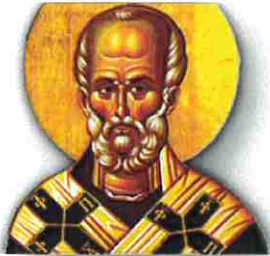


December 18, 2022 – Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

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: the Martyr Sebastian and those martyred with him; Michael Synkellos (Chancellor) the Confessor; and Eubiotes the Martyr.

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: 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>

TODAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE is being chanted for the souls of the servants of God *Dr. Anthony Gialamas (40 days) and Constantino Cominos (40 years).*

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to the family of *Donna Thomas* who passed away on Monday, December 12, 2022. Her funeral was private. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family in their time of loss.

PLEASE JOIN US for coffee and fellowship following services in the Large Hall hosted by GOYA and sponsored by the Gialamas and Cominos families.

TODAY: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS

- Monday, Dec. 19 2022: Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 20 2022: GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022: GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022: CHRISTMAS EVE Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
GREAT VESPERS 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
Orthros 8:45 a.m., Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

December 18, 2022 – 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: the Martyr Sebastian and those martyred with him; Michael Synkellos (Chancellor) the Confessor; and Eubiotes the Martyr.

STONE 2

ORTHROS GOSPEL 5

SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

First to be chanted is the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 1: 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 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, ἠνοικταί πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης 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 Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο, ταῖς αὐτῶν ἰκεσίαις, 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.

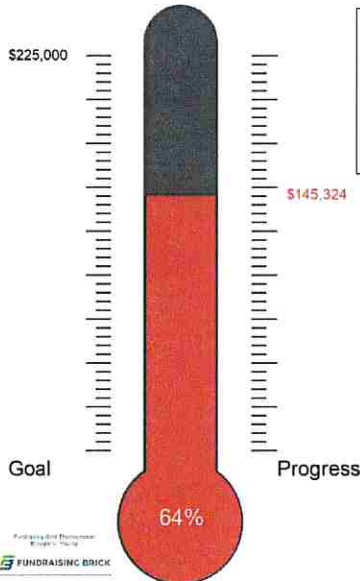
TODAY'S EPISTLE: Hebrews 11: 9-10, 32-40. Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more 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 him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus. ^[RSV]

2022 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex
(Just ask a member of Parish Council)

If you have already submitted your 2022 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!!



***Our Church. Our
 Spiritual Home***

<u>2022</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	291 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$145,324.00 GOAL (\$225,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$726.62

**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 Melachrinou 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.

Christmas Chocolate Sale - GOYA is once again selling SARRIS Chocolate. Please place your order with a GOYAn during coffee hour. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts.



From the Church School Desk!

The Church School children will present a **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'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 **Merry Christmas!**

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle



PROJECT BUNDLE UP

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



Ceiling Restoration Fundraising Update

The capital campaign continues to do well. Thanks to our dedicated parishioners, we have reached \$100,000 donated or pledged to the ceiling restoration. The donor form for the ceiling restoration is attached. Please consider making your pledge and/or donation by yearend.

The Restoration funding effort had a great day at the St. Nicholas Bazaar. The Popcorn with a Prize event raised over \$900 for the project, and we obtained dozens of signatures on the construction board. This board is a memento of the ceiling project, a construction board is available for all donors and project volunteers to sign including signatures of all your family members. This board will be installed in a non-visible location on the new ceiling. It will act as a permanent connection between your family and your St. Nicholas Cathedral.

Please sign this board as soon as possible. The painters are making great progress and the board may need to be installed at the end of December.

Reminder for upcoming fundraising events

- **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.
- **Manthya 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.

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 Ceiling Fund on the Fund pull down menu.

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/raisetherooftglendi>

\$30 before; \$35 at the door

\$10 Mezethes + Cash Bar



**RAISE
the ROOF
GLENDI**



**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 worshipping 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

