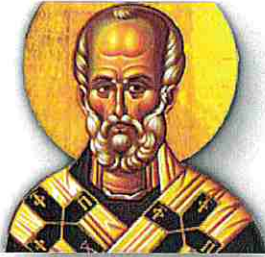


## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 – 11th Sunday of Luke

*Saints of the Day: Sunday of the Holy Forefathers; Daniel the Prophet & the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias, & Misail; and St. Dionysius of Zakynthos*

Third Mode · Sixth Eothinon



### WELCOME TO ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL!

VISIT [www.stnickspgh.org](http://www.stnickspgh.org) TODAY for news and updates about our parish!

CLERGY: Rev. Fr. Eleftherios Constantine and Rev. Dn. Robert Lykos

Father's Email: [fr.ec@stnickspgh.org](mailto:fr.ec@stnickspgh.org)

PROTOPSALTRIA: Amy Hogg

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steve Andrews

ORGANIST: Larsen Vincent

Questions about our Parish? E-mail [church@stnickspgh.org](mailto:church@stnickspgh.org) or call 412-682-3866

**Our Sunday worship schedule: September – May: Orthros 8:45 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**WELCOME, VISITORS!** You are honored guests here at St. Nicholas Cathedral and welcome at all our services. We invite you to receive the Holy Eucharist (Communion) if you are an Orthodox Christian who is prepared through fasting, prayer, and confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are Orthodox but have not prepared, we respectfully invite you instead to come forward at the end of the service for a blessing by the priest and a piece of blessed bread (antidoron).

#### Our Mission & Vision Statements

The **MISSION** of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral is to Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a Spirit of Unity and Love for All through Worship, Service, Education, Fellowship and Outreach.

Our **VISION** is to be a Welcoming and Growing Parish, Striving to Live the New Life in Christ according to the Teachings and Traditions of the Greek Orthodox Faith.

Watch Sunday services, which are streaming live from St Nicholas Cathedral at [www.stnickspgh.org/](http://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](http://www.stnickspgh.org) by clicking the please donate button – or you may access the donation page by visiting <https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give>

### TODAY:

- ❖ A Trisagion Service is being chanted for the soul of the servant of God, and George (Yiorgos) Raftis (31 years). May God grant him eternal rest.
- ❖ Coffee hour is hosted today by GOYA in the Small Hall.
- ❖ Church School Christmas Pageant
- ❖ GOYA Girls Basketball Practice in the Large Hall.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- Monday, December 18, 2023: Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 19, 2023: 6:30 p.m. Adult Greek School Classes
- Wednesday, December 20, 2023: St. Ignatius of Antioch the God-Bearer Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, December 22, 2023: Royal Hours 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, December 23, 2023: NO Greek School
- Sunday, December 24, 2023: Christmas Eve Vespers 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 25, 2023: Christmas Day – The NATIVITY of OUR LORD  
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS (Church Office Closed)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 – 11th Sunday of Luke**

*Saints of the Day: Sunday of the Holy Forefathers; Daniel the Prophet & the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias, & Misail; and St. Dionysius of Zakynthos*

**TODAY'S HYMNS AND READINGS**

*The Resurrection Hymn of the week in third mode is chanted for the Small Entrance:*

**Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιᾶσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.**

**Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy.**

*At the Small Entrance, the usual Entrance Hymn is chanted:*

*Following the Small Entrance, the Resurrection Hymn of the week in third mode is repeated (see above).*

*After this, we chant the hymn of the day (for the Forefathers) in second mode.*

**Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, ὅτι ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλείης, ἡ ἀσπόρως τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.**

**By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.**

*We then chant the Apolytikion hymn for our patron, St. Nicholas, in fourth mode:*

**Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ ἱεράρχα Νικόλαε· πρόσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.**

**The truth of things have revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause you have achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.**

*Finally, we chant the Festal Kontakion (for the Forefeast of the Nativity), in third mode:*

**Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουλευθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.**

**On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.**

**Today's Epistle Reading** (*Sunday of the Holy Forefathers*):

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians (3:4-11)

**Α**δελφοί, όταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῆ, ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακίην, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν ἣτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρία, δι' ἧς ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας· ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς περιεπατήσατέ ποτε ὅτε ἐζῆτε ἐν αὐτοῖς. Νυνὶ δὲ ἀπόθεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ πάντα, ὀργὴν, θυμὸν, κακίαν, βλασφημίαν, αἰσχρολογίαν ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν· μὴ ψεύδεσθε εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν νέον τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν, ὅπου οὐκ ἔστι Ἕλλην καὶ Ἰουδαῖος, περιτομὴ καὶ ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης, δούλος, ἐλεύθερος, ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πᾶσι Χριστός.

**B**rethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all. [RSV]

**Today's Gospel Reading** (*11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke*):

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (14:16-24)

**Εἶ**πεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησε δεῖπνον μέγα, καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δούλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δείπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά ἐστι πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες, ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀγρὸν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἐλθεῖν. καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ δούλος ἐκεῖνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ· ἔξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δούλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστὶ. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος πρὸς τὸν δούλον· Ἔξελθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον εἰσελθεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκός μου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκεῖνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεταιί μου τοῦ δείπνου. Πολλοὶ γάρ εἰσι κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί.

**T**he Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'" [RSV]

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# 2023-2024 Holiday Service Schedule

## 2023

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22:

- 10:00 A.M. ROYAL HOURS OF CHRISTMAS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE:

- 8:45 A.M. ORTHROS, 10:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
- 4:30 P.M. GREAT VESPERS OF CHRISTMAS

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:

- 9:00 A.M. FESTAL ORTHROS, 10:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31:

- 8:45 A.M. ORTHROS, 10:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
- 

## 2024

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR’S DAY, CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, FEAST OF BASIL THE GREAT:

- 9:00 A.M. ORTHROS, 10:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 5:

- 10:00 A.M. ROYAL HOURS OF THEOPHANY
- 6:30 P.M. VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT,  
FOLLOWED BY THE GREAT AGIASMOS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 – THEOPHANY:

- 9:00 A.M. FESTAL ORTHROS, 10:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, FOLLOWED BY THE GREAT AGIASMOS



ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL - PITTSBURGH, PA

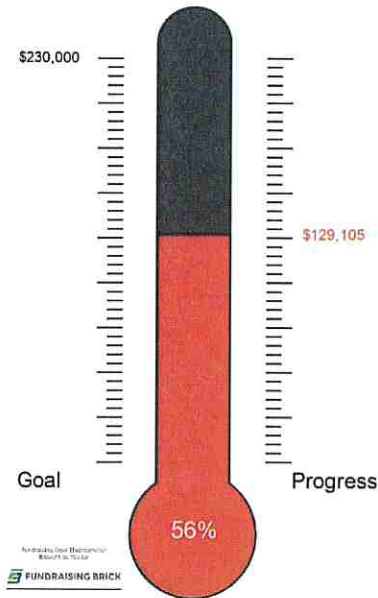


## 2023 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex

*(Just ask a member of Parish Council)*

**If you have already submitted your 2023 Stewardship Commitment, THANK YOU!  
If not, please take the time to make financial Stewardship Commitment today and  
complete the talent portion of the card to enable OUR Community to grow and  
carry on the mission of our faith.**

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



*Giving Thanks,  
Eucharistic  
Stewardship*

<u>2023</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	286 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$129,105.00 GOAL (\$230,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$705.49

## YOUTH SAFETY WORKERS

Who is considered a Youth Safety Worker?

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

**Pastoral Assistants & Youth Directors**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# GOYA NEWS

**Pastitsio Sale** - GOYA is selling delicious pans of pastitsio, just in time for your holiday meal or to give as a gift to friends and family. Pick up today a frozen 9 by 13 pan of Pastitsio for \$35.00 by stopping by the GOYA table. For more information please contact Alea Melachrinou Mavrogeorgis via text 412-726-5940. Please identify who you are in a detailed message. Checks can be made to St. Nicholas GOYA or cash is also acceptable. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser.

**Christmas Chocolate Sale** - Sarris orders are available for pick up today. Stop by the GOYA table to pick up your chocolate. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts.

There is still time to order Sarris and support the GOYA holiday fundraiser. Although we have completed taking orders in person, you can order directly online through December 15. Click on:

(<https://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com/VIEWBYCATEGORY.aspx?id=VA>) and enter **Group ID 10-**

**2873** to begin shopping. Items can be shipped directly to you or to someone else, if you would like to send a gift.



## From the Church School Desk!

**TODAY**, the Church School children will present their **Church School Christmas Pageant**, under the direction of Joanna Darakos and Aimee Walker. Break a leg Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the rest of the cast!

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

We are looking for hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. for **Neighborhood Resilience Project's "Project Bundle-up"** to decorate our tree. Many 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

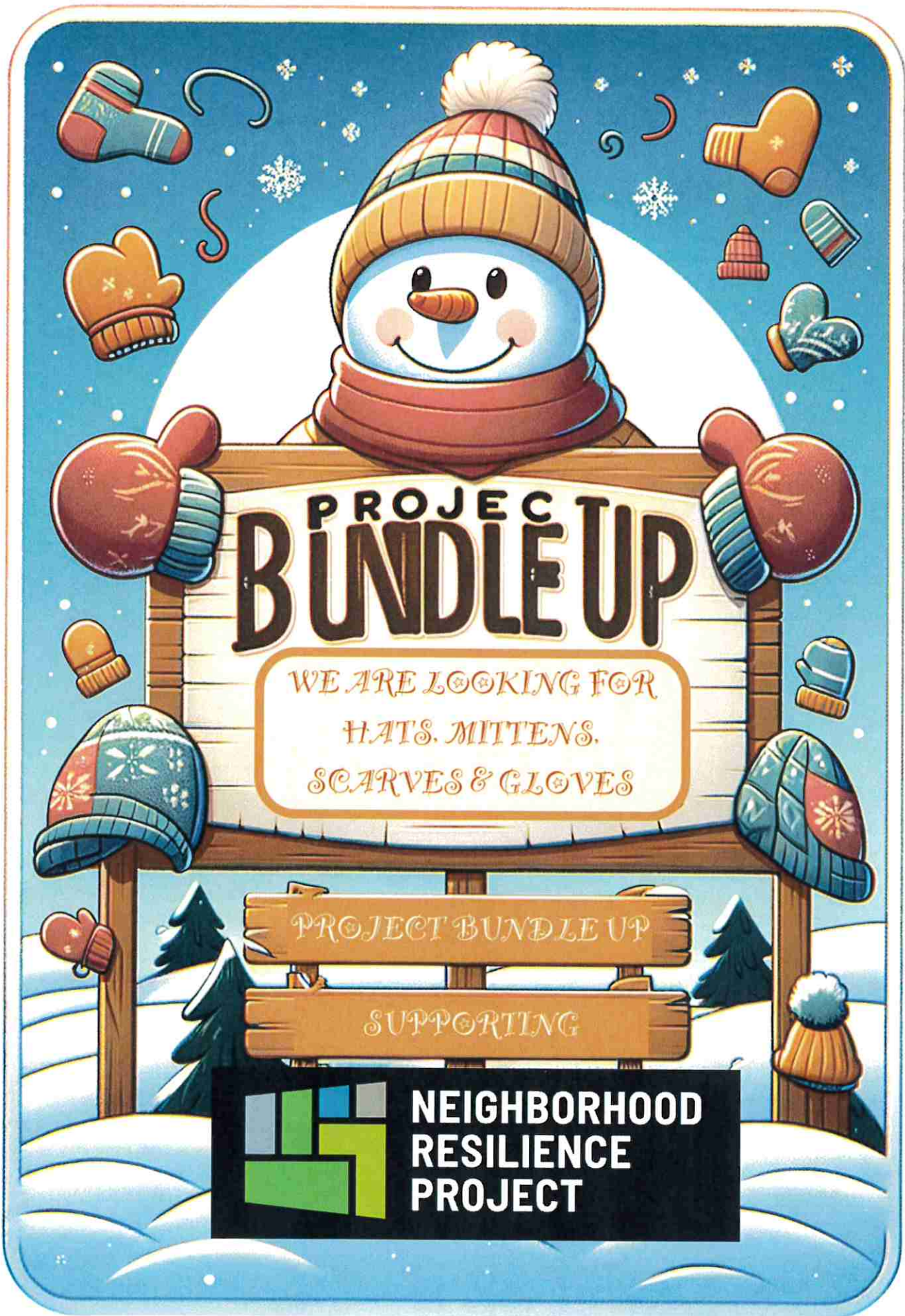
## 2024 Food Festival Preparations

Preparations begin again as we welcome in the New Year.

Spanakopita	Sunday, January 7 after Church till 4:00 pm <b>Monday, Jan. 8</b> , 9:00 am continuously till 8:00pm, <b>Evening Cooking</b> , Jan. 9, and 10, 9:00 – 4:00 Possibly Thursday, Jan. 11, 9:00 am
Souzoukakia	Friday and Saturday, January 20, 21, 9:00 to 4:00 Sunday, Jan. 22, After Church till 4:00
Koulourakia	Saturday, January 27, 9:00 to 4:00

All help is greatly appreciated as we tackle some "big time" items. Because of its popularity, our target for Spanakopita is over 400 pans.

The full cooking schedule can be found on the counter in the Narthex.



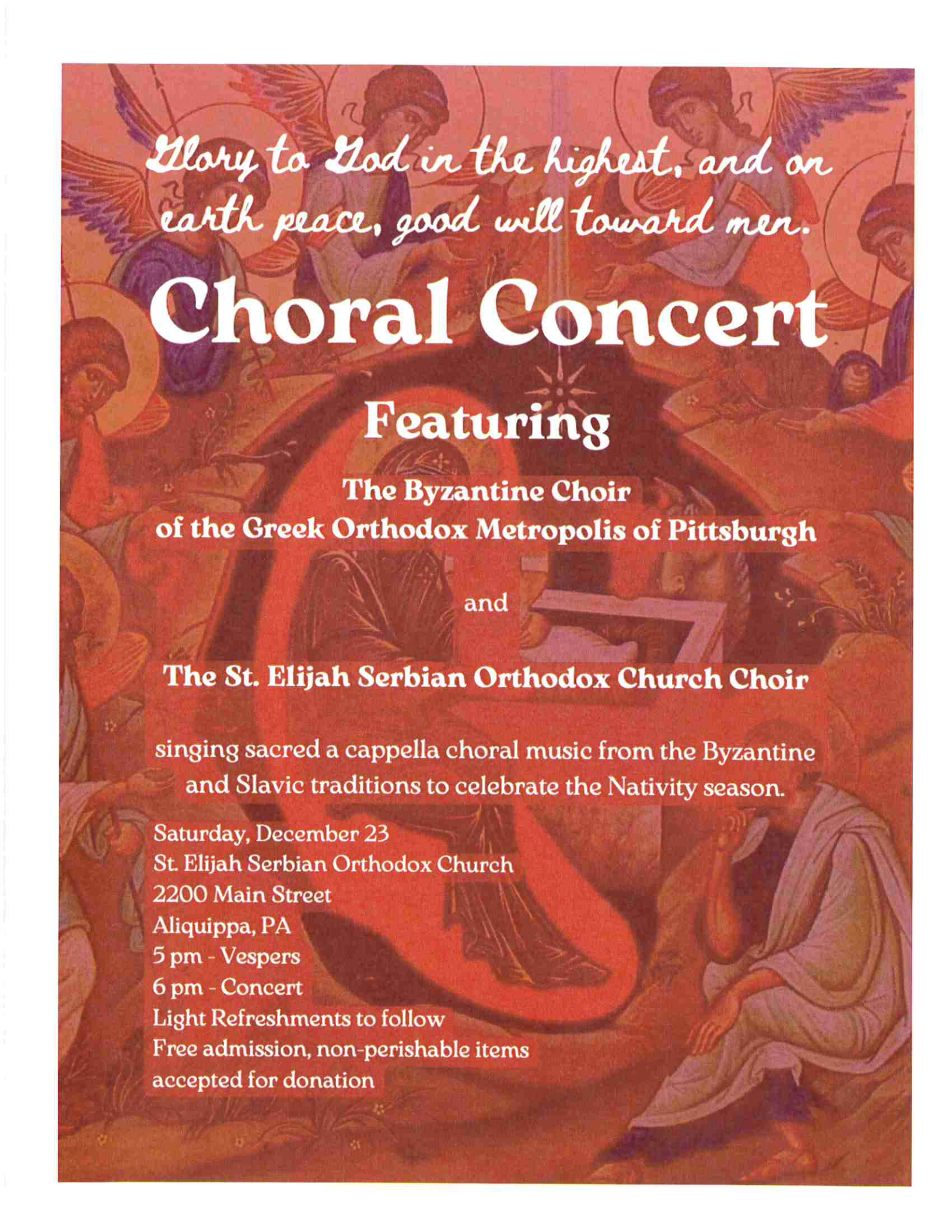
# PROJECT BUNDLE UP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
HATS, MITTENS,  
SCARVES & GLOVES

PROJECT BUNDLE UP

SUPPORTING

 **NEIGHBORHOOD  
RESILIENCE  
PROJECT**



*Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace, good will toward men.*

# Choral Concert

**Featuring**

**The Byzantine Choir  
of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh**

and

**The St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church Choir**

singing sacred a cappella choral music from the Byzantine  
and Slavic traditions to celebrate the Nativity season.

Saturday, December 23  
St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church  
2200 Main Street  
Aliquippa, PA  
5 pm - Vespers  
6 pm - Concert  
Light Refreshments to follow  
Free admission, non-perishable items  
accepted for donation

# DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b></p> <p>Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Christmas Pageant</b></p> <p><b>Girls GOYA BB</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Parish Council Meeting</b> 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>YAL Basketball</b> 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Adult Greek Classes</b> 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>St. Ignatius of Antioch, the God-Bearer</b></p> <p>Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Royal Hours</b> 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><i>No Greek School</i></p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Sunday before Nativity</b></p> <p>Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>(No Church School)</i></p> <p><b>Christmas Eve Vespers</b> 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b></p> <p><b>The NATIVITY of OUR LORD</b></p> <p>Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Wedding</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><i>No Greek School</i></p>
<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Sunday after Nativity</b></p> <p>Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>(No Church School)</i></p>						