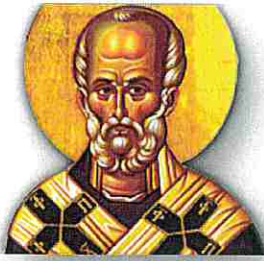


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024 – 15th Sunday of Matthew

Saint of the Day: Our Righteous Father Isidore of Pelusium

Second Eothinon • 2nd Mode



WELCOME TO ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL!

VISIT 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

PROTOPSALTRIA: Amy Hogg

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steve Andrews

ORGANIST: Larsen Vincent

Questions about our Parish? E-mail 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/ and click on "Live Streaming Click Here."

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

TODAY:

- ❖ Memorial Service is being chanted for the souls of the servants of God for Anna Koumbaridou & Andreas Koumbarides (3 years). Trisagion Service for Magdalini Theodorakis Hnarakis (42 years).
- ❖ Coffee hour is hosted today by GOYA and sponsored by the Paljug family in the Small Hall.
- ❖ Oratorical Festival Workshop for our youth in the GOYA Room following Church School (see topics in bulletin).
- ❖ GOYA Meeting after Liturgy.

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- Monday, February 5, 2024: YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 6, 2024: St. Photios the Great Patriarch of Constantinople @ Kimisis Church (in Aliquippa)
Orthros 8:45 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
GOYA Basketball 6:00 p.m.; Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 7, 2024: YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 10, 2024: St. Haralambos the Hieromartyr
Orthros 9:00 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Greek School 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, February 11, 2024: Memorial Service for James T. Kukunas (40 days).
Food Drive for Neighborhood Resilience Project – Souper Bowl of Caring
Please bring nonperishables!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024 – 15th Sunday of Matthew

Saint of the Day: Our righteous Father Isidore of Pelusium

Second Eothinon • 2nd Mode

TODAY'S HYMNS AND READINGS

The Festal Hymn for the Presentation of the Lord (Υπαπαντή)

in first mode is chanted for the Small Entrance:

Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε Παρθένε· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστός ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, φωτίζων τοὺς ἐν σκότει. Εὐφραίνου καὶ σὺ Πρεσβύτα δίκαιε, δεξάμενος ἐν ἀγκάλαις τὸν ἐλευθερωτὴν τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν, χαριζόμενον ἡμῖν καὶ τὴν Ἀνάστασιν.

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.

At the Small Entrance, the Festal Entrance Hymn is chanted.

Εγνώρισε Κύριος τὸ σωτήριον αὐτοῦ ἐναντίον πάντων τῶν ἐθνῶν. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

The Lord made known His salvation in the sight of all the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Following the Small Entrance, the Resurrection Hymn of the week in second mode is chanted.

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἢ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν ᾅδην ἐνέκρωσας, τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!"

Then the Festal Hymn for the Presentation of the Lord (Υπαπαντή)

in first mode is repeated (see above).

Then, the clergy chant the hymn for the memorial service in plagal fourth mode.

Μνήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ Σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μεταστᾶσι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

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

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμένι σου, ἢ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτίσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ ἱεράρχα Νικόλαε· πρέσβευε 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 Feast of Υπαπαντή), in first mode:

Ὁ μήτραν παρθενικὴν ἀγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ σου, καὶ χεῖρας τοῦ Συμεὼν εὐλογήσας ὡς ἔπρεπε, προφθάσας καὶ νῦν ἔσωσας ἡμᾶς Χριστέ ὁ Θεός. Ἄλλ' εἰρήνευσον ἐν πολέμοις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ κραταίωσον Βασιλεῖς οὓς ἠγάπησας, ὁ μόνος φιλόανθρωπος.

You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.

Today's Epistle Reading (15th Sunday):

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (4:6-15)

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ Θεὸς ὁ εἰπών, ἐκ σκότους φῶς λάμψαι, ὃ ἔλαμψεν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν πρὸς φωτισμὸν τῆς γνώσεως τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν προσώπῳ Χριστοῦ. Ἔχομεν δὲ τὸν θησαυρὸν τοῦτον ἐν ὀστρακίνοις σκεύεσιν, ἵνα ἡ ὑπερβολὴ τῆς δυνάμεως ἡ τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ μὴ ἐξ ἡμῶν· ἐν παντὶ θλιβόμενοι ἀλλ' οὐ στενοχωρούμενοι, ἀπορούμενοι ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐξαπορούμενοι, διωκόμενοι ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐγκαταλειπόμενοι, καταβαλλόμενοι ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀπολλύμενοι, πάντοτε τὴν νέκρωσιν τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι περιφέροντες, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι ἡμῶν φανερωθῇ. Αἰ γὰρ ἡμεῖς οἱ ζῶντες εἰς θάνατον παραδιδόμεθα διὰ Ἰησοῦν, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ φανερωθῇ ἐν τῇ θνητῇ σαρκὶ ἡμῶν. Ὡστε ὁ θάνατος ἐν ἡμῖν ἐνεργεῖται, ἡ δὲ ζωὴ ἐν ὑμῖν. ἔχοντες δὲ τὸ αὐτὸ πνεῦμα τῆς πίστεως, κατὰ τὸ γεγραμμένον, Ἐπίστευσα, διὸ ἐλάλησα, καὶ ἡμεῖς πιστεύομεν, διὸ καὶ λαλοῦμεν, εἰδότες ὅτι ὁ ἐγείρας τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἡμᾶς σὺν Ἰησοῦ ἐγερεῖ καὶ παραστήσει σὺν ὑμῖν. Τὰ γὰρ πάντα δι' ὑμᾶς, ἵνα ἡ χάρις πλεονάσασα διὰ τῶν πλειόνων τὴν εὐχαριστίαν περισσεύσῃ εἰς τὴν δόξαν τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with

Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. [RSV]

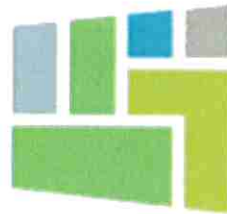
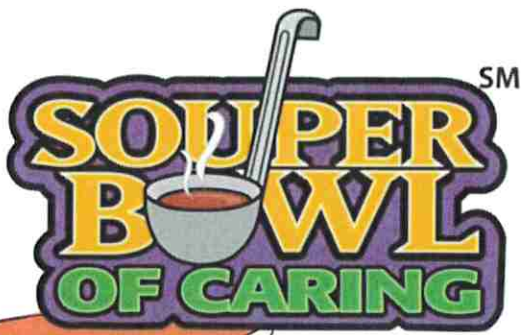
Today's Gospel Reading (15th Sunday of Matthew):

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (22:35-46)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, νομικός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ, πειράζων αὐτόν καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε, ποία ἐντολὴ μεγάλη ἐν τῷ νόμῳ; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἔφη αὐτῷ· Ἀγαπήσεις Κύριον τὸν Θεόν σου ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ καρδίᾳ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ ψυχῇ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ διανοίᾳ σου· αὕτη ἐστὶ πρώτη καὶ μεγάλη ἐντολή. δευτέρα δὲ ὁμοία αὐτῇ· ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν. ἐν ταύταις ταῖς δυσὶν ἐντολαῖς ὅλος ὁ νόμος καὶ οἱ προφῆται. Συνηγμένων δὲ τῶν Φαρισαίων ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτοὺς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· Τί ὑμῖν δοκεῖ περὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ; τίνος υἱὸς ἐστι; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· Τοῦ Δαυῖδ. λέγει αὐτοῖς· Πῶς οὖν Δαυῖδ ἐν Πνεύματι Κύριον καλεῖ αὐτὸν λέγων, εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τῷ Κυρίῳ μου, κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου; εἰ οὖν Δαυῖδ καλεῖ αὐτὸν Κύριον, πῶς υἱὸς αὐτοῦ ἐστι; καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδύνατο αὐτῷ ἀποκριθῆναι λόγον, οὐδὲ ἐτόλμησέ τις ἀπ' ἐκείνης τῆς ἡμέρας ἐπερωτῆσαι αὐτὸν οὐκέτι.

At that time, a lawyer asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. [RSV]





NEIGHBORHOOD
RESILIENCE
PROJECT

Food Drive

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

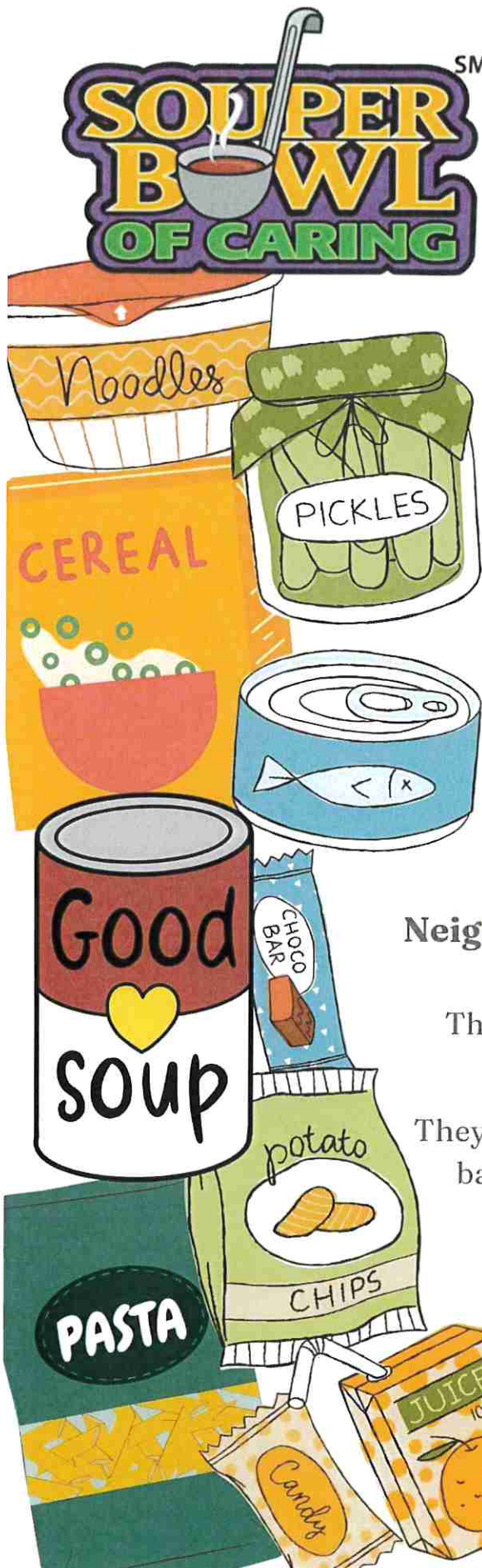
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
419 South Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

SUPPORTING

Neighborhood Resilience Project's Emergency Food Pantry:

They provide food items for community members
without enough food for the month.

They also provide weekly hot meals each Wednesday,
bagged lunches on Saturdays, and small lunches
Monday – Friday.





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 17/2024

**Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of the Three Hierarchs
and the Day of Greek Letters**

January 30, 2024

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

The Great Basil, and the Theologian Gregory, together with the renowned John,
Chrysostom of golden speech...

(Dismissal Hymn of the Three Hierarchs)

Beloved brethren in Christ,

These three Saints and Fathers of the Fourth Century Church: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, are celebrated today throughout the Orthodox Christian oikoumene as a symphony of faith and reason, of grace and the working of our own salvation. We pronounce their names with great reverence and in order to accentuate the values that each of these Shepherds and Teachers of the Universal Church brought to the expression of our Orthodox Faith in Christ.

They all shared in the manifold gifts of divine grace – the “charismata” of which Saint Paul speaks of in First Corinthians (12:8-10). From Basil the Great, we have learned most especially of compassion for others. His philanthropic transformation of Asia Minor during his episcopal tenure is truly awe-inspiring, particularly because what was lacking in the technologies of the day was more than equaled by the willingness of the Church as



the Body of Christ to work together for the benefit of all. From Gregory the Theologian, in his Orthodox minority position among the controversies of his day as Archbishop of Constantinople, we have learned that theology is more than a way of thinking about God. It is the very life of God as experienced by the Faithful in the life of the Church. And from the Holy Chrysostom, we have learned that it is possible to articulate and teach the things of God in a way that is not only convincing to others, but in a way that engages them to find their own path of treading the truth of the Gospel.

Each of these Great Fathers was a person of extraordinary intellectual achievement in what we now call "Greek Letters." They put into the service of the Gospel the secular learning of their time in ways that are still studied and admired today. For they saw the ultimate value of knowledge in the ministry of love, and the esteem of reason in the service of faith. They have never been equaled in their unique combination of mind and heart, and so it is "meet and right" that we celebrate them most fervently on their shared Feast.

Therefore, beloved Christians, let us take this day and every day to honor not only these three Great Hierarchs of the Church, but let us also honor the path they trod that leads heavenward – from the things of earthly science and its ways of knowing, to the mysteries of things divine, and the way of love; for it is love that will abide unto eternity.

With paternal blessings in the Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 18/2024

Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of Saint Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople

February 6, 2024

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Their sound has gone forth unto all the earth.... (Psalm 18:4, LXX)

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the feast of Saint Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople, the Evangelizer of the Slavic Peoples, let us take from his noble example the spirit of true apostleship on behalf of all people. Especially during this time when our Ukrainian Brethren are suffering wave after crashing wave of violence and abuse from the Russian Federation, we implore the intercessions of Saint Photios the Great to finally put an end to this fratricidal war of greed and aggression. The Gospel delivered to the Slavs by the saintly Patriarch of Constantinople was one of peace, not war; one of friendship, not enmity; one of love, not hate.

As we continue to pray for the peace of the world — and especially in the Holy Land — we also recognize the vision of our Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine; for it is a National Institution of our Sacred Archdiocese that is dedicated to preserving the memory of the early immigrants and founders of our Church in America. The sound of the voices of those immigrants who came to America — whether known in name or not — has gone forth throughout our land, and has carried the message of the



Everlasting Gospel to every corner of our Nation. Many grandparents and great-grandparents have been fortuitous apostles. As they journeyed throughout the United States looking for a better life, they brought with them the Orthodox Gospel of Christ.

Therefore, on this Feast of Saint Photios, let us take time to focus with gratitude and thanksgiving on those who came before us. They sought a better world for themselves and their children. We can do no less. The Shrine of Saint Photios reminds each and every one of us that we also are called unto the apostleship of peace and of love. As we support the Shrine in material ways, let us also take up its spiritual vision to not only remember a noble past, but also to forge a better future for the whole world.

With paternal love in Christ,

+ ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

2024 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex

(Just ask a member of Parish Council)



Visit our website to fill out a Stewardship Card for 2024 or to make a donation

<https://www.stnickspgh.org>



<u>2024</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	112 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$ 100,082.00 GOAL (\$235,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$893.59

YOUTH SAFETY WORKERS

Who is considered a Youth Safety Worker?

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

Pastoral Assistants & Youth Directors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



From the Church School Desk!

Church School students in grades 7th–12th 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 our Oratorical Festival Chair Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or eve.m.elsen@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ
Miss Michelle

GOYA NEWS

Volunteers Needed - Our St. Nicholas 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, donate baked goods, etc. Please contact Carla Antoniadis at 724-759-0016 or Linda Hages at 412-523-7938 to volunteer. Thank you to all the parishioners who have stepped up in the past and continue to do so for these events. Come and enjoy a day of volleyball and help the cause.

SAINT NICHOLAS GOLF OUTING COMMITTEE

We are looking for committee members for the golf outing fundraiser.

The committee needs people to help with sponsors, auction items, and golfers.

If you are interested in helping, please call the church office.

Thank you.

GREEK SCHOOL

Keep open **March 31, 2024**, to join us in the celebration of the Feast Day of Evangelismos and Greek Independence.

On that day a Doxology, a luncheon, followed with an annual program presented by the students and GOYA dancers will take place.

Food Festival Preparations

Sessions: We are taking a temporary break as we head into February. We hope to see some new and familiar faces Saturday, Sunday and Monday, February 10, 11, 12 with Baklava. Heartfelt appreciation to those who have helped so far along this path to reach our goals. Special thanks to January's chairs: Alice Gary and John Edgos with Spanakopita, George Bellios with Souzoukakia and Marcie McGuire with Koulourakia

February

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

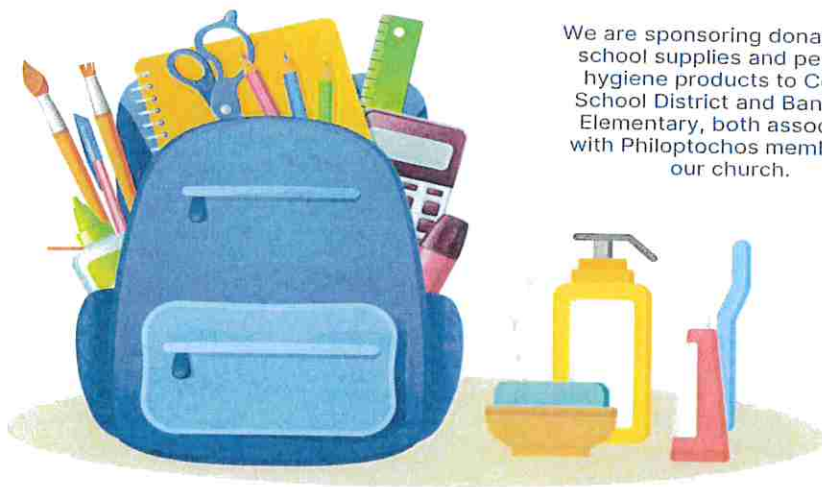
PHILOPTOCHOS

OPERATION CLASSROOM

Our parish's Philoptochos is getting started with Operation Classroom this year! Operation Classroom's mission, according to National Philoptochos, is "to assist and offer support to teachers and students in underserved or underfunded schools and provide resources that would not have been available through the local school district."

For more information on Operation Classroom, visit www.philoptochos.org/operation-classroom/

St. Nicholas Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society



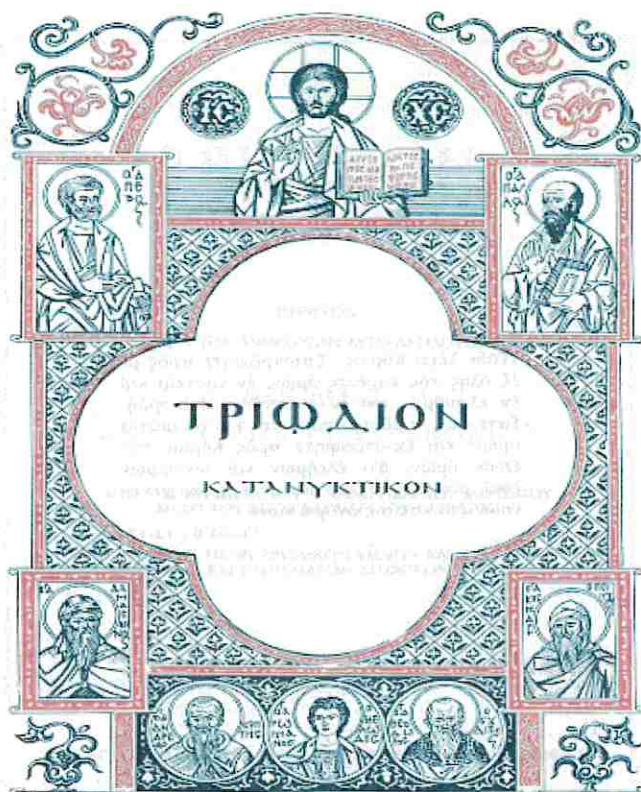
We are sponsoring donations of school supplies and personal hygiene products to Cornell School District and Banksville Elementary, both associated with Philoptochos members at our church.

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**





“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 25TH, 2024 AT 6 PM
WHERE: ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL,
419 S. DITHRIDGE, PITTSBURGH, PA, 15213



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

2024 Topics

JUNIOR DIVISION

(GRADES 7-9)

TOPIC 1

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has earned the title of the Green Patriarch, and was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World, for His teachings about humanity's spiritual responsibility for taking care of God's creation — planet earth. His All-Holiness stands on the shoulders of Saints, who taught that the world is a gift from God, and that taking care of His creation is a way to connect with God. Explore and discuss the teachings of His All-Holiness and the Saints on the creation of the world. What are some of our practical responsibilities as stewards of our planet, and how does that enrich our lives as Christians?

TOPIC 2

Many of us have heroes to whom we look up. It may be an older brother or sister, an athlete, or a musician. We have heroes in our religious life, as well as people who inspire us to practice our faith. They teach us, usually by example, how we ought to live as Orthodox Christians. Select a Saint or person who has been the most influential in your spiritual life. Describe the particular and practical ways that influence has taken place.

TOPIC 3

On the Day of Theophany (January 6), we chant, "All those who were baptized in Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). Discuss the meaning of this hymn and the obligations it places upon us as Orthodox Christians.

TOPIC 4

When reading the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32), we learn about the various stages of repentance. What are they? How do they relate to the reversal of the son's journey away from the father? What does the father's reaction upon seeing his son teach us about our relationship to our Father in Heaven?

TOPIC 5

The Orthodox Church has a rich heritage of sacred hymns that "contribute radiant and poetic splendor to Orthodox worship," thus, opening the way to God. Select your favorite Church hymn and talk about how it strengthens your faith.



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ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

2024 Topics

SENIOR DIVISION

(GRADES 10-12)

TOPIC 1

Slandered without cause, convicted without a trial, exiled unjustly — this was the life endured by one of the greatest saints of our times — Saint Nektarios of Aegina. Forgiving others who hurt us that deeply and unjustly seems almost impossible. What can we learn from Saint Nektarios, whose life was about forgiving what some might call the impossible?

TOPIC 2

Apostle Paul refers to Adam as the first man, and Christ as the Second Adam. The Fathers of the Church, especially Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, refer to Christ and Panagia as the Second Adam and the Second Eve. Why is the Most Holy Theotokos called the "Second Eve"? And why is Christ called the "Second Adam"? How do Christ and Panagia fulfill and go beyond their prototypes?

TOPIC 3

Christ says, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:1). He also says, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Explore the Orthodox teaching on the Eucharist by reading the prayers of the Divine Liturgy the writings of one or more Church Fathers.

TOPIC 4

The number of natural disasters worldwide continues to increase, resulting in more communities destroyed and more lives lost. How would you respond to someone who questions why God allows natural disasters to happen when we know God can intervene at any moment? If God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving, how can He allow evil things to happen?

TOPIC 5

During the Divine Liturgy, before the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, we hear the priest say the following: "Your own of Your own we offer to You, in all and for all." What does this petition mean to you as an Orthodox Christian? Why is it important for us to focus on giving back out of the gifts we have been given by God?



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FEBRUARY 2024

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