

JANUARY 01, 2023—The Circumcision of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

Our Father among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia: Gregory, Bishop of Nazianzus, father of Gregory the Theologian; Emmeleia, mother of Basil the Great

Tone 4

Orthros Gospel 7



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: Roseanne Yu

Questions about our Parish? Email church@stnickspgh.org or call 412-682-3866

Our Sunday worship schedule: Sept 11 – 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>

TODAY: HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS

- Monday, Jan 2, 2023: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- Tuesday, Jan 3, 2023: GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan 4, 2023: GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan 5, 2023: Eve of Theophany
Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30 a.m.
Agiasmos (Water Blessing) follows
Holy Theophany (Epiphany)
Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Great Blessing of the Waters follows
- Friday, Jan 6, 2023: St. John the Baptist
Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Greek School 10:00 a.m.
Raise the Roof Glendi 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan 7, 2023:

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SPECIAL HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY:

A special version of the hymn "Save us, O Son of God" proper to the Feast is chanted today:

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ σαρκὶ περιτμηθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα. Save us, O Son of God, who were circumcised in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

First to be chanted as the priest exits the Altar at the Small Entrance is the Festal Anthem in Tone 1: Μορφὴν ἀναλλοιώτως ἀνθρωπίνην προσέλαβες, Θεὸς ὢν κατ' οὐσίαν, πολυεύσπλαγχνε Κύριε; καὶ Νόμον ἐκπληρῶν, περιτομήν, θελήσει καταδέχῃ σαρκικὴν, ὅπως παύσης τὰ σκιώδη, καὶ περιέλῃς τὸ κάλυμμα τῶν παθῶν ἡμῶν.

Δόξα τῇ ἀγαθότητι τῇ σῇ, δόξα τῇ εὐσπλαγχνίᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ ἀνεκφράστῳ Λόγῳ συγκαταβάσει σου.

In essence being God, most-compassionate Master, You assumed human nature without transmutation. Fulfilling the Law, of Your own will You accepted circumcision in the flesh, to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; glory to Your compassion; glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word.

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 in Tone 4 is heard next:

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριά, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἡγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world. [SD]

This is followed by the hymn honoring St. Basil the Great:

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος σου, ὡς δεξαμένην τὸν λόγον σου, δι' οὗ θεοπρεπῶς ἐδογματίσας, τὴν φύσιν τῶν ὄντων ἐτράνωσας, τὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἦθη κατεκόσμησας, Βασίλειον ἱεράτευμα, Πάτερ Ὅσιε, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἱκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted your word, through which you taught the dogmas befitting God, you expounded on the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society. A royal priesthood! Devout father Basil, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.

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

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιίμνῃ 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 3 for today's feast is chanted:

Ὁ τῶν ὅλων Κύριος, περιτομὴν ὑπομένει, καὶ βροτῶν τὰ πταίσματα, ὡς ἀγαθὸς περιτέμνει δίδωσι τὴν σωτηρίαν σήμερον κόσμῳ χαίρει δὲ ἐν τοῖς ὑψίστοις καὶ ὁ τοῦ Κτίστου, ἱεράρχης καὶ φωσφόρος, ὁ θεῖος μύστης Χριστοῦ Βασίλειος.

As the Master over all has undergone circumcision, so He cuts away the sins of humankind in His goodness. On this day, upon the world He bestows salvation. And on high does the Creator's hierarch Basil now rejoice, for he is known as a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 2: 8-12

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 20-21; 40-52

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

January 6: The Epiphany (Theophany) of the Lord

Feastday of our Lord's Baptism, First Public Appearance, and the First Manifestation of the Holy Trinity



Introduction

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

Biblical Story

The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ’s baptism in the Jordan was “theophany,” a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord’s public ministry. It was also a “theophany” in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father’s testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

The theme of “manifestation” or “revelation” is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, “Christ has appeared and enlightened the world.” Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

Icon of the Feast

The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist (1) who is dressed in camel's hair and has the appearance of one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism.



1. Saint John the Baptist conducts the Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (detail).



2. The Heavens open, the voice of the Father is heard, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon Christ (detail).

In the center of the icon is Christ being baptized in the Jordan. He is standing in the water wearing a waistcloth, and with His right hand He is blessing the waters of the Jordan. Above His head is the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Him (2). At the top of the icon, a semicircle depicts the opening of the Heavens and the voice of the Father.



3. Angels of the Lord gathered on the shore of the Jordan River give praises to Christ (detail).



4. *An angel of the Lord receives Christ as He comes out of the water (detail).*

On the right side of the icon angels are shown with their heads bowed in reverence to Christ (3). They are prepared to receive Him as He comes out of the water (4).

The Orthodox Celebration of the Feast of Epiphany

The celebration of this Feast of our Lord begins on January 5, a day known as the Forefeast of Theophany. Depending on the day of the week, this could be an evening service with Vespers followed by the Liturgy of Saint Basil or a morning service with Matins and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. Following the service on January 5, the service of the Blessing of the Waters is conducted. Prior to the evening or morning service the Royal Hours with the Typika are said.

On January 6, the day of the Feast, the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is conducted preceded by Matins and followed by the second Blessing of the Waters.

The Blessing of the Waters is conducted in the church; however in many places throughout the world services are conducted near open bodies of water. As a sign of blessing as Christ blessed the Jordan, holy water is poured into the body of water. An associated tradition has been the tossing of a cross into the water to be retrieved by divers.

The holy water from the church is given to the faithful to consume and to use in blessing their homes. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit the homes of parishioners and conduct a service of blessing using the holy water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany.

Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At the Vespers/Divine Liturgy on January 5: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Luke 3:1-18. At the Divine Liturgy on January 6: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Matthew 3:13-17.

Resources: *The Festal Menaion. Translated by Mother Mary* (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1969) pp. 55-59.

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).

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

Hymns from Theophany

Apolytikion: (First Tone) Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Kontakion: (Fourth Tone) Today You appeared to the world, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us as in fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

2023 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex
(Just ask a member of Parish Council)

If you have already submitted your 2023 Stewardship Commitment, THANK YOU! If not, please take the time to make 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!!



Giving Thanks,
**Eucharistic
Stewardship**

<u>2022</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	302 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$145,424.00 GOAL (\$225,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$723.50

**May the Spirit of Christmas
fill our lives with love, peace,
and joy
throughout the New Year.**

---St. Nicholas Sixty Club

GOYA NEWS

Pastitsio Sale - GOYA is selling their annual frozen 9 by 13 pans of Pastitsio for \$35.00. Please stop by the GOYA table to purchase. For Pastitsio pickups, call the church office or contact Alea Melacrinis Mavrogeorgis via text 412-726-5940. Please identify who you are in a detailed message. Checks can be made to St. Nicholas GOYA or cash is also acceptable.



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's Project Bundle-up**. Thanks in advance for your warm winter accessories and teaching the children the gift of giving.

On behalf of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School teachers and students have a
Happy & Healthy New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle



PROJECT BUNDLE UP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES & GLOVES
FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT'S
PROJECT BUNDLE UP!



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.

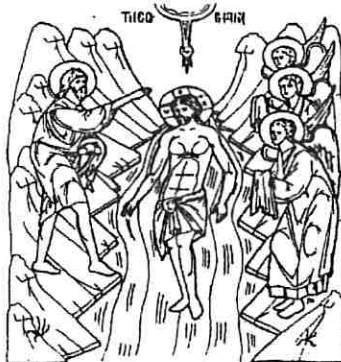
IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED, please fill out this form and return it to the church office. If you are mailing it, please address it to Fr. Christopher and mark it ATTN: HOUSE BLESSING. He will call you to schedule a time for your house blessing.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

PREFERRED TIME OF VISIT: Morning Afternoon Evening



Cathedral Ceiling Repair Update #11, December 29

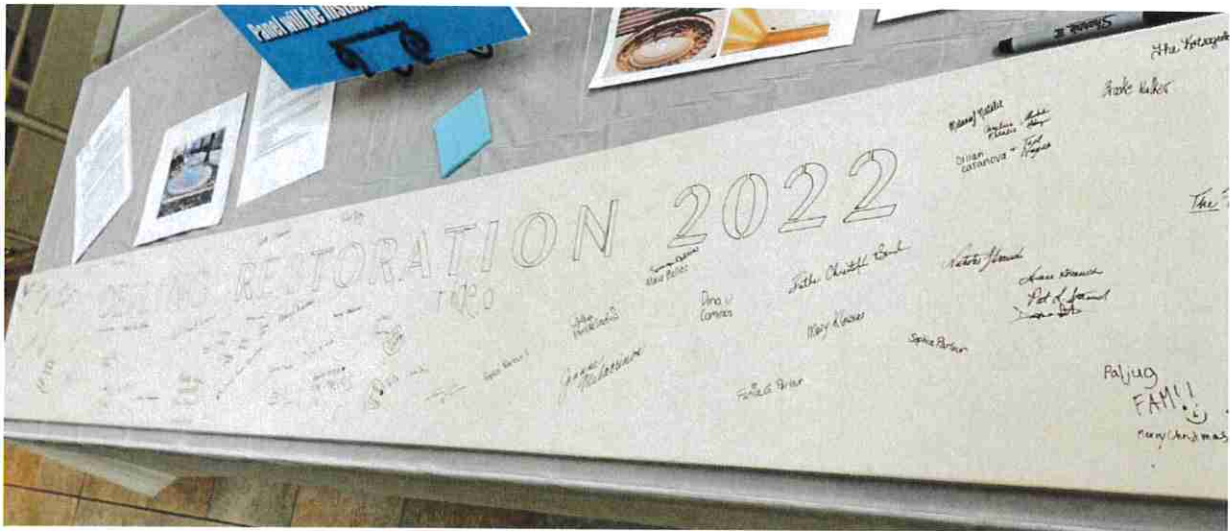
Fundraising Efforts

The goal for the ceiling fundraising effort is to raise \$200,000. Raising that amount of money seems like a daunting task. However, thanks to you, we are well along the way toward realizing our goal. To raise the \$200,000, we will be running both a capital campaign and a series of fundraising events. The events will be for both within our community and for the general public.

Capital Campaign

The capital campaign was kicked off with an appeal letter to all parishioners. The response to this letter has been great, with \$114,000 donated or pledged to date (Thank You!). The donor form for the ceiling restoration is attached if you would like to contribute or make a pledge.

As a memento of the ceiling project, a construction board was available for all donors and project volunteers to sign including signatures of your family members. **This weekend is the last chance to sign the board because it will be installed on January 3rd.** The scaffolding starts to be torn down on January 3rd. It will be installed in a non-visible location on the new ceiling and act as a permanent connection between your family and your St. Nicholas Cathedral.



Also, for those who wish, engraved pavers can be installed in the existing circle in the parklet along Forbes Ave. Pavers are available at the \$1,250, \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$25,000 level. A pledged donation can be paid over a two-year period. To date, 23 granite blocks and pavers have been spoken for.

Fundraising Events and Activities

There are three major events coming up in the next 2 months, so save the dates. The proceeds from these events will go toward funding the Ceiling Restoration.

- **Raise the Roof Glendi** – January 7 – a young adult-oriented dance with a Greek band, mezethes, bar, and lots of Greek dancing.
- **Greek2Go** – January 21 - Resurrecting the event that got the Cathedral finances through the pandemic with on-line takeout orders.
- **Manthytrea Educational Society Annual Vlahokerasiotiki Makaronada Dinner / Dance** – This year, all proceeds from the event will be donated to the Ceiling Restoration. In addition, the Society will match the proceeds donation, doubling the amount for the project.

The repair of the ceiling was a totally unanticipated problem. Though the repair costs are high, the St. Nicholas parish has devoted parishioners and resources to address the problem and have a Sanctuary that will provide us with another 100 years of worship services.

Repair Progress

We have made excellent progress over the past several weeks. On December 27, the painting was completed! This effort included painting several patches of the walls. These wall areas were included in the project because they had peeling paint and were easily accessible with the scaffolding in place. The pictures below show both the amount of detail involved in the painting and the quality of the finished product.



Sample of plaster detail in the ceiling and the multi-color paint scheme



Sample of new surface finish. The forward portion of this picture is the section the fell onto the pews and aisle

As the painting was completing, the cleanup and the removal of protective coatings has started. The plastic barrier protecting the stained-glass windows and closing off the altar has been removed. The area on top of the scaffolding has been cleaned and the flooring over the scaffolding has been removed.



Another sample of new surface finish and paint. This portion of ceiling that was on the verge of falling and where the failed ceiling beam was located. A large hole was cut out for the repair.

Our major contractors, NIKO Contracting and Patrinos Painting, gave us excellent response times, in that whenever their services were needed, they were there the next day. We did not have the wait times that typically extend a project schedule.

What Is Left to Complete

Disassembly and removal of the scaffold is scheduled to start on January 3. Then, during the following week, the protective enclosures around the pulpit, altar screen and Bishop Throne will be disassembled and removed, and the pews uncovered. Finally, there will be a thorough cleaning of the Sanctuary. It looks like we will be having Divine Liturgy in our Sanctuary in the middle of January!

Cathedral Restoration Project

Donation and Pledge Form

Donor Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Total Amount Pledged _____

Payment Options

Paid in Full _____

Initial Payment _____ Your plan for additional payments _____

Donations can be by check or made on-line with credit card. From the St. Nicholas web site, www.stnickspgh.org, go to the "Giving" tab and click the "Donate" pull-down. This will transfer you to the on-line giving form. Select Building Fund and indicate on the memo line that the donation is for the ceiling project.

A construction board with signatures of all donors will be installed as part of the new ceiling. All donor family members can sign it. The board will be available at the church from mid-November through the end of December.

Engraved commemorative pavers are also available at the sizes below. These pavers will be added to the granite circle in our green space. Please indicate if you are interested in a paver and you will be provided with additional information.

____ 8" x 4" Paver at \$1,250

____ 8" x 8" Paver at \$2,500

____ 12" x 12" Granite at \$5,000 (pieces that make up the center cross)

____ 42" x 15" Exterior Granite Ring at \$25,000 (pieces on either side of the Bible verse)

FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18+

RAISE the ROOF GLENDI

AT

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA

Featuring "The Meraklides" and special guest, Victoria Mavrogeorgis

January 7, 2023

Cocktail Hour: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dancing: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM

**HELP RAISE MONEY FOR REPAIRS OF THE SANCTUARY'S CEILING WHILE
HAVING A FUN NIGHT OF MUSIC AND DANCING!**

(ALL TICKET SALES GO TOWARDS THE CEILING REPAIR FUND)

Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/raisetherooftalendi>

\$30 before; \$35 at the door

\$10 Mezethes + Cash Bar





Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Parishioners of St. Nicholas Cathedral,

Ever since we learned that the plaster ceiling of our sanctuary has been dangerously damaged, we all have wanted to help repair it quickly.

That's why, we, the young adults of St. Nicholas, have decided to spearhead a fundraising effort to help pay for the extensive restoration process, which is so important to all of us, because only then can we return to worshiping in our beautiful sanctuary again. Introducing the "Raise the Roof Glendi!" This will be an 18+ Glendi held on January 7, 2023, in the Cathedral Room. It will feature a popular local Greek band, The Meraklides, along with our very own Victoria Mavrogeorgis!

We want as much of our proceeds from the dance to go toward the repairs as possible. That is why, in addition to extending this invitation for you to join us, we are also looking for sponsors to help us add to the bottom line. Listed below are our sponsorship level titles:

- *Platina*: \$1,000 and above
- *Diamanti*: \$500-\$999
- *Chryso*: \$250-\$499
- *Asimi*: \$100-\$249
- *Brountzos*: \$50-\$99
- *Filo*: \$25-\$49

Sponsors will be highlighted with posters the night of the event, and with social media posts thanking them after the event. This will be a great way to have you or your business recognized while also helping the church! Also, if you or your business would like to donate in other ways, such as with in-kind donations, those would be kindly accepted as well.

Of course, any donation, whether to this event or to the Parish Council's campaign to pay for the repairs, will be greatly appreciated to help us cover this enormous and unexpected expense.

If you know of any person or business willing to be a sponsor for our event, do not hesitate to let us know! To become one of our sponsors, please either send a check to the Church Office marked "ATTN: Raise the Roof," made out to the Cathedral, with "Fundraiser Sponsorship" written in the memo line, or donate online at: <https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give>, select "Ceiling Fund" in the "Fund" section, and type "Raise the Roof Sponsorship" with your chosen sponsorship level in the memo section.

If you have any questions, please feel free to either email us at: raisetherooftglendi@gmail.com or approach any one of our committee members during Coffee Hour for more information.

Sincerely,

The "Raise the Roof Glendi" Fundraising Event Committee

Maria Bender, *Committee Chair*

Sophia Bender, Ted Hages, Lisa Kefalos, and Victoria Mavrogeorgis, *Committee Members*

Advisor: Michelle Kotsagrellos

Food Festival Cooking, 2023

It's that time of the year again. We're beginning next week with Koulourakia, Sunday, January 8, after Church till 4:00, and Monday, January 9th, 9:00 to 4:00. Join the team for a lot of rolling, twisting, and baking!

- Souzoukakia has to be a 3-day event with all the meatballs needed.
- We'll be finishing January with Moussaka, a 4-day feat, peeling, slicing and baking the eggplant before assembling all the pans. We have these wonderful new Julienne peelers that Fran Hanna discovered and donated to the church to make the task of peeling the eggplant easier. Thank you, Fran!

With help the job will get done! Spread the word! Let's get the show on the road. With your help, we'll be good to go!

2023 Food Festival Cooking Schedule January 1, 2023, revised

January

Koulourakia	Sunday, Jan. 8, After Church to 4:00 pm Monday, Jan. 9, 9:00 to 4:00
Souzoukakia	Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14, 9:00 to 4:00 Sunday, Jan. 15, After Church to 4:00
Moussaka	9:00 to 4:00 pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26, 27, 28 Sunday, Jan. 29, After Church to 4:00

February

Finikia	Saturday, February 11, 9:00 – 4:00pm
Pasta Flora	Sunday, Feb. 12, After Church to 4:00 Monday, February 13, 9:00 to 4:00
Pastitsio	Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25, 9:00 am – 4:00pm

March

Galatoboureko	Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday, March 5, After Church to 4:00
Baklava	Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday, March 12, After Church to 4:00
Kourambiethes	Saturday, March 18, 9:00 am to 4:00

April

Tiropita	Saturday, April 1, 9:00 am to 12noon Sunday, April 2, After Church to 4:00
Diples	Tuesday, April 25

Jan 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE NOTE: ALL REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORSHIP SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CRYSTAL ROOM (SMALL HALL), UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.						
1 New Year's Day Circumcision of Christ St. Basil the Great Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Doxology for New Year 2023	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	4 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	5 Eve of Theophany Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30 a.m. Agiasmos (Water Blessing) to follow	6 Holy Theophany (Epiphany) Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Great Blessing of the Waters to follow	7 St. John the Baptist Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Greek School 10:00 a.m. "Raise the Roof" Young Adult Glendi 7:00 p.m.
8 Sunday after Epiphany Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 2023 Parish Council Affirmation of Office Philoptochos Vasilopita Cutting	9	10 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	11 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
15 12th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	16	17 St Anthony the Great Orthros 9: a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	18 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
22 15th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	23	24 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	25 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	26	27	28 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
29 Sunday of the Canaanite Woman Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	30 Synaxis of Three Hierarchs Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	31 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.				