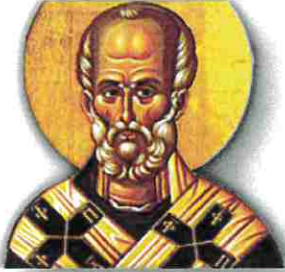


December 19, 2021 – Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

Commemorating all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to the genealogy recorded by the Evangelist Luke (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children. Also: Boniface the Merciful of Tarsus, Eutychios the Martyr of Thessaloniki, and Aglaia (Aglaia).

First Tone

Orthros Gospel 4



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, **NICK PANDELADIS** (5 years). May God grant him eternal rest.

PLEASE JOIN US for coffee and fellowship following services in the Small Hall, hosted by GOYA and sponsored by Papanastasiou/Chrysanthis Families IMO of Maria Papanastasiou.

TODAY: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT / GOYA CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- **Monday, Dec. 20:** GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.
Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 21:** GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil 6:00 p.m.
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- **Saturday, Dec. 25:** HOLY NATIVITY Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- **Sunday, Dec. 26:** Memorial Service for Pagonitsa "Nitsa" Hages (40 days).

December 19, 2021 – Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

Commemorating all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to the genealogy recorded by the Evangelist Luke (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children. Also: Boniface the Merciful of Tarsus, Eutychios the Martyr of Thessaloniki, and Aglais (Aglaia).

First Tone

Orthros Gospel 4

SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

First to be chanted is the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 1: Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν· διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι ζωοδότα. Δόξα τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε φιλόανθρωπε. The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. For this reason, were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Lifegiver, "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves humankind!"

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, followed by the Apolytikion for the Forefeast of the Nativity:

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἡνοικταὶ πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνηθη ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκεῖνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image. [SD]

Next, we hear the hymn for the Holy Forefathers of Christ:

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι τρεῖς παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ Προφήτης Δανιὴλ, λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο, ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame the three Holy Youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the Prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions, as though they were sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls

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

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. 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.

Finally, the Kontakion in Tone 4 (for the time prior to 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: Hebrews 11: 9-10, 32-40. Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

TODAY'S GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 1-25. The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of Sheal'tiel, and Sheal'tiel the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'uel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded

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	304 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$137,749.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$453.12

GOYA NEWS

Christmas Angels - 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 and Candle Sale - Thank you for supporting our SARRIS Christmas Chocolate and Chestnut Hill Candle fundraisers.

Christmas Party - GOYA Christmas party today after Liturgy in the small hall. Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

PASTICHIO FOR SALE - 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.



From the Church School Desk:

The Church School children will present their **Christmas Pageant** TODAY.

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

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



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: _____

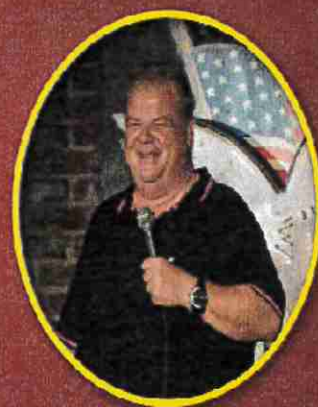
Loved one: _____

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

Please send money/ check to the church office.

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.

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

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 Sunday Before Nativity Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant ----- GOYA Xmas Party 1:00 p.m.	20 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. ----- GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m..	21 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	22 No program scheduled	23	24 Christmas Eve Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00 p.m. ----- OFFICE CLOSED	25 HOLY NATIVITY Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
26 Sunday After Nativity Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	27 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	28 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	29 No program scheduled	30	31	1 Jan 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