

DECEMBER 12, 2021 –Eleventh Sunday of Luke

The Holy Forefathers of Christ. Ss. Spyridon the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Trimythous; the holy Martyr Synetos; Hieromartyr Alexander, Archbishop of Jerusalem; and the Venerable Amonathas and Anthos.

Tone 8 (Plagal 4th)

Orthros Gospel 3



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:

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>

TODAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE is being chanted for the soul of the servant of God, **MARIA PAPANASTASIOU**, (1 year). May God grant her eternal rest.

**TODAY: STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY,
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 11:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m., and
CHURCH BAZAAR**

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- Monday, Dec. 13: GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 14: GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 15: Orthodoxy 101 (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 17: GAPA Christmas Dinner/Dance Crowne Plaza Hotel Mt. Lebanon
- Saturday, Dec. 18: Greek School 10:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS PARTY
- Sunday, Dec. 19: Sunday School Christmas Pageant
Memorial Service for Nick Pandeladis (5 years)

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TODAY'S SPECIAL HYMNS AND READINGS:

First to be chanted as the priest exits the Altar at the Small Entrance is the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 8:
Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι. You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You. [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.”

After this, the Resurrection Apolytikion is repeated. Then, the Apolytikion for the Holy Forefathers is heard:

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, οἱ ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλείης, ἡ ἀσπόρως τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν. You justified the forefathers in faith, and through them betrothed yourself aforetime to the Church taken from out of the Gentiles. The saints boast in glory. For from their seed, there exists a noble crop, who is she who without seed has given You birth. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Next, the Apolytikion for St. Spyridon the Wonderworker is chanted: Τῆς Συνόδου τῆς πρώτης ἀνεδείχθης ὑπέρμαχος, καὶ θαυματουργὸς θεοφόρε, Σπυρίδων Πατὴρ ἡμῶν· διὸ νεκρᾶ σὺ ἐν τάφῳ προσφωνεῖς, καὶ ὄφιν εἰς χρυσοῦν μετέβαλες· καὶ ἐν τῷ μέλπειν τὰς ἀγίας σου εὐχάς, Ἀγγέλους ἔσχες συλλειτουργοῦντάς σοι Ἱερώτατε· Δόξα τῷ σὲ δοξάσαντι, δόξα τῷ σὲ στεφανώσαντι· δόξα τῷ ἐνεργοῦντι διὰ σοῦ πᾶσιν ἰάματα. You were a champion of the First Ecumenical Council, O Spyridon, our God-bearing Father and worker of miracles. You addressed your daughter who was dead and entombed, and you opportunely turned a snake into gold. There were Angels celebrating along with you, O sacred man, when you served the holy Liturgy. Glory to Christ who glorified you! Glory to Him who put a crown on you! Glory to Him who through you gives cures and healing to all! [SD]

Then, 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 Nativity of Christ (Dec. 25) is chanted:

Ἡ Παρθένοσ σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν. Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. Dance for joy upon hearing this, all the world, and with the angels and the shepherds glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest as a young Child, the pre-eternal God.

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 9:8-19. Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.

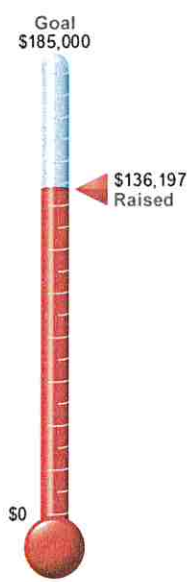
Therefore, it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart. [RSV]

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: Luke 14: 16-24. The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many; and at the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'" [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	299 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$136,197.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$455.51

GOYA NEWS

A new batch of pastichio was made and assembled with love by our St. Nicholas GOYANS! This a great gift for the holidays or served on your holiday table. **This year the 9 by 13 pans are \$35.** Checks can be made to St. Nicholas GOYA. Cash is also acceptable. **The pastichio will be available at the St. Nicholas Bazaar, this Sunday. For pastichio pickups, call the church office or contact Alea Melacrinos Mavrogeorgis via text 412 726-5940. Please identify who you are in a detailed message.**

A special thank you to Dean Panagulias, Alice Gary, John Edgos, the GOYA moms, the GOYA advisors and all those who helped with the scheduling for this GOYA project!!!!

Christmas Angels - Angels are due today. Bring your wrapped gift or gift card to the GOYA table at the Bazaar. Thank you to everyone who picked up a Christmas Angel for the Neighborhood Resilience Project. This is one of GOYA's outreach projects. Thank you for helping make a difference in a child's and senior citizen's life.

Chocolate Sale - Chocolate orders are here today. Thank you for supporting our SARRIS Christmas Chocolate fundraiser.



From the Church School Desk:

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

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

TODAY

During Church School for Nursery-6th 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 (Kotsagrelou) Walker at 412-398-6094

Celebrating the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821



Saturday, December 18, 2021 | 7 p.m.

The 1826 Greek Relief Committee of Pittsburgh

Sunday, December 19, 2021 | 7 p.m.

The Women Philhellenes in the Greek
Revolution of 1821

LIVESTREAM

[pahellenicfoundation.org/
2021/Philhellenes](http://pahellenicfoundation.org/2021/Philhellenes)



CO-SPONSORS:

American Hellenic Foundation of Western PA

European Art Center of Greece (EUARCE)

Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs

English | French | Greek | Italian | Romanian | Swiss | Room Committees

University Center for International Studies



QUESTIONS?

contact@pahellenicfoundation.org



**It's Back!!!
St. Nicholas Annual Bazaar
TODAY
Following The Divine Liturgy**

**Food - Drinks - Games -
Gold Fish - Balloons - and so much more!!**

**Oh Yeah....And let's not forget about those delicious
Loukoumades!!!**

**Hope our surprise visitor from the North Pole doesn't
eat all the Loukoumades.**

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Chairpersons:
Lenna Cominos,
Keli Frentzos, and
Lisa Kristian



St. Nicholas Food Festival Cooking Schedule for 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



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.

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 Ailiki Andrews 412-833-4596
Joanne Melacrhos 412-563-4609

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.GREEKPROMOTIONS.LIVE.COM



PART OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE CHURCH.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Bazaar follows <hr/> Parish Council Elections 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. <hr/> Stewardship Sunday	GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	Orthodoxy 101 (via Zoom) 7:30 p.m.			Greek School 10:00 a.m. Christmas Party
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday Before Nativity Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant <hr/> GOYA Xmas Party 1:00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. <hr/> GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m..	GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	No program scheduled		Christmas Eve Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00 p.m. <hr/> OFFICE CLOSED	HOLY NATIVITY Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Jan
Sunday After Nativity 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.	No program scheduled			New Year's Day Circumcision of Christ and St. Basil the Great Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Wi-Fi at St. Nicholas Cathedral

Network: Guest/Visitor
 Password: StNicksvisitor