



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

December 22, 2024 Christmas Pageant



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

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Reverend Deacon Robert Lykos

fr.ec@stnickspgh.org

412-736-2762

robertlykos@gmail.com

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

2024 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)
 Alexandra Davides (412-956-6325)
 Arthur Dordas (412-719-7796)
 William Gary (412-889-4795)
 Lee Katsafanas (412-215-6089)
 Peter Krelis (412-370-2809)
 Van Paras (412-527-4248)
 Constance Paras-Jennings (412-302-8960)
 Peter Tsudis (412-915-7006)

Service Schedule

All Year Round
 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.

Metropolis	412-621-5529	www.pittsburgh.goarch.org
Archdiocese	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

Church School	Michelle Kotsagrellos	412-680-1416
Greek School	Maria Stamoolis	412-963-7283
Philoptochos	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
GOYA Advisors	Maria Coutris	412-915-7838
	Linda Hages	412-523-7938
Little Angels/HOPE/JOY	Stavroula Doris STAV828@gmail.com	
60 Club	Fran Hanna	412-731-0790
Garden Club	Elaine Andrianos	412-731-4334
Choir	Steve Andrews	412-561-9102
Organist	Brett Wells	
Chanter	Amy Hogg	amyjhogg@gmail.com
Sexton	Jimmy Machin	724-413-4309
Prosfora	Argy Darakos	412-319-7330
	Jim Hages	412-523-7937
Kolyva	Tulla Velisaris	412-889-1648
St Nicholas Dancers		
GOYA	Kelly Gary	412-741-8567
JOY	Aimee Walker	412-398-6094
Boys Basketball:	Nicholas Hages	412-523-9885
	Alex Lountzis	610-743-0903
Girls Basketball:	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
	Lenna Cominos	412-370-8181

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Cemetery	John Frentzos
Community Center & Catering	George Bellios
Facilities	Victor Bertolina
Finance	James Machin
Food Festival	John Frentzos
Operational & Administration	John Frentzos
Parish Sustainability	Vasili Copetas
Religious & Greek Education/Greek Affiliations	Lee Katsafanas
Social	John Frentzos
Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism	Alexandra Davides
Technology & Communications	Rob Day
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	Lee Katsafanas
Beautification	Deacon Robert Lykos
Bylaws/Legal	

FATHER'S MESSAGE

January 2025

*"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."
(Romans 12:5)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we step into the new year, we are invited to reflect on the unity that we share in Christ and to think on the many blessings He has so graciously given us. The words of St. Paul remind us of a central truth of our Christian life: that though we are many, we are united as one body in Christ, interconnected and interdependent. This unity in diversity is a reflection of God's plan for His people—a plan that calls us to work together in love and harmony.

Our Cathedral's theme for this year— "Your own of Your own, we offer to You..." —is a great reminder that all we have originates from God. It is more than a liturgical proclamation that we pray at each Divine Liturgy; it is a call to action, challenging us to return our time, our talents, and our treasures to God — always with gratitude and love. These diverse gifts, unique to each of us, are meant to be shared for the common good. St. Paul beautifully captures this truth in his Epistle to the Romans, when he says, "We, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." So, whatever each of us offers, no matter how insignificant it may seem, strengthens and builds up the Body of Christ, and reflects our God-given freedom and the beauty of that unity in diversity.

For when we offer back to God what He has given us, we express not only our gratitude but also our unity as a community of faith. Our differences—whether in abilities, resources, or perspectives—become strengths when united in Christ. Together, as one body, we participate in His work of healing and transformation, creating a vibrant and welcoming Cathedral that reaches out to those in need and reflects His light.

And so, this year, let us endeavor to strengthen the bonds of our community. St. Paul exhorts us: "Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Philippians 2:2). Let us heed this call by reaching out to our neighbors—both within and beyond our Cathedral. Let's take the time to get to know someone new. Let us work on ending broken relationships and forgiving past wrongs, allowing the healing of Christ to flow into our lives and renew us. Together, we are stronger, and together we reflect the boundless love of God.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

In the Divine Liturgy, we also pray, "Let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God." This is a sacred invitation to entrust everything—our joys, struggles, and relationships—to Him. As we begin this new year, let us commend ourselves and recommit ourselves to this sacred call, supporting one another in love and lifting each other up in prayer.

Through unity, we can accomplish so much. Together, we can transform our Cathedral into an even greater beacon of faith, hope, and love—a place where Christ's presence is felt and shared. Let us extend His love to all, especially to those in need, becoming His hands and feet in the world.

May this year be a time of renewal and reconciliation, where we deepen our commitment to our Lord and Savior, and to one another. By moving forward together, united in purpose and in love, we grow stronger in faith and in service to His glory.

Prayerfully yours,



† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

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:

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

PARISH COUNCIL

I would like to thank the Parish Council, and **you**, the parishioners of St. Nicholas, for entrusting me again as your Parish Council President this past year.

Here is a brief recap of 2024.

The GOYAns had a successful athletic season. The Little Angels, HOPE & JOY had several fun and philanthropic events. Greek School continued to be the best in the area. And where would we be without Philoptochos' philanthropic spirit helping all those in need (including the Weekend of Service Project for The Jared Box Project).

We had a beautiful Great Lent (with Wednesday Potluck Dinners & Speakers) and Holy Week. We had a very successful Food Festival, as well. Eleni & Vasili Copetas were honored at the Metropolis of Pittsburgh's St. Photios Awards Banquet. A Thank You Luncheon/1st Year Anniversary to Fr. Eleftherios Constantine as our parish priest was celebrated. The parish planned another College Welcome (the talk of the Metropolis), a Community Fellowship/Ministry Sunday, and we were honored to have an Archpastoral visit from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. Then we had a very successful Greek-tober (as a fundraiser for our \$50,000.00 pledge for the New Metropolis Center (approved at the Winter General Assembly)), had the Second Annual College Friendsgiving Dinner, the Ball at the Cathedral, and St. Nicholas Nameday Festivities (Vespers, Luncheon, and Bazaar).

There have been many things that have happened this past year and we did it together.

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy 2025!

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Marie Kotsagrelou

Michelle Marie Kotsagrelou

Parish Council President

**We are looking for one more person to help lead the parish.
If you are interested in serving, please contact Father Eleftherios.**

Keeping up with Parish Council:

- ♦ We are in the process of changing to a new church management software, Realm. It will assist with our communication with the parish, as well as member data. Please be patient.
- ♦ Reminder if you need the use of the Facilities (Large Hall, Small Hall, Conference Room, etc.), please inform the Office Manager by the prior Thursday of your needs for proper set-up.

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship 2024: Thank You!!!

Saint Nicholas Cathedral wants to thank all the Cathedral Stewards who have pledged for 2024 as well as all its donors. We thank you all for your dedication to our church, with your time, talents, and treasures.

This year, Saint Nicholas had 188 pledged Stewards (with cards) and 92 donors and raised \$239,785 (as of 12.30.24). Parish Council had budgeted \$235,000.

We had a gap of \$31,000 in mid December and through an email appeal, the generosity of our Stewards came through and Saint Nicholas was able to raise to close out the year strong.

Without you, our passionate parishioners, there would be no Church School, no Food Festival, no Sixty Club, no hymns chanted, no Welcome Back Brunch for College Students, no Camp attendees, no Lenten Services, no Kouvouklion decorated at Pascha and so much more.

As the year has ended, we are grateful to those who have also fulfilled their pledge.

Our 2025 Stewardship campaign is also off to an exceptionally good start.

Your Stewardship enables the Cathedral to budget and plan for the year. Without knowing what is coming in, how can the Cathedral plan? Cards are available in The Narthex.

In 2025, the Cathedral will also be launching an online site called Realm, where Stewards and contributors will be able to access their giving record to the church. One though will still be able to call the Cathedral office for information on one's individual/family contributions.

STEWARDSHIP, Con't



The Impact of Your Giving: How You Can Help

- **Donate Appreciated Securities:** Avoid capital gains tax and claim a deduction for the full market value of stocks, bonds or mutual funds held for over a year.
- **Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):** If you are 70 ½ or older, a tax-free distribution from your IRA can satisfy required minimum distributions and reduce taxable income.
- **Cash Contributions:** A direct way to give, deductible up to 60% of your adjusted gross income.
- **Plan a Legacy Gift:** Please consider including Saint Nicholas Cathedral in your estate plans, which will leave a lasting impact. *If you wish to further discuss legacy giving, kindly contact the Cathedral office and a member of The Endowment Fund will get back to you.*

May God continue to bless this wonderful Cathedral of ours and through your steadfast support and generosity, help it grow into an even stronger place of worship as we prepare for an impactful 2025.

Wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy 2025,

The Saint Nicholas Cathedral Stewardship Committee

Ball at the Cathedral (Nov 30th)



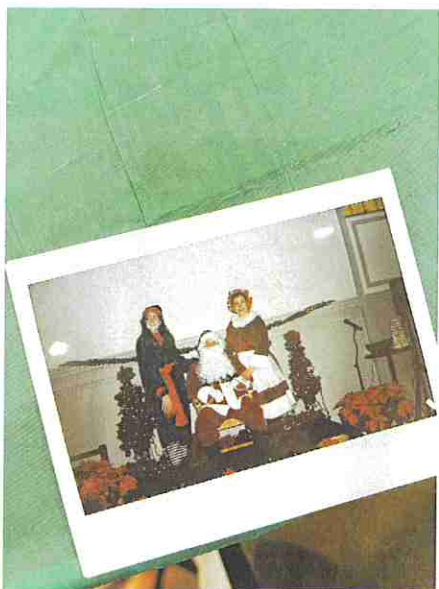
Vespers (Dec 5th)



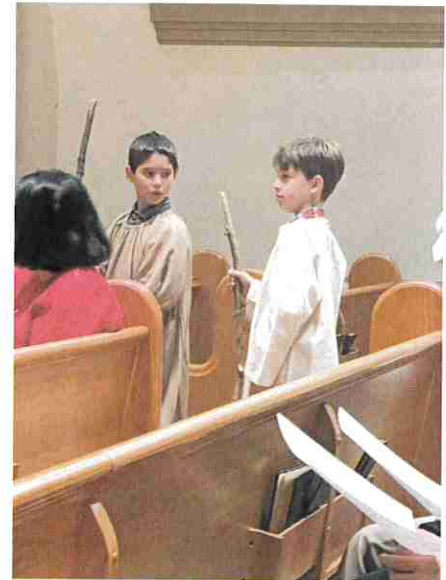
Liturgy (Dec 6th)



December 8, 2024 Church Bazaar



December 22, 2024 Christmas Pageant

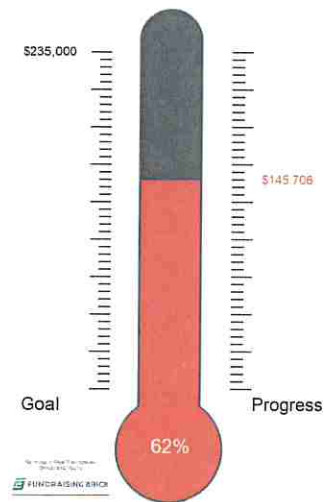


2024 STEWARDSHIP

"Well Done Good and Faithful Servant"

Mathew 25:23

Give your thanks to God by participating in the Divine Liturgy each Sunday and offering Your Time, Talent and Treasure.



2024 STEWARDSHIP		12/30/2024
Total Stewards		280
Total Amount Pledged		\$145,706.00
Average Pledge		\$775.03
% Parish Participation to Date		93%
2024 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		62%
2024 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 235,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$ 239,785.27
As of:		12/12/2024
Income: Envelopes & Pledges, Basket Collection and Food Festival	\$632,455.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$625,621.00	
	\$ 5,834.00	

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>

2025 STEWARDSHIP



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Pittsburgh, PA

2025 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 2025 \$ _____ 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

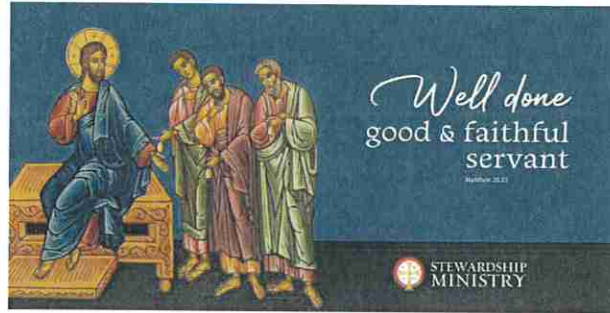
TALENT- Please check the items below that you or a family member
has some expertise or interest. Place initials of the
specific family member after each item checked.

☐ Greek Language School _____	☐ Church School _____	☐ Office/Newsletter _____	☐ Church Choir _____
☐ Visitation of Elderly _____	☐ Outreach Ministry _____	☐ Website Mgmt. _____	☐ Cooking/Festival _____
☐ Youth Ministry _____	☐ Gardening _____	☐ Construction/Mechanical/Plumbing	
☐ Philoptochos _____	☐ 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
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2024 STEWARDSHIP

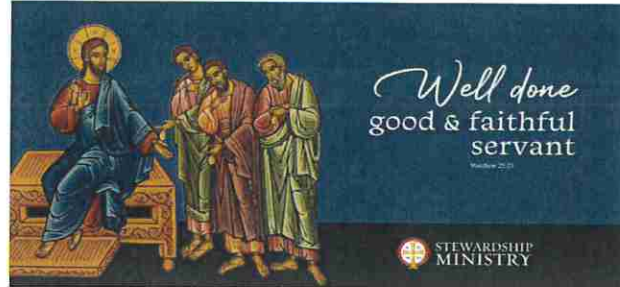


Fr. Eleftherios & Presvytera Elizabeth Constantine
 Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aber
 Ms. Debra Covelli Adams
 Mr. William J. Adams and Ms. Constance Petros
 James & Electra Agras
 Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis
 Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Anthony Andrews⁺
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Mr. Nikos P. Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis
 Mr. Gregory Angelides
 Mr. George Anthon
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Antonuccio
 Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou
 Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris
 Mr. Arthur Baker
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Ms. Bethany Barefoot & Mr. Petros Neofotistos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
 Mrs. Vange Beldecos
 Dr. George Bellios
 Ms. Sophia Bender
 Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Ms. Pamela Bertos
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis
 Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Bouzos
 Mrs. Mary Brahos
 Ms. Krista Bullard
 Dr. Steve N. Caritis
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano
 Mrs. Elena Cerri
 Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas
 Mrs. Dee Chronis
 Dr. Panos Chrysanthos & Mrs. Areti Papanastasiou
 Mr. Greg Cominos
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett
 Mr. Phillip Contacos
 Mrs. Eleni Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Contis
 Ms. Jamie Contis

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis
 Mrs. Sandra Contis
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Dino Copetas
 Mr. George Copetas
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen M. Copetas
 Mrs. Maria Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. Vasilis Copetas
 Mrs. Vasso Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Coutris
 Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig
 Dr. & Mrs. John DaPos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
 Ms. Bridgette Daugherty
 Mrs. Denise Daugherty
 Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides
 Mr. & Mrs. Robin Day
 Mr. & Mrs. J.R. de la Parra
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias
 Mr. Anthony DeMatteo
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo
 Mrs. Christine Dickos
 Ms. Victoria Dionisos
 Mr. Art Dordas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt
 Mr. John Edgos
 Mrs. Sophia Edgos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen
 Mr. Emmanuel Epitropoulos
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. George P. Faines
 Mrs. Penelope Falck
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 Mrs. Bessie Ferency⁺
 Mrs. Alice Flocos
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. William Gary
 Drs. Athan & Lydia Georgiades
 Gialamas Parlour Family
 Mrs. Frances Gialamas
 Ms. Jami Gori
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Goranitis
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory

Mr. & Mrs. James Hages
 Ms. Aphrodite Halleran
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna
 Mrs. Frances Hanna
 Dr. John Haretos
 Mr. Theodore Haretos
 Dr. Dena Haritos-Tsamitis
 Mr. Konstantinos Haritos
 Mrs. Rania Harris
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg
 Mr. Nick Kakavis
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes
 Mrs. Lucia Kalaras
 Mr. Peter Kamaras
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Dr. & Mrs. George Kappakas
 Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin
 Mrs. Elli Anne Karas & Mr. Kyle Glaser
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis
 Dr. & Mrs. John Karvounides
 Mr. Konstanios Kasamias
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. Andron Kavouras
 Mr. Nicholas Kefal
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Ms. Elaine Keim
 Ms. Paulina Keskinidis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Ms. Nicole Klidas
 Mr. George Koromvokis⁺
 Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis
 Mrs. Estair Kotsagrelas
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelas
 Mr. Chris T. Kouklis
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kozy
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Mr. Peter Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Krinis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian
 Mrs. Anna Kukunas⁺
 Mr. James S. Kukunas
 Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas
 Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Kypriotakis
 Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Langas
 Mrs. Maria Langas Sandefur
 Ms. Constantina Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Lardas
 Mrs. Kalliope Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno

2024 STEWARDSHIP, Con't



Mr. Richard Lepidi
 Mr. & Mrs. John Leventis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
 Mr. Panagiotis Lidos
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
 Mrs. Janet Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Mr. & Mrs. James L. Machin
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mr. Christopher Mandros
 Mrs. Thalia Mandros⁺
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Mrs. Barbara Manners
 Mr. J. Maris
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Michail Marthas
 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
 Ms. Patricia McKee
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos Melacrinis
 Mrs. Maria Menas
 Mr. William Michaels⁺
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
 Mr. Andrew Mitry
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis
 Ms. Evangelia Moreno
 Mrs. Venetia Moreno
 Mr. Paul L. Moses
 Ms. Maryanne Napiecek
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Nelson
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nychis
 Ms. Mary Olszewski
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Paljug
 Ms. Alexandra Panagis
 Ms. Sophia Panagis
 Mr. Constantine Panagulias
 Mrs. Lillian Panagulias
 Ms. Catherine E. Pandeladis
 Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Papanikolaou
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
 Dr. George Pappas
 Mr. John C. Paras
 Mrs. Katherine Paras
 Mr. Van Paras
 Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
 Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Persinger
 Mr. & Mrs. George Peters
 Mrs. Stamatia Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolis
 Mr. George Pilafas
 Mrs. Vera Poland
 Mrs. Barbara Polimus
 Mrs. Helene Powers
 Mrs. Anastasia Raftis
 Mr. George Raftis II
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mr. Anastasios Raptis
 Mrs. Kristina Rigoopoulos & Mr. William Guttman
 Mr. A. Robert Shott
 Mr. & Mrs. Francis Silva-Muracca
 Mr. George Sockos
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos
 Ms. Catina Stamoolis
 Ms. Connie Stamoolis
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
 Mrs. Toulia Stathopoulos
 Mrs. Stella Stratigos
 Mr. Demetri Strauch
 Mr. Nicholas Strauch
 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Strauch
 Ms. Natalie Strintzis
 Mrs. Argie Stuart
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher
 Mrs. Katia Sycara & Mr. Michael Lewis
 Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas
 Mrs. Chrisoula Torlidas
 Mr. Nicholas Tsamitis
 Mr. Peter Tsoukalas
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
 Mr. Athanasios Tsourekis
 Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
 Mr. John C. Tumazos
 Mrs. Joanna Tzortizis
 Mrs. Panagiota Vasilakis
 Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
 Mr. & Mrs. John Velisaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Orestis Velisaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
 Ms. Eugenia Vergis
 Mrs. Angela Vergos
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vergos
 Mr. John Vitsas
 Mr. Theodoros Vlahoyiannis
 Mr. Sarantos Vrettacos
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Walker
 Mrs. Helen Waskoskie

Mr. & Mrs. David Williard
 Ms. Franceska Xhakaj
 Mr. Anthony Xyftis
 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

Spanakopita Rolls for Sale

We have limited quantities of our delicious spanakopita rolls available for sale. Please see a Philoptochos Board member any Sunday after church or call the church office if you would like to pick up spanakopita rolls during the week. The rolls are 2 for \$25 or 1 for \$14.

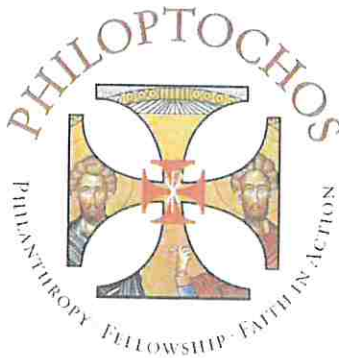


Vasilopita Cutting on Sunday, January 5th – Join us on Sunday, January 5th for the annual Vasilopita cutting. We will honor leaders of our church ministries and various Greek organizations.

Last Call to Renew Your Philoptochos Membership – If you have not yet submitted your 2025 membership, please send your membership donation (minimum of \$50) by check payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos to the church office by Sunday, January 12th.

Renew Your Philoptochos Membership for 2025

The 2025 Philoptochos Membership drive is underway! If you have already renewed your membership or joined as a new member for 2025, we thank you for your support and welcome you. If you have not yet submitted your 2025 membership, please return the form below with your membership donation to the church office.



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 2025 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

FOOD FESTIVAL

It's that time of year to start up again with our 2025 Food Festival Cooking. Please check your schedules to see what works. We hope many of you can find time to pitch in. It takes a village to prepare all the food we need. We thank you in advance!

2025 Festival Cooking Schedule

January

Spanakopita	Saturday, January 11, 9:30 – 4:00 Sunday, After Church till 4:00 Monday, January 13, 9:00 – 4:00 Tuesday, January 14, 9:00 – 4:00 Possibly Wednesday
Pasta Flora	Saturday, January 18, 9:00 – 4:00
Souzoukakia	Friday, January 24, 9:00 – 4:00 Saturday, January 25, 9:00 – 4:00

February

Pastitsio	Wednesday, February 5, 9:00-4:00 Thursday, February 6, 9:00 – 4:00 Friday, February 7, 9:00 – 4:00 Saturday, February 8, 9:00 – 4:00
Galatoboureko	Friday, February 14, 9:00 – 4:00 Saturday, February 15, 9:00 – 4:00 Sunday, February 16, After Church
Koulourakia	Sunday, February 23, after Church till 4:00 Monday, February 24, 9:00 – 4:00

March

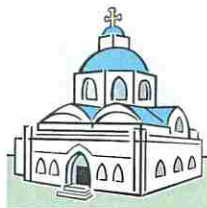
Finikia	Saturday, March 8, 9:00 – 4:00
Baklava	Saturday, March 14, 9:00 – 4:00 Sunday, March 15, After Church till 4:00 Monday, March 16, 9:00 – 4:00
Kourambiethes	Saturday, March 22, 9:00 – 4:00

April

Tiropita	Friday, April 4, 9:00 – 4:00 Saturday, April 5, 9:00 – 4:00 Sunday, April 6, After Church till 4:00
Diples	Either Tuesday, April 22 or Wednesday, April 23, 9:00 – 4:00
Karidopita	TBD

63rd Annual St. Nicholas Greek Food Festival
Sunday, May 4 – Saturday, May 10, 2025

St. Nicholas Church School



From the Church School Desk!

Now that the New Year has begun, it is time to say thank you for the jobs well done in 2024 and to look forward to the rest of the Church School year!

Church School, organized by Sophia Bender, had a very successful Bake Sale and sponsored a Balloon artist at the **St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**. Thank you, Sophia, for your efforts!

Many hats, mittens/gloves, scarves, and socks will be delivered to **Neighborhood Resilience Project** for their **Project Bundle-up**. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

The Church School children presented their **Christmas Pageant** under the direction of Joanna Darakos on Sunday, December 22, 2024. It was a beautiful program enjoyed by the whole congregation. Thank you, Joanna!

The St. Nicholas Church School teachers and students want to wish our GOYANs (and Church School students) Good Luck at their upcoming **GOYA Basketball Tournament** at Annunciation (York, PA) on 01/17-19/25.

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

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

HOPE/JOY/Little Angels Christmas Caroling Dec. 14th



AT THE
JUNIPER
VILLAGE
SENIOR
LIVING
CENTER



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.

GREEK SCHOOL

St. Nicholas Greek School

St. Nicholas Greek School starts 2025 with the children's classes resuming at 10am on Saturday, January 4, 2025 and the cutting of our Annual Greek School's Vasilopita. Adult classes will resume on Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30pm. The last day of the 2024 classes and Annual Greek School Christmas Party was held on December 21. The school made Christmas cards to children we have been praying to our Lord for their full recovery. This was followed by singing of Christmas Carols in Greek, playing of carols with musical instruments, enjoying pizza, refreshments, and fellowship.

January is a month the children learn about the Three Hierarchs and make projects for an Exhibit on Sunday, January 26, 2025, for our Annual Three Hierarchs/Greek Letters Day Celebration. Our Annual Celebration has an Artoclasia Blessing for our School and Community, a Trisagion in memory of key persons who helped with either starting or assisting in the continuation of our Greek School, a presentation started two years ago with the children learning "Fos Ilaron" in memory of Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos, then followed by our Annual Bake Sale and Exhibit.

The entire St. Nicholas Greek School wish to everyone "Μία Ευλογημένη 2025 με Υγεία και Χαρά!" "A Blessed 2025 with Health and Joy!"

GOYA TIMES

Congratulations to GOYA for officially finishing 5 months of fun!!! Although we didn't have much this season, it felt like we had a lot going on with the Bazaar. We started out this month with Bazaar prep. Thank you to all of the GOYANS who helped us set everything up.

Following the Bazaar prep we had a short meeting going over all of the rules for this GOYA year. We also went over all of the rules for parents and chaperones. If you have any questions and/or wasn't there, please let one of our advisors know.

Next, GOYA hosted our annual Bazaar. Between the games, food, and even fish, we really had a great time! If you were able to come, we hope that you had the best time. Thank you to all the volunteers' people that helped make this happen. And thank you too all of the people that came to support our GOYA.

This month we had some Basketball Practices!!! So, get ready to win these tournaments Saint Nicks!

This was a short but fun month for GOYA. We are wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! 2025 is right around the corner! See you next year!!!

St. Nicholas Goya has had a fun 5 months!!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

GOYA BBall Tournament in York, PA (Jan 17-19, 2025)

GOYA BBall Tournament in Cleveland, OH (Jan 31-Feb 2 2025)

GOYA NEWS, Con't



GOYA HOSTING THE
CHURCH BAZAAR
ON
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2024.

SIXTY CLUB NEWS

MEMBERS and FRIENDS

WINTER SOCIAL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13. 12:00 SMALL HALL

Save the date—details to follow.

Happy , Healthy New Year to All!

BEATIFICATION COMMITTEE

Since last fall, the church beautification committee has been working hard. We will be requesting donations to purchase the following items, including: new hanging oil lamps for the iconostasis, candlesticks for the ceremonial tables and altar cloths.

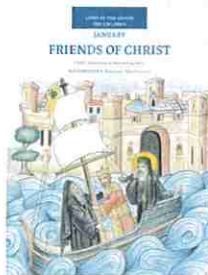
Details regarding final costs will be available soon. Anyone interested in contributing towards the cost of these items can please see either Father Eleftherios or any member of the committee: Carol Tsudis, Rob Day, Peter Krelis, Amy Hogg, Alex Davides, Tulla Velisaris or Deacon Robert Lykos.

Available at

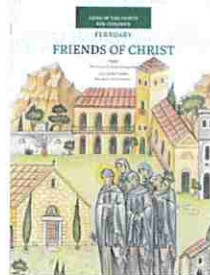
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM BOOKSTORE

FRIENDS OF CHRIST

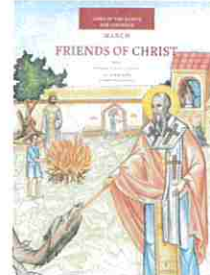
A TWELVE VOLUME HARDCOVER SERIES OF BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. ONE FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR.
EACH VOLUME IS BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED AND TELLS OF THE LIVES OF FIVE SAINTS.



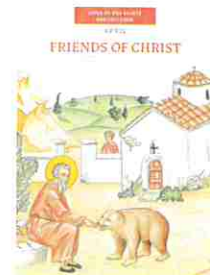
St. Basil the Great
St. George the Neo-Martyr of Ioannina
St. Mark of Ephesus
Venerable Ascetic Xenia
Venerable Ascetics Xenofon, his wife Maria, and children



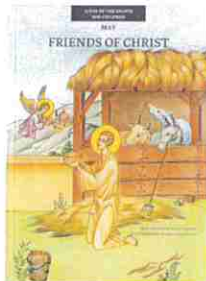
St. Nikiforos
St. Haralambos the Heiromartyr
St. Theodora the Empress
Venerable Ascetic Philothei
Great Martyr Photini



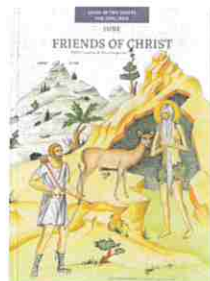
Venerable Lavrentios
St. Gregory the Dialogist
St. Alexios the Man of God
Venerable Serapion
St. Ipatios Bishop of Gangra



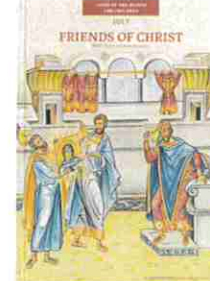
St. Mary of Egypt
St. Michael Vourliotis the New Martyr
Venerable Theodore Sykeon
St. George the Great Martyr
St. Evlogios the Hospitable



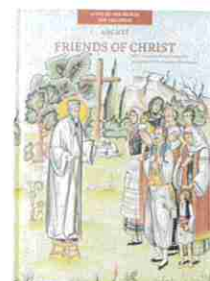
Sts. Timothy and Mavros
St. Ahmet the Neomartyr
Righteous Job
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Venerable John the Russian



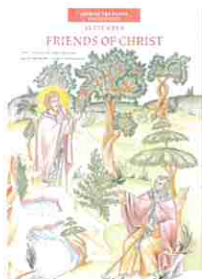
Venerable Peter the Athonite
Fevronia the Venerable Martyr
Venerable Sampson the Innkeeper
Apostles Peter and Paul



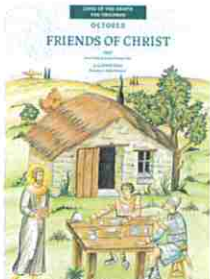
Sts. Kyrikos and Julitta
St. Christina the Great Martyr
St. Paraskevi the Venerable Martyr
St. Panteleimon the Physician
St. Irene Chyrsovalantou



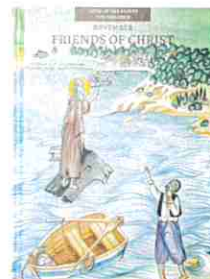
The Seven Youths Martyred in Ephesus
Sts. Varnavas and Sophronios
St. Kosmas the Aitolian
Sts. Adrianos and Natalia
St. Phanourios the Great Martyr



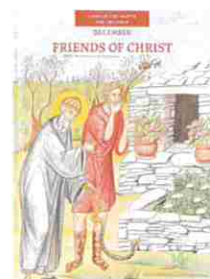
St. Mamas
Venerable Efrasynos the Cook
St. Cornelios the Centurion
St. Efymia the Great Martyr
Sts. Efstathios and his family



St. John Koukouzelis
St. Thomas the Apostle
St. Athanasia and Andronikos
St. Longinos the Centurion
St. Demetrios the Myrrhstreamer



Venerable David of Evia
St. Porphyrios the Mime
Sts. Galaktion and Episteme
St. John Chrysostom
Holy Great Martyr Katherine



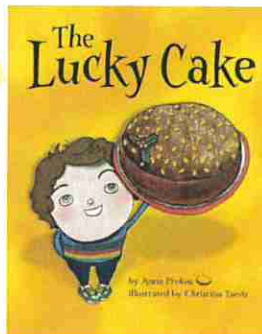
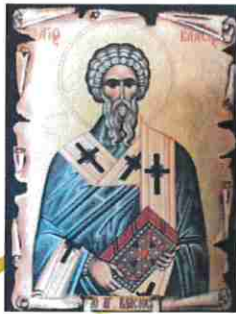
St. Filaretos the Merciful
St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
Dionysios of Zakynthos
St. Juliana the Martyr

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM BOOKSTORE

CHRIST IS BORN GLORIFY HIM!

The St. John Chrysostom bookstore would like to thank the entire St. Nicholas Community for their support over the last nine months. We wish you and your family all of the blessings of the newborn king and a happy and healthy New Year!

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT JANUARY 1, 2025





VOLUME 8 NO. 9 ISSUE: 72

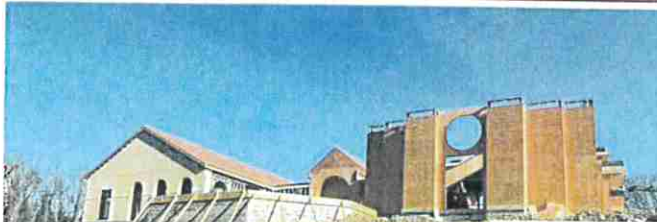
JANUARY 2025

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

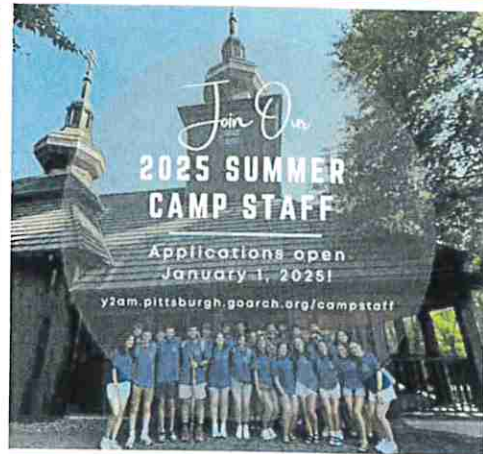
NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



NEW METROPOLIS CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Please consider a pledge or donation towards this worthy campaign that will benefit all! To donate please scan the QR code. Thank you as always for your support!



To learn more about the New Metropolis Center campaign please visit <https://www.pittsburgh.goarch.org/project-updates>



Save the Date

2025 St. Photios Awards Banquet

Saturday May 3 2025
Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh Cranberry
pittsburgh.goarch.org

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH SUMMER CAMP 2025

WEEK 1 (2nd-4th grade): June 16th-21st
WEEK 2 (5th-7th grade): June 22nd-28th
WEEK 3 (7th-9th grade): June 29th-July 5th
WEEK 4 (10th-12th grade): July 6th-July 12th

Campers will attend the week of the grade level they are completing. Registration will open Spring 2025.

More information:
y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summercamp

Metropolis Newsletter, Con't



2024 Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Please consider donating to the Metropolis Scholarship Fund so that we may continue to offer scholarships to our talented youth. To donate please scan the QR code. Thank you!



Junior Speech Division - "The Prodigal Son"

Theophany Goudas Ksenyak from Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral, Cleveland Heights, OH

Your Eminence Metropolitan Savas, Reverend Fathers, Distinguished Judges, Fellow Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning,

The Parable of the Prodigal Son. A parable many of us have heard, but one that not many of us have looked into. It starts in Luke 15 with three people: a father and two sons. Throughout this story, I want you to think of the father as God and the sons as us. Going on, the younger son comes to his father and asks for his inheritance early. With his newfound riches, he heads off and parties, blowing all the money. Just when he was down to his last penny, there was a large famine. To earn money, he found a job as a pig farmer. The urge for food was so strong for him that he would pay anything to eat the same food that pigs were eating.

I want to make one thing clear: repentance can involve a large number of stages given the circumstances, but The Parable of the Prodigal Son happens to have three. Here is where the first stage of repentance falls, which is contrition. In short, this is feeling remorse or sorrow for our actions. To help you relate, imagine the last time you got into a large argument with someone. In the heat of the moment, you are just trying to prove your point and get an edge over the other person. No matter what the topic of the argument, in the end, you are likely to feel sorry for your actions. This is exactly what contrition is, and you didn't even know you were doing it. The son was also regretting his decision. Next, the son comes to a realization. The Bible highlights this by saying, "He came to himself" in Luke 15:17. This point in time is known as the second stage of repentance, which is the decision to return. One interesting aspect of this is he acknowledges that everything that has happened to him is his fault and no one else's. Let's jump back to that argument I mentioned earlier. After you realize the bad things you said or how the other person is feeling, you decide it is a good time to forgive them. You don't forgive them just yet, but you decide you are going to. When you do this, you are completing a part of the second stage of repentance. When the son makes his way back home, he apologizes to his father and is scared that his father will dislike him. "I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" This highlights the final stage of repentance, which is known as your actions. One key aspect of the final stage is that there has to be a struggle to return and avoid going down that path again. Many of us miss this part, and this part directly ties in with my example of repentance, concerning an argument. After you have forgiven your peer, you are halfway done with the final step. The last part that everyone cannot seem to finish is to not do it again. Let's say a few weeks pass after your last argument. Then tension starts to grow between you and this person. For most of us, it is extremely easy to fall into the trap and start the repentance cycle over again by beginning to argue. On the flip side, it is extremely hard to prevent the argument. Although your brain is telling you to prove your point, you should listen to your heart and finish the final stage of repentance to ultimately end the cycle.

To complete the story, the son is expecting a harsh welcome. Surprisingly, the father throws a party, kills the fattened calf, and does anything he can to make the son feel welcome. The father is reacting as if the son had died and was raised from the dead! Wait, that sounds familiar. The parable echoes this phrase twice throughout the story: "For this, my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." Many times you can be at an all-time low, make a bad decision, and now you feel miserable. Remember how I said, "Think of the father as God and the son as you?" In this miserable time, God is worried about you; he cannot sleep at night and is up all day waiting for you to return. And when you do return, God will not be upset; he will rejoice for your return, just as the father did in the parable. This exemplifies that our relationship with God should be one of trust and knowledge, not one of uncertainty. So there is one thing I want everyone to take home today. When you are feeling down, upset, or frustrated, think of God as your father. He will do anything for you to come back, which is why you should go back to your father in heaven. I want to end with a quote from Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica that ties everything together, along with a message to take with you: "Repentance is the renewal of life. This means we must free ourselves from all our negative traits and turn toward the absolute good. No sin is unforgivable except the sin of unrepentance."



PLEASE SUPPORT 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



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY, CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, FEAST OF BASIL THE GREAT: Orthros 9:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m. <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3 Royal Hours of Theophany 10:00 a.m.	4
5 Sunday before Theophany Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. (followed by the Great Agiasmos) Cutting of Vasilopita Great Vespers for Theophany 5:00 p.m.	6 THEOPHANY Festal Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 a.m. (followed by the Great Agiasmos) YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	7 Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
12 Sunday after Epiphany Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	13 Philoptochos Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	14 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17 GOYA BBall Tournament in York, PA	18 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
19 12th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	20 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	21 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	22 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25 Greek School 10:00 a.m. Metropolis of Pittsburgh Parish Leadership Conference
26 15th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School Three Hierarchs Celebration	27 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	28 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	29 31	30 Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	31 GOYA BBall Tourney in Cleveland, OH	FEB. 1

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

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