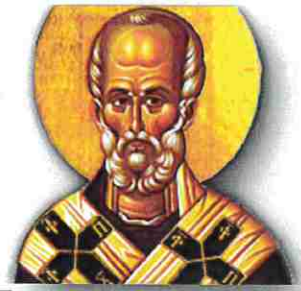




Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



MAY 25, 2023

The **Ascension of Our Lord**, which occurred 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the **dead** on Easter, is the final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday.

On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven.

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

Barbara Manners	Office Manager	412-682-3866
Mary Olszewski	Events Coordinator	412-628-9466
Vincent Nelson	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.

Metropolis	412-621-5529	www.pittsburgh.goarch.org
Archdiocese	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

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

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Cemetery	Peter Nychis
Community Center & Catering	George Bellios & James Stamatelos
Finance	Dean Panagulias
Food Festival	John Frentzos
Fundraising	George Bellios
Human Resources	John Frentzos
Maintenance/Security	Victor Bertolina
Religious & Greek Education/Greek Affiliations	
Social	John Frentzos
Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism	James Machin
Technology	Rob Day
Youth	Ted Hages
Bylaws/Legal	Ted Hages

FATHER'S MESSAGE

ABUNDANT LIFE

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. – John 10:10

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ: **ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! CHRIST IS RISEN!**

The words of Jesus quoted above come from the dialogue that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had with "some of the Pharisees who were with him," just after he had created new eyes from clay and spit for a man born blind (John 9 – this miracle is recounted every year on the Fifth Sunday after Pascha). Some of them condemned Him, because He had performed this, one of His most remarkable miracles, on the Sabbath. They seemingly lacked any sense of pity or concern for this young man, a poor beggar, who had now been given a new lease on life because of our Lord's intervention. They could not see that: 1) God's mercy and compassion for His suffering children has no bounds and thus that acts of mercy are always welcome – even on the Sabbath; and, 2) Jesus Christ, as God's Son Incarnate, had a mission to fulfill during His brief time on earth, that is, to reveal who exactly He is, both by His words and His acts of mercy (miracles). Thus, in this context, He uses this opportunity not only to express His tender love for this suffering man but also responds, when asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:3-5).

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, out of no other motive than that of infinite love for His suffering human children, is indeed our light and life, for He came not only to illumine us with His Good News (Gospel) of hope, but also to impart to us the gift of eternal life in God's presence, through His sacrificial death on the Cross, and His glorious Resurrection. This is the ultimate meaning of His promise of "abundant life:" it begins for most of us in infancy when we become members of Christ's Body, the Church, through our reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Communion. If we so desire it, this relationship can extend into every facet of our lives as we grow older. We become by grace what our Lord is by nature: God's children, His sons and daughters. This New Life in Christ has the potential to fill us with great joy even in this life, as we come to experience God's love and to share this love with others.

Many of us perhaps have been led to believe that the New Life in Christ is something we that should associate exclusively with what happens after we die: we go to heaven and receive our reward. In the meantime, too often, we just assume that life in this fallen world is and always will be a vale of tears, full of suffering and disappointment, punctuated perhaps by occasional flashes of joy and/or pleasure.

While it is true that no human being in this world (other than our Lord) is or ever has been immune from the realities of aging, illness, and, above all, death, this should not mean that we allow ourselves to succumb to an attitude of cynicism and hopelessness. For, when we look at our lives through the lens of our faith, we can see an entirely different picture: the promise of abundant life made real for us, not necessarily in the form of extravagant wealth or physical perfection, but rather, in terms of how we live out our faith in the context of our own everyday circumstances. A life need not last exceptionally long to have been meaningful; nor can the value of our life be reduced simply to what we have achieved in our careers or accumulated in our bank accounts. God's gift extends far beyond these markers of earthly success and has far more to do with our human treasure (relatives and friends) than with our worldly wealth.

While it is appropriate to strive and to make the best use possible of whatever gifts and talents God has given us, this alone does not fully define who we are. Our faith teaches us that we are, first and foremost, *God's beloved children by grace.*

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

That means that we are of infinite value in God's eyes. And our heavenly Father desires His earthly children to live forever in His presence, beginning with our life here on this earth, and extending into the world to come In His Kingdom.

We bring our Faith alive when we strive to experience its promises here in this beautiful world. A spirit of joy, of gratitude, of love for one another, of patience with each other, of generosity, of good will, and of caring for those in need and ignoring nobody, is called for. We must learn the meaning of mutual respect – that is, for ourselves first, flawed as we all are by the corrosive effects of sin – and then for all those around us. This is easy to do when our neighbor is young, attractive, and congenial. But it becomes harder, when we are dealing with those who can be stubborn and argumentative, or selfish and self-centered, or elderly and demanding. And yet, God loves us all the same – infinitely. How can we not be of help – not harm – to them in their time of need? How can we turn our backs on anybody? At the very least, perhaps we can assist them in finding the care appropriate for their needs.

Nor should we turn our backs on ourselves. We are also called to learn the importance of self-respect and of healthy love for self. You may find this statement baffling. Does our faith not emphasize the necessity for us to be willing to acknowledge at all times that we are sinners, so as not to fall into the even worse sin of pride? Yes, it does. When we do so, we are following in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, who in 1 Timothy 1:15 called himself “the foremost of sinners,” because he “formerly blasphemed and persecuted and insulted [Christ],” by attacking Christian believers. But he never allowed this reality of his past to interfere with his present ministry, and he pursued his “mission to the Gentiles” with exceeding zeal and cheerful good will. This, also, is a good example for us to follow!

But we must be careful: this doesn't mean that we have found the perfect excuse to justify selfishness – nor for prideful or demeaning behavior towards others. And consider: does not one of our most ancient prayers before Holy Communion begin with, “I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, *who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first*”? Yes, indeed! But this phrase was not intended as an excuse or *carte blanche* for sin. Rather, it is a didactic phrase that tries to teach us the degree to which we ought to pursue both *honesty* about our shortcomings and *humility*, in the presence of the Living God (Who can be found in the Communion Cup). By comparison to God's perfection and holiness, we will always fall short. (Nevertheless, we should still strive to “draw near” for Holy Communion as often as possible – not just once or twice a year, or decade.)

“Abundant life,” then, means many things. We humbly follow on our spiritual journey, our pilgrimage, if you will, in the footsteps of giants, while not pretending that we belong in their company. We have as our leader the One who abolished the gates of Hell and opened the doors for us to the heavenly places – our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, and ascended in glory into Heaven. We follow a road that is unique to ourselves, but that always leads, with the Lord's help, into the presence of our heavenly Father. Along the way, we will encounter illness, disappointment, and loss – but also moments of joy beyond imagining, when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the beauty and mystery of this, our glorious earthly home, full of life and love and hope, despite all of humanity's failings. In these moments, as when we receive Holy Communion, we experience a foretaste, an inkling, of what awaits us in God's heavenly Kingdom. Let us close with an excerpt from St. John Chrysostom's Paschal sermon.

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated! Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;

for Christ having risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!

With love in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Father Christoph H. Bender

Rev. Prototypesbyter Christopher H. Bender

BAPTISM

With much joy, and love, let us welcome into the Body of Christ, our brother in Christ: Oliver Alexander Mann son of Gordon Edward Mann and Katherine Jeram Dionysin Alexander. His sponsor was Nicholas George Alexander and baptized on April 22, 2023.

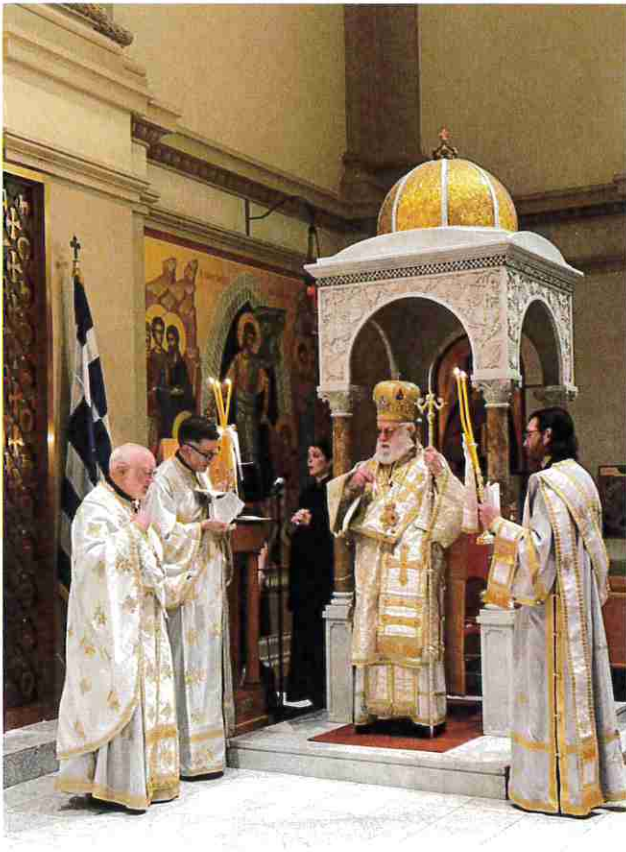
CHRISMATION

Let us also welcome into our Church Family: Mary Olszewski, who was Chrismated with the name Mary Magdalini on April 15, 2023. Alice Lardas Gary was her sponsor.
On Sunday, February 26, 2023, Antonius Day with the name Antonios, whose sponsor was Lenna Cominos, Theo Day with the name Theodoras. whose sponsor was Keli Frentzos and Roma Day with the name Varvara, whose sponsor was Eve Elsen. May God grant them Many Years!

FUNERAL

Our deepest condolences to the family of *Anastasios J. Tousimis* who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, April 7, 2023. His funeral took place on Friday, April 21, 2023.
May his memory be eternal!

Saturday of Lazarus



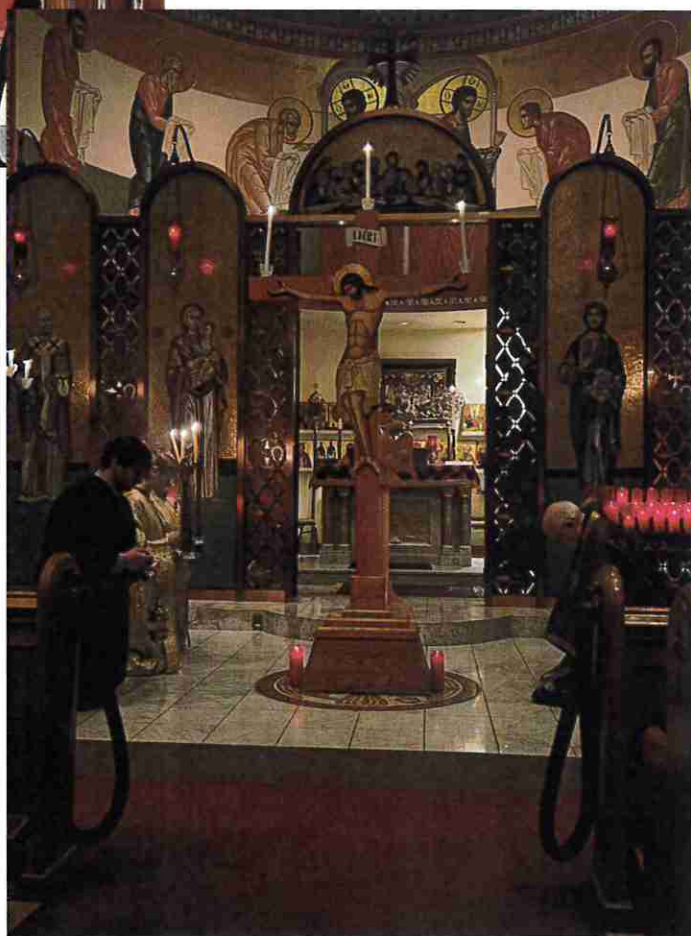
PALM SUNDAY Thank you, Niko Lardas, for your assistance with the Ceiling Project!





Holy Thursday Morning

Holy Thursday Night

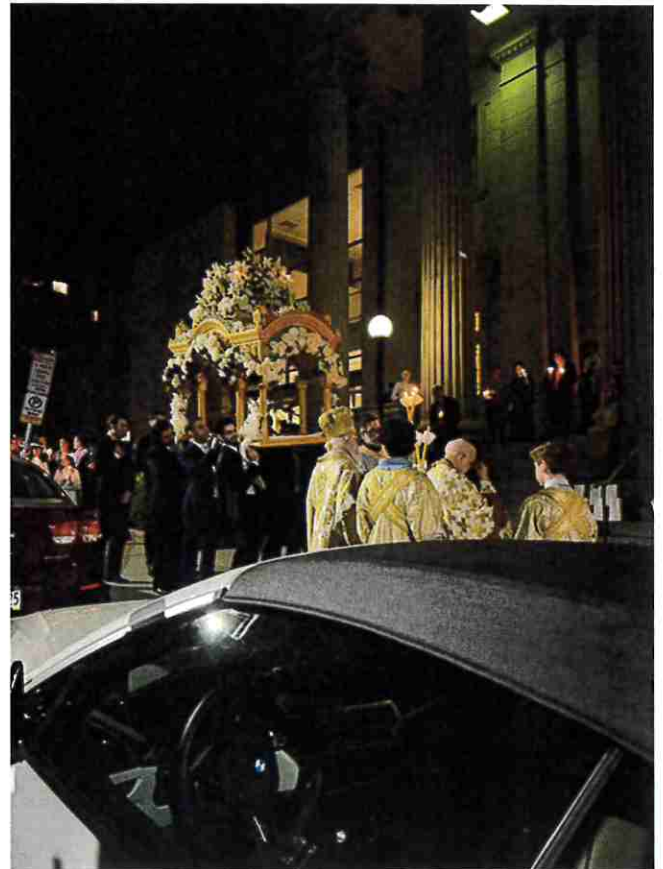
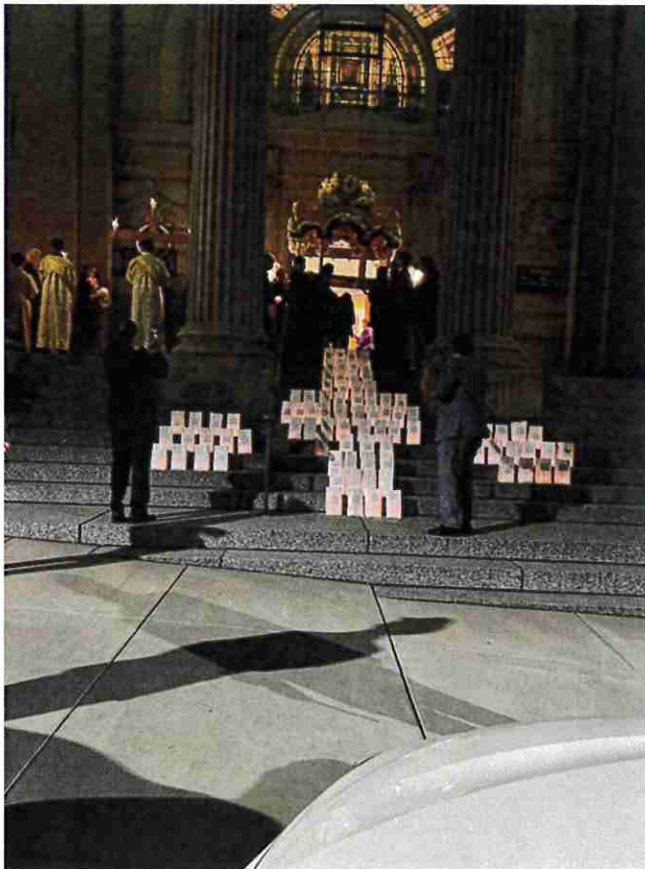


Flower Prep for
the
Kouvouklion



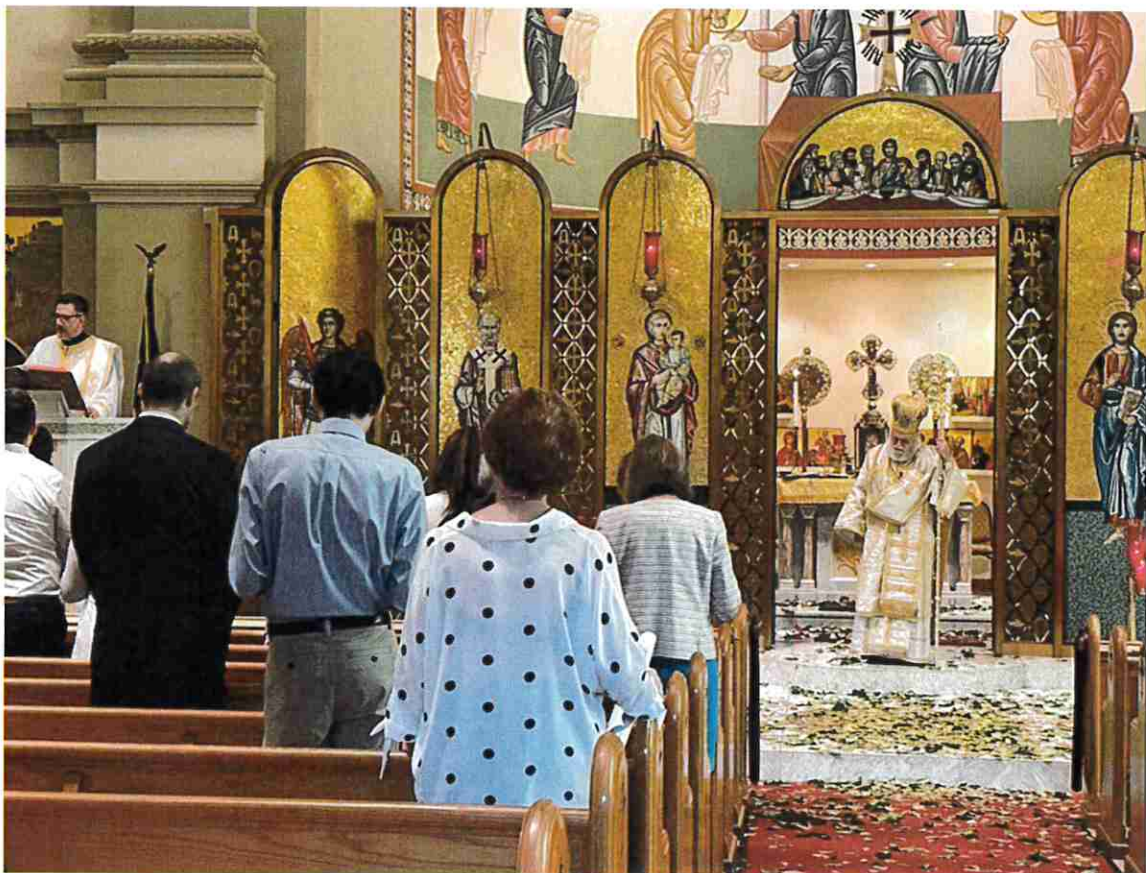
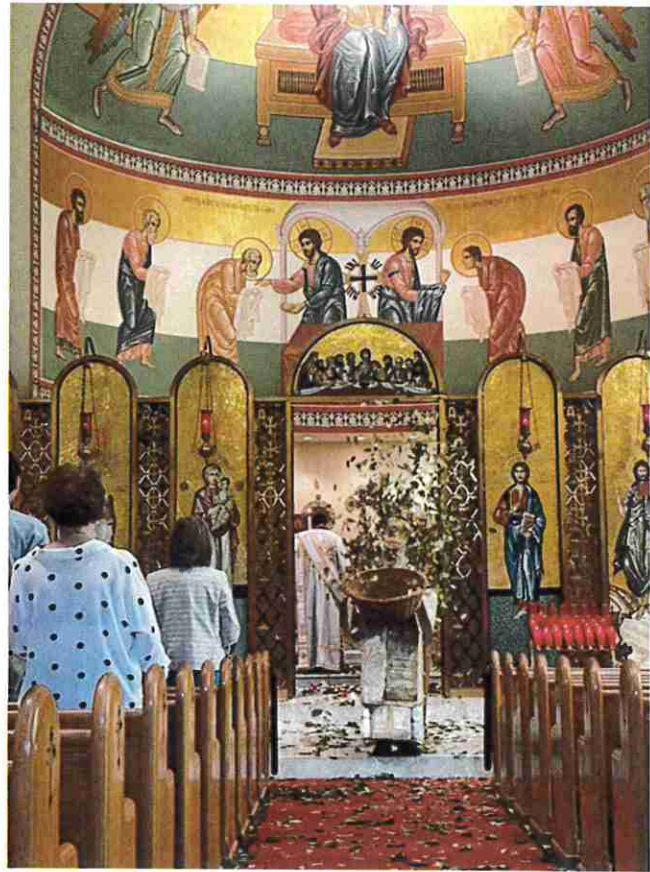
GOOD FRIDAY



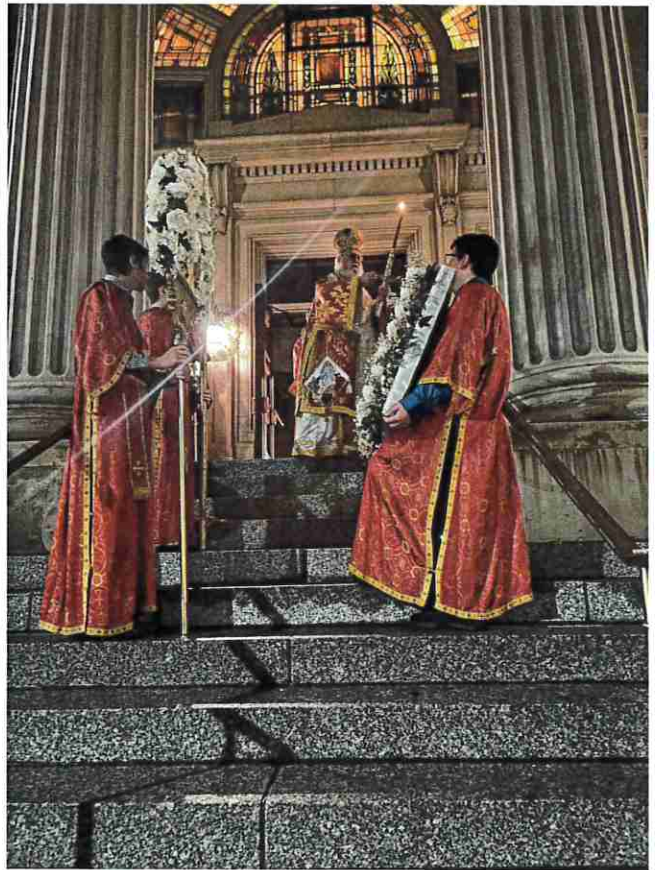
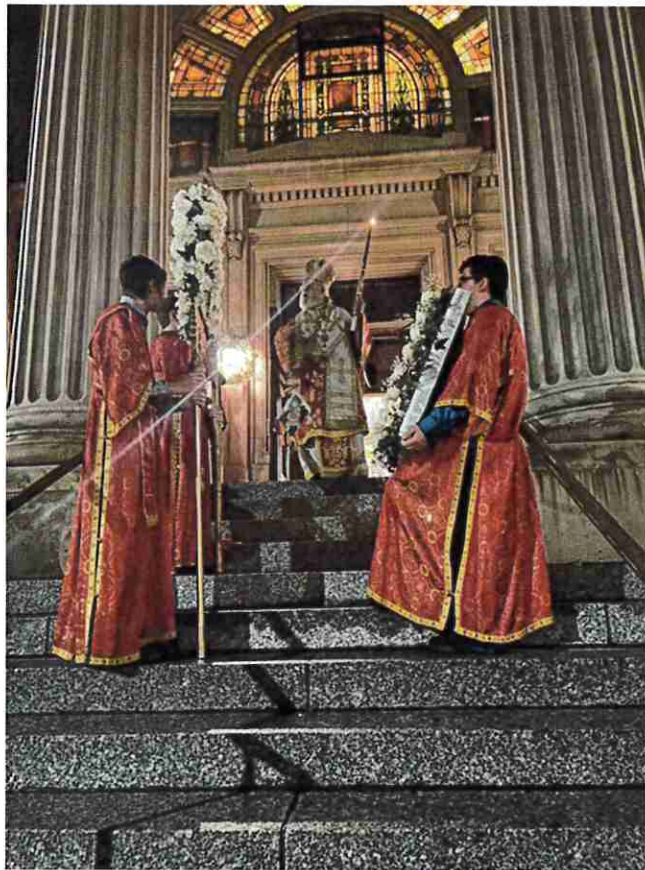


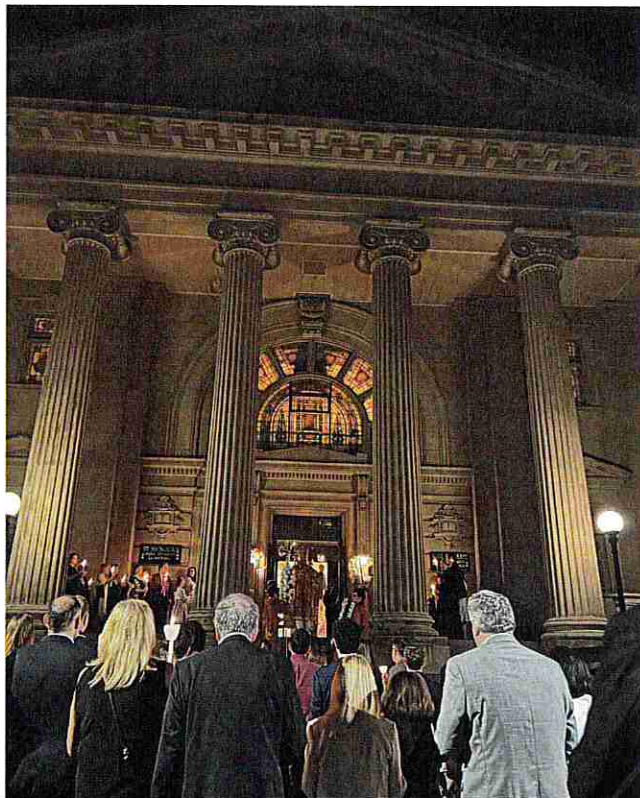


Holy Saturday Morning



Christos Anesti - Anastasi





Agape Service



EASTER EGG HUNT



Coffee Hour Trays Needed – Have extra glass/plastic trays laying around, please donate them to be used during coffee hour on Sundays. We need to replenish our supply. Please bring them to the church office.

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 Melacrinos 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.

DEACON LYKOS TALKING TO GOYANS



LUMINARY AND CANDLE PREP

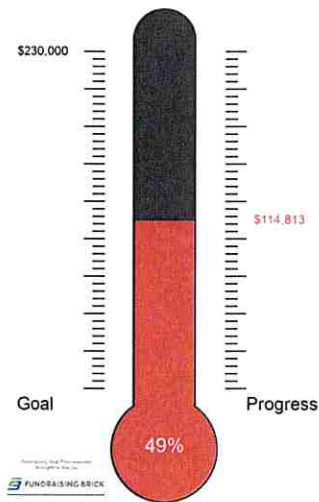


2023 STEWARDSHIP

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		04/26/2023
Total Stewards		218
Total Amount Pledged		\$114,813.00
Average Pledge		\$755.35
% Parish Participation to Date		73%
2023 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		49%
2023 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 230,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$87,897.15
As of:		03/31/2023
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection	\$151,516.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$186,593.00	
	(\$35,077.00)	

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
 James & Electra Agras
 Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 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
 Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou
 Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Avery
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris
 Ms. Rhea Ballas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman
 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
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Bouzos
 Mrs. Mary Brahos
 Ms. Krista Bullard
 Mr. & Mrs. Maury Burgwin
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano
 Mrs. Elena Cerri
 Mrs. Dee Chronis
 Mr. Greg Cominos
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett
 Mr. Philip Contacos
 Mrs. Eleni Contis
 Ms. Jamie Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis
 Mrs. Sandra Contis
 Mrs. Alexandria Copetas
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas
 Mrs. Maria Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. Vasili Copetas
 Mrs. Vasso Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis⁺ Countouris
 Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig
 Dr. & Mrs. John DaPos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos

Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
 Ms. Bridgette Daugherty
 Mrs. Denise Daugherty
 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. Sotirios Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt
 Mrs. Sophia Edgos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Ellis
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. George P. Faines
 Mrs. Penelope Falck
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 Mrs. Bessie Ferency
 Mrs. Olga Florence
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. William Gary
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Guminski
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Beck Hall
 Ms. Aphrodite Halleran
 Ms. Christina Hammerling
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna
 Mrs. Frances Hanna
 Dr. John Haretos
 Mr. Theodore Haretos
 Mrs. Rania Harris
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg
 Mr. Roger Jutras & Mrs. Katherine Paras
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Mr. Kyle Glaser & Ellie-Anne Karras
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsois
 Dr. & Mrs. John Karvounides
 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
 Ms. Nicole Klidas
 Mrs. Estair Kotsagrellos
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos
 Mr. Chris Kouklis
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Mr. Peter 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. Richard A. Lepidi
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
 Mrs. Janet Lykos
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadav
 Mr. & Mrs. Spero Maginas
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mrs. Kay Mandalakas
 Mr. Christopher George Mandros
 Mrs. Thalia Mandros
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos
 Mrs. Helen Mastros
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastros
 Mr. & Mrs. John McCann
 Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
 Mrs. Patricia McKee
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
 Mr. & Mrs. William Michaels
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis
 Mrs. Venetia Moreno
 Mr. Paul L. Moses
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nychis
 Ms. Mary Olszewski
 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. A. Robert Shott
 Mr. & Mrs. George Sideris
 Mr. George Sockos
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos

2023 STEWARDSHIP

Ms. Catherine Stamoolis
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
Mrs. Toulia Stathopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. James Stratigos
Mr. Nicholas Strauch
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Strauch
Mrs. Argie Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher
Mrs. Katia Sycara & Mr. Michael Lewis
Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
Mr. John Tumazos
Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis

Mrs. Panagiota Vasilakis
Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
Mrs. Angela Vergos
Mr. Chris Vergos & Ms. Amber Lilly
Ms. Elaine Vitsas
Mr. John Vitsas
Mrs. Frances Vlahos
Mrs. Becky Vlahoulis⁺
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



A HUGE Thank You goes to John Peterson who once again this year beautified the front of our Cathedral by mulching the beds. John also added a set of steppingstones leading up to the Veterans Plaque. Thank You, John, for your time and effort!

PARISH COUNCIL

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

The ancient philosopher Heraclitus said, "There is nothing permanent except change." Change in life, is inescapable. Change in the Church is often viewed as less than desirable.

As you may have heard, Fr. Christopher Bender will be retiring at the end of the June. And on Sunday, June 18, 2023, we will be "Honoring Father on Father's Day" with a luncheon (see attached flyer).

Starting July 1, 2023, Fr. Eleftherios Constantine will be the new parish priest at St. Nicholas Cathedral. We will welcome him, Presbytera Elisabeth, and their children Thomas, Anastasia, Marina, and Basil with open arms.

St. Nicholas Cathedral has been here for over 100 years. Through continuous effort, strength, and unity, we will continue to focus on the future and stay positive with these upcoming changes.

Yours in Christ,
Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos
Parish Council President

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JUNE 18
after Divine Liturgy

A RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

HONORING

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER H. BENDER

DEAN, ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL, 2013-2023

Details to follow

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

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DESK



Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Thank you to the **Kotsagrellos Family** for organizing a delicious **Communion Breakfast** after the Divine Liturgy Saturday, April 8, 2023, (St. Lazarus Day) and the **Agape Service Coffee Hour & Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2023!

A special thank you to our **Myrophores (Myrrh Bearing Women)** **Magdalini Kazas, Nicoletta Kazas and Stamatia Lykos** who participated in the Good Friday evening service, our **GOYA** young women who received and distributed the light at the Anastasi Service, and to the **Altar Boys**.

As with all "school" years, Church School must end. **Church School Graduation** will be **Sunday, May 21, 2023**. All students present will receive their graduation certificate and an icon. The teachers and staff will receive a gift, too. Special books will be given to the Kindergarten class (The Bible for Young People) and the High School Graduates (the New Orthodox Study Bible (Old and New Testament)).

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

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

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, 412-944-4961.

Philoptochos News

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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:

Another hot meal for Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) was provided by Christos Mediterranean Grille on April 26th. We are always grateful for their support

Keep an eye out for information regarding our ongoing Community Outreach with Neighborhood Resilience Project's 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. Any questions, please contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

HOMEBOUND VISITATIONS:

The St. Nicholas parishioners who are homebound were visited during Holy Week. We gave each person an Easter Tsoureki and potted plant. If you are interested in visiting one of our homebound, please contact Mary Peterson (412-337-6759).

FUNDRAISERS: (See enclosed Flyers)

EASTER BREAD:

Thank you, Nikki Lykos and Alisa Mathews, for chairing the Easter Bread baking! Thank you to ALL the women (and men) who helped prepare the dough, assemble, bake, wrap and sell the bread. Over 300 breads were made and sold.

MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY CARDS:

This popular fundraiser honors Mothers/Fathers, Aunts/Uncles, Nounas/Nounos, Yiayias/Papous and "special" women/men, both living and those who have passed. A card is sent to the honoree and their name is also listed in the bulletin on Mother's/Father's Day (and the Ecclesia). It is a wonderful way to honor and remember those who are thought of in a loving way.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON, EASTER EGG DYING AND ANASTASI MEAL

Sunday, April 9, 2023, Philoptochos sponsored the Palm Sunday Luncheon (which has become a tradition). A special thank you goes to Joe Bardakos (who made the fresh homemade bread from Bridge City Brinery). The delicious fish plaki lunch with all the fixings (rice, green beans, salad, and peach crisp) was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all the Philoptochos women for helping set-up, cook, serve and clean-up.

Thank you to Nikki Lykos who helped me dye, polish and wrap 15 dozen eggs for the Anastasi and Agape Services.

Again, the Anastasi Meal was sponsored by Philoptochos. Lamb (prepared by Nick Lefcakis), rice, Avgolemono soup (compliments of Ritter's Diner), cheese (compliments of Stamoolis Brothers), Tsoureki and dessert were shared by the St. Nicholas Family and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas.

GENERAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS:

The next **General Meeting and Board Elections** will be **Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** in the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Conference Room.

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

Yours in Christ,
Maria Bardakos, President

Celebrating MOTHER'S DAY

St. Nicholas Philoptochos believes in honoring the women in our lives. Honor your wife, mother, grandmother, godmother, sister, aunt or special friend with a gift to Philoptochos. Your donation will enable us to continue our work of charitable giving to individuals and families in need, area food banks, shelters for the homeless, social service agencies and countless research efforts in the battle against cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Join us this Mother's Day by honoring someone you love with a gift to Philoptochos.

Make checks payable and send to: St. Nicholas Philoptochos, 419 S. Dithridge St. Pittsburgh, PA 15213, Memo: Mother's Day

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR INCLUSION IN BULLETIN – SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

(minimum gift of \$5.00 per name please — all donations are tax deductible)

Your Name: _____

Honorees will receive a special Mother's Day acknowledgement card.

The amount of your gift will not be disclosed.

☐ Please accept this gift in honor of:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

☐ Please accept this gift in memory of:

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

*List any additional names and addresses on the back of this flyer and indicate whether donation is in Honor or in Memory.
Please print clearly.*

**GREEK AMERICAN PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION
(GAPA)**

SUPREME LODGE

2023 COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

NATIONAL GAPA AWARD

The Supreme Lodge of the Greek American Progressive Association (GAPA), as part of its philanthropic and educational mission, is offering an annual College and Community Achievement Award in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The deadline for applying for the Achievement Award is May 15, 2023.

Students entering their first year of full time undergraduate college, university, or community college in 2023 are eligible to apply for the Supreme Lodge GAPA 2023 College Achievement Award. Award Recipients will be announced on/after May 31, 2023.

The Supreme Lodge GAPA 2023 College Achievement Award was established to recognize and promote scholastic performance and encourage participation in community activities while a student is engaged in earning an undergraduate degree.

SUBMIT APPLICATION and ALL REQUIRED documents: list of activities, letter of recommendation, high school transcript, essay, letter of college acceptance, and sponsor signature by May 15, 2023 to:

GAPA Supreme Lodge

Mail to:

Joanne Melachrinou 531 Berkshire Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Contact Sophia at Sophiaalexiades54@msn.com for additional information

1. ACTIVITIES:

Describe the church, ethnic and community activities you participate in through your church and or community and also list any awards or recognitions you have received through these activities. Include extracurricular activities.

2 . LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Attach a letter of recommendation from a teacher or mentor who can attest to your commitment to your academic efforts or in the case of a mentor who can attest to your development in your community or church environment.

3. HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT/ GRADE POINT AVERAGE

An overall Grade Point Average of 3.0 is required to qualify for the Achievement Award. Please attach a transcript from your high school showing your Grade Point Average.

4. APPLICANT'S ESSAY

Among the values the Greek American Progressive Association seeks to promote are Hellenism and Orthodoxy through its members and their families into the greater American Community. Please share with us your feelings and thoughts about how your heritage or love for Hellenic Culture or history has helped to mold your character and how you would like to share the values of your faith, culture and heritage with the greater community now and after graduation.

5. COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE LETTER

Name of College you are being admitted in 2023 along with a copy of your letter of acceptance as full time freshman along with expected year of graduation.

APPLICANT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

6. SPONSOR REQUIREMENT

To be eligible for the Achievement Award, applicant must secure a nomination from a current member of A.G.A.P.A. Lodge (Local or Supreme) The applicant may be related to a GAPA member (child or grandchild) or be a member or child or grandchild of a member of a Greek Orthodox Church.

Please have your sponsor complete and sign below

I hereby endorse the nomination of this applicant to be eligible for the 2023 GAPA Supreme Lodge Achievement Award.

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR _____

Name of Sponsor _____

Lodge Sponsor is a member of _____

Telephone Number _____

Date: _____

**ST. NICHOLAS WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OF OUR 2023
GRADUATES
MAY 21st!**

Please fill out this short questionnaire and submit to church office via email, fax (412-683-4960) or
mail (419 S. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213) by May 15, 2023.

Thank you!

Name _____

Phone: _____

Month of Graduation _____

High School: _____

Or

University/ Graduate School: _____

Degree Earned: _____

***Please email a recent photo to church@stnickspgh.org so that we can include in the next issue
of the Newsletter.

Awards and Honors:

Activities:

Future Plans:

FOOD FESTIVAL

Food Festival Preparations Mission accomplished! Finished! All set and done, ready and prepared for the 25,000 to 30,000+ guests who will be streaming through our doors. A food festival, let alone a Greek one, cannot exist without all the Spanakopita, Tiropita, Pastitsio, Moussaka, Souzoukakia, Baklava, Pasta Flora, Finikia, Kourambiethes, Galatoboureko, Koulourakia. Karidopita and Diples we have prepared on site these past five months. Email blasts were sent out either pleading for help or announcing that we had finished ahead of time, perhaps confusing the casual recipient. Unlike a regular business, the uncertainty of not knowing who was going to show up and how long they were staying was a constant. But the job DID get done, sometimes we thought miraculously.

Diples was our last Hurrah, and what a HUGE, successful Hurrah it was! With only a few individuals knowing how to roll out the dough, we experimented with pasta makers and struck gold! Using our time-tested Diples recipe of 60+ years with an open, creative approach and great turnout, we feel confident and hopeful we can continue this long-time tradition at St. Nicholas!

Many thanks to those of you who came to help with any of the 13 items we needed to prepare, and my sincerest thanks to my core workers, who know who you are, who could be depended upon on a regular basis. You were both the physical and moral support needed to get the job done!

It takes a village
(or more)
To run a festival.
sign up to volunteer.
May 7 - 13

Volunteer Registration Now Open!



Meet new people & learn new things
Strengthen the community
Reduces stress & increases happiness
Confidence boost
Make a difference in the world
Great addition to any resume



St. Nicholas Cathedral • 61st Annual

Greek Food



Festival

Sunday, May 7 - Saturday, May 13

Scan the QR
Code to
volunteer for
a shift!



THE 2023 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS GUIDE

It's a great tradition, and it's back again in full strength and in person: 37 days of Greek Festivals in the Pittsburgh region, so plan well and you can eat Greek all summer! Post this schedule on your refrigerator and share copies with others. We look forward to seeing you!

LOCATION

DATES

- ☐ St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland) May 7-13
- ☐ All Saints (Canonsburg) June 5-9
- ☐ Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon) June 13-16
- ☐ Kimisis Tis Theotokou (Aliquippa) June 15-17
- ☐ Holy Dormition (Oakmont) June 23-25
- ☐ Holy Trinity (Ambridge) July 18-22
- ☐ St. Spyridon (Monessen) July 21
- ☐ Presentation of Christ/Ypapanti (East Pgh.) July 27-29
- ☐ St. George (New Castle) August 26-27
- ☐ Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh/North Hills) August 31-September 3

SEE BELOW FOR FESTIVAL HOURS & HOST PARISH WEB SITES. CHECK FOR UPDATES.

THE 2023 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS: ALL THE DETAILS

Don't cook tonight...go Greek! Please pass copies on to your friends! Greek food is always enjoyed best with good company!

Parish	Dates	Address	Phone	Website	Hours
Saint Nicholas	May 7-13	419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh (Oakland)	412-682-3866	www.StNicksPgh.org	Sun: 12p-8p; Mon-Thu: 11a-8p, Fri: 11a-9p, Sat: 1p-9p
All Saints	June 5-9	601 West McMurray Road Canonsburg	724-745-5205	www.AISaintsCbg.org	Mon-Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Cross	June 13-16	123 Gileson Road Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)	412-833-3355	www.HolyCrossPgh.org	Tue-Thu: 11a-8p Fri: 11a-9p
Kimisis Tis Theotokou	June 15-17	2111 Davidson Street Aliquippa	724-375-5341	www.Theotokou.org	Thu-Sat: 11a-8p
Holy Dormition	June 23-25	12 Washington Avenue Oakmont	412-828-4144	www.DormitionPgh.org	Fri-Sun: 12p-11p Dinner until 9pm
Holy Trinity (Ambridge)	July 18-22	2930 Beaver Road Ambridge	724-266-5336	www.htgoc.org	Tue-Sat: 11a-10p
Saint Spyridon	July 21	1207 Grand Boulevard Monessen	724-684-5411	stspyridon.pa.goarch.org	Fri: 11a-9p
Ypapanti (Presentation of Christ)	July 27-29	1672 Electric Avenue East Pittsburgh	412-824-9188	www.ypapanti.net	Thu-Sat: 11a-9p
Saint George	August 26-27	315 W. Englewood Avenue New Castle	724-554-8521	www.stgeorgenewcastle.org	Sat-Sun: 11a-7p
Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh)	August 31- September 3	985 Providence Boulevard Pittsburgh (across from Passavant Hospital)	412-366-8700	www.HolyTrinityPgh.org	Thu-Sun: 11a-9p

Thank you for enjoying our great Greek food and visiting our churches. Want to also help these communities feed, minister to and provide health care for the hungry and needy of the Hill District and the Pittsburgh area? Support the Neighbor Resilience Project by visiting neighborhoodresilience.org, a philanthropic ministry united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions for poverty-and-trauma-affected communities in the Pittsburgh area.

This free guide is provided as a public service of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Pittsburgh). Online at HolyTrinityPgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide.

ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS OF PRESENTATION OF
CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PRESENTS

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE! A MUSICAL CABARET!

Join us for an afternoon of good food,
good friends, wonderful talent and entertainment!

SUNDAY MAY 21. 2023

OLYMPIA BANQUET FACILITY
1575 ELECTRIC AVENUE, EAST PITTSBURGH, PA, 15112
DOORS OPEN 1:00 PM

Cocktails, Buffet, Desserts, & Musical Cabaret

ADULTS \$30, STUDENTS \$15, AGE 4-11 \$7, Under 3 FREE
FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

MARY DOREZA 412.877-3415
PAID RESERVATIONS BY MAY 16, 2023

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT "LENDING
HEARTS," PROVIDING EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL
SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH
CANCER AND THEIR FAMILIES

PLEASE JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING



CRETAN ASSOCIATION
PITTSBURGH, PA

Saturday, May 20th
Hilton Garden Inn - Southpointe
1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA

Dinner Tickets

Adults - \$60

Children (under 12) - \$20

Dance Only - \$25

Cocktails

Dinner

Presentation

Dance

6pm - 7pm

7pm - 8:30pm

8:30pm - 9:30pm

9:30pm - 2am



Use QR code to purchase tickets online by May 10, 2023

or contact: Helene Semanderes at (724) 867-7424

Checks can be made payable to: Cretan Association of Pittsburgh.

Attn: Rio Maropis - 102 Cedarbrook Ct., Oakdale, PA 15071

To pay via Venmo - @pghcretan

Hotel reservations available \$105 per night

<https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/ukf017>

Musicians from Crete

George Mathioudakis (lyra)

George Hatzidakis (laouto)

joining them from NJ Antonis Marmatakis (laouto)



ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL 2023 GOLF OUTING

Registration/Lunch Buffet 11:00

Shotgun Start 12:30

Cocktails 5:30

Dinner/Auction/Prizes 6:00

Golf Foursome \$750 Individual \$200
Tee and Prize sponsorships available

***Monday, May 22, 2023
Shannopin Country Club***

**For Reservations and Sponsorships
412-421-0294/Bellios216@gmail.com**

**JOIN CHAPTER ICAROS FOR THE 46th ANNUAL
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MINI CONVENTION DANCE!**

Sunday, May 28, 2023 ~ 9:00pm-2:00am

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church Hall, 12 Washington Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139

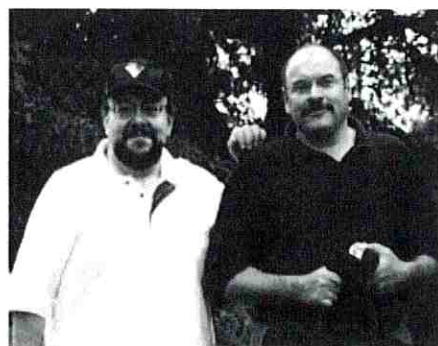
Adults: \$25.00 Children (12 and under): \$5.00

Cash Bar ♦ Mezethes ♦ Chinese Raffle

Live Music with Ta Filarakia, featuring Victoria Mavrogeorgis on Violin!

Contact: Michelle Kotsagrelas at 412-680-1416 or mmk8317@hotmail.com

**JOIN CHAPTER ICAROS FOR THE 21st ANNUAL
STEVE MANNERS ICARIAN OPEN**



Steve Manners and Mike Aivaliotis

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Meadowink Golf Course

4076 Bulltown Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

*Don't be left out! Get a foursome together...
We will make foursomes as best we can for the rest.*

PRICE: \$115.00 includes green fees, cart, snack at the turn, beer, and steak dinner

AGENDA: 12:00pm – Registration
1:00pm – Shotgun Start
6:00pm – Steak Dinner

CONTACT: Anna Aivaliotis at 412-310-7290 or annaca@pitt.edu

Dress Code: collared shirts; no cut-offs. **Reminder:** PA LCB does not allow you to bring your own beer.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER ICAROS 7
2023 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MINI CONVENTION



AD BOOK FORM

The undersigned agrees to purchase space in the 2023 Mini Convention Ad Book

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____

PRINT YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE SPACE BELOW (OR ATTACH):

PLEASE CHECK AMOUNT OF AD BOOK REQUEST: Full Page \$60.00 ☐ Half Page \$30.00 ☐

The Ad Book will be distributed at the Mini Convention Dance on 5/28/23 at the Dormition of The Holy Theotokos Church, Oakmont, PA

STEVE MANNERS ICARIAN OPEN ● \$100 HOLE SPONSORSHIP
Meadowink Golf Course, Murrysville, PA ~ Saturday, May 27, 2023

The undersigned agrees to sponsor a hole at the 2023 Steve Manners Icarian Open at a cost of \$100.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____

NAME/BUSINESS (LOGO) TO BE PRINTED ON SIGN:

Email camera ready ad to annaca@pitt.edu

DEADLINE MAY 12, 2023

Mail form and check (payable to Chapter Icaros 7) to:
Anna Aivaliotis, 6303 Hallwood Road, Verona, PA 15147
Telephone: 412-793-8384

Celebrating FATHER'S DAY

St. Nicholas Philoptochos believes in honoring the men in our lives. Honor your husband, father, grandfather, godfather, brother, uncle or a special friend with a gift to Philoptochos. Your donation will enable us to continue our work of charitable giving to individuals and families in need, area food banks, shelters for the homeless, social service agencies and countless research efforts in the battle against cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Join us this Father's Day by honoring someone you love with a gift to Philoptochos.

Make checks payable and send to: St. Nicholas Philoptochos, 419 S. Dithridge St. Pittsburgh, PA 15213, Memo: Father's Day

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR INCLUSION IN BULLETIN – SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

(minimum gift of \$5.00 per name please — all donations are tax deductible)

Your Name: _____

Honorees will receive a special Father's Day acknowledgement card.
The amount of your gift will not be disclosed.

☐ Please accept this gift in honor of:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

☐ Please accept this gift in memory of:

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

*List any additional names and addresses on the back of this flyer and indicate whether donation is in Honor or in Memory.
Please print clearly.*

CEILING RESTORATION FUNDRAISING

We have a lot of good news relating to fundraising for the ceiling restoration.

This year, the Vlahokerasiotes Manthytrea Educational Society dedicated all proceeds from their annual Makaronada Dinner / Dance toward the Restoration of our Cathedral Ceiling. The event was very successful with nearly 300 attending and clearing \$7,500. In addition, the Society generously matched these proceeds from their own funds, increasing their total donation to \$15,000. St. Nicholas Cathedral deeply appreciates this donation and the role that the descendants of Vlahokerasia always play in supporting St. Nicholas Cathedral.

Our insurance policy for property damage only covers the cost to repair the one spot of the ceiling that fell down. These types of policies generally do not cover the cost to repair deterioration due to age. Initially, the insurance company estimated the cost of repair at \$5,770, which is very, very low even for repairing the one collapsed spot. Then the insurance company subtracted depreciation and the deductible and sent us a check for \$2,400. We put together a package documenting that the cost to repair the collapsed part of the ceiling would be much higher than their estimate. They accepted our claim, and we recently received a check for an additional \$28,500!

Another big boost to our efforts to pay for the ceiling is that the Metropolis has reduced our Archdiocese assessment for 2023 by \$32,000. This was done to assist with the parish's burden to pay for the ceiling damage. Members of the fundraising committee wrote a great letter to the Metropolis laying out the case for some relief this year to enable St. Nicholas to pay for the ceiling repair. And, it also helped our case that the Metropolis could see all of the capital campaign and fundraising activities that the parish was carrying out on its own to pay for the problem.

Finally, the capital campaign continues to do very well. Total pledges at this point are \$199,000 and \$194,000 of those pledges have been received to date. This year, the proceeds from the Festival Ad Book Committee are going toward the ceiling repair and the Ad Book Committee's preliminary reports are very encouraging.

Due to the outpouring of support from the parish, it is looking like we will have this entire ceiling restoration paid for very soon! Thank you for all of your efforts; the parish came through to do what was necessary to preserve our Cathedral and community. AXIOS!

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, 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)

MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
7 Sunday of Paralytic Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	8	9 Prophet Isaiah & Christo- pher the Martyr Or- thros 9:00 a.m. Divine Litur- gy 10:00 a.m.	10	11	12	13
Pittsburgh Marathon until 11:00 a.m. Park by Carnegie Library						
Greek Food Festival May 7 – 13: Sunday: 12:00 Noon – 8:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Music until midnight						
14 Sunday of Samaritan Woman Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	15 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Philoptochos General Meeting & Elections 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19	20 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
21 Sunday of Man Born Blind Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Church School & Graduate Sunday	22 ST. NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING AT SHANNOPIN COUNTRY CLUB 11:00 a.m. GOYA Volley- ball 7:00 p.m.	23 Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	24	25 HOLY ASCENSION Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	26	27 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
28 Fathers of 1 st Ecumenical Council Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	29 Church Office Closed for MEMORIAL DAY Divine Liturgy / Trisagion At Homewood Cemetery 9:30 a.m. Trisagion At Wilkinsburg Cemetery 12:00 noon	30 Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	31			

St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
419 S. Dithridge Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No 287



STAMOOLIS
BROTHERS CO. • SINCE 1909

RETAIL & WHOLESALE
Greek • Italian • Middle Eastern Food

STORE HOURS:
Monday thru Friday 7 am to 4 pm • Saturday 8 am to 4 pm

412.471.7676

In the Heart of the Strip District
2020 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15222



www.stamoolisbros.com