



## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



### *FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER*

**FEBRUARY 2, 2024**



The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple (Υπαπαντή), commemorated on February 2, is a significant event in Christian tradition, described in the Gospel of Luke (2:22-40). This feast marks the day when Jesus Christ, as a baby, was presented to the Temple in Jerusalem by the Virgin Mary and Joseph, 40 days after his birth, in accordance with Jewish law. At the Temple, the righteous Elder Simeon, who had been promised by God that he would not die before seeing the Messiah, met Jesus. Simeon held Jesus in his arms and uttered a prophecy about Jesus' role in the salvation of both Jews and Gentiles. Another significant figure present was Saint Anna the Prophetess, an 84-year-old widow, who recognized Jesus as the promised redeemer and spoke of him to others. Simeon's prayer: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

### **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**

+

**Reverend Deacon Robert Lykos**

**fr.ec@stnickspgh.org**

**412-736-2762**

**robertlykos@gmail.com**

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

**2023 Parish Council**

Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos, *President* (412-680-1416)  
 John Frentzos, *Vice President* (412-287-0275)  
 James Machin, *Treasurer* (724-413-3607)  
 Rob Day, *Assistant Treasurer* (917-569-8622)  
 George Bellios, *Secretary* (412-897-5354),  
 Vasili Copetas, *Assistant Secretary* (412-551-7677)  
 Victor Bertolina (412-860-2315)  
 Arthur Dordas (412-719-7796)  
 Ted Hages (412-523-3571)  
 Peter Krelis (412-370-2809)  
 Peter Nychis (412-824-4477)  
 Dean Panagoulas (412-596-2501)  
 Van Paras (412-527-4248)  
 Peter Tsudis (412-915-7006)

**Service Schedule**

**Fall and Winter Hours (September-June):**

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Summer Hours (July & August):**

Orthros 8:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Hall Rentals**

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

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

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB**

**www.stnickspgh.org**

**www.stnickscathedralroom.com**

**And look for us on our Facebook page:**

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

Watch Sunday services streaming live from St Nicholas Cathedral at www.stnickspgh.org/ and click on "Live Streaming Click Here".

On-Line Giving donations are up and running on our web page **www.stnickspgh.org** by clicking please donate button - or you may access the donation page by using **https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give**

**ORGANIZATIONS**

<b>Church School</b>	Michelle Kotsagrellos	412-680-1416
<b>Greek School</b>	Maria Stamoolis	412-963-7283
<b>Philoptochos</b>	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
<b>GOYA Advisors</b>	Linda Hages	412-523-7938
	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
<b>Little Angels/HOPE/JOY</b>	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
<b>60 Club</b>	Fran Hanna	412-731-0790
<b>Garden Club</b>	Elaine Andrianos	412-731-4334
<b>Choir</b>	Steve Andrews	412-561-9102
<b>Organist</b>	Larsen Vincent	
<b>Chanter</b>	Amy Hogg	amyjhogg@gmail.com
<b>Sexton</b>	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
<b>Prosfora</b>	Argy Darakos	412-319-7330
	Jim Hages	412-523-7937
<b>Kolyva</b>	Tulla Velisaris	412-889-1648
<b>St Nicholas Dancers</b>		
<b>GOYA</b>	Kelly Gary	412-741-8567
<b>JOY</b>	Aimee Walker	412-398-6094
<b>Boys Basketball:</b>	Ted Hages	412-523-3571
	Nick Strauch	724-931-0364
<b>Girls Basketball:</b>	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
	Lenna Cominos	412-370-8181

**PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>Cemetery</b>	Peter Nychis
<b>Community Center &amp; Catering</b>	George Bellios
<b>Finance</b>	James Machin
<b>Food Festival</b>	John Frentzos
<b>Fundraising</b>	George Bellios
<b>Human Resources</b>	John Frentzos
<b>Maintenance/Security</b>	Victor Bertolina
<b>Religious &amp; Greek Education/Greek Affiliations</b>	
<b>Social</b>	John Frentzos
<b>Stewardship, Outreach &amp; Evangelism</b>	James Machin
<b>Technology</b>	Rob Day
<b>Youth</b>	Ted Hages
<b>Bylaws/Legal</b>	Ted Hages
<b>Beautification</b>	Deacon Robert Lykos

## FATHER'S MESSAGE

*"Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted; hear me speedily. Give heed to my soul and redeem it."  
(Psalm 68:18-19 LXX)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we step into February, we embark on a profoundly spiritual journey marked by the Triodion period. This sacred time — leading us from the Pre-Lenten Sundays, through Great Lent, and towards the glory of Pascha — is an opportunity for deep reflection and renewal in our Christian life.

The Triodion is not merely a series of services or hymns; it is a spiritual map guiding us towards a more profound communion with God. In her wisdom, the Church lays before us each week themes that mirror our spiritual struggles and triumphs. These Sundays are not just days on a calendar; they are stepping-stones that help us "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

This season is so important that the Church offers two additional Sundays as a preparation: the Sunday of Zacchaeus and the Sunday of the Canaanite Woman. These two Sundays lead us into the Triodion.

Let us consider the Sunday of Zacchaeus, where we learn the value of seeking Christ, even when faced with societal ridicule. Zacchaeus, a man of short stature, climbs a sycamore tree just to see Jesus. His determination and disregard for public opinion exemplify the attitude we must adopt in our spiritual quest. The message is clear: seek Christ with all your heart, irrespective of external judgments.

Then comes the Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, a poignant reminder of unwavering faith and humility. Her persistence in seeking Christ's mercy, likened to a dog's loyalty to its master, is a powerful lesson in faithfulness and devotion. It teaches us that true contact with Christ comes from a heart full of faith and humility, no matter the trials we face.

As we enter into the Pre-Lenten Triodion period, we encounter the profound lessons of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, and the Sundays of Meatfare and Cheesefare. Each of these Sundays presents us with vivid scriptural images and teachings that challenge us to introspection and transformation.

The self-justification of the Pharisee reminds us that if we follow his example, we walk the path of condemnation and destruction, while the humble and constrained cry of the Publican attracts the blessing of God, for, "a broken and humbled heart God will not despise" (Psalm 50:17).



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

The following Sunday we hear the beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son — or as some prefer to call it, the parable of the Loving Father — which reminds us that no matter how much we may have distanced ourselves from God, our heavenly Father awaits us with an open and paternal embrace. All we must do is to come to ourselves and say freely from our hearts, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before You, and I am not worthy to be called Your child” (Luke 15:21). These wonderful stories guide us to recognize our own spiritual failings and the boundless mercy of God.

Meatfare Sunday, with its emphasis on the final judgment, calls us to a life of genuine love and service to others. It teaches us that our actions towards the least of our brethren are the true measure of our love for Christ. Cheesefare Sunday then brings us to the brink of Great Lent, reminding us of Adam’s exile from Paradise and our own spiritual journey back to the Father.

And so, as we embark on this Triodion journey, let us embrace it with the fullness of our hearts. Let us seek, with humility and faith, the face of Christ, just as Zacchaeus and the Canaanite woman did. Let us be reminded, through the parables of the Publican and the Prodigal Son, of the transformative power of repentance and God’s boundless mercy. And may this Triodion period be for us all, a time of spiritual renewal and growth, drawing us closer to the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Prayerfully yours,

+Fr. 

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

---

## *SACRAMENTAL LIFE*

### **Funeral**

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES** to the family of *James T. Kukunas*  
who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, January 8, 2024.  
His funeral was January 12th.  
May God grant him eternal rest.

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES** to the family of *Antigone Hanna*  
who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, January 21, 2024.  
Her funeral was private on Thursday January 25th at Homewood Cemetery.  
May God grant her eternal rest.

## THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSING SCHEDULING FORM

**“WHAT IS THEOPHANY?”** Each year on January 6 we celebrate the great feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, where God is revealed to the world as Trinity. At the Theophany, Christ is baptized in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist, and we are presented with a great mystery: “He who is the Master of all is baptized by a servant, and He gives mankind cleansing through water.”

**BLESSING OF HOMES:** After the Blessing of the Water Service on January 6, Fr. Eleftherios will begin blessing the homes of our parish with holy water.

**WHAT IS A HOUSE BLESSING?** In celebration of Theophany — and throughout the month of January — Orthodox Christians invite Christ not only into their hearts, but also their homes. We call upon Him to bring the blessings and spiritual cleansing of the Jordan into our daily lives. The priest blesses our homes with Holy Water from the Theophany service, offering prayers for health, family, and God’s abundant blessings in the coming year.

### **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**

- Please prepare a list of your family members’ names and an icon for the blessing.
- The service will begin in the dining room or an area where your icons are displayed.
- You will be asked to guide the priest throughout your home for the Holy Water blessing.
- Kindly ensure a quiet environment by turning off televisions and silencing cell phones.

**WHAT ABOUT BUSINESSES?** Blessings are also available for offices or businesses.

**IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE OR BUSINESS BLESSED, please fill out this form and return it to the church office. Fr. Eleftherios will communicate with you to schedule a date and time for your house blessing.**

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PREFERRED TIME OF VISIT:**                      Morning                      Afternoon                      Evening

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

--

*PRIVACY NOTICE: Your information will be kept confidential and used only for scheduling purposes.*

## PARISH COUNCIL

### What is happening at St. Nicholas during this cold winter?

First of all, Simon Barber and Jim Stamatelos have stepped down from Parish Council. I want to thank them both for their many years serving on Parish Council and their work with Human Resources and the Community Center.

I would also like to thank Dean Panagulias for his many years as Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer and Ted Hages for being Secretary last year.

And now, I would like to introduce you to the 2024 Parish Council:

John Frentzos - Vice President

James Machin - Treasurer

Robin Day - Assistant Treasurer

George Bellios - Secretary

Vasili Copetas - Assistant Secretary

Victor Bertolina, Art Dordas, Ted Hages, Peter Krelis, Peter Nychis, Dean Panagulias, Van Paras and Peter Tsudis

We are looking for one more person to help lead the parish with this group. If you are interested in serving, please contact me.

Changing gears, it's not too early to start thinking about the Food Festival May 12-18, 2024. But before the actual event, there is food preparation. Thank you to the core group of women and men, who have given of their time to make sure the food items get done. But there is always room for more. No experience necessary. It does not have to be the entire time. 1-2 hours or 1-2 pans, can lighten the load. Please see the schedule in the Newsletter and volunteer.

I hope to see **you** at St. Nicholas (in the **pews** or in the **kitchen**)!

Yours in Christ,

*Michelle Marie Kotsagrelou*

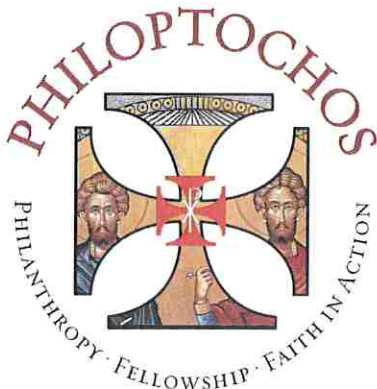
Parish Council President



## **PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES**

### **2024 MEMBERSHIP**

*The 2024 Philoptochos Membership drive is underway!  
If you have already renewed your membership or  
joined as a new member for 2024, we thank you for your  
support and welcome you. If you have not yet submitted  
your 2024 membership, please return the form below  
with your donation to the church office.*



#### **2024 Membership**

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Enclosed is my 2024 donation in the amount of:

( ) \$50    ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos*

**RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:**

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



**St. Nicholas Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society**

# OPERATION CLASSROOM

HELP US PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO STUDENTS IN NEED AND  
MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR EDUCATION



We are sponsoring donations of school supplies and personal hygiene products to Cornell School District and Banksville Elementary, both associated with Philoptochos members at our church.

To make a monetary donation for Operation Classroom, please make checks payable to St. Nick's Philoptochos, and put Operation Classroom in the memo.

**ST. NICHOLAS PHILOPTOCHOS  
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY!**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
DONATE ITEMS FROM OUR  
AMAZON WISH LIST**





## *GREEK SCHOOL*

Last month St. Nicholas Greek School commemorated the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs / Greek Letters on Sunday, January 28, with an Annual Trisagion, Artoclasia, recognition of students who were successful with Ellinomatheas Proficiency Exams from Greece. There was chanting «Φως Ιλαρόν» Fos Ilaron under the direction of our Protopsaltia, Amy Hogg in memory of Metropolis Protopsalti Peter Clyde Papadakos, followed by our Annual Bake Sale. A highlight this year was viewing the children's work on the Three Hierarchs. A goal was for the children to not only learn who the Three Hierarchs are, but to also learn a few of their life-learning quotes which are important for all of us to strive to live by. Their wisdom not only held true to follow during their time, but also for us to follow now.

On February 9 is International Greek Language Day. It is celebrated world wide and is a fairly new celebration which started in 2017 and coincides with the birthdate of Dionysios Solomos who is the National Poet of Greece. He wrote the 158-stanza poem – “Hymn to Liberty” of which the first two stanzas are the National Anthem of Greece and Cyprus. Join in and speak the Greek Language on February 9 and every day.

St. Nicholas Greek School will celebrate Evangelismos and Greek Independence on Sunday, March 31, 2024. Mark your calendars for a Doxology in church, a luncheon, and program by our Greek School children and dances by our GOYA dancers. Come and support our school, especially our children!

If there are any young adults between the ages of 18 – 26 who would like to act, there is a great opportunity with the Greek Room Committee of the University of Pittsburgh who are working on a worthwhile project. They will have a re-enactment of the Congressional sessions of January 6-14 of 1824 where President Monroe spoke to Congress to declare entering the rebellion of the Greeks and to assist Greece. Actual transcripts of what was stated will be acted out and an honorarium will be given. Please contact Dr. Nick Giannoukakis as soon as possible at [ngiann1@pitt.edu](mailto:ngiann1@pitt.edu)

This year the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Language Festival and Quiz Bowl will be held at St. Demetrios Church in Rocky River, OH on Saturday, April 13. Greek musical presentations by many schools and skits will take place as well as the Quiz Bowl with teams competing in questions on Greek history, vocabulary, spelling, Saints, Greek artists, and more. An art exhibit will also take place by the students of the various schools. Everyone is always invited to attend the Greek Language Festivals.

## GREEK SCHOOL, Con't

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

# THE NINTH ANNUAL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL AND QUIZ BOWL

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
**St. Demetrios Church, Rocky River, OH**  
**11am - 3pm**

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

Teams of three (3) students will compete in two levels. Eligible contestants are those currently or previously enrolled in Greek Language Studies. All the material needed to study for the Quiz Bowl is available to download at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/3yx04h3bdlll5c2lfyk4m/h?dl=0&rlkey=d45th09aivd712t40ynqvo6c2> Each team creates its own name. A large trophy cup will be placed at the winning team's church. Individual awards will also be given.

- a. Intermediate Level: 4th, 5th, 6th grade American School
- b. Advanced Level: 6th - 12th grade American School (note that 6th grade students have the option of teaming up in either level)

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

3. For students **who love to act** we encourage you to perform an original Greek skit or one from an existing writer. This is open for all grades, K - 12th grade American School.

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

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

Registration forms available at the Metropolis website, facebook, and <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/3yx04h3bdlll5c2lfyk4m/h?dl=0&rlkey=d45th09aivd712t40ynqvo6c2>

**Registration deadline is March 30, 2024**

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



## St. Nicholas Church School



49 hats, 56 pairs of gloves, 10 scarves, 8 pairs of socks, 2 headbands, 3 foot warmers and 1 blanket were delivered to the Neighborhood Resilience Project for their **Project Bundle-up**. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

The St. Nicholas Church School teachers, staff and students want to wish our GOYANs (and Church School students) Good Luck at their upcoming **GOYA Basketball Tournament** February 16-18, 2024, at All Saints (Canonsburg, PA).

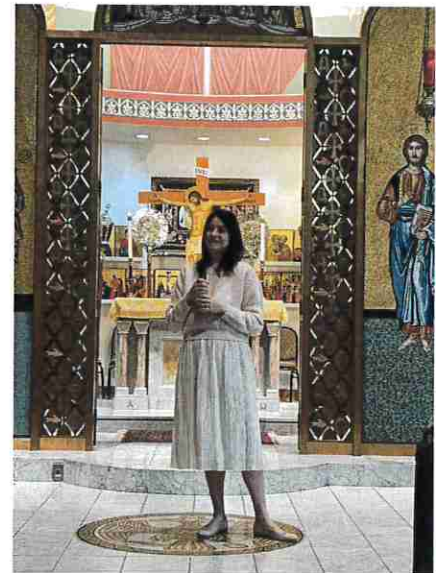
**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School Open House** will be **Sunday, March 3, 2024**, where parents and grandparents attend Church School to see firsthand what their children are learning.

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**, the Church School students will participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** with their favorite icon!

Church School students in grades 7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> can learn more about their faith and participate in the **St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival** that will be held in **March 2024**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or [eve.m.elsen@gmail.com](mailto:eve.m.elsen@gmail.com).

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

Yours in Christ,  
*Miss Michelle*



*St. Nicholas Church School, Con't*

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Church School Open House

Sunday, March 3, 2024



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





Church School Students:  
Please bring an icon  
Sunday, March 24, 2024  
for the  
Sunday of Orthodoxy  
Icon Procession

*St. Nicholas Church School, Con't*

# St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival

## March 2024



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



## **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***

Our St. Nicholas GOYA attended the first Metropolis Basketball Tournament of the season the weekend of January 12-14 hosted by the Annunciation Cathedral, Columbus, Ohio. The weekend started with meeting and prayer on Friday at St. Nicholas Cathedral and ended with our junior and senior girls each bringing home the first place trophies. The weekend was filled with good sportsmanship, fun, fellowship and worship.

Thank you to all our GOYAns that participated. Thank you to Fr. Eleftherios, our advisors, coaches, chaperones, and parents for their commitment to our youth. We are looking forward to attending the next two tournaments hosted by Annunciation Church, Akron, Ohio and All Saints Church, Canonsburg.

Our GOYA will be hosting the Metropolis Volleyball Tournament at St. Nicholas on Saturday, March 2. Help will be needed to be scorekeepers, line judges, food servers, etc. Please contact Carla Antoniadis at 724-759-0016 or Linda Hages at 412-523-7938 to volunteer.

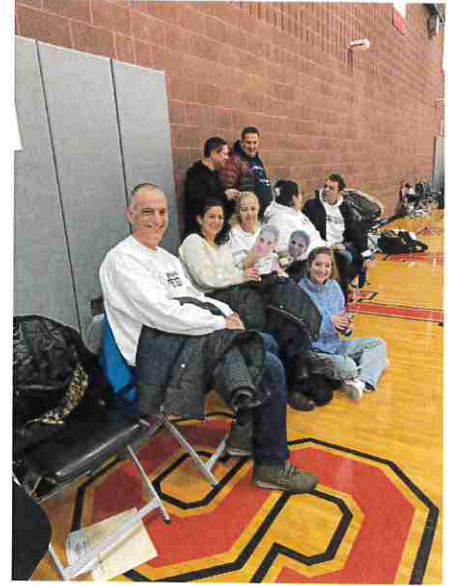


GOYA NEWS, Con't





GOYA NEWS, Con't





*GOYA NEWS, Con't*



## *FOOD FESTIVAL*

### **Help Make Our Food Festival a Success: Urgent Call for Volunteers!**

A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who has already dedicated their time and effort in preparing our delicious Moussaka, Spanakopita, Souzoukakia and Koulourakia for our May Food Festival. Your contribution is invaluable. We couldn't have done this without you.

We feel that we are facing, however, a significant challenge in ensuring the success of our Festival, already in its 62nd year. To meet our goals we need a higher level of participation.

#### **We Need Your Help More Than Ever!**

- **Join us:** Your participation can make a big difference. Whether you're a seasoned cook or new to the kitchen, we welcome all hands!
- **Spread the word:** Even if you're unable to participate, please share this message with friends and family who might be interested.
- **Every contribution counts:** Every additional volunteer significantly boosts our productivity and morale.

**Please consider dedicating a few hours of your time to help make our Food Festival a memorable event.** Your support is crucial in bringing our community together to celebrate and enjoy the fruits of our collective effort.

Looking forward to seeing many new and familiar faces in our next cooking sessions! May God bless you all!

## *FOOD FESTIVAL, Con't*

### Festival Cooking Schedule

Revised February 2024

#### February

Pasta Flora	Rescheduled to Saturday, April 20
Baklava	Saturday, February 10, 9:00 am – 4:00pm Sunday, Feb. 11, after Church till 4:00pm Monday, February 12, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Pastitsio	Friday and Saturday, February 23 and 24, 9:00am – 4:00pm Sunday, Feb. 25, After Church till 4:00pm

#### March

Karidopita	Tuesday, March 5, 9:00 am to 4:00pm
Finikia	Saturday, March 16, 9:00 am to 4:00pm
Galatoboureko	Friday and Saturday, , March 22 & 23, 9:00 am to 4:00pm Sunday, March 24, after Church to 4:00pm

#### April

Kourambiethes	Saturday, April 6, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Tiropita	Saturday, April 13, 9:00am to 4:00pm Sunday, April 14, after Church to 4:00pm
Pasta Flora	Saturday, April 20, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Diples	Tuesday, April 23, 9:00am to 4:00pm

Much appreciation to Alice Gary and John Edgos for chairing Spanakopita, to George Bellios for chairing Souzoukakia and to Marcie McGure for chairing Koulourakia!



## 2024 STEWARDSHIP

# "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"

Mathew 25:23

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



2024 STEWARDSHIP		01/23/2024
Total Stewards		144
Total Amount Pledged		\$100,082.00
Average Pledge		\$893.59
% Parish Participation to Date		48%
2023 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		42%
2023 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 235,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$39,992.45
As of:		12/31/2023
Income: Pledges, Basket Collection and Food Festival	\$1,027,609.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$1,017,935.00	
	\$ 9,674.00	

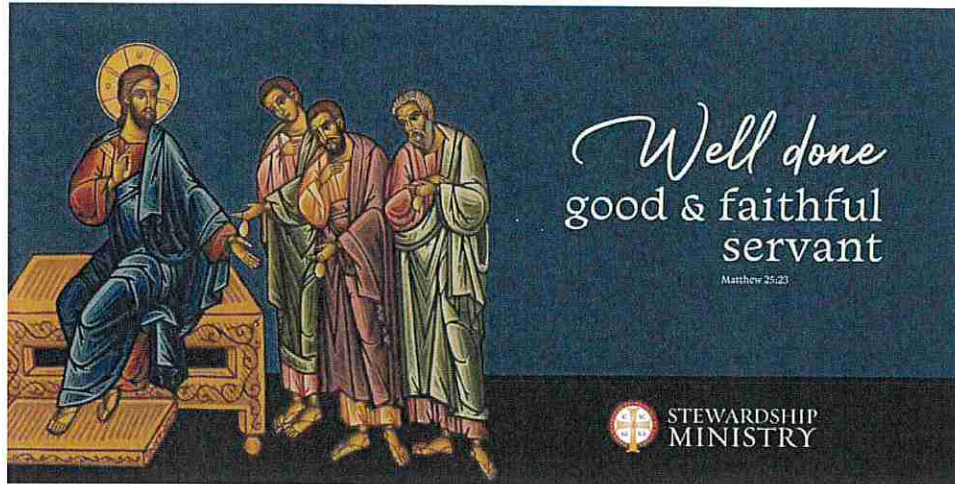
Many of you have been contributing, but

**PLEASE** complete a Stewardship Card.

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

<https://www.stnickspgh.org>

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP

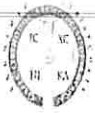


Fr. Eleftherios & Presvytera Elizabeth Constantine  
 Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos  
 James & Electra Agras  
 Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos  
 Mr. Anthony Andrews  
 Mr. Steven Andrews  
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Andrianos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis  
 Mr. George Anthon  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Antonuccio  
 Mr. & Mrs. Spiliou Argiropoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber  
 Ms. Maria Bardakos  
 Ms. Bethany Barefoot & Petros Neofotistos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman  
 Ms. Sophia Bender  
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina  
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos  
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos  
 Mrs. Mary Brahos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano  
 Mrs. Dee Chronis  
 Mr. Greg Cominos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos  
 Mrs. Eleni Contis  
 Ms. Jamie Contis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis  
 Mrs. Sandra Contis  
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas  
 Mr. George Copetas  
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas  
 Mrs. Helen M. Copetas  
 Mrs. Maria Copetas  
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos  
 Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robin Day  
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias  
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo  
 Mrs. Christine Dickos  
 Mr. Art Dordas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt  
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis

Mrs. Elaine Ellis  
 Mrs. Penelope Falck  
 Mrs. Alice Flocos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank  
 Mrs. Alice Gary  
 Gialamas Parlour Family  
 Mrs. Frances Gialamas  
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hages  
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna  
 Mrs. Frances Hanna  
 Mrs. Rania Harris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes  
 Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis  
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas  
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas  
 Mr. Andron Kavouras  
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas  
 Mrs. Estair Kotsagrelas  
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelas  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy  
 Ms. Christine Krelis  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian  
 Mr. James S. Kukunas  
 Mr. & Mrs. James T.<sup>+</sup> Kukunas  
 Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Langas  
 Ms. Constantina Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky  
 Mrs. Janet Lykos  
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin  
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam  
 Ms. Karen Malobicky  
 Mrs. Thalia Mandros  
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas  
 Mrs. Barbara Mannors  
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos  
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastro

Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire  
 Ms., Patricia McKee  
 Mr. William Michaels  
 Mr. Paul L. Moses  
 Ms. Maryanne Napiecek  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nychis  
 Mr. Constantine Panagoulas  
 Ms. Catherine E. Pandeladis  
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages  
 Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Papanikolaou  
 Mr. John C. Paras  
 Mrs. Katherine Paras  
 Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Persinger  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolis  
 Ms. Constance Petros  
 Mrs. Vera Poland  
 Mrs. Helene Powers  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy  
 Mrs. Kristina Rigoopoulos & Mr. William Guttman  
 Mr. Robert Shott  
 Mr. George Sockos  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis  
 Mrs. Toulia Stathopoulos  
 Mrs. Stella Stratigos  
 Mr. Demetri Strauch  
 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Strauch  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher  
 Mrs. Katia Sycara & Mr. Michael Lewis  
 Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas  
 Mrs. Chrisoula Torlidas  
 Mr. Peter Tsoukalas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis  
 Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis  
 Mrs. Angela Vergos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vergos  
 Mrs. Helen Waskoskie  
 Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos  
 Dr. Katerina Zavaras  
 Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis  
 Mrs. Sophia Zozos

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP, Con't



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Pittsburgh, PA

### 2024 ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL CONFIDENTIAL FAMILY STEWARDSHIP CARD

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

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

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

**TREASURE-** Total Gift for 2024 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution Frequency: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

☐ Please send Stewardship Envelopes ☐ I don't use envelopes Statement delivery: ☐ US Mail ☐ Email



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Pittsburgh, PA

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

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

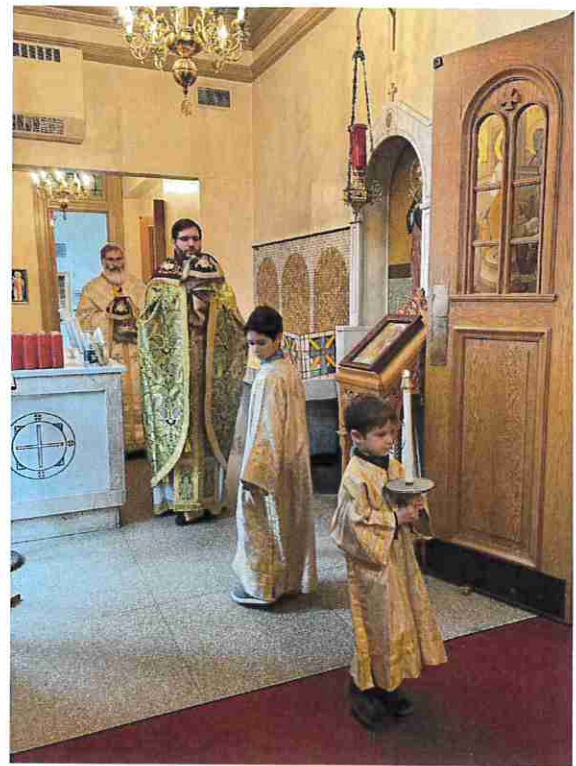
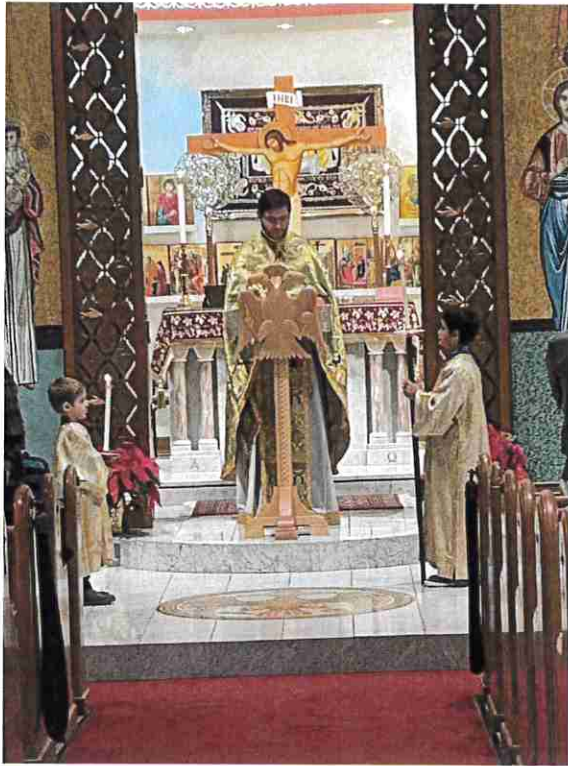
**TIME-** St. Nicholas Cathedral is grateful for our many volunteers. Thank you!

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

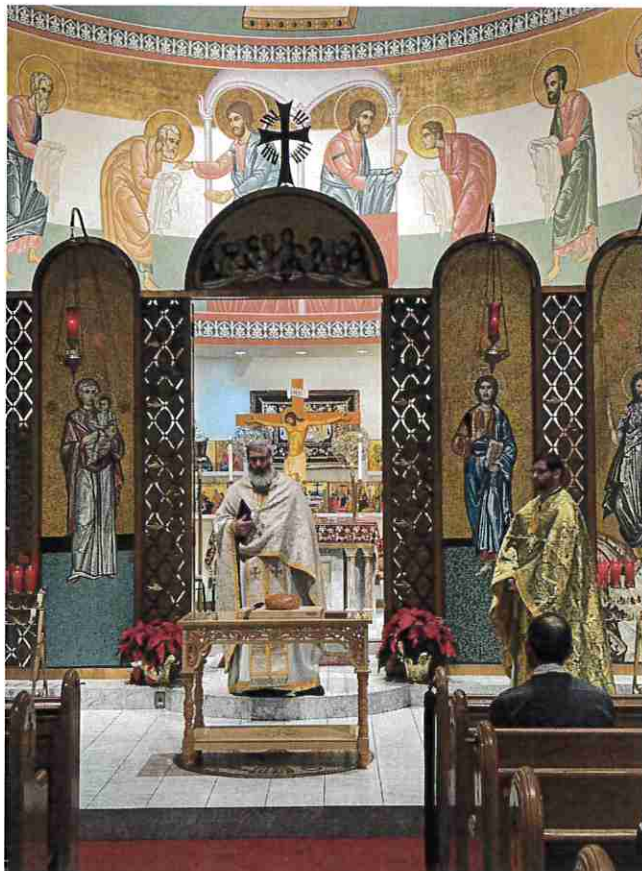
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



# NEW YEARS DAY LITURGY



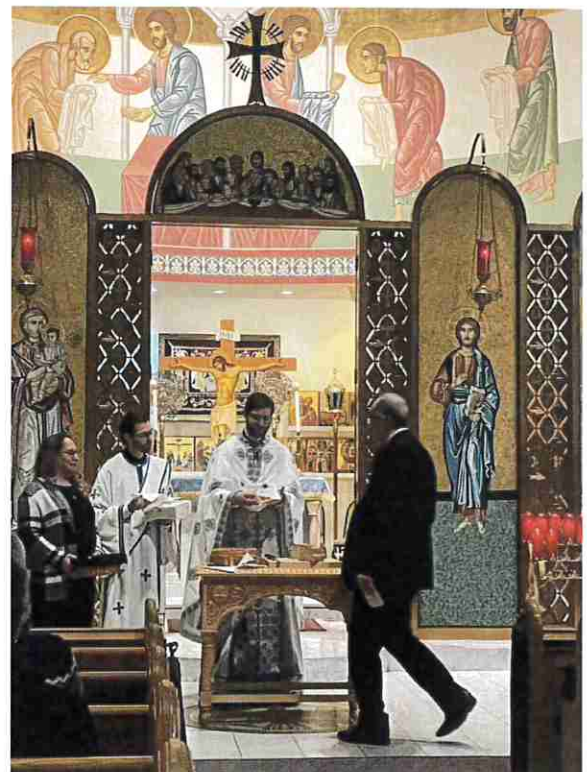
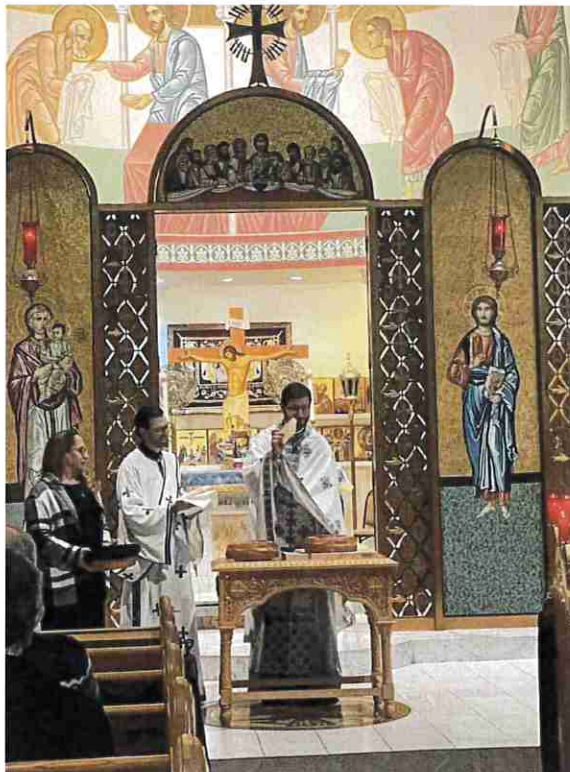
## THEOPHANY January 6, 2024





# VASILOPITA CUTTING

January 7, 2024





**PARISH COUNCIL  
AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE  
January 7, 2024**





You're invited  
to an afternoon  
celebration at  
Presentation of Christ's  
Annual Feastday

# PANEGYRI

*SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024*

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER

PLENTY OF FOOD

LOTS OF FELLOWSHIP

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY:  
THE JR. OLYMPIAN DANCERS AND  
THE GRECIAN ODYSSEY DANCERS

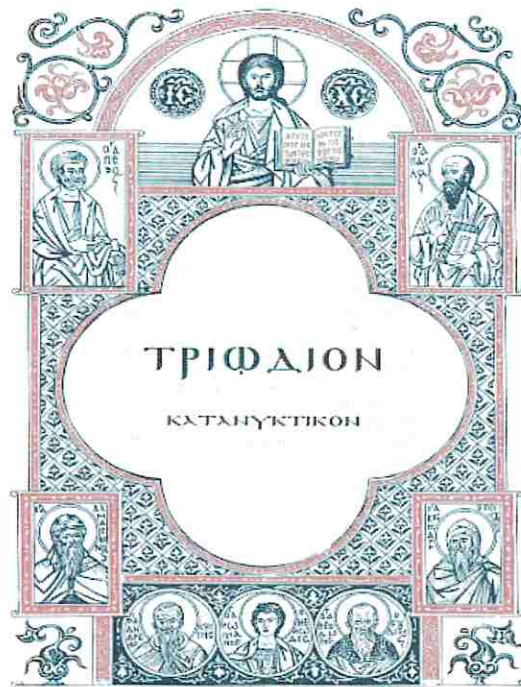
MUSIC

AUCTIONS

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ENJOY THE AFTERNOON PARTY!  
PRICE: ADULTS: \$25.00; TEENS & STUDENTS: \$15.00; CHILDREN 12-6 years old: \$5.00

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL MARY AT: 412-877-3415  
OR THE CHURCH OFFICE AT: 412-824-9188



# “VITAMINS FOR THE SOUL: MUSICAL PRAYERS FROM THE TRIODION TO-GO”

A LECTURE-CONCERT THAT PRESENTS SPIRITUALLY-UPLIFTING HYMNS  
OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, ACCESSIBLE “TO GO”,  
TO STRENGTHEN US IN THE LENTEN JOURNEY  
AND EVERYDAY OF OUR LIVES

PRESENTED BY  
THE BYZANTINE CHOIR  
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 AT 6 PM  
WHERE: ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL,  
419 S. DITHRIDGE, PITTSBURGH, PA, 15213





VOLUME 7 NO. 10 ISSUE: 61

FEBRUARY 2024

# A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

## NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



### New Metropolis Center Construction Update

With the lion's share of soil issues now behind us (no new issues), we are back to laying footers and foundations. With the occasional snowfall and all the rainy weather, work has slowed as expected yet progress continues. At this hour, most all footers are complete and the foundation walls are appearing. We hope to make up some of the lost time as the year progresses. Among our parishes, we have now raised over \$400,000 - an amazing dedication! Please consider inviting us back to your parish if you need help in developing a parish pledge or inviting us to introduce the project to your leadership. The more awareness we can create, the more support we will all experience. Everyone should be represented in support of our church. Please consider sharing this note with your parish. This building will eventually be the hub for inter-parish activities: fellowship, training, ministry, worship, outreach for generations to come. This is our legacy. Let's all participate! As I always will, I ask that you seriously consider a pledge, or raising your pledge, or pre-paying your pledge so that we AVOID ANY DEBT! We will continue fundraising until we are there! Please help us such that this new home is only ever a blessing AND NEVER A BURDEN to our church. To get your pledge matched, please visit: [www.pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge](http://www.pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge) or scan the QR code. Archon Nick Lekas - New Metropolis Center Project Manager



### Save the Date



Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Team Building Retreat  
"New Year - New Relationships"  
for Metropolis Board Members,  
Chapter Presidents, and Chapter Executive Officers

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> Social gathering at 7:00 pm  
Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting/Retreat 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Courtyard by Marriott  
Pittsburgh Washington/Meadow Lands  
1800 Tanger Boulevard  
Washington, PA 15301  
(724) 222-5620

More details on special room rates, reservations,  
meeting agenda and activities coming soon!  
Lunch on Saturday will be provided.

Please make every effort to attend!  
We look forward to meeting, greeting and sharing with sisters  
from across the Metropolis of Pittsburgh!



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

# 2024 GOYA

## Spring RETREAT

MARCH 8-10, 2024

BEING PREPARED ON  
OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



WITH OUR  
SPEAKER:  
FR. CONSTANTIN  
URSACHE

OF ST. JOHN THE  
FORERUNNER,  
YOUNGSTOWN, OH

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 22!  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[Y2AM.PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG/RETREAT](http://Y2AM.PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG/RETREAT)



Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
SUMMER CAMP STAFF APPLICATIONS  
Open January 1-February 19, 2024

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



MAY 18 2024 • 4:00 PM

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON  
PITTSBURGH-CRANBERRY**  
910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

Online reservation:  
[tinyurl.com/stphotiosawardsreg](http://tinyurl.com/stphotiosawardsreg)  
\$95/adult, \$25/child (under 12)

Reservation & Sponsorship  
Deadline: April 28  
No Refunds available after May 4  
or mail reservations to:  
St. Photios Awards Banquet  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
5201 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
Please make checks payable to:  
'Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh'

Banquet Co-Chairpersons:  
Archdeacon Ryan:  
412 621 5529  
rgzikowski@pittsburgh.goarch.org  
Marianne Stearns:  
412 600 2159  
mstearns@nauticom.net



NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT  
THE METROPOLITAN'S BENEVOLENCE FUND  
[pittsburgh.goarch.org](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org) | 412 621 5529

**10<sup>th</sup> ST. PHOTIOS  
AWARDS  
BANQUET**



St. Photios  
Awards Banquet  
Nominations  
Due:  
MARCH 31

**Metropolitan  
Savas  
invites YOU  
to the  
First Annual**

**MUSIC & ARTS  
FESTIVAL  
GOMOP  
PALOOZA**

**St. Demetrios  
Community Center  
3223 Atlantic St. NE  
Warren, OH  
Saturday  
August 17th  
11am - 9pm**

**Free Admission  
& Parking**

**Are You a  
Musician,  
Band  
or Artist?**

**Want to  
Perform or  
Display Art?**

**Contact  
Fr. Joe  
DiStefano  
[frjdistefano@yahoo.com](mailto:frjdistefano@yahoo.com)**

**Fun for All  
the Family!**

**2 Music Stages**

**Karaoke**

**Art & Craft  
Exhibits**

**Food &  
Beverages**

**All Proceeds go to the  
GOMOP Youth & Young  
Adult Ministries**

**The Meraklides  
Clergy Supergroup**

**Metri & the Metro  
Individual Artists & Groups**



### 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](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org) [info@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:info@pittsburgh.goarch.org)





# FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Agiasmos 12:00 noon	2 Presentation of our Lord (Ypapanti) Divine Liturgy at Ypapanti Church in East Pittsburgh 8:45 am Orthros, 9:30 am Liturgy	3
4 15th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Event (LH) 4:00 p.m.	5 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	6 St. Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople Regional Divine Liturgy at Kimisis Church in Aliquippa Orthros 8:45 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.  GOYA Basketball 6:00 p.m.	7 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	8	9	10 St. Haralambos the Hieromartyr Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Greek School 10:00 a.m.
11 16th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  GOYA Basketball Practice	12 Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	13 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.  GOYA Basketball 6:00 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
GOYA Basketball Tournament in Canonsburg, PA: Feb. 16-18						
18 Sunday of the Canaanite Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  GOYA BB Tournament in Canonsburg PA	19 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.  YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	20 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	21 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
25 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee:  TRIODION Begins Today Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Concert: VITAMINS FOR THE SOUL: Musical Prayers from the Triodion "To-Go" 6:00 p.m.	26 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	27 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	28	29		
FAST FREE WEEK						
			31			

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

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



**STAMOOLIS**  
BROTHERS CO. • SINCE 1909

RETAIL & WHOLESALE  
Greek • Italian • Middle Eastern Food

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

**412.471.7676**

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



[www.stamoolisbros.com](http://www.stamoolisbros.com)