

DECEMBER 25, 2022—The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar; Commemoration of the Shepherds from Bethlehem who were watching their sheep and came to see the Lord.

Orthros Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25



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: MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS

- Monday, Dec. 26, 2022:
- Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022:
- Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022:
- Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023:

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.

GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.

Circumcision of Christ/St Basil the Great

Orthros 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 25, 2022—The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar; Commemoration of the Shepherds from Bethlehem who were watching their sheep and came to see the Lord.

Orthros Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25

First to be chanted at the Small Entrance is the Christmas Apolytikion (Tone 4):

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως, ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἄστερος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολῆν, Κύριε δόξα σοί.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For thereby the worshipers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Son of Righteousness, and to know You as the Dayspring from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Then, the special Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) for the Nativity in Tone 2 is chanted:

Ἐκ γαστρὸς πρὸ ἑωσφόρου ἐγέννησά σε. Ὡμοσε Κύριος καὶ οὐ μεταμεληθήσεται. Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

I have begotten You from the womb before the morning star. The Lord swore and will not repent.

You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, who were born of a Virgin, we sing to You, Alleluia.

After the Christmas Apolytikion is repeated, we hear the Kontakion for the Nativity of Christ (Dec. 25):

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἄστερος ὁδοιποροῦσι. Δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.

On this day the Virgin gives birth unto 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.

Instead of the usual Trisagion hymn, the baptismal hymn is chanted:

Ὅσοι εἰς Χριστὸν ἐβαπτίσθητε, Χριστὸν ἐνεδύσασθε. Ἀλληλούϊα. (ἐκ γ')

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, Alleluia. (3)

TODAY'S READINGS:

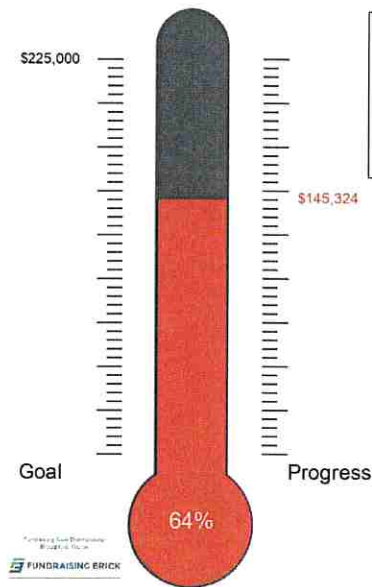
Γα 4:4-7. Ἀδελφοί, ὅτε ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικός, γενόμενον ὑπὸ νόμον, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον ἐξαγοράσῃ, ἵνα τὴν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπολάβωμεν. Ὅτι δέ ἐστε υἱοί, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν, κρᾶζον, Ἀββᾶ, ὁ πατήρ. Ὡστε οὐκέτι εἶ δοῦλος, ἀλλ' υἱός· εἰ δὲ υἱός, καὶ κληρονόμος θεοῦ διὰ Χριστοῦ.

Galatians 4:4-7. Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ. [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 pledge 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***

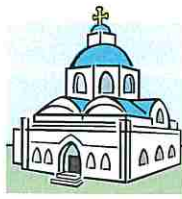
<u>2022</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	296 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$145,324.00 GOAL (\$225,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$726.62

**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.



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 **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!



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/raisetheroofglendi>

\$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 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 Kotsagelos

Dec 2022/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.						
25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST Orthros 8:45 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 GOYA BOYS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	28 GOYA GIRLS Basketball 7:00 p.m.	29	30	31 NO Greek School
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 Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30 a.m. Agiasmos (Water Blessing) to follow	6 Holy Theophany 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 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.