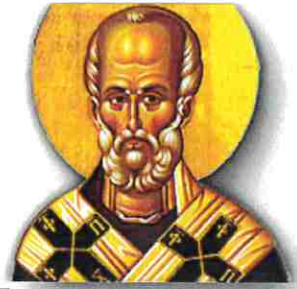




## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

419 S Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh PA 15213 412-682-3866



### MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



**MARCH 25, 2023**

**Greek Independence Day**, national [holiday](#) celebrated annually in [Greece](#) on March 25, [commemorating](#) the start of the [War of Greek Independence](#) in 1821.

It coincides with the [Greek Orthodox Church](#)'s celebration of the [Annunciation](#) to the [Theotokos](#), when the Archangel [Gabriel](#) appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear the son of God.

### 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.

**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
**419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213**  
**412-682-3866 (Office) 412-683-4960 (fax) church@stnickspgh.org**

**Reverend Father Christopher Bender, Dean**  
**724-630-3483**  
**frcbender@verizon**

+

**Reverend Deacon Robert Lykos**  
**412-736-2762**  
**robertlykos@gmail.com**

<b>Barbara Manners</b>	Office Manager	412-682-3866
<b>Mary Olszewski</b>	Events Coordinator	412-628-9466
<b>Vincent Nelson</b>	Maintenance	412-537-4073

**2023 Parish Council**

Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos, *President* (412-680-1416)  
 John Frentzos, *Vice President* (412-287-0275)  
 Dean Panagulias, *Treasurer* (412-596-2501)  
 James Machin, *Assistant Treasurer* (724-413-3607)  
 Ted Hages, *Secretary* (412-523-3571)  
 Rob Day, *Assistant Secretary* (917-569-8622)  
 Simon Barber (412-860-3313)  
 George Bellios (412-897-5354)  
 Victor Bertolina (412-860-2315)  
 Arthur Dordas (412-719-7796)  
 Peter Krelis (412-370-2809)  
 Peter Nychis (412-824-4477)  
 Van Paras (412-527-4248)  
 Jim Stamatelos (412-585-3928)

**Service Schedule**

Fall and Winter Hours (September-June):

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Summer Hours (July & August):

Orthros 8:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Hall Rentals**

If you are interested in renting either our small or large hall, please contact our Events Coordinator, Mary Olszewski, at 412-628-9466 or events@stnickspgh.org for more information and availability.

<b>Metropolis</b>	412-621-5529	www.pittsburgh.goarch.org
<b>Archdiocese</b>	212-570-3500	www.goarch.org

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB**

www.stnickspgh.org

www.stnickscathedralroom.com

And look for us on our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Nicholas-Greek-Orthodox-Cathedral-Pittsburgh-PA

Watch Sunday services 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**

**ORGANIZATIONS**

<b>Church School</b>	Michelle Kotsagrellos	412-680-1416
<b>Greek School</b>	Maria Stamoolis	412-963-7283
<b>Philoptochos</b>	Maria Bardakos	412-519-8684
<b>GOYA Advisors</b>	Linda Hages	412-523-7938
	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
<b>Little Angels/HOPE/JOY</b>	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
<b>60 Club</b>	Fran Hanna	412-731-0790
<b>Garden Club</b>	Elaine Andrianos	412-731-4334
<b>Choir</b>	Steve Andrews	412-561-9102
<b>Organist</b>	Roseanne Yu	
<b>Chanter</b>	Amy Hogg	412-345-1812
<b>Sexton</b>	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
<b>Prosfora</b>	Argy Darakos	412-319-7330
	Jim Hages	412-523-7937
<b>Kolyva</b>	Tulla Velisaris	412-889-1648
<b>St Nicholas Dancers</b>		
<b>GOYA</b>	Kelly Gary	412-741-8567
<b>JOY</b>	Aimee Walker	412-398-6094
<b>Boys Basketball:</b>	Ted Hages	412-523-3571
	Nick Strauch	724-931-0364
<b>Girls Basketball:</b>	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
	Maria Sfanos	412-512-8746

**PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>Cemetery</b>	Peter Nychis
<b>Community Center &amp; Catering</b>	James Stamatelos
<b>Finance</b>	James Machin
<b>Food Festival</b>	John Frentzos
<b>Fundraising</b>	George Bellios
<b>Greek Affiliations</b>	Michelle Kotsagrellos
<b>Human Resources</b>	Simon Barber
<b>Maintenance</b>	Victor Bertolina
<b>Religious &amp; Greek Education</b>	Fr. Christopher Bender
<b>Social</b>	
<b>Stewardship</b>	Michelle Kotsagrellos
<b>Technology</b>	
<b>Youth</b>	Ted Hages
<b>Building Security</b>	Van Paras
<b>Outreach</b>	Peter Krelis

## FATHER'S MESSAGE

*Blessed is God, who desires that all people should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the Truth; both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

– Based on 1 Timothy 2:4

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of the Lenten season in our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ!

The above verse, the core of which is taken from one of St. Paul's epistles, is quoted at the conclusion of the ancient "Making of a Catechumen" service that still precedes every Baptism that takes place in the Orthodox Church, harkening back to the early centuries of our faith. This was a time when the majority of candidates were received as adults. They would go through a lengthy period of instruction in preparation for their Baptism and Chrismation – most often, during the period of the Great Fast. Nowadays, of course, we receive most of our "catechumens" in their infancy or early childhood, so as to bless them with the grace imparted by God through the Holy Sacraments from their youngest years.

But, what does it mean, to "be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth"? It means that, by the grace of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – and conveyed to us through the hard work of those who teach us – we can be fully instructed in the basic tenets of our faith, both about what we believe and how we live it out. It presupposes that we accept and practice it throughout our lives, growing in our understanding over the years, beginning from the day of our baptism onward. It is God's free gift to us through grace, but one which, we Orthodox believe, we must also voluntarily embrace – say "Yes" to.

At the same time, the Church also recognizes that it is not particularly easy to accept and live out our faith in its fullness. As long as we endure in this life, we will always be tempted by times of doubt and by the attractive nature of the passions of the flesh so-called, such as gluttony, greed, lust, pride, laziness, self-centeredness, etc. That we also live in a time of diminishing faith, not just here in the United States but also in much of the Western world, doesn't help.

We have once again entered into the period of the Great Forty-day Fast (Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή), which the Church established many centuries ago. Periods of fasting such as this were not adopted in order to inconvenience or punish us, but rather to assist us in maintaining our growth in our faith and closeness to our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. You might say that this period is designed to help us to overcome the corrosive and even death-dealing effects of living in a fallen world. The Great Fast (Lent) is characterized not only by simplifying our diet through restrictions on what we eat (see below\*), but also by an increase in the number and kind of divine services, as well as encouragement to devote more time to prayer and reading the Bible and other inspired texts.

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\*No meat, milk, dairy products, (or fish – except for March 25 (the Annunciation) and Palm Sunday); no olive oil or alcoholic beverages – except on weekends and, in addition to the above, these additional feast days: March 9 (40 Martyrs of Sebaste), March 30 (Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete), and Holy Thursday. Crustaceans (i.e., shrimp) and shellfish (i.e., clams, scallops, etc.) are permitted throughout. See the Church calendar. (The Fast can be "loosened" for growing children, the ill, the infirm, etc. - but at least some effort should be made to observe this sacred time and encourage the development of habits that foster self-control of one's appetites and passions.)

## *FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't*

We are also challenged at this time of year to give more thought to how best we can assist those in need – remembering that this is our Lord's expectation of us, based on His parable of the Last Judgment, which we hear on the Sunday of Meatfare, the week prior to the start of the Fast. He spoke of important and basic human needs, indicating that we are expected to take care of and assist others in trouble: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger in need of shelter, the naked (i.e., those in need of clothing), the ill, and those in prison. In our day, we often don't realize that these challenges still exist for millions all around us – not just far away and on other continents, but also here at home. We see this especially in our poorer neighborhoods in big cities, and in many rural communities where adequate employment opportunities are lacking. We are also facing a real crisis among the growing number of homeless whose mental illness, addiction problems, criminal record, loss of employment, or victimization has put them out on the street. But we must always remember that there is no such thing as a "throw-away" person. Jesus was full of compassion for those who were suffering. He also understood the importance of recognizing the dignity of every human being, created as we are in His image and likeness – and so He treated everyone the same, regardless of their ethnicity and social standing. So should we.

In our time, it strikes me that attention to the implications of what it means to be created in God's "image and likeness" is the last thing on the mind of most Americans. On the contrary, we all face the continuing challenges of living in a society where hatred and fear of "the other," as well as the deliberate scapegoating of those who differ from us in various ways, is widespread. Indeed, equality and respect among all human beings may be preached as a fundamental value and right in our country, but that does not mean that it is always observed in practice. On the contrary, in the millions of cases where people have the "wrong" skin color or ethnic or religious background, they are far more likely to be treated as second-class citizens and sometimes even be singled out for persecution or neglect.

This can have grave outcomes. Here in Pittsburgh, no one who was alive then will ever forget the deadly attack by a mad racist on Tree of Life Synagogue and two other congregations in the same building in 2018 that left eleven dead and six more gravely wounded. Their only "crime" was being present in a synagogue for worship, as appropriate, on a Saturday morning. Since then, antisemitism has gotten much worse, not better, across the country.

Sometimes, prejudice can be more subtle, but still have real consequences. For instance, in 2019 a report was issued that revealed data showing that Pittsburgh has just about the worst maternal mortality rates for African American women than any comparable city in the country. At the same time, our fair city also has a significantly higher infant mortality rate among this same population demographic than other metropolitan areas. This is true, regardless of the economic status or educational level attained by the mother. The only possible explanation that the researchers could come up with was that these patients as a class must routinely have been subjected to inferior medical care.

If Jesus walked among us today, what would he say about these injustices? Would He remain silent, and "go along to get along?" Or would he denounce the offenders, and give comfort to the victims? I suspect that He would find the denial the full humanity of even *one* of the billions who inhabit this precious earth and this country to be unacceptable. I am reminded of the words that our greatest playwright in the English language, William Shakespeare, put in the mouth of his character, Shylock the Moneylender: "I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?"

## *FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't*

Indeed, we humans tend to deny the common humanity that we share with every other person on this planet – regardless of their faith, color, gender, national origin, intelligence, wealth, or poverty. Our ancient, early human brains tell us that, if they look or act differently from us, then we ought not to trust them. How easy it is to forget that we are all created in the same God's image and likeness, and that God in His infinite love does not discriminate among His human children under any circumstances! All of these differences are superficial, reflecting where our ancestors came from. But the human race is one.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I do not mention these matters in order to ruin your day, or to make anyone depressed or angry. I mention them because they are a real and true part of the world we have inherited and live in, and so, inevitably, they influence us, just as they do on everyone else. But, it does not have to be this way. We can rise above these prejudices. Those of us who share Greek ancestry, for instance, can look to our own past in this country, in order to understand just how oppressive racial prejudice can be. Perhaps we have forgotten, or we never told, that it wasn't that long ago when Greek immigrants coming to this country as refugees from extreme poverty and from persecution by the Turks and subsequent invaders were treated with suspicion and contempt by their new neighbors in America. "White" Americans felt so threatened by this influx of dark-complexioned Southern Europeans that they even changed the immigration laws in order to put a strict limit of the number of arrivals from these countries, which remained official policy for many years. Nothing precludes the return of such attitudes in the future.

And today, while circumstances may have improved since that sad era, this does not mean that it is time for us to join the ranks of those who remain stuck in the muck of bigotry. Rather, remembering our past history, let us embrace the stranger and comfort the afflicted. Let us find more and more opportunities to reach out to the larger community in a more deliberate way, offering whatever possible assistance we can to those in need. Let us also offer acceptance and love to those who come to us seeking to hear the Good News and find their spiritual home – regardless of their own place of origin, personal appearance, or background. Let us take care to remember those who are alone and reach out to them. And let us treat everyone we meet throughout the day and over the years with the same love, respect and good will that our precious Lord exhibited when He walked this earth, and still offers to us as a free gift of grace.

Praying that our gracious Lord will bless you abundantly at this sacred time of year, I remain,

With love in Christ,



Rev. Protopresbyter Christopher H. Bender, Dean

## **2023 EASTER & LENTEN ITEMS**

ITEM	COST	DONOR
SALUTATIONS ( five Fridays) Decorated Icon of Panagia		
1ST FRIDAY	\$50	
2ND FRIDAY	\$50	
3RD FRIDAY	\$50	
4TH FRIDAY	\$50	
5TH FRIDAY	\$50	
Flowers for Holy Cross Procession	\$300	
Lazarus Sat Icon (white)	\$75	
Palm Sun Icon (white)	\$75	
PALM CROWNS	\$175	
VASE OF PALMS	\$75	
VASE OF PALMS	\$75	
FERNS	\$100	
ICON OF BRIDEGROOM - Palm Sunday Evening	\$100	
“ “ “ - Holy Tuesday Evening	\$100	
HOLY THURSDAY EVENING		
A. Crucifixion Wreath (purple)	\$250.00	Tulla Velisaris
B. Candle for Cross (1)	\$25	
Candle for Cross (1)	\$25	
Candle for Cross (1)	\$25	
C. 12 Gospel Candles	\$10/ each	
D. Icon of Christ on the Cross (purple-Holy Thurs., p.m.)	\$60.00	
GOOD FRIDAY - Epitaphios Candles (4)	\$25/ each	

## 2023 EASTER & LENTEN ITEMS

ITEM	COST	DONOR
Epitaphios Flowers	\$75	
Epitaphios Flowers	\$75	
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Epitaphios Flowers	\$75	
HOLY SATURDAY/ PASCHA		
Resurrection Icon- Narthex (white)	\$100	
Resurrection Icon- Pulpit (white)	\$100	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
Lily Plants	\$60	
New Permanent Wreath (artificial) for Empty Cross (white)	\$500	
Large Vase Arrangement for Royal Doors 1 of 2	\$100	
Large Vase Arrangement for Royal Doors 2 of 2	\$100	
Smaller Vase Arrangement	\$75	
Smaller Vase Arrangement	\$75	

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

I am honored to be this year's Parish Council President. With God's guidance, I will do my best to continue the work my predecessors, especially the women presidents before me (Krina Moses<sup>+</sup> and Tulla Velisaris) – what big shoes I have to fill.

Together with all of our TIME, Talent and treasure we can work together towards a more thriving community for future generations.

Yours in Christ,  
Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos  
Parish Council President



### ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

419 S Ditzbridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3506 Tel (412) 682-3866 Fax (412) 683-4960  
E-mail: church@stnickapgh.org Web: stnickapgh.org

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER H. BENDER, DEAN REVEREND DEACON ROBERT W. LARSON

Date: February 28, 2023

To: Members of The Greek Community of Allegheny County, PA –  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

From: Parish Council

Subject: Parish Council General Assembly of March 19, 2023

A General Assembly will be convened immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

The agenda will be as follows:

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Election of the General Assembly Chairperson
  - i. Appointment of the Assembly Secretary by the Chairperson
- C. Approval of the minutes of the October 23, 2022, General Assembly meeting
- D. Father's Report
- E. Executive Committee Report
- F. Finance Committee Report
- G. Foundation Fund Report
- H. Unfinished Business
- I. New Business
- J. Adjournment

The Parish Council requests your presence and support. Please make every effort to attend.

Respectfully,

*Rev. Fr. Christopher Bender*

Rev. Fr. Christopher Bender, Dean

*Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos*

Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos, President

## St. Photios Awards Banquet

### SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL 2023 METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH ST. PHOTIOS AWARD NOMINA- TION FORM

**Nominations for St. Photios Awards for 2023** have been officially opened by the Metropolis. The awards recognize two lay members of each parish for their faithful and selfless efforts and hard work on behalf of their Church. Please note that the Awards Banquet will take place this year on **Saturday, April 29** – a little bit earlier than usual, so there is less time to submit names. **The Metropolis deadline is April 1.** All members of our community are invited and encouraged to submit nominations.

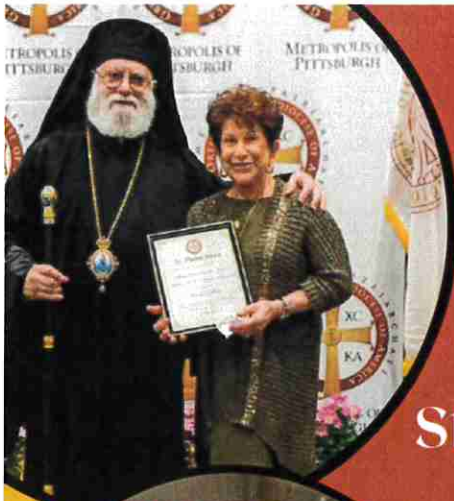
**Please note the following message from Fr. Christopher:** Thank you to those parishioners who have already spoken to me with their nominations. I respectfully ask all those who have done so, however, to also submit this written form. This is so that I can be sure that *every nomination* is considered, and none are forgotten. Please mail or turn all forms in to the Church Office in a sealed envelope addressed to me no later than **Sunday, March 19.**

*Please write the names of up to two nominees who have distinguished themselves over time through dedicated and hard-working service to our community as volunteers, along with two sentences about why you are nominating them:*

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Photios Awards Banquet



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas  
cordially invites you to celebrate the  
dedicated volunteers of our Holy and  
God-protected Metropolis of  
Pittsburgh at the

**2023**

## Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Awards Banquet

**Saturday April 29, 2023**

4:00pm Hors d'oeuvres 5:00pm Dinner

### DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry

910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

Reservations:

\$95/adult, \$25/child (under 12)

Reservation & Sponsorship Deadline:

April 1, 2023

No Refunds available after April 17, 2023



### NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE METROPOLITAN'S BENEVOLENCE FUND

Please mail reservations to:

St. Photios Awards Banquet  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
5201 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Please make checks payable to:  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Please refer questions to:

Banquet Co-Chairpersons:

Marianne Stearns

412 600 2159

mstearns@nauticom.net

or Archdeacon Ryan

412 621 5529

rgzikowski@pittsburgh.goarch.org



☎ 412 621 5529

✉ METROPOLIS@PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG

🌐 PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG





## St. Photios Awards Banquet

# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

## ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

### 2023 ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, April 29, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry

910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

4:00 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres      5:00 P.M. Dinner

### DINNER RESERVATIONS FORM

\$95.00 per adult

\$25.00 per child under 12

(Tables of 10)

*Note: Parking is free at the hotel.*

Name..... Parish.....

Address..... Phone (.....).....

City/State/Zip..... **\*\* No refunds after April 17, 2023. \*\***

E-Mail ..... **Reservations Due by April 1, 2023.**

Number of Reservations ..... x \$95.00ea + ..... x \$25.00ea = \$...... total

**NOTE: Awardees attend gratis (no charge) as guests of His Eminence. Do not pay for awardees.**

Amount enclosed.....

**Names of those included in this Reservation** (write additional names on back of this page):

**If including Awardees with your table, please list their names below, but do not include payment for awardees.**

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| 1. .... | 6. ....  |
| 2. .... | 7. ....  |
| 3. .... | 8. ....  |
| 4. .... | 9. ....  |
| 5. .... | 10. .... |

<b>Make checks payable to:</b> Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh	<b>Please refer questions to:</b> Marianne Stearns 412-600-2159 <a href="mailto:mstearns@nauticom.net">mstearns@nauticom.net</a>
<b>Mail checks, reservation names, sponsorship forms, &amp; donations to:</b> St. Photios Awards Banquet Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh 5201 Ellsworth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232	<b><u>Please do not contact hotel with Banquet questions; only contact hotel for overnight room reservations.</u></b>

### **For overnight room reservations:**

Contact the DoubleTree Hotel at (724) 776-6900

A rate of \$119.00 per night has been secured

Use the group name "Saint Photios Awards Dinner"

Deadline for room reservations at this rate is April 1, 2023.

## St. Photios Awards Banquet



### GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

#### ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

#### 2023 Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 29, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry

910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

4:00 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres

5:00 P.M. Dinner

#### Program Book Sponsorship Form

\$3000+	Grand Benefactor	.....
\$1000--\$2,999	Benefactor	.....
\$750--\$999	Patron	.....
\$500--\$749	Sponsor	.....
\$250--\$499	Supporter	.....
\$100--\$249	Friend	.....
\$50	Helper	.....

Amount Enclosed:

.....

Check #

.....

Sponsor Address: .....

Name as you wish it to be listed:

Make checks payable to: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Mail form and check to: St. Photios Awards Banquet  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
5201 Ellsworth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Must be received by April 1, 2023, to be included in the book.

*Donors will be listed by Contribution Level in the St. Photios Awards Banquet Program Book, which will be distributed at the Dinner on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Mars, PA.*

*Net proceeds from this event will benefit the Metropolitan's Benevolence Fund.*

## *GREEK SCHOOL*

Last month on February 5, we celebrated the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters Day with the annual Artoclasia for the school and our community, a Trisagion for those who were important in starting the school and contributing with the continuance of it with scholarships, foundations, providing curriculum material, were teachers, or made costumes used by Greek School. In addition, students who successfully passed the International Proficiency exams -The Ellinomatheas from Centre of Greek Language in Greece, and the National exams – The Comprehensive Exam of Modern Greek -Regents (L.O.T.E.) were recognized. There was a presentation by students – Constandina Bouzos, Zoe Darakos, and Eleni Maria Bouzos on the Three Hierarchs, followed by all Greek School Students who were present chanting “Phos Ilaron” under the direction by our Protopsalti Mrs. Amy Hogg. This hymn was chanted in memory of Metropolis Protopsalti Archon Peter C. Papadakos who had shared his gifts with all Greek Schools, many teachers and students. Our Annual Bake Sale took place during coffee.

Coming up on **Sunday, March 26** will be the celebration of St. Nicholas Cathedral’s **Annual Evangelismos and Greek Independence Day Program and Luncheon**. Let’s all celebrate together this beautiful event – The Beginning of our Salvation and the Independence of Greece’s 400 years of slavery. Make a reservation and support our school which is one of the longest, continuously-running Greek Schools in the nation. Included this year will be beautiful flowered centerpieces made by Mrs. Maria Menas. These centerpieces are to be taken home with a donation (envelope on table) made towards St. Nicholas Cathedral ceiling restoration fund.

Students and alumni are also preparing to read or chant the prayers to Panaghia and Christ during the beautiful services of the Salutations to the Most Holy Theotokos during the first five Fridays in March. Try to attend these inspiring services.

On **Saturday, April 22, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh Greek Language Festival with Quiz Bowl** will resume. The Greek Language Festival is brought back to Pittsburgh and will take place at St. Nicholas Cathedral. Everyone is invited to attend. The Annual Greek Story Contest will also resume this year. Let’s get as many stories of our relatives and friends written.

*GREEK SCHOOL, Con't*

Celebrate the Evangelismos and  
Greek Independence Day

with

St. Nicholas Cathedral Greek School

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

Luncheon-immediately after Doxology in church



**luncheon reservations, by Mar. 22**

Call/Text Maria Stamoolis at 412-874-4422 or E-mail  
[mstamoolis@verizon.net](mailto:mstamoolis@verizon.net)

**Butterfly Shrimp Luncheon – adults \$15 / children \$10**

**Then stay and celebrate with the children-- POEMS! SONGS!  
PLAY!**

## GREEK SCHOOL, Con't

The Department of Greek Education for  
the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

### THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 22, 2023  
St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA  
11am - 3pm

#### 1. Quiz Bowl on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna

Teams of three (3) students will compete in two levels. Eligible contestants are those currently or previously enrolled in Greek Language Studies. All the material needed to study for the Quiz Bowl is available to download at <https://www.dropbox.com/sct/fo/3yx04h3bdll5c2ifyk4m/h?dl=0&rikey=d45th09aivd712140ynqvo6c2>. Each team creates its own name. A large trophy cup will be placed at the winning team's church. Individual awards will also be given.

a. Intermediate Level: 4th, 5th, 6th grade American School

b. Advanced Level: 6th - 12th grade American School (note that 6th grade students have the option of teaming up in either level)

2. For students who are **musically talented** we encourage you to perform either solo or with others an original Greek song or Greek instrumental selection or a selection from an existing Greek composer on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna. This is open for all grades: K - 12th grade American School.

3. For students **who love to act** we encourage you to perform an original Greek skit or one from an existing writer on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna. This is open for all grades: K - 12th grade American School.

4. For students **who love art** we encourage you to submit your artwork for the Art Exhibit with the title in Greek on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna. This is open for all grades: K - 12th grade American School.

In addition, there will also be various booths, food, and fun for all.

Registration forms available at the Metropolis website, facebook, and <https://www.dropbox.com/sct/fo/3yx04h3bdll5c2ifyk4m/h?dl=0&rikey=d45th09aivd712140ynqvo6c2>

**Registration deadline is April 7, 2023**

**Questions contact Maria Stamoolis: [mstamoolis@verizon.net](mailto:mstamoolis@verizon.net)**

The Department of Greek Education  
for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

### The Annual Greek Language Story Contest



Do you know of someone in your family or community  
with a fascinating story to tell?

Interview and write the life story of an elderly immigrant with Greek or Cypriot roots living (either) independently or dependently, such as in a nursing home, assisted living, etc.; or interview the child or spouse of an elderly or deceased immigrant and tell their life story.

#### 1 Tell of their life before and after coming to the U.S.

- where they traveled from and why they left
- who they traveled with and how they traveled
- who they prayed to for strength and any miracles
- how old they were when they arrived to the U.S.
- what challenges they faced
- what did they do here in the U.S.

#### 2 Provide pictures

- of them, their family
- of places where they lived abroad, and in the U.S.
- of their favorite places and pastimes, both abroad and in the U.S.

#### 3 Provide samples of

- their favorite Greek songs, hymns, poems, etc.

**You are not limited to only the above questions, nor are all of the above imperative**

Type this in Greek and in English in a Word document. Provide a copy for the person you interviewed and send a copy to:  
The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Department of Greek Education,  
5201 Ellsworth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232, also email a copy with the pictures separately not in the word document to [mstamoolis@verizon.net](mailto:mstamoolis@verizon.net).  
Student interviewers are from 4th - 12th grade. Awards given to students who display thoroughness and hard work.

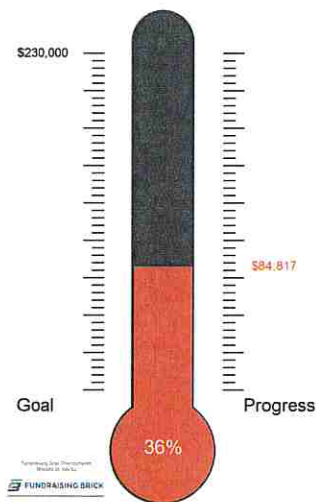
**Deadline to register is April 7, 2023. Deadline for submission is April 18, 2023.**  
**For information e-mail Maria Stamoolis, [mstamoolis@verizon.net](mailto:mstamoolis@verizon.net).**

## 2023 STEWARDSHIP

### *Giving Thanks, Eucharistic Stewardship*

Re-dedicate yourself to God by participating  
in the Divine Liturgy each Sunday and offer your  
**TIME, Talent and treasure.**

### **HELP US REACH/EXCEED OUR GOAL**



2023 STEWARDSHIP		02/28/2023
Total Stewards		163
Total Amount Pledged		\$ 84,817.00
Average Pledge		\$750.59
% Parish Participation to Date		54%
2023 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		37%
2023 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 230,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$54,541.30
As of:		11/30/2022
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection	\$30,30000	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$40,100.00	
	(\$ 9,800.00)	

Many of you have been contributing, but

**PLEASE** complete a Stewardship Card.

Our website may be used to fill out a Stewardship Card and make a payment

<https://www.stnickspgh.org>

## 2023 STEWARDSHIP

Ms. Debra Adams  
 Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos  
 Mr. Anthony Andrews  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Andrews  
 Mr. Steven Andrews  
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis  
 Mr. George Anthon  
 Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Antoniadis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Antonuccio  
 Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou  
 Ms. Rhea Ballas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel  
 Ms. Andrea Beldecos  
 Fr. Christopher & Dr. Filitsa Bender  
 Ms. Sophia Bender  
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina  
 Ms. Pamela Bertos  
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos  
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Maury Burgwin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano  
 Mrs. Elena Cerri  
 Mrs. Dee Chronis  
 Mr. Greg Cominos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos  
 Mr. Philip Contacos  
 Ms. Jamie Contis  
 Mrs. Sandra Contis  
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas  
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas  
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas  
 Mr. Vasili Copetas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Countouris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos  
 Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rob Day  
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias  
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo  
 Mrs. Christine Dickos  
 Mr. Arthur J. Dordas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt  
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis  
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Ellis  
 Mrs. Penelope Falck  
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris  
 Mrs. Bessie Ferency

Mrs. Olga Florence  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank  
 Mrs. Alice Gary  
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory  
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Beck Hall  
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna  
 Mrs. Frances Hanna  
 Dr. John Haretos  
 Mr. Theodore Haretos  
 Mrs. Rania Harris  
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis  
 Ms. Christine Kanakis  
 Mr. Kyle Glaser & Ellie-Anne Karras  
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsothis  
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas  
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas  
 Mr. Andron Kavouras  
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos  
 Dr. & Mrs. Georgios Kitsios  
 Mrs. Mary Kleissas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas  
 Mrs. Estair Kotsagrelis  
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelis  
 Mr. Chris Kouklis  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy  
 Ms. Christine Krelis  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian  
 Mr. & Mrs. James T. Kukunas  
 Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros  
 Ms. Constantina Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Lardas  
 Mrs. Kalliope Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky  
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Lykos  
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin  
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam  
 Mr. & Mrs. Spero Maginas  
 Ms. Karen Malobicky  
 Mrs. Kay Mandalakas  
 Mrs. Thalia Mandros  
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas  
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos  
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos  
 Mrs. Helen Mastro  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastro  
 Mrs. Alisa Mathews-Balouris

Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire  
 Mrs. Patricia McKee  
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Michaels  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell  
 Mrs. Venetia Moreno  
 Mr. Paul L. Moses  
 Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis  
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Panousis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages  
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas  
 Mr. John C. Paras  
 Mr. Van Paras  
 Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pease  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger  
 Mrs. Stamatia Peters  
 Mrs. Vera Poland  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy  
 Mr. Anastasios Raptis  
 Mrs. Kristina Rigoopulos & Mr. William Guttman  
 Mr. Bill Sfamenos  
 Mr. George Sockos  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis  
 Mrs. Toulia Stathopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stratigos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Strauch  
 Mrs. Argie Stuart  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher  
 Mrs. Katia Sycara & Mr. Michael Lewis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis  
 Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis  
 Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis  
 Mrs. Stella Vassilaros  
 Mrs. Angela Vergos  
 Mr. Chris Vergos & Ms. Amber Lilly  
 Ms. Elaine Vitsas  
 Mr. John Vitsas  
 Mrs. Frances Vlahos  
 Mrs. Becky Vlahoulis<sup>+</sup>  
 Mrs. Helen Waskoskie  
 Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras  
 Dr. Katerina Zavaras  
 Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis  
 Mrs. Sophia Zozos



## 2023 STEWARDSHIP, Con't



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Pittsburgh, PA

### 2023 ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL CONFIDENTIAL FAMILY STEWARDSHIP CARD

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Alternate address if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE provide pertinent information on reverse side about your family members-THANK YOU!**

**TREASURE-** Total Gift for 2023 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution Frequency: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

☐ Please send Stewardship Envelopes ☐ I don't use envelopes

Statement delivery: ☐ US Mail ☐ Email



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Pittsburgh, PA

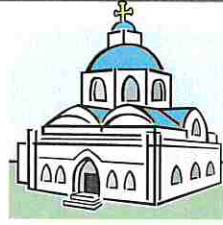
**TALENT-** Please check the items below that you or a family member has some expertise or interest. Place initials of the specific family member after each item checked.

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Church School _____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Office/Newsletter _____                | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Choir _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation of Elderly _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Ministry _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Mgmt. _____                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Festival _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry _____        | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening _____         | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Mechanical/Plumbing _____ |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philoptochos _____          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____             |   |   |

**TIME-** St. Nicholas Cathedral is grateful for our many volunteers. Thank you!

Name & relationship i.e., self, spouse, child, etc.    Date of birth    Marital Status    Occupation OR school/grade

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____



**Sunday, March 5, 2023**, the Church School students will participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** with their favorite icon!

There will be a **Teaching Liturgy Sunday, March 12, 2023**. Father will be stopping throughout the Liturgy to explain what and why certain things are done. This will replace Church School, so please come early and have your children sit in front with their teachers.

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School Open House** will be **Sunday, March 19, 2023**, where parents and grandparents attend Church School to see firsthand what their children are learning.

Church School students in grades 7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> can learn more about their faith and participate in the **St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival** that will be held in **March 2023**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or [eve.m.elsen@gmail.com](mailto:eve.m.elsen@gmail.com).

I appreciate the support from all of you and thanks for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

Yours in Christ,  
*Miss Michelle*

**St. Nicholas  
Oratorical Festival  
March 2023**



**For more information, please contact  
Chairman Eve Elsen  
at 412-580-9415 or [eve.m.elsen@gmail.com](mailto:eve.m.elsen@gmail.com)**



Church School Students:

**Please bring an icon  
Sunday, March 5, 2023  
for the  
Sunday of Orthodoxy  
Icon Procession**

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**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School  
Open House  
Sunday, March 19, 2023**



**Join your Child or Grandchild for Church  
Worship, Holy Communion & Church School!**

# Church School Students Teaching Liturgy



**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

## **YOUTH SAFETY WORKERS**

Who is considered a Youth Safety Worker?

**All Clergymen (Bishops/Priests/Deacons, both Active & Retired)**

**Pastoral Assistants & Youth Directors**

**People assisting, in any ministry, where the participants are under 18 years of age or in high school, whichever is later.**

**Including Parish Youth Safety Administrators, Church School Teachers, Dance Directors, Greek School Teachers, Youth Advisors (including Chaperones & Drivers) and Parish Council.**

**Even... Parents who occasionally help-out, but are alone with other people's children.**

Each Youth Safety Worker is required to register yearly with the church.

Registration is available through the church office. In addition, all Youth Safety Workers are required to take two courses (on-line training platform) annually and to complete a background check every other year.

Here is the website: Please register at <https://ncsrisk.org/goarch/>. The first course, Youth Safety, has two parts. The second course, Youth Worker Regulations, has one part. Prompt completion is necessary as one cannot participate in any youth programs without being registered, having a background check, having PA state clearances, and completing the two courses.

Those interested in becoming a Youth Safety Worker and have not started the process or need to determine what documentation you need to complete, please contact Taki Darakos, [edarakos@aol.com](mailto:edarakos@aol.com), 412-944-4961.

## *Philoptochos News*

### *Keeping up with Philoptochos...*

Philoptochos is continuously preparing for fundraisers and our on-going outreach programs, which is the very essence of Philoptochos. You are cordially invited to participate in our efforts.

**Please take a minute to see what Philoptochos all is about!**

#### **OUTREACH:**

##### **FEEDING THE FOOD INSECURE:**

Keep an eye out for information regarding our ongoing Community Outreach with Neighborhood Resilience Project's Wednesday Hot Meals or Saturday Bagged Lunches.

##### **FOOD BANK:**

The Food Bank supports several of our parishioners and continues to need your support. You can donate by making a check payable to the "**St. Nicholas Philoptochos Food Bank**" or through United Way by designating the St. Nicholas Food Bank

through your employers United Way contribution. Just designate #3288.

Questions: contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

#### **FUNDRAISERS:**

To fulfill our mission of helping those in need our **fundraisers continue to be the primary source of income for Philoptochos**. Besides making our traditional spanakopita rolls and Vasilopita, new ideas for fundraising are needed. If you have an idea, please contact any member of Philoptochos.

**Attention All Bread Bakers, Wrappers & Bow Makers!** - Please reserve **Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** for the annual Philoptochos' **Easter Bread Baking** session. Everyone is welcome to come any time after 9:00 a.m. and join us in the Cathedral's Kitchen for Fun & Fellowship. As always, any amount of time you can offer to help us in this important project helps our Philoptochos to continue to help those in need. Any questions please contact Nikki Lykos (412-897-8208).

#### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:**

It's that time of year again, the **Philoptochos Membership Drive!** The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society has held fast to the tradition of philanthropy and we have strengthened the sense of love and compassion for all individuals that are in need.

Philoptochos is a connection with other women who share the same feeling and who desire to share their thoughts and talents. **PLEASE JOIN or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**TODAY!** It's easy. Just complete the membership form and send it in.

**Men are welcomed to join, too!**

#### **MEETINGS:**

**General Meeting: Sunday, March 19, 2023**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Day of Service (with Youth Ministries)  
Make and Serve Dinner at Family House**

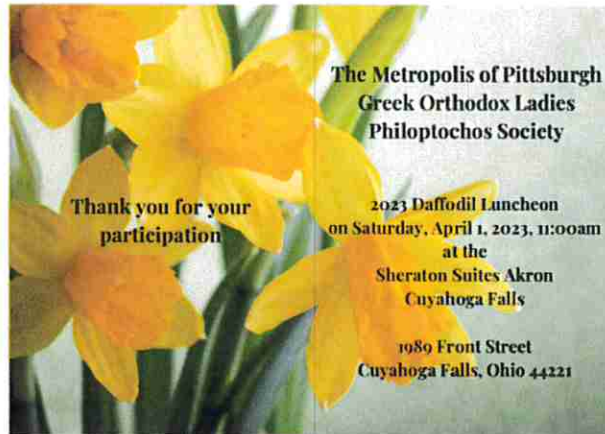
**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

**3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**

Your time, talent and treasure, is needed so we can continue to help those individuals in need – PHILOPTOCHOS' MISSION.

Yours in Christ,  
Maria Bardakos, President

# Philoptochos News Con't



## Your Hosts:

Annunciation, Akron  
Annunciation, Cleveland  
Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cleveland Heights  
St. Demetrios, Rocky River  
St. Demetrios, Warren  
St. Haralambos, Canton  
St. Nicholas, Lorain  
St. Paul, North Royalton

## Proceeds to benefit the:

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Social Services and  
Seminarians Our Future Scholarship Fund

## Speaker:

Eleni Constantinides,  
Metropolis of New Jersey President  
Social Services Liaison between National and the New  
Jersey Metropolis

## For information or questions, please contact:

Anna Vedouras  
216-235-2798  
annavedouras@gmail.com

Please fill out the reservation/sponsorship form  
enclosed and mail with payment to arrive before  
March 15, 2023.

Reservations are not confirmed until payment is  
received. Payments can be via PayPal or Check.  
Reservations/Sponsorships can also be made online.

## Checks should be made payable to:

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society.  
Please send reservation/sponsorship form and  
payment to: Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies  
Philoptochos Society c/o Eleni Gugliotta, 3792 Cascade  
Oaks Trail, Richfield, OH 44286.



**Reservation Link and QR Code:**  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?  
hosted\\_button\\_id=4VKZJPB5SQXZG](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=4VKZJPB5SQXZG)

**Sponsorship Link and QR Code:**  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?  
hosted\\_button\\_id=E47EWR33JV2J](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E47EWR33JV2J)



## Reservation/Sponsorship Form

\*Reservations/Donations are not limited to  
Philoptochos members

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will attend the 2023 Daffodil Luncheon. Please  
reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$65 each. Total amount enclosed  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

or

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will not attend, but please accept the donation of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ paid by check, online, or QR code. Your sponsorship  
will be listed in the luncheon program.

## Sponsorship levels:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend up to \$99    | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$500 - \$999         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze \$100 - \$249 | <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$1,000 - \$1,499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$250 - \$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Titanium \$1,500 and over  |

## Parish Name and Chapter Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Person making the reservation:  
(Name, Phone #, and Email)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of the attendees who wish to be seated  
together (maximum of 8 per table) and circle their choice of  
meal.

1.	Fish or Vegan
2.	Fish or Vegan
3.	Fish or Vegan
4.	Fish or Vegan
5.	Fish or Vegan
6.	Fish or Vegan
7.	Fish or Vegan
8.	Fish or Vegan



## 2023 Membership

You define what kind of member you will be. We are always looking for new skills, experiences, and personalities. We welcome you with open arms to join us in making a difference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my 2023 membership donation in the amount of:

( ) \$50      ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos*

### RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

St. Nicholas Philoptochos  
419 S. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**"Compassion is our passion!"**

— Denise Panos Daugherty

We do so much more than just bake bread...

- In the last **two years**, we have provided **more than \$34,000** in financial support to those in need;
- We've served hundreds of hot meals and lunches through Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly known as FOCUS Pittsburgh);
- We've held shoe, pajama and backpack drives to help local children in need;
- We've volunteered at Brother's Brother to help organize medical equipment for countries in need; and
- We support the ministries of our own Cathedral as well as Neighborhood Resilience Project, IOCC and the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery.

### Why Join Philoptochos?

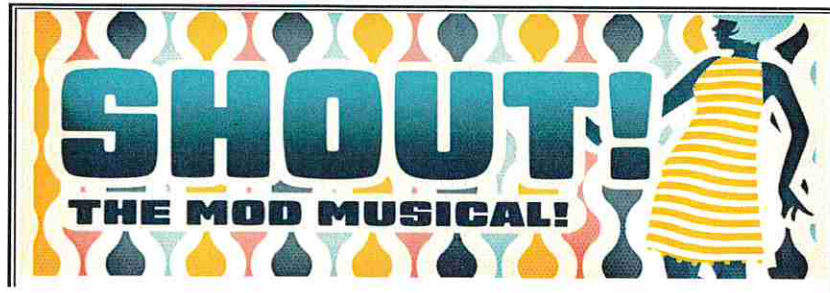
- Help someone in need
- Get involved in your community
- Make an impact
- Change someone's life
- Meet new people
- Share your skills and expertise
- Gain knowledge
- Network
- Be part of a philanthropic movement

**Give hope to those in need and make a difference in people's lives.**

People are struggling everywhere. The need is greater than ever before. Help expand our outreach and help us to continue to give donations, hope and love immediately when a tragedy happens.

Become a member and contribute to existing initiatives, develop new programs, or identify a need that hasn't been met.

Follow us on Facebook   
[facebook.com/Philoptochos-St-Nicholas-Cathedral-Pittsburgh](https://facebook.com/Philoptochos-St-Nicholas-Cathedral-Pittsburgh)



Calling all theater lovers!

Ava Bardakos has been cast as Blue Girl in Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center's upcoming musical Shout! It is a juke box musical set in 1960's England. It follows 5 girls attempting to find their way with the help of Shout! Magazine. **The show runs Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Show times are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 730 pm with Matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm.**

The theater is about 45 minutes from our parish but well worth the drive. Tickets range from \$18 to \$25. The theater is handicap accessible. Refreshments are available before the performances and during the intermission with all proceeds benefiting the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.lincolnparkarts.org/> or by calling the box office at (724) 576-4644.

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## *60's CLUB NEWS*

### **TO OUR ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY:**

The Sixty Club Planning Committee would greatly appreciate any suggestions for activities of interest to ADULTS OF ALL AGES such as (but not limited to) speakers [religion, health issues, finance, technical education (iPhone, computers) etc.], museum exhibits, theater productions, entertainment sources, etc. Please contact any member of the Planning Committee or mail your ideas to the Sixty Club c/o St. Nicholas.

It's that time again: we are collecting dues for the 2022-23 term. Please make checks payable to St. Nicholas Sixty Club and remit to any Planning Committee member or mail to the church.

Alice Gary, Frances Hanna, Lillian Panagulias,  
Argie Stuart, Helen Waskowskie

## *FOOD FESTIVAL UPDATE*

### **Food Festival Cooking, 2023**

Food Festival preparations are moving along at a good clip. We've already completed seven of our thirteen items. With one exception, turnouts for our cooking sessions have been fantastic! Let's keep up the momentum. We're almost there.

This past month we completed our Festival Finikia, Pasta Flora and Pastisio. Thank you, Nikki Lykos, for chairing Finikia. Next year we will be on the lookout for chairs for more of our items.

This month's SHOUT OUT goes to those of you who have made this all happen...to those of you who showed up, rolled up your sleeves and got the job done! A well-deserved Thank you to you all!

#### **March**

Galatobourekos	Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Possibly Sunday, March 5, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Baklava	Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 12, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Kourambiethes	Saturday, March 18, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### **April**

Tiropita	Saturday, April 1, 9:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 2, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Diples	Tuesday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Festival Dates: Sunday, May 7 to Saturday, May 13, 2023**

## St. Nicholas GOYA Basketball Tournament

Our St. Nicholas GOYA Basketball season concluded with our hosting of the St. Nicholas Metropolis Basketball Tournament the weekend of February 17-19. Friday started with team registration at St. Nicholas followed by a social with music and games in the Cathedral Room. Volleyball, spike ball, and corn hole were played while enjoying homemade pizzas.

Saturday was filled with a whole day of competitive games played at two facilities, Grit Athletix and Oakland Catholic. A Saturday evening Artoklasia Service was followed by honoring all the graduating seniors from all the parishes. We were honored to have His Eminence Metropolitan Savas personally hand each senior their gift of an icon from the Metropolis. The St. Nicholas graduating seniors honored were Mia Velisaris, Tommy Kristian, and Anthony Antoniadis. Mia Velisaris spoke beautifully on her experience growing up in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and St. Nicholas. A dinner/dance followed with a beautifully decorated hall featuring an Aprozies/Mardi Gras theme in the Cathedral Room, and a Hospitality Room filled with homemade pastries for all adults in the Crystal Room. We served close to 500 people for dinner.

Participants in the tournament attended Sunday Liturgy at St. Nicholas. The church was filled with GOYAns, chaperones, advisors, coaches and additional families. After Liturgy our GOYA co-presidents, Kalliope Kristian and Alexis Hammerling thanked everyone for attending and for all the donations for our service project - Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net.

Kalliope and Alexis also presented a donation on behalf of the St. Nicholas GOYA to the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Oratorical Festival in memory of Patrick Phyrillas, age 22, who just recently passed away. Patrick was active in his own parish GOYA at Sts. Constantine and Helen, Reading, Pa. He attended church school, served as an Altar Boy and participated in the Oratorical Festival.

Also on Sunday, our two seniors Tommy Kristian and Anthony Antoniadis spoke on Sportsmanship and announced the recipient of the Sportsmanship Trophy, Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Reading, Pa. Afterward, brunch was served for everyone attending Liturgy in the Cathedral Room. Championship games followed after brunch at Oakland Catholic from 1-4 pm. Congratulations to our St. Nicholas girls who won 1st place in the Senior Girls Division. We hosted the final tournament of the season made possible through the generous support of the entire St. Nicholas community. We hosted 11 parishes staying at 4 hotels with over 210 hotel rooms booked.

Thank you to Fr. Christopher Bender and Deacon Haralambos Lykos for their support and spiritual guidance to our GOYA. Thank you to Michelle Kotsagrellos and the St. Nicholas Parish Council and the St. Nicholas Philoptochos for their support. Thank you to the church staff for all their help throughout the weekend. Thank you to Alyssa Kyritsis, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and to Dr. Jim Kyros, Metropolis Athletic Committee Chairman, for all his help and overseeing our tournament weekend.

Thank you to John Dakis for donating all his services in preparing all the wonderful meals of our tournament including the homemade pizzas on Friday, Dinner on Saturday and Sunday Brunch.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Service Project and supported the tournament Ad Book. Thank you to all the score keepers, clock keepers, medical staff - Donna Kefalos, Jay Bedel, and Presvytera Filitsa Bender, concession stand workers, servers, salads maker - Steve Andrews, decorators, and wonderful honorary GOYA moms for baking and donating pastries. Thank you to Ed Guminski for securing the referees and volunteering his services and to everyone who donated items to help make this weekend successful.

Thank you to our GOYA Tournament Committee headed by tournament coordinator Carla Antoniadis. Thank you to all our GOYA families and chaperones. Thank you to our GOYA Advisors, Jimmy Machin and Linda Hages. Thank you to our coaches, Nikki Lykos, Maria Sfanos, Maria Coutris, Nick Strauch, Ted Hages and Nicholas Hages for a wonderful season.

**Pastitsio Sale** - GOYA is selling their annual frozen 9 by 13 pans of Pastitsio for \$35.00. For Pastitsio pickups, call the church office or contact Alea Melacrinou 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.



**Annunciation Akron  
Basketball Tournament**

January 27-29

Girls won 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Boys won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Consultation



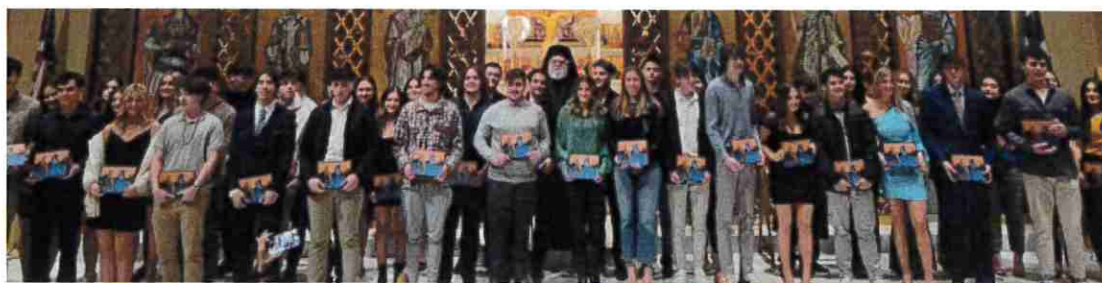
**St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh - Basketball Tournament**

February 17-19



## St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh - Basketball Tournament

February 17-19





## Youth Health Kit Drive and Assembly

### Youth Volunteers and Monetary Donations Needed!

April 1, 2023 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
123 Gilkeson Rd. (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228

All Orthodox Youth Groups are asked to participate.  
Students, please bring your volunteer forms for school credit.

Our goal is to assemble several thousand health kits.  
Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies.

To donate, please make checks payable to "Holy Cross AGAPE Fund"  
with "IOCC Health Kit Project" in the memo, and mail to  
Nick Terezis, c/o IOCC, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

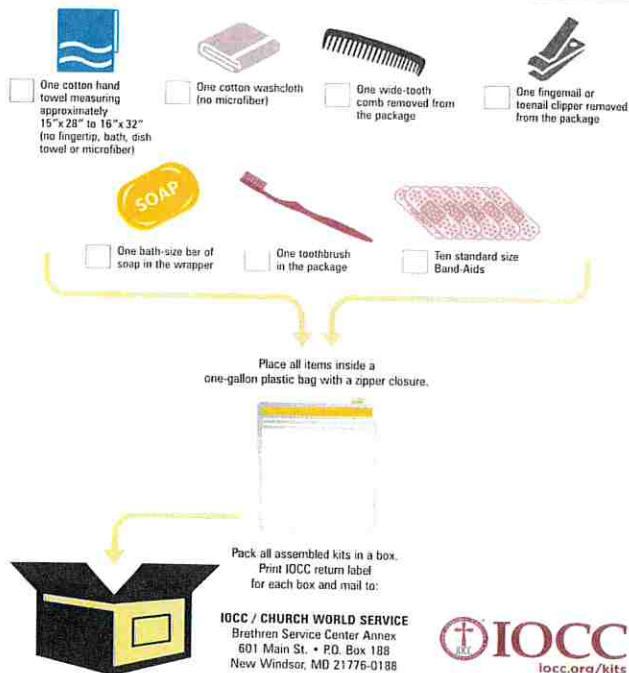
Please contact Ava Terezis at 614.569.2414  
or [AvaT.Orthodox@gmail.com](mailto:AvaT.Orthodox@gmail.com)  
to coordinate your youth group attendance.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

## Health Kit Checklist

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



## *CEILING RESTORATION PROJECT*

### **Cathedral Ceiling Repair Update #13 – Cost Summary**

Sunday, January 22 was a wonderful day! We were able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy once again in our sanctuary and the atmosphere was joyous. This will be the final update on the ceiling repair and the good news is the total project cost is about \$275,000. This is \$95,000 less than the original estimate (August) and \$50,000 less than the revised one (November). The largest differences from original estimate are summarized below.

- Plastering and Painting came in \$95,000 less than the original estimate. This was because much less of the ceiling needed to be re-plastered than what was originally estimated. In addition, Petrinis Painting donated the cost of their overhead and profit.
- The cost of scaffolding was \$25,000, less primarily because the job was completed much quicker, eliminating several months of rent charges for scaffolding. Thanks to our primary contractors, Nick Lardas, NIKO Contracting, and Petrinis Painting kept the project well-staffed and always in-work to reduce the span of repair time.
- The cost of Engineering and Project Management came in about \$25,000 less than estimated mostly because the time period and overall amount of work was less.

Of course, there were several items that came in over their cost estimate. Repairing the cracked joists that supported the dome cost \$20,000 and was not anticipated (but very fortunate to be discovered). Also, the cost of erecting and removing the protective coverings for items within the church ended up costing about \$20,000 more than estimated. There were several other smaller cost increases, for example, re-painting some deteriorated wall paint in areas that were assessable with the scaffolding.

Thanks to the outpouring of support from the parish, this new project cost is within the reach of being raised by the ongoing capital campaign and our fundraising events.

### **Fundraising for Ceiling Restoration**

#### **Capital Campaign**

- Response has been very good with 70 donors giving or pledging a total of \$163K. Average donation of \$2,335.

#### **Fundraising Events**

- Popcorn With a Prize – raised over \$900 at the Bazaar.
- Raise the Roof Glendi – January 7 – The dance was successful with respect to attendance and costs. Net profit amount not determined yet.
- Greek2Go – January 21 – Largest selling Greek2Go by far with \$25,000 in sales, most of which will be profit for the project.
- Manthytrea Educational Society 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, doubling the amount for the project. The event was held last weekend and its attendance was very high.
- The festival ad book committee will dedicate their effort and proceeds toward the ceiling restoration.

# Cathedral Restoration Project

## Donation and Pledge Form

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://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)

# MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			MARCH 1 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.	2	3  First Salutations 7:00 p.m.	4  3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Souls Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Greek School 10:00 a.m.
5  Sunday of Orthodoxy Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Pan-Orthodox Ves- pers & Icon Proce- sion at St. George Ortho- dox Church (Oakland) 5:00 p.m.	6	7  Father Bender Away	8  Father Bender Away	9  Father Bender Away	10  Second Salutations 7:00 p.m.	11  Greek School 10:00 a.m.
		Fr. Christopher away at Metropolis Clergy Lenten Retreat (at Antiochian Village)				
12 Teaching Liturgy St. Gregory Palamas Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	13  Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	14	15  Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	16	17  Third Salutations 7:00 p.m.	18  Greek School 10:00 a.m.
19  Sunday of Holy Cross Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  GENERAL ASSEMBLY	20	21	22  Presanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	23	24  Great Vespers for Annunciation followed by 4 <sup>th</sup> Stanza of Akathist Hymn 7:00 p.m.	25  Feastday of ANNUNCIATION Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Greek School 10:00 a.m.
26  Sunday of St. John Climacus Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Greek School Greek Independence Day Celebration Luncheon and Program	27	28	29  Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.	30	31  THE AKATHIST HYMN 7:00 p.m.	

St. Nicholas Greek  
Orthodox Cathedral  
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