vasilopita piece. Proceeds to Benefit St. Basil's Academy.

MEETINGS:

A Philoptochos **Board Meeting** will be held **Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** in the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Conference Room.

GOYA NEWS

PASTICHIO FOR SALE – This year the 9 by 13 pans are \$35. Checks can be made to St. Nicholas GOYA. Cash is also acceptable. For pastichio pickups, call the church office or contact Alea Melacrinou Mavrogeorgis via text 412 726-5940. Please identify who you are in a detailed message.



From the Church School Desk:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School is finishing up 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!

Looking forward to seeing everyone January 9th!

Yours in Christ
Miss Michelle

FOOD FESTIVAL COOKING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Souzoukakia	Saturday, Sunday, Monday, January 8,9 and 10
Spanakopita	Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, January 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Pasta Flora	Sunday and Monday, January 30, 31

2022 Food Festival Preparations Happy New Year All! Let's ring in the New Year this coming weekend **January 8, 9 and 10** as we begin our January food festival preparations starting with

Souzoukakia:

Saturday, 9am to 4 pm; Sunday, 12 noon to 4pm; Monday, 9am to 8pm
(Evening cooking unless we finish earlier).

Theophany & the Blessing of the Waters

“WHAT IS THEOPHANY?” Every year on January 5 & 6 we celebrate the great feastday of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist presents us with a great mystery of God: “He who is the Master of all is baptized by a servant, and He gives mankind cleansing through water.”

“WHAT IS A HOUSE BLESSING?” In celebration of Theophany, Orthodox Christians invite Christ not only into their hearts, but also their homes. We call upon Him to bring the blessings and spiritual cleansing of the Jordan into our daily lives. We do this each year by having the priest bless our homes with the Holy Water from the service of Theophany, offering prayers for our health, our family, and the Lord’s abundant blessings in the coming year.

“WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?” When Fr. Christopher visits, please have ready: 1) a list of names of your family members, 2) an icon. He will begin the service in the dining room or in the area of your home where you keep your icons, and then he will ask you to guide him around the house so that he may sprinkle the Holy Water throughout it. During the service, please turn off televisions, radios, etc., and silence your cell phones, so that full concentration may be given to the service.

“WHAT ABOUT BUSINESSES?” You may also request a blessing for your office or business. What better way to offer thanks to the Lord for your livelihood which He provides and to ask for His continued blessings upon it?

BLESSING OF HOMES: After the Holy Water Service on January 6, Fr. Christopher will begin blessing the homes of our parish with holy water. This year he will be blessing homes by appointment from January 6 on.

IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED, please fill out this form and return it to the church office. If you are mailing it, please address it to Fr. Christopher and mark it ATTN: HOUSE BLESSING. He will call you to schedule a time for your house blessing.

Name: _____

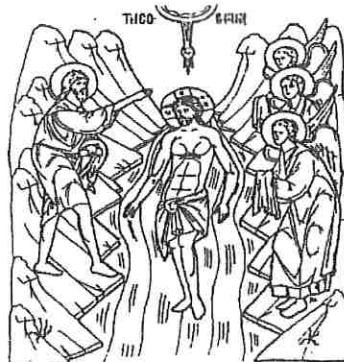
Telephone: _____

Address: _____

PREFERRED TIME OF VISIT: Morning

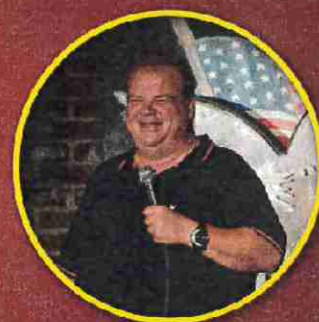
Afternoon

Evening



ANGELO TSAROUCHAS

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 4TH**



**SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
419 SOUTH DITHRIDGE ST.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213**

**DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM
SHOW STARTS AT 8PM**



**FOR TICKETS CONTACT:
412-682-3866
OPTION 3 FOR OFFICE MANAGER
GEORGIO: 330-219-4362
WWW.GREEKPROMOTIONSLIVE.COM**

PART OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE CHURCH.

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Sunday before Epiphany Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	3 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	4 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	5 Eve of Theophany Vespers Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. w/Great Agiasmos	6 Theophany of our Lord God & Savior Jesus Christ Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. w/Great Agiasmos	7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	8 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
9 Sunday after Epiphany Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Vasilopita Cutting Parish Council Affirmation of Office GOYA GIRLS BB	10 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	11 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	12 Orthodoxy Now (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.	13	14	15 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
					GOYA Basketball Tournament at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church (Reading, PA)	
16 12th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. GOYA away Tournament	17 St Anthony the Great Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	18 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	19 Orthodoxy Now (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.	20	21	22 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
23 14th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	24 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	25 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	26 Orthodoxy Now (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.	27	28	29 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
30 The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian & John Chrysostom Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	31 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.					