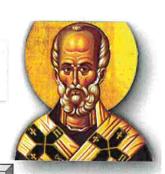


Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA



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

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



December 25, 2023

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, PEACE, and goodwill towards mankind

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 MannersOffice Manager412-682-3866Mary OlszewskiEvents Coordinator412-628-9466Vincent NelsonMaintenance412-537-4073

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

10 m 10 m		
Church School	Michelle Kotsagrelos	412-680-1416
Greek School Maria Stamoolis		412-963-7283
Philoptochos	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
GOYA Advisors	Linda Hages	412-523-7938
	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
Little Angels/HC	PE/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	Larsen Vincent	
Chanter	Amy Hogg AMYJHO	GG@GMAIL.COM
Sexton	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
Prosfora	Argy Darakos	412-319-7330
	Jim Hages	412-523-7937
	Tulla Velisaris	412-889-1648
St Nicholas Danc	eers	
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

December 2023

"...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith..."

(Ephesians 3:16-17)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we adorn our homes with festive lights and decorations befitting the Christmas season, let us also ensure we take the time to prepare our homes and—more importantly—our hearts to welcome the Christ child. This Nativity Fast offers us a precious opportunity to reflect on the profound mysteries of our faith, particularly the miraculous Nativity and those who witnessed it first-hand; namely, the Virgin Mary and Joseph the Betrothed.

Mary, the Theotokos, embodies the essence of true faith and total submission to God's divine will. Her unreserved 'yes' to God, her freedom in giving herself entirely, and her exemplary trust amidst uncertainty, invite us to consider our own willingness to be instruments of God's plan. Her exemplary generosity, not just in accepting to bear Christ but in offering her entire being to God's service, gives us pause and challenges us to ask ourselves: Are we as open and trusting in our own faith journey?

Saint Joseph's experience, wavering between doubt and wonder, often mirrors our own spiritual struggles. Frequently, we find ourselves torn between amazement at God's works and skepticism regarding His plans for us. Let us, inspired by Joseph, not dwell solely on our doubts but also gaze with wonder at the amazing ways that God moves in our lives. Joseph's journey and personal struggle of moving from doubt to faith is a testament to the transformative power of one's trust in God.

As we engage with the world around us—a world often shrouded in darkness and enigma—we are called to view it with wonder and not judgment. To look beyond the surface and seek the deeper meanings and purposes woven into all creation. During this Nativity Fast, let us endeavor to perceive the world through eyes of faith, recognizing God's hand in even the most unanticipated places.

The coming of Christ, Emmanuel – meaning "God with us" – heralds a profound truth about God's readiness to enter into our lives, to fill our hearts and minds, and to align our own will with His will. But in order for Him to manifest His presence in our lives, we must extend ourselves in return. As we were given the gift of free will, God will not force us to accept Him. We must respond to His love with our love, to His faith in us with our trust and faithfulness. It is a reciprocal relationship, where our open hearts and steadfast faith allow God to work wonders within us.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

In this holy season of the Nativity Fast, may the examples of the Theotokos and Saint Joseph inspire us to cultivate a heart that is open, trusting, and pure, eagerly awaiting the birth of our Savior with joy and reverence. And so, while we prepare our homes for the Christmas season, let us also be diligent in preparing our hearts for the advent of our Lord.

Prayerfully yours,

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

WEDDING

Congratulations to *Tia Copetas* and *Luke Wagner*, who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Nicholas Cathedral on Saturday, October 28, 2023. May God grant them Many Years!

FUNERALS

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to the family of *Mary Jane Zikos* who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, November 16, 2023. Her funeral was November 22, 2023.

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to the family of *Roger Jutras*, husband of Katherine Paras, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 19, 2023. His Funeral was on Saturday, November 25, 2023.

May God grant them eternal rest.

PARISH COUNCIL

Well, here we are again at Christmas and it's time to think about **GIFTS**! Now, before you pull out your credit cards and coupons, I would like you to think about the idea of gift-giving as a wonderful faith tradition.

Please use **your gifts** of **TIME**, **Talent & treasure** to St. Nicholas. Every good gift is, indeed, from the Father. Enjoy them and share them.

May you and your loved ones be blessed with peace and joy in your hearts, your homes and wherever the Lord sends you.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Marie Kotsagrelos

Parish Council President

ST. NICHOLAS
NAMEDAY
VESPER
RECEPTION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023



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:	
In Memory Of:	
2	
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 St., 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.



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



2023 STEWARDSHIP		11/22/2023
Total Stewards		279
Total Amount Pledged		\$126,585.00
Average Pledge		\$715.17
% Parish Participation to Date		93%
2023 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		55%
2023 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 230,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$182,244.08
As of:		10/31/2023
Income: Pledges, Basket Collection and Food Festival	\$914,323.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$859,193.00	
	\$ 55,130.00	

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

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Countouris

Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Coutris

Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos

Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos

Ms. Bridgette Daugherty

Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig

Dr. & Mrs. John DaPos

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. Gregory Angelides 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. & Mrs. Dino Copetas

Mr. Charles G. Copetas

Mrs. Helen G. Copetas

Mrs. Theodora Copetas

Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas

Mr. George Copetas

Mrs. Maria Copetas

Mr. Vasili Copetas

Mrs. Vasso Copetas

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 H. Edgos Mrs. Sophia Edgos Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis Mrs. Elaine Ellis Mr. & Mrs. George Ellis Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos Mr. & Mrs. George P. Faines Mrs. Penelope Falck Mrs. Virginia Fekaris Mrs. Bessie Ferency Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Ferrari Mrs. Alice Flocos Mrs. Olga Florence Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos Mrs. Alice Gary Mr. & Mrs. William Gary Drs. Athan & Lydia Contis Georgiades 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. Nicholas Kefal

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 Mr. James L. 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 Mrs. Dana Mathews Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Mavrogeorgis Mr. & Mrs. John McCann Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire Mrs. Patricia McKee Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinos Mr. & Mrs. George Mellis 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

2023 STEWARDSHIP

Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis

Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos

Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Panousis

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages

Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Papanikolaou

Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas Dr. George Pappas

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. Evsngeline 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. John Velisaris

Mr. & Mrs. Art 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

Mr. & Mrs. Luke Wagner

Mrs. Helen Waskoskie

Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras

Dr. Katerina Zavaras

Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis

Mr. Michael Zikos

Mrs. Sophia Zozos



2023 STEWARDSHIP, Con't



2023 ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL CONFIDENTIAL FAMILY STEWARDSHIP CARD

Last Name	First	Name		
Address				
(Alternate address if applicable)				
Home Phone				
Email				
PLEASE provide pertinen TREASURE- Total Gift for 202				
Please send Stewardship Enve			Statement delivery:	,
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Pittsburgh, PA	has	s some expertise (ems below that you or a fam or interest. Place initials of ober after each item checke	the
□ Greek Language School □ Visitation of Elderly □ Youth Ministry □ Philoptochos	□ Church School □ Outreach Ministry □ Gardening □ Other	 Website Mgr 	nt 🗆 Cooking/	hoir Festival
TIME- St. Nicholas	s Cathedral is gratefu	l for our mai	ny volunteers. Than	ık you!
Name & relationship i.e., self, spouse	, child, etc. Date of birth	Marital Status	Occupation OR school/grad	

2024 STEWARDSHIP, Con't

Pittsburgh, PA		S GREEK ORTHODOX C FAMILY STEWARDSHIF	
Last Name	First Name		
Address	City	State	Zip
(Alternate address if applicable)			
Home Phone Work	Phone	Cell Phone	
Email			
PLEASE provide pertinent information	n on reverse side about	your family members- T	<u>'HANK YOU!</u>
TREASURE- Total Gift for 2024 \$	_ Contribution Frequency	: 🗆 Weekly 🗆 Monthly 🗆 Qu	arterly 🗆 Annually
□ Please send Stewardship Envelopes □ I do	n't use envelopes	Statement delivery: 1	□ US Mail □ Email
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA Greek Language School Church Sc	has some experti specific family n	e items below that you or a form interest. Place initials nember after each item checkwaletter.	of the ked.
□ Visitation of Elderly □ Outreach l	specific family not	wsletter □ Church	Choir
	G Construct	non/meenamean/Tambing	
TIME- St. Nicholas Cathedra	l is grateful for our n	nany volunteers. The	ank you!
Name & relationship i.e., self, spouse, child, etc.	Date of birth Marital Status	S Occupation OR school/gr	ade
		The state of the s	

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 (online 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.

St. Nicholas Church School



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.

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season!

Yours in Christ Miss Michelle





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, 2023During 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

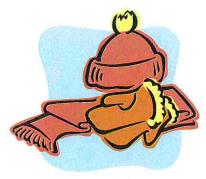
Questions? Contact Joanna Darakos at 412-867-5376 or Aimee Walker at 412-398-6094





PROJECT BUNDLE UP

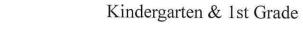
WE ARE LOOKING FOR HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES & GLOVES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT'S 'PROJECT BUNDLE UP!



GOD-PARENTS SUNDAY

Making cards to send to Children's Hospital and Veteran's Hospital for Make a Difference Day

Pre-School

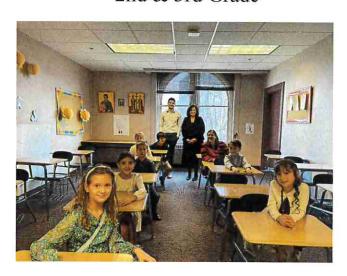




2nd & 3rd Grade



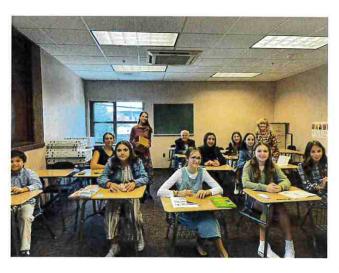
4th & 5th Grade



6th—8th Grade



High School





Sunday, November 12, 2023 FRIENDSGIVING DINNER at St. Nicholas Hosted by the Moms & Dads for College & Grad Students



Moms and Dads of St. Nicholas

Thank you to all who participated and donated baked goods and monetary funds to our first "hopefully annual" Friendsgiving Dinner that took place on Sunday, November 12 for our College and Graduate Students hosted by the Moms and Dads of St. Nicholas. Shout out to John Dakis who donated his services and expertise in the kitchen. John and chef Tasso Athans prepared a delicious traditional Thanksgiving meal that was served along side a beautiful dessert table. The students enjoyed a fun evening filled with good food and fellowship. They even took home leftovers. Once again, thank you to all who helped in this college outreach ministry.





Sunday, November 12, 2023 FRIENDSGIVING DINNER at St. Nicholas Hosted by the Moms & Dads for College & Grad Students













FOOD FESTIVAL

2024 Festival Cooking Schedule

November, 2023

January

Spanakopita	January 8 with Evening Cooking, 9, 10, 11, 12,
Souzoukakia	January 20, 21, 22
Koulourakia	January 27

February

Pasta Flora	February 3
Baklava	February 10, 11, 12
Pastitsio	Februry 23, 24, 25

March

Karidopita	TBD
Finikia	March 16
Galatoboureko	March 23, 24, 25

April

Kourambiethes	April 6
Tiropita	April 13, 14
Diples	April 22 or 23, TBD

Moussaka was successfully completed in November. Many, many thanks to all who helped out. It was truly a large group effort! One down with twelve more to go. Let's keep the ball rolling. All volunteers are welcomed. No experience needed. Hope to see you in the St. Nick's kitchen. It takes a village to pull this off!

GOYA NEWS

St. Nicks Goya just had another event! It was a Bowling Night event. We all got together and had a blast, and it was such a great experience for all of us. We held another meeting this month and talked about more upcoming events like the Cathedral ball. Many of our goya members have reached out to other Goya groups from churches within our diocese to come together Saturday, November 25! We are conducting a fundraiser by Sarris Candies to support our Goya.

Please order by December 15th. Group ID: 10-2873. Will be able to pick up your orders at church 12/17.

Here's the link: https://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com/VIEWBYCATEGORY.aspx?id=VA

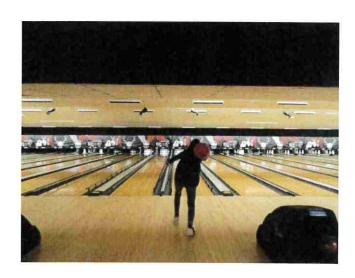
GOYA NEWS, Con't

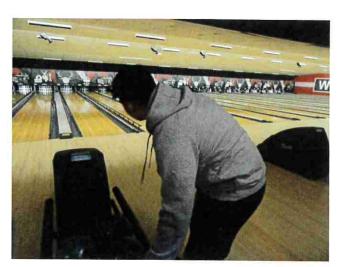












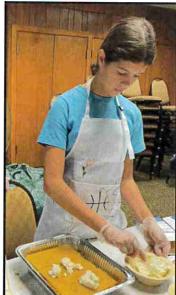
JOY, HOPE & Little Angels



Mini Chefs, Mighty Mission

On Friday, November 17th, the JOY, HOPE and Little Angels made 24 pans of lasagna with love, which were donated to those in need through Neighborhood Resilience Project.



















JOY, HOPE & Little Angels



















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.

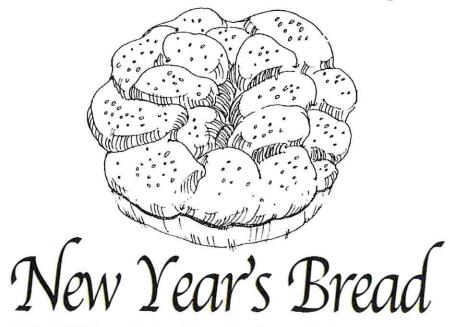
Food Bank

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).



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 Loaves	The same of the sa
:-	with Sesame Seeds without	Sesame Seeds

Thank you for your support.

All proceeds benefit the ongoing charitable activities of our Philoptochos

GREEK SCHOOL

In the beginning of November, each class made beautiful, heartwarming cards in Greek and English for well wishes and a quick recovery to a 10-year-old little girl, Konstantina. She was getting surgery for bone marrow from her twin brother. Her mom said she was very touched by the cards. The entire school continues to pray for her and please join us by adding her to your prayer list.

In November the Greek School had Open House for parents to come into the classes and see what their children are working on. November was also a month where teachers, parents, and many others zoomed in and heard about the "Fall of Constantinople through Contemporary Sources." This informative lecture by Dr. Elias Petrou from the University of Illinois was sponsored by the Department of

Greek Education of our Metropolis.



In December, children will practice singing Greek Christmas Carols as well as chanting the Troparion to St. Nicholas and the Nativity Hymn. On the last day of class, December 16, we will sing carols in Greek together and have light refreshments after shortened classes. We are also planning to go as a group to an assisted living facility and sing carols between Christmas and New Years.

In person classes will begin on Saturday, January 13 because Saturday, January 7, is the Theophany. We hope many of the staff, students and parents will attend services for the Theophany. Classes will be rescheduled on zoom by their teachers to make up missing class on January 7. When resuming class on January 13, there will also be Greek School's Annual Cutting of the Vasilopita at noon.

All the parents, staff, and children wish to everyone "Καλά Χριστούγεννα!"

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?		

GREEK SCHOOL, Con't

St. Nicholas Cathedral Greek Language School Special Events Calendar 2023 - 2024

	te		

- 10 Sunday, Registration
- Start of Classes for Children at 10 a.m. report to classroom, Aghiasmo at noon, Ice Cream Social. Registration Forms and money are due.

October

- 2 Start of Adult Classes TBA
- 28 Classes and OXI Day, Aghia Skepi Activities with Hymn chanted

November

- 18 Classes then Open House
- 25 No Classes Thanksgiving Break

December

- 10 Sunday, Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas Feast Day and Bazaar,
- 16 Classes then Greek School Christmas Party & Τα Κάλαντα των Χριστουγέννων
- 23,30 No Classes Christmas Break, visiting nursing homes and singing Carols

January 2019

- 6 No Classes- Epiphany
- 13 Classes Resume and cutting of Vasilopita at noon and carols, hymns
- 28 Sunday, Celebration of Three Hierarchs in Church with a memorial, an Artoclasia, and honoring children who succeeded in passing Ellinomatheas Exam from Greece, L.O.T.E. Exam, small presentation, Annual Bake Sale & Exhibit of work

February

- 1 Start of Registration for Ellinomatheas
- 5 Sunday, Celebration of Three Hierarchs in Church with a memorial, an Artoclasia, and honoring children who succeeded in passing Ellinomatheas Exam from Greece, L.O.T.E. Exam, small presentation, Annual Bake Sale

March

- 22,29, April 5,12, 19 Fridays- Services for Salutations to Panaghia Οι Χαιρετισμοί
- 9 Fitting of Costumes. Costumes remain at church. If you have an evzone Costume for a boy and a girl's costume, please use them.
- 18 Monday, Great Lent begins , Ellinomatheas Forms due & money
- 31 Sunday, Evangelismos and Greek Independence Program and Luncheon Children dressed costumes and sit in church. Procession, luncheon, program (Western Easter)

April

27 Saturday of Lazarus, Liturgy at 10am, followed by breakfast, classes, then cross making of palms

May

- 4 No Classes Holy Saturday
- 5 Pascha
- 11 Resume classes & finals
- 18 No In person Classes- St. Nicholas Food Festival
- 25 Resume classes

June

- 1 Last Day of class
- 2 Sunday, Graduation

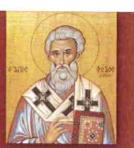
VOL A NE

METROPOLIS OF

VOLUME 7 NO. 8 ISSUE: 59

DECEMBER 2023

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



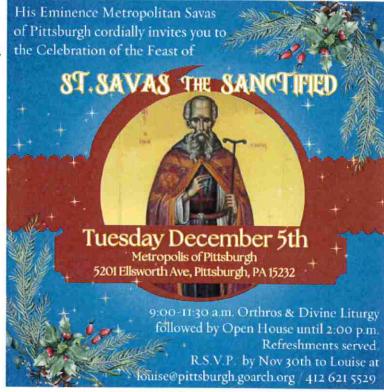
OPEN HOUSE TUES DEC 5TH

Please join us to celebrate His Eminence Metropolitan Savas' Name Day - the Feast of St. Savas the Sanctified on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 at the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

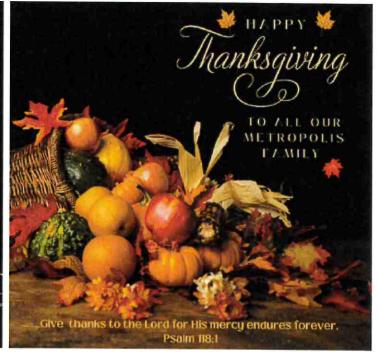
9:00 am - 11:00 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy followed by an Open House until 2:00 pm. Refreshments served.

Please RSVP by 11.30.23 to Louise lhenry@pittsburgh.goarch.org / 412 621 5529

We look forward to seeing you!







New Metropolis Center Construction Update

With a few additional parish level pledges, we are now at the \$11M fundraising mark (by God's Grace!!) with the need to raise another \$3M for project completion.

We continue to visit parish councils where all have the opportunity to participate in building our new home. Invite us!

There will be memorialized all the names of parishes that have participated substantially and so far it is not unusual to have parishes commit \$10K-\$20K per year for each of 5 years. If you already dedicate a portion of festival proceeds to charity (and we all should), please consider this project for a 5-year pledge. If not, please consider starting such a benevolence in perpetuity and begin by donating here.

Again, and I will say this every month until we've reached our financial goals: WE MUST AVOID DEBT!

We will continue fundraising until we are there! Please help us such that this new home of work and worship and gathering and fellowship only ever be a blessing AND NEVER A BURDEN to our church. <u>Please help.</u>

I ask you to consider paying forward your multi-year pledge, raise your pledge amount to help us avoid the debt or make your initial pledge. And there is still matching money to apply to your new pledge.

To get your pledge matched, please scan the QR code above.









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



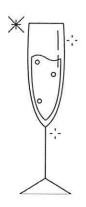




Holiday Family Greek Night

Come join your parea for an evening of music, dancing, and fun!

Friday, December 29th
7 pm - Midnight
Holy Cross Community Center



\$250 for a table of 8

(Comes with 2 mezze platters)

\$25 for individual tickets





Order your tickets online: https://bit.ly/GreekNight2023



All proceeds benefit Holy Cross Philoptochos



DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Agiasmos 12:00 noon Event (LH) 6:00 pm	Greek School 10:00 a.m. Baptism
3 14 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Girls GOYA BB	St. Barbara the Great Martyr Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	Metropolitan Savas' Nameday (at the Metropolis headquarters) 9:00 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Open House to follow St. Nicholas Vespers Vespers 7:00 p.m. Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. St. Nicholas Nameday Luncheon Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	7 Philoptochos Vasilopita Bread Baking	Event (BH)	9 CHURCH BAZAAR (set up) Greek School 10:00 a.m.
10 10 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. CHURCH BAZAAR PC Elections	Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	Liturgy for feast of St. Spyridon i (Monessen, PA) Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	14	St. Eleftherios the Hieromartyr Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Greek School 10:00 a.m. Greek School Christmas Party 12:00 noon Event (BH) 4:00 pm
17 11 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant Girls GOYA BB	Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	St. Ignatius of Antioch, the God-Bearer Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Open Gym 7:00 p.m.	21	Royal Hours 10:00 a.m.	No Greek School
Sunday before Nativity Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. (No Church School) Christmas Eve Vespers 4:30 p.m.	The NATIVITY of OUR LORD Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Church office closed	26 Church office closed	27	28	Wedding	30 No Greek School
Sunday after Nativity Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. (No Church School)			35			

