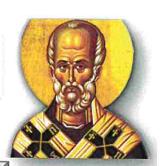


Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA



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

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21st The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple



The feast on the twenty-first of November commemorates the Entrance of the young Mary, the Theotokos, into the Temple of Jerusalem. This event—though not directly mentioned in the Bible, but rather the Protoevangelium of James—holds profound spiritual significance for Christians. Tradition recounts that Mary was brought by her parents to the temple to live among the virgins dedicated to the service of God. Here, under the guardianship of Zacharias, the priest and father of John the Baptist, Mary was prepared herself to become the "holy of holies" of God, and to bear the Divine child.

Scriptural references abound in the feast's liturgical services, particularly from Psalm 45, which the Orthodox Church views as a direct prophecy concerning Mary. The Gospel of Saint Luke echoes these sentiments, with Mary herself acknowledging the divine favor upon her. The predominant theme of this feast is Mary's transformation into a living temple of God, embodying the New Testament prophecies that humanity would be the dwelling place of the Divine Presence.

This occasion marks the end of the Jerusalem Temple's role as God's primary dwelling and emphasizes Mary's unique position in salvation history. The Old Testament readings for the Vespers service—which include passages about the construction of the tabernacle and temple—culminate in the phrase, "for the glory of the Lord filled the house [tabernacle] of the Lord God Almighty." These readings are understood as symbolic references to Mary, heralding a new era where every believer, taking Mary as a model, can become a dwelling place for 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 Eleftherios Constantine, Dean

fr.ec@stnickspgh.org

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 Kotsagrelos, 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)
Vasili Copetas (412-551-7677)
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.

Metropolis412-621-5529www.pittsburgh.goarch.orgArchdiocese212-570-3500www.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-OrthodoxCathedral-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 Kotsagrelos	412-680-1416
Greek School	Maria Stamoolis	412-963-7283
Philoptochos		412-897-8208
GOYA Advisors	s Linda Hages	412-523-7938
	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
	OPE/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 Dan		
GOYA	Kelly Gary	412-741-8567
JOY	Aimee Walker	412-398-6094
Boys Basketball		412-523-3571
	Nick Strauch	724-931-0364
Girls Basketball		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/G	reek Affiliations
Social	John Frentzos
Stewardship, Outreach & Evang	gelism James Machin
Technology	Rob Day
Youth	Ted Hages
Bylaws/Legal	Ted Hages

FATHER'S MESSAGE

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 117:1)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this season of Thanksgiving — when we make time to gather over a meal with family and friends — our hearts naturally turn to expressions of gratitude. But this year, let us delve deeper into the profound thanksgiving that our Orthodox Christian faith constantly invites us to embrace through the Divine Eucharist ($\Theta \epsilon i\alpha \ E \dot{\nu} \chi \alpha \varrho \iota \sigma \tau i\alpha$).

The word "Εὐχαριστία-Eucharistia" is best translated as "thanksgiving." Εὐχαριστία embodies the essence of our Christian worship — a profound gratitude that spans every facet of creation and, above all, cherishes the ever-present revelation of Christ in our lives.

Central to our faith, the Eucharist finds its origins in the Last Supper when Christ directed His disciples to offer bread and wine in His remembrance. This sacrament stands as a hallmark of our Orthodox worship, where we gather to celebrate and honor Christ's Life, Death, and Resurrection, jointly participating in the mystery of Salvation.

Speaking on this, Hieromonk Gregorios aptly states, "Holding the gifts of his gratitude, man ascends through the Divine Liturgy to the heights of God ...the bread and the wine receive the blessing of the life-creating Spirit and becomes Eucharist. Man communes in the Eucharistic food, in Christ, and himself becomes a constant Eucharist, thanksgiving."

And so, as we approach the celebrations of giving thanks this month, let us then immerse ourselves in the true spirit of thanksgiving. May this Eucharistic *ethos* permeate our every action and thought, drawing us ever closer to God and reminding us of the bountiful gifts with which we have been blessed, always giving thanks to our Lord, the redeemer of our souls.

Prayerfully yours,

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Our sincere condolences to the family of *Dr. Barrett Bender* who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, October 1, 2023. His funeral was October 5, 2023. Dr. Bender was the brother of Father Christopher Bender and Irene Maginas. May God grant him eternal rest.

PARISH COUNCIL

The fall season is well underway. And as the days get shorter, we anticipate the coming of winter. In the midst of these colder days and longer nights, we anticipate the Light of Christ. On November 15th, we begin our forty-day journey to the Lord's birth. We spend time decorating, to radiate this light. We do this in a spirit of Thanksgiving and Joy! Make church a priority and please try and attend at least one more service other than Sunday morning, during your journey to our Lord's birth. You will not regret your decision.

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Marie Kotsagrelos

Parish Council President

Have a Ball at the Cathedral

(a good old fashioned Γλέντι/Glendi/Greek Dance!)

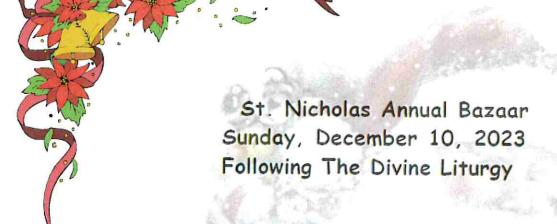
Saturday, November 25, 2023

8:00 PM - 12:00 Midnight

Music by "Ta Filarakia"

\$40.00 for Adults \$20.00 for Under Age 18 Ticket Price Includes: Mezedes (Heavy Appetizers) and Dance Cash Bar

> For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact: St. Nicholas Cathedral 412-682-3866 church@stnickspgh.org 419 South Dithridge Street (Oakland) Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Food - Drinks - Games -Gold Fish - Balloons - and so much more!!

Oh Yeah.... And let's not forget about those delicious Loukoumades!!!

Hope our surprise visitor from the North Pole doesn't eat all the Loukoumades.

COME JOIN THE FUN!

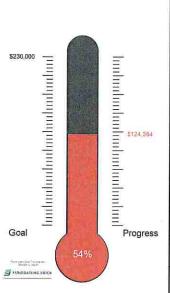
Chairpersons: Lenna Cominos, Keli Frentzos, and Lisa Kristian



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



Anal Chrys P. D. Chry		
2023 STEWARDSHIP		10/26/2023
Total Stewards		269
Total Amount Pledged		\$124,584.00
Average Pledge		\$720.14
% Parish Participation to Date		90%
2023 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		54%
2023 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 230,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$167,165.58
As of:		09/30/2023
Income: Pledges, Basket Collection and Food Festival	\$859,784.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$783,770.00	
	\$ 76,014.00	

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. Nikos Andrianos Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis

Mr. George Anthon

Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Antoniades 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 Mr. John Nicholas 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

Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Bouzos Mrs. Mary Brahos

Ms. Krista Bullard

Mr. & Mrs. Maury Burgwin Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano

Mrs. Elena Cerri

Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas

Mrs. Dee Chronis Mr. Greg Cominos

Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos

Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett

Mr. Philip Contacos Mr. Athanasios Contis Mrs. Eleni Contis Mr. & Mrs. George Contis

Ms. Jamie Contis Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis Mrs. Sandra Contis

Mrs. Alexandria Copetas Mr. Charles G. Copetas Mr. & Mrs. Dino Copetas

Mr. George Copetas Mrs. Helen G. Copetas

Mrs. Maria Copetas Mrs. Theodora Copetas

Ms. Tia Copetas Mr. Vasili Copetas Mrs. Vasso Copetas Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas

Mr. & Mrs. Louis+ Countouris

Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Coutris 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

Mr. John Edgos 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. Alice Flocos Mrs. Olga Florence

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos

Mrs. Alice Gary

Mr. & Mrs. William Gary

Mrs. Fran Gialamas Mrs. Alexandra Gregory

Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Guminski

Mr. & Mrs. James Hages Mr. Ted Hages

Mrs. Paula 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

Mr. &b Mrs. Steven Kalabokes Mrs. Lucia Kalaris

Ms. Christine Kanakis Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin

Mr. Kyle Glaser & Ellie-Anne Karras

Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis Dr. & Mrs. John Karvounides Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas Mr. Lee Katsafanas Mr. Andron Kavouras

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos

Ms. Elaine Keim

Dr. & Mrs. Georgios Kitsios

Mrs. Mary Kleissas

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas

Ms. Nicole Klidas

Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis

Mrs. Estair Kotsagrelos

Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelos

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 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Langas

Ms. Maria Langas

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 Lepidi

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. David Levine

Mr. Peter Liodos & Dr. Vasiliki Christopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky

Mrs. Janet Lykos

Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin

Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam

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. Melacrinos

Mr. & Mrs, Peter Menniti Mr. William Michaels Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis Ms. Evangelia Moreno Mrs. Venetia Moreno

Mr. Paul L. Moses Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nychis Ms. Mary Olszewski Ms. Sophia Panagis

Ms. Catherine Pandeladis Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos

Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Panousis

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas Dr. George Pappas

2023 STEWARDSHIP

Mr. John C. Paras

Mr. Van Paras

Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pease

Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger

Mr. & Mrs. George Peters

Mrs. Stamatia Peters

Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson

Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolias

Ms. Constance Petros

Mrs. Vera Poland

Mrs. Helene Powers

Mrs. Anastasia Raftis

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy

Mr. Anastasios Raptis

Mrs. Kristina Rigoopulos & Mr. William Guttman

Mr. Bill Sfamenos

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sfanos

Mr. A. Robert Shott

Mr. & Mrs. George Sideris

Mr. George Sockos

Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos

Ms. Catherine Stamoolis

Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis

Mrs. Toula Stathopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. James Stratigos

Mr. Nicholas Strauch

Mr. & Mrs. Pat Strauch

Ms. Nia Strintzis

Mrs. Argie Stuart

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher

Mrs. Katia Sycara & Mr. Michael Lewis

Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas

Mrs. Chrisoula Torlidas

Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis

Mr. Athanasios Tsourekis

Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis

Mr. John C. Tumazos

Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis

Mrs. Panagiota Vasilakis

Mrs. Stella Vassilaros

Mr. & Mrs. Art Velisaris

Mr. & Mrs. John Velisaris

Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris

Mrs. Angela Vergos

Mr. Chris Vergos & Ms. Amber Lilly

Ms. Alexandra Villafana

Ms. Elaine Vitsas

Mr. John Vitsas

Mrs. Frances Vlahos

Mrs. Becky Vlahoulis⁺

Mr. Sarantos Vrettacos

Mrs. Helen Waskoskie

Ms. Franceska Xhakaj

Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras

Dr. Katerina Zavaras

Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zikos

Mrs. Sophia Zozos



2023 STEWARDSHIP, Con't



2023 ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL CONFIDENTIAL FAMILY STEWARDSHIP CARD

Last Name	First Name			CARD
	City			
	Thesis			
	Work Phone			
Email				
	nt information on reverse side			
Please send Stewardship Env	relopes 🗆 I don't use envelopes	Stater	ment delivery: c	uS Mail o Email
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodo Pittsburgh, PA	has some	heck the items below e expertise or interest family member after	. Place initials o	f the
 □ Greek Language School □ Visitation of Elderly □ Youth Ministry □ Philoptochos 	□ Church School □ O □ Outreach Ministry □ W □ Gardening □ Co □ Other	ebsite Mgmt	Cooking	Zhoir /Festival
TIME- St. Nichola	s Cathedral is grateful for	our many volu	nteers. Tha	nk you!
Name & relationship i.e., self, spous	e, child, etc. Date of birth Mari	al Status Occupation	on OR school/gra	de

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.

FOOD FESTIVAL

Food Festival 2024

Time to roll up our sleeves and think 2024 food festival preparations.

Scheduling is in the works for the 13 items needed to be prepared between now and May. We are starting off in November with Moussaka, an all-time favorite.

Let's get the show on the road Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and possibly Thursday, November 13, 14, 15 and 16(?).

Monday, November 13, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday, November 14, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday, November 15, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Thursday, November 16, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

> St. Nick's Kitchen Where Miracles Take Place

St. Nicholas Church School



Sunday, November 5, 2023, will be **Godparent/Special Friend Sunday**. Godparents/ Special Friends will worship during the Divine Liturgy, receive Holy Communion together and attend Church School to see what their Godchild/Special Friend learns there (and make cards to send to children at Children's Hospital and Veteran's Hospital for Make a Difference Day). Afterwards many will attend Coffee Hour sponsored by Philoptochos. It will be the start of a wonderful day together!

This year, Church School, will again have a Bake Sale at the **St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**, as well as, sponsor a Balloon artist.

The Church School children will present their **Christmas Pageant** under the direction of Joanna Darakos and Aimee Walker on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Please refer to the enclosed practice schedule for further details.

New this year, St. Nicholas Byzantine Youth Choir!

In October, Psalti Amy Hogg started special classes after Church School teaching hymns of the Divine Liturgy. Please encourage our youth to participate.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School is preparing for their Holiday Outreach Project:

We are looking for hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. for **Neighborhood Resilience Projects' Project Bundle-up** to decorate our tree. Thanks in advance for your warm winter accessories and teaching the children the gift of giving.

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 Greek Orthodox Cathedral Godparent Sunday Church School Open House

Sunday, November 5, 2023



Join your Godchild for Church Worship, Holy Communion, & Church School!





WHO: CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS

WHAT: CHURCH SCHOOL BAKE SALE

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

> WHERE: ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR

WHY: CHURCH SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

HOW: BRING 2 DOZEN BAKED GOODS

QUESTIONS:CONTACT SOPHIA BENDER 412-999-1391







St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday, December 3, 2023

During Church School for all children

Sunday, December 10, 2023During Church School for Nursery-6th Graders

Saturday, December 16, 2023 12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. Final Rehearsal for all children

Sunday, December 17, 2023 Christmas Pageant in Church Questions? Contact Joanna Darakos at 412-867-5376

Aimee Walker at 412-398-6094





PROJECT BUNDLE UP

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



ST NICHOLAS Byzantine Youth Choir

For Grades K - 12

Meets weekly for 20 minutes after Sunday School

Students can grab a snack at coffee hour before coming



*Learn the hymns of the Divine Liturgy

* Online lessons with audio recordings and videos

*Talk to Amy Hogg for more information, or email her at amy.hogg@trisagionschool.org

Dinner for College Students

Attention all college and grad students. The Moms and Dads of St. Nicholas invite you to a "Friendsgiving" dinner on Sunday, Nov 12. Come to the Cathedral any time between 5:00pm and 7:00pm for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Looking forward to seeing you. If you would like to volunteer at this event or bake a dessert, please contact Linda Hages at 412-523-7938 or Dae Machin at 724-413-1497.



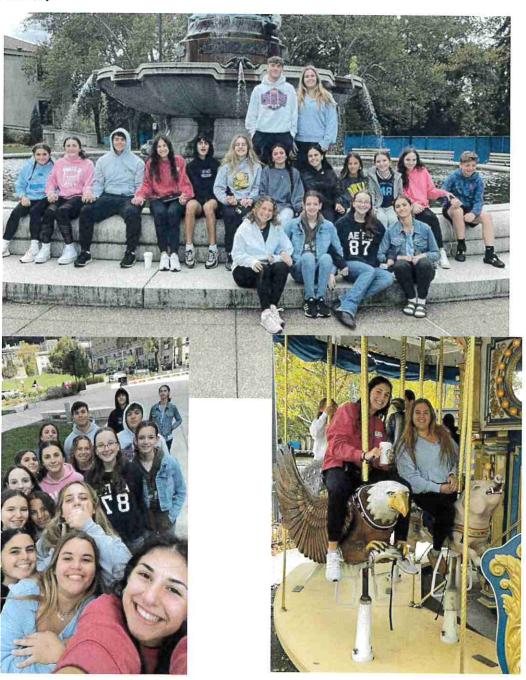
GOYA NEWS

Since our last check-in in September, our GOYA has achieved so much within the past month. We hosted our annual car wash event, which, thanks to the church members, really boosted our GOYA's stability. We had a blast washing cars!

Our Mission Walk was another success. We walked throughout Oakland with many more participants than last year. We even got a chance to go on the carousel on the University of Pittsburgh campus. If you're thinking about joining our 7-12 grade GOYA.. do not hesitate! This is a family and open for anyone interested in joining.

Upcoming events: Saturday, November 11th- Bowling. Sunday, November 12th - GOYA meeting after Liturgy. November 17-19th Metropolis GOYA Retreat.

Houston Frentzos Corresponding Secretary



GOYA NEWS, Con't











60's CLUB NEWS

A CHRISTMAS STORY

December 16

2:00

O'Reilly Theater

\$40.00

A comedy for the entire family—all ages!

We have reserved 12 easily accessible seats, but, if we act quickly, we may be able to get more. Contact Alice Gary at 412.249.8612.

As always, the Planning Committee welcomes suggestions. Contact: Alice Gary (412.249.8612), Fran Hanna (412.731.0790). Argie Stuart (412.681.6754) Helen Waskoskie (724.327.3539)

Many thanks to those who supported the Gateway Clipper Cruise event. We could not have asked for more perfect weather or a smoother ride!



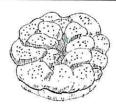
Philoptochos News







On Sunday, October 22, Metropolis Philoptochos President, Joyce Spanakis, joined our St. Nicholas Philoptochos chapter for the first general meeting of the new ecclesiastical year. President Spanakis shared the work of the Metropolis and National Philoptochos and explained how, along with the chapters, each level supports the other. We also honored our members who are breast cancer survivors in celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Thank you to all who attended!



New Year's Bread Baking

Please join us on <u>Thursday, December 7th</u> to help mix, roll, bake and wrap hundreds of loaves of Vasilopita! We will begin early in the morning and continue into the evening until all the bread is cooled and wrapped.

And don't forget to order your Vasilopita in advance! They are \$12 each, and order forms are available in the Narthex. Vasilopita will be available for pick up at the St. Nicholas Bazaar on Sunday, December 10th.

Food Bank

The Food Bank 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 (#3288) through your employers United Way contribution.

For more info, contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

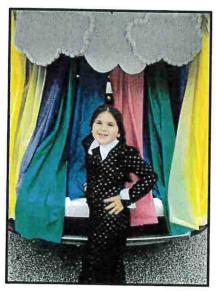


JOY, HOPE & LITTLE ANGELS

JOY, HOPE and Little Angels enjoyed fellowship and fun at the Fall Festival on Friday, October 13th. Plenty of pizza, popcorn, s'mores and treats were enjoyed by everyone, young and old alike!









Mini Chefs, Mighty Mission

JOY, HOPE & Little Angels Service Project



WHO?

- $\hfill \Box$ St. Nicholas families with kids in Pre-K through 6^{th} grade
- ☐ Older siblings and teenage volunteers also welcome

WHAT?

- $\ \square$ Social gathering with plenty of food and fun for everyone
- "Mini chefs" will decorate their own chef's apron and hat before working independently or with a parent/helper to assemble a pan of lasagna, which will be donated to those in need in our community

WHEN?

☐ Friday, November 17th @ 6:00 PM

WHERE?

☐ St. Nicholas Fellowship Room

WHY?

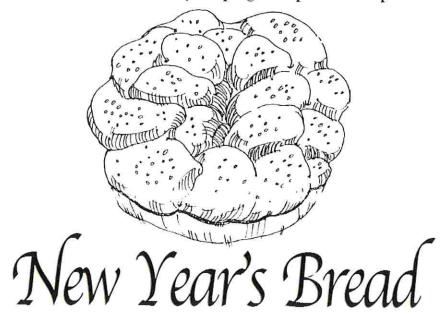
 $\hfill \square$ To help our youth enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship and service

DON'T MISS THE FUN!

☐ Text or email Nikki Lykos (412-897-8208 or nvlykos@gmail.com) by Friday, November 10th to let her know how many Chefs and adult helpers you're bringing

Philoptochos News, Con't

Start the New Year Out by Helping Philoptochos Help Others



St. Nicholas Cathedral Philoptochos is taking orders for our delicious Greek New Year's Bread. Each loaf contains the traditional New Year's coin.



Bread will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 10 during the St. Nicholas Bazaar For additional information contact Nikki Lykos at 412.897.8208

ORDER FORM

Complete the information below and mail along WITH A CHECK, made payable to:
St. Nicholas Philoptochos/New Year's Bread, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 S. Dithridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Name		
Telephone	Number of L	oaves
-	with Sesame Seeds	without Sesame Seeds

Thank you for your support.

All proceeds benefit the ongoing charitable activities of our Philoptochos

GREEK SCHOOL

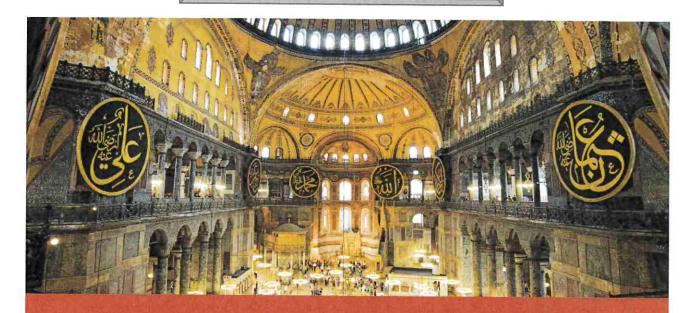
Last month all the St. Nicholas Greek School teachers participated in a teacher training webinar sponsored by the Department of Greek Education of the Greek Orthodox

Metropolis of Pittsburgh. It was presented by two founders and teachers of the Olive Tree Greek Education and Cultural Center in Massachusetts. It focused on fun and effective strategies for teaching speaking to students. Many activities and strategies were presented.

St. Nicholas Adult classes started in October. Classes for Beginners, Intermediates, and Advanced learners are all from 6:30pm until 8pm on Tuesday evenings. They are taught by Christina Retsou, Dimitra Agapitou, and Katerina Mavriki. If you are still interested in starting, please e-mail Maria at mstamoolis@verizon.net

This month, on November 15, everyone is invited to learn about the "Fall of Constantinople in 1453 through Contemporary Sources." It is presented by Elias Petrou, Ph.D. who is Assistant Professor and Head of Classical, Medieval, and Modern Greek Collections at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. It has been 570 years since the fall of Constantinople and Dr. Elias will present reports of eyewitnesses who were behind the walls during the siege, how emperor Constantine XI Palaelogos tried to save its realm, and more. The link is on the attached flyer. It is sponsored by the Department of Greek Education of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

GREEK SCHOOL, Con't



"Η Πόλις ξάλω"

The Fall of Constantinople in 1453 through Contemporary Sources

It's 570 years since the Fall of the Byzantine Empire, an event that shaped history for centuries. See and hear reports of eyewitnesses, who were behind the walls during the siege. Learn how the last emperor Constantine XI Palaeologos tried to save its realm. What was the famous Golder Horn chain?

November 15 at 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: https://tinyurl.com/GOMoPGrkEd



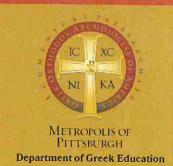
Presented by Elias Petrou, Ph.D

Assistant Professor | Head of Classical, Medieval, and

Modern Greek Collections

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

I ILLINOIS



GREEK SCHOOL, Con't

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR ADULT 2023 - 2024

	Yearly Tuition \$ 350 per student
Please select	Checks payable to
Beginners	St. Nicholas Cathedral
	Memo: Greek School
Intermediates	Books are purchased by students
Advanced	on their own
Please print	
Name	
Address	
Home phone	
City State	Zip
Cell phone	
E-mail	
Emergency contact	
Emergency phone	
Have you had previous Greek lessons?	
If so where	
Why do you want to learn Modern Greek?	



SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

WITH THE 2023 ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CARD

Donation only \$20... You can save money on your Christmas cards and help our beloved Cathedral at the same time!

Name & Address:
Your list of names to read (please print):

Kindly return this form, along with your check, and mail to: St. Nicholas Cathedral, 419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

PLEASE HELP US decorate
OUR BELOVED CATHEDRAL
with beautiful poinsettias for the
Nativity Season.



If you wish, please list the names of your loved ones to be remembered in the Proskomidi (*Preparation of the Gifts*) at every Divine Liturgy through Christmas.

For the Health of:		
Ē		
In Memory Of:		
Name & Address:		

Suggested donation:

\$25 OR MORE, payable to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral (memo: Poinsettia)

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ORDERS IN NO LATER THAN December 10, 2023.

Please, either place in the Sunday offering tray or mail it to: 419 S. Dithridge St₂₉Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Celebrating 100 Years | 1923-2023

You are cordially invited to join G.A.P.A. for an evening of fellowship and memories at our

Centennial Sala

Celebrating 100 years of brotherhood, philanthropy, and service to the

Greek-American community & beyond!

Saturday, December 9, 2023

Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres: 6:00 PM | Dinner: 7:00 PM

Crowne Plaza Hotel Pittsburgh South

164 Fort Couch Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Live music by the fabulous Stigma Band

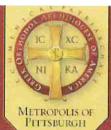
Dinner & Dance ~ \$85 | Dance Only - \$25 (900 PM)

For reservations, please contact Joanne Melacrinos at (412) 400-4607 -or-

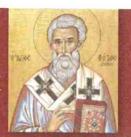
Helen Valsamidis at (724) 777-5155 no later than Saturday, 11/25/2023.

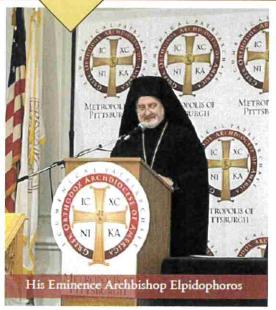
VOLUME 7 NO. 6 ISSUE: 57

OCTOBER 2023



A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH





Clergy-Laity Assembly: Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

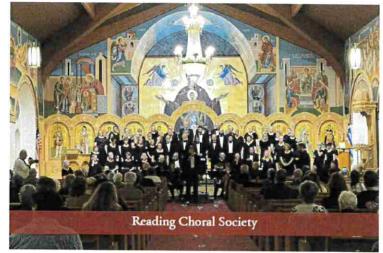
The 2023 Metropolis Assembly was hosted by the Sts. Constantine & Helen community of Reading, Pennsylvania from 28-30 September. Our Metropolis was honored by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, who spent time each day among the delegates and graced us with his kindness and warm Archpastoral blessings.

At the opening Banquet, His Eminence updated the assembly on the status of the charter revision process, and commended the Metropolis and its ministries on the New Metropolis Center project and the opportunities that await following its completion. Citing Ps 126:1 - Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain - His Eminence assured the group that the new center is "being built under the watchful eye of the Great Architect of Creation," and commending us to labor in love and cooperation with one another in order to cooperate with

His grace. Following the banquet, participants retired to the hotel for a social hour and fellowship.

Friday's program began with a report from Metropolitan Savas on the progress of the ministries and the opportunities that await the Metropolis in the coming year. Regular reports on Friday and Saturday were heard from the Metropolis Council Vice-Chair, Philoptochos President, Syndesmos President, Regional Archon Commander, Treasurer, Chancellor, Registrar, Archdiocesan Council representatives, and from some of the active committees and ministries, including Finance, Audit, Greek Education, Family Ministry, Religious Education, Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Youth Safety, and Camping Ministries. A comprehensive update on the New Metropolis Center was shared, including pictures of the groundbreaking and current construction progress. A presentation was shared on "Spiritual Transformation and Giving," a newly published work by Bishop Alexei of Sitka & Alaska that talks about the change

brought to the giver and the receiver in acts of almsgiving to the Church and to the poor. Friday evening, following dinner, the Assembly delegates were treated to a beautiful concert by the Reading Choral Society and then a 'Greek night' fellowship in the Church Hall with dancing and live music. On Saturday the 2024 Budget was passed by the delegates, and the Assembly elected eight laypersons to the Metropolis Council, two laypersons to the Archdiocesan Council, and three members to the Audit Committee, all for the 2024-2026 term. The reports and subsequent documents from the Assembly are all located on the Metropolis website, at https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/2023-assembly



Youth Worker Assembly: Alyssa Kyritsis, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

This year, the Youth Worker Track welcomed II registered participants along with a plethora of others who were interested in the speakers and topics we were blessed to offer. The highlight of our time together was spent with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh who shared their wisdom and listened to our ideas in Youth and Young Adult Ministry. We were also joined in person by the National Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Eva Konstantakos, who encouraged our Youth Workers to 'Approach Tough Topics in Love' and help us navigate working with young people in our ever-changing world.

Rhea Ballas of the Department of Youth Safety helped our PYSAs navigate our new youth safety platform by offering us our own personal walkthrough session. Virtually, Fr. Nicolaos Tzetzis, Proistamenos of St. Nicholas in Troy, MI, taught us how to 'Engage Parents in Your Ministry' and

Isaac Lampart, Ted Cherpas, Alyssa Kyritsis, Rev. Dn. Emmanuel Maginas, Paul Murray, Despina Murray, Pres. Becky Touloumes, Pasquale Santarelli and Anastasis Phyrillas

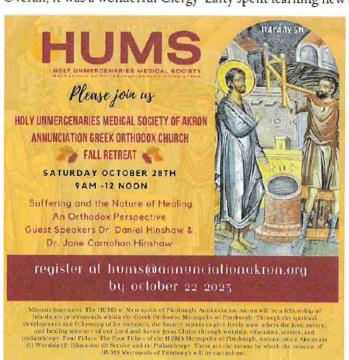


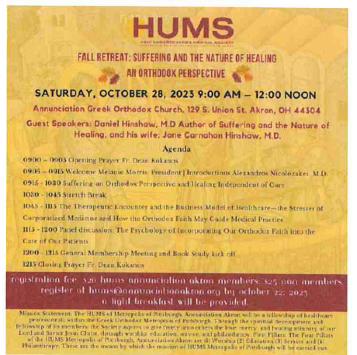
Eva Konstantakos, Rhea Ballas, Alyssa Kyritsis



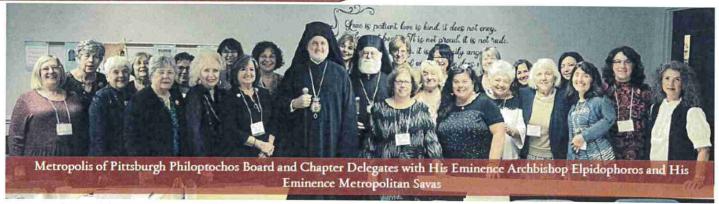
Ted Cherpas, Alyssa Kyritsis, Dn. Jeremiah Mandoras, Archbishop Elpidophoros, and Metropolitan Savas

Pres. Toni Mihalopoulos, founder of the Metropolis of Chicago's Pick Up Your Cross and Follow Me Ministry, opened our eyes to 'Making Ministry Inclusive' by offering ways we can welcome our brothers and sisters with special needs. Overall, it was a wonderful Clergy-Laity spent learning new concepts, sharing ideas and supporting one another.





Philoptochos Assembly: Joyce Spanakis, President



The members of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Assembly had a fruitful and beneficial two days of meetings. The Philoptochos women were blessed to have His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas in attendance for some of their meeting, and to hear the words of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros commending the work of the Philoptochos not only in our Metropolis, but world-wide.

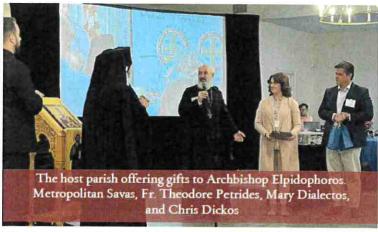
The guest speakers were Kate Alley from the LightHouse Center of Reading, a new facility for women and children experiencing homelessness. The Metropolis Philoptochos also made a donation of \$1,000 to the LightHouse Center. We enjoyed informative presentations from Rhea Ballas on Youth Safety, the Metropolis Board Advisor and National Philoptochos treasurer, Barbara Pasalis on the National Philoptochos Humanitarian Aid Worldwide. Metropolis Y2AM director, Alyssa Kyritsis, presented information on the YAL conference and their service project for Global Links. She also shared information on the cross-generational Weekend of Service held in conjunction with Philoptochos. Alyssa Kyritsis was presented with a check for \$500 toward the YAL Global Links service project.

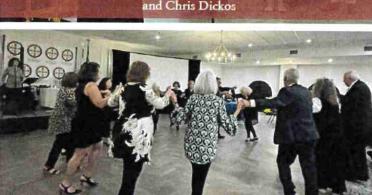
Since January 2022, the National Philoptochos with the assistance of its 438 chapters across the Archdiocese representing 25,000 women, as well as its nine Metropolis Philoptochoses donated \$814,178 in International Disbursements. These included money to IOCC for Ukraine, the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, the floods and fires in Greece as well as Hurricane Ian and the Maui fires. A check for \$3,300 was presented to His Eminence Metropolitan Savas for his Good Samaritan Fund and a check for \$3,300 will be mailed to the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery. It was approved that



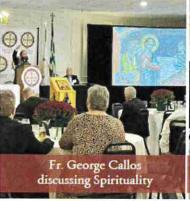
the four Metropolis of Pittsburgh seminarians will each receive \$3,000 for a total disbursement of \$12,000. In response to Archon Nick Tranto's Archon's young adult pilgrimage presentation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate pilot program, the Metropolis Philoptochos voted and approved to give \$5,000 to the program earmarked for when a Metropolis of Pittsburgh young adult is in attendance. As part of the budget for 2024, a decision was made regarding the division of Daffodil Luncheon proceeds. Since the balance in our Emergency Fund is low

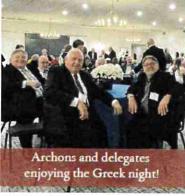
due to the increased number of natural disasters this past year, it was decided to designate two thirds of the Daffodil Luncheon proceeds to the Emergency Fund and one third to the Seminarian Our Future Fund. This division of funds will be revisited on a yearly basis and division of the proceeds will be determined by the fund balances available in the Emergency and Social Service Funds. Delegates left the 2023 assembly honored to have had the opportunity to meet and interact with His Eminence Archbishop Elipidophoros of America, informed, energized and humbled to be a member of such an amazing organization and valuable ministry of the church.





Delegates and parishioners enjoyed a Greek Night on the Friday.







New Metropolis Center Progress October 8 2023





New Metropolis Center Update

The foundations are being poured and blocks are being laid! Please consider a personal commitment, a family pledge and/or at the parish level. Ensure that you are recognized for your commitment to our community family. To establish a pledge or make a donation please scan the QR code. Thank You!

Archon Nick Lekas - New Metropolis Center Project Manager



SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis - including Metropolitan Savas's Archpastoral visitations, preparations for summer camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry, and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis:

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412-621-5529 (Main) 412-465-0460 (Camp) 412-621-8543 (Youth) pittsburgh goarch org info@pittsburgh goarch org





NOVEMBER 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	2	3	Greek School 10:00 a.m. Event (SH) 2:00 p.m.
5 5th Sunday of Luke Godparent Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 60 Club Fireside Chat	YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	Synaxis of the Archangels (in anticipation) Orthros 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.	8 Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	9 St. Nektarios the Wonderworker Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Paraklesis to St. Nektarios 6:30 p.m.	10	Greek School 10:00 a.m. Event (BH) 4:00 p.m.
8 th Sunday of Luke National Philoptochos Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. GOYA Meeting College Student "Friendsgiving" Dinner 5:00 p.m.	St. John Chrysostom Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	Moussaka prep	15 Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Little Angels, HOPE, & JOY Event: "Mini Chefs, Mighty Mission" 6:00 p.m.	Greek School 10:00 a.m. Greek School Open House 12:00 noon Event (BH) 4:00 p.m.
9 th Sunday of Luke National IOCC Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple (Ta Eisodia) Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	22	23 THANSKGIVING Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	Ball at the Cathedral
26 13 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. (No Church School)	YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	28	29	St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.		

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

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