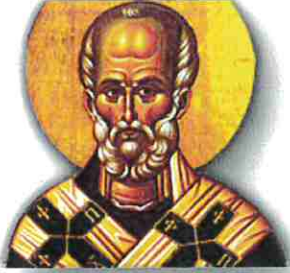


DECEMBER 26, 2021 – SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST:
SYNAXIS IN HONOR OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

ALSO: The holy and righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,
and James (Iakovos) the Brother of the Lord

Tone 2

Orthros Gospel 5



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, **PAGONITSA "NITSA" HAGES** (40 days). May God grant her eternal rest.

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

As I'm sure we are aware, a new variant of Covid-19 (Omicron) has taken over and it is far easier to catch than previous ones. As a consequence, we strongly encourage everyone who comes to church to be masked, even people who are fully vaccinated. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- **Monday, Dec. 27:** GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 28:** GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, Dec. 31:** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- **Saturday, Jan. 1:** Circumcision of Christ and St Basil the Great
Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

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TODAY'S SPECIAL HYMNS AND READINGS

As the clergy exit the Altar at the Small Entrance, we hear the Apolytikion for the Nativity of Christ:

Ἡ Γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε δόξα σοι. Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. [SD]

After the usual Entrance Hymn for Sundays is chanted by the clergy, we hear this week's Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 2:

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ Ζωὴ ἡ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος, ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι. When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

Then, the Christmas hymn is repeated. After this, we hear the hymn honoring the Ancestors of God:

Εὐαγγελίζου Ἰωσήφ, τῷ Δαυὶδ τὰ θαύματα τῷ Θεοπάτορι· Παρθένον εἶδες κυοφορήσασαν, μετὰ Μάγων προσεκύνησας, μετὰ Ποιμένων ἐδοξολόγησας, δι' Ἀγγέλου χρηματισθεῖς. Ἰκέτετε Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν. Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls. [SD]

Finally, the beautiful Christmas Kontakion is chanted:

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερουσίον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι· δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.
On this day the Virgin gives birth to the Super-essential. To the Unapproachable, earth is providing the grotto. Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. Following a star, the Magi are still proceeding. He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. [SD]

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING: GALATIANS 1:11-19. Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 2:13-23. When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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	309 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$142,949.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$667.99



From the Church School Desk:

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!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

GOYA NEWS

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 Melacrinou Mavrogeorgis via text 412 726-5940. Please identify who you are in a detailed message.

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
DEC 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 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR	1 New Year's Day/St. Basil the Great/Circumcision of Christ. Orthros 8:45 a.m., Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10 am. Please welcome our honored guest: Bishop Joachim of Amisoss
2 Sunday before <u>Epiphany</u> Orthros 8:45 am 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 <u>Theophany</u> Vespers Divine Liturgy 6 p.m. w/Great Agiasmos	6 Theophany of our Lord God & Savior Jesus <u>Christ</u> Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. w/Great Agiasmos	7 Synaxis of St. <u>John the Baptist</u> Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	8 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
9 Sunday after <u>Epiphany</u> Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Cutting of Vasilopita/Church School resumes; P.C. Affirmation of <u>Office</u> GOYA.GIRLS BB	10 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	11 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	12 Orthodoxy Now On Zoom 7:30 p.m.	13	14 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> GOYA Basketball Tournament At Ss. Constantine and Helen Church, Reading, PA </div>	15 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
16 12th Sunday of <u>Luke</u> Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. GOYA away Tournament	17 St. Anthony the Great.: Orth. 9 a.m. Div. Liturgy 10 a.m.; Parish Council Mtg. 7 pm; Girls B'ball 6:30 pm	18 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	19 Orthodoxy 101 On Zoom 7:30 p.m.	20	21	22 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
23 14th Sunday of <u>Luke</u> Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	24 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.	25 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	26 Orthodoxy 101 On Zoom 7:30 p.m.	27	28	29 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
30 <u>The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom</u> Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	31 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 6:30 p.m.					