



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

On February 10, the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates the Feast Day of [Agios Haralambos](#).



Saint Haralambos, whose name means "radiant with joy," is a shining example of unwavering faith and love for Christ. As a bishop in Magnesia in the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries, he endured severe tortures for refusing to renounce his faith during the Roman persecution of Christians. Yet, even in suffering, he remained steadfast, offering gratitude to God and praying for his persecutors. His life embodies the call to reflect God's love and light, demonstrating that true joy is found in faith, perseverance, and the selfless love of others. Rather than responding with anger or despair, he embraced his trials with a heart full of grace, transforming pain into a testimony of divine strength. His witness continues to inspire Christians to live with courage, compassion, and an unshakable trust in God's providence, reminding us that true victory is found in love and forgiveness.

Our Mission & Vision Statements

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

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

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-682-3866 (Office) 412-683-4960 (fax) church@stnickspgh.org

Reverend Father Eleftherios Constantine, Dean
fr.ec@stnickspgh.org

+

Reverend Deacon Robert Lykos
412-736-2762
robertlykos@gmail.com

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

2025 Parish Council

Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos, President (412-680-1416)
Victor Bertolina, Vice President (412-860-2315)
James Machin, Treasurer (724-413-3607)
Rob Day, Assistant Treasurer (917-569-8622)
Lee Katsafanas, Secretary (412-215-6089)
William Gary, Assistant Secretary (412-889-4795)
George Bellios (412-897-5354)
Vasili Copetas (412-352-9323)
Alexandra Davides (412-956-6325)
John Frentzos (412-287-0275)
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	
Community Center & Catering	
Facilities	
Finance	
Food Festival	
Operational & Administration	
Parish Sustainability	
Religious & Greek Education/Greek Affiliations	
Social	
Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism	
Technology & Communications	
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	
Beautification	Deacon Robert Lykos
Bylaws/Legal	

FATHER'S MESSAGE

*"Now, Lord, You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;
for my eyes have seen Your salvation." (Luke 2:29-30)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We begin the month of February with the great Feast of the Presentation of Christ to the Temple, also known as the Feast of the Meeting (Ὑπαπαντή). This feast marks the moment when the infant Christ is brought to the Temple on the fortieth day, in accordance with the Law, and is received by the righteous Symeon, who had waited his entire life to behold the Lord's salvation. In a way, this feast also concludes the infancy cycle of Christ, as it marks forty days since His Nativity, bringing closure to the early events of our Lord's earthly life while foreshadowing His ultimate mission of salvation.

In a hymn of the Vespers for this feast (the Doxastikon of the Aposticha), we chant: "He who rides upon the Cherubim, and who is extolled by the Seraphim, and who now according to the law is brought to the holy Temple, He is enthroned in the embraces of the Elder; and He as God receives the gifts offered by Joseph, a pair of turtledoves, as a figure of the spotless Church and the new-chosen people of the Gentiles; and two young pigeons, since He is the author of both Old and New Covenants." In this moment, Symeon recognizes in the Child the pre-eternal Light and the Savior of all and proclaims, "Now, Lord, You are letting Your servant depart in peace."

Unlike Symeon, who waited his entire life for this encounter, we need not delay in meeting Christ. His presence is with us always, in the Holy Scriptures, in prayer, in the Divine Liturgy, and most profoundly in the Eucharist. The Feast of the Meeting is a reminder that Christ continually invites us to draw near to Him. We do not need to wait for a special moment—for indeed, every moment is an opportunity to encounter the Lord. And we can meet Him not just daily, but many times throughout the day, whenever we turn to Him in prayer.

Just as Joseph and Mary brought an offering to the Temple, we too must bring something when we approach the Lord. However, instead of turtledoves, we are called to bring purity of soul and body, so that we may be truly prepared to meet Christ and receive His grace.

As we reflect on this Feast, we also recognize that we are now about to enter into the Triodion period, preparing our hearts for the asceticism of Great Lent.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

The Sundays that follow—the Publican and Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, and the Last Judgment—remind us that seeking Christ requires humility, repentance, and persistence.

May this Feast of the Presentation be a stirring reminder that our relationship with the Lord is not reserved for a distant future or a final hour. Instead, it is a daily, living encounter—an ever-renewing meeting where our souls are refreshed and our paths illuminated by His eternal light. Let us, therefore, open our hearts and minds to receive Him, embracing the present with joy and fervor, and never postponing the communion that transforms our lives. And may we go forth with hope and expectation in the Resurrection of our Lord with the words of the Prophet Isaiah, chanted in the ninth ode of the Paschal Canon: “Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.”

Prayerfully yours,

+Fr. 

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Andreas Sotos* who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday January 18, 2025. His funeral was on Thursday January 23, 2025. May his memory be eternal.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Lamon Athens* who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Her funeral was on Monday, January 27, 2025. May her Memory be eternal.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Dr. George P. Contis* who fell asleep in the Lord on January 20, 2025. His funeral was on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. May his memory be eternal.

(Name _____)

**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
NAMES FOR SATURDAYS OF THE SOULS 2025**

*"Again we pray for the repose of the souls of the departed servants of God . . . and for the forgiveness of all
their sins, both voluntary and involuntary."*

(Please note: First names only; use complete baptismal name, if known -Greek or English

Orthodox Christians

_____	_____
_____	_____
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Others

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OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th		TRIDION WEEKS Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16th		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:9-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 2nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 9th		GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 16th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 23rd		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 30th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 6th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 13th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 18th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 20th NO FASTING!		BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

PARISH COUNCIL

First, I want to thank Art Dordas for his years serving on Parish Council and his work with Maintenance.

I would also like to thank George Bellios (Secretary), Vasili Copetas (Assistant Secretary), and John Frentzos (Vice-President) for their work on the Executive Board last year.

And now, I would like to introduce you to the 2025 Parish Council:

Victor Bertolina - Vice President
James Machin - Treasurer
Robin Day - Assistant Treasurer
Lee Katsafanas -Secretary
William Gary - Assistant Secretary
George Bellios, Vasili Copetas, Alexandra Davides, John Frentzos, Peter Krelis, Constance Paras-Jennings, 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 4-10, 2025. 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

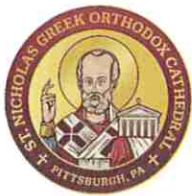
What is happening at St. Nicholas during this cold winter?

The answer: A LOT!

Just look through the Newsletter and at the calendar, there is something for everyone.

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.
- ⇒ We have had a new coffee machine system for about six (6) months now. Please remember to clean it and put it back together after use. Directions are in the kitchen.



STEWARDSHIP

SAINT NICHOLAS STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Many thanks to our Stewards who answered the end of year Stewardship call as the church was short of the budget.

At the beginning of December, Stewardship monies were at \$231,000, with the budget set at \$235,000. By actual end of year, we received \$248,000...an additional \$15,000!

Saint Nicholas is very grateful to our Stewards!

Everything we as Orthodox Christians have and what we offer to God first comes from Him. He offers to us during the Divine Liturgy, the bread and wine, which through God's grace, becomes the Holy Eucharist. We see the world as God's gift, a sacrament of God's presence and a means of communion with Him.

We are then able to offer back to Him, in Thanksgiving and Love, the many blessings we receive from Him. In turn, these blessings are used to serve others, deepen our faith and to strengthen our beloved community.

These gifts will make our church to become even stronger, a place of boundless faith and outreach. *Imagine the possibilities!*

We ask that 2025 Stewardship Pledge Cards be filled out and turned in as soon as possible. It affords our Parish to know what is expected to come in.

The cards are available in the Narthex as well as online at our website, www.stnickspgh.org treasure today. Giving is the legacy of faith, hope and love that will sustain our beloved Saint Nicholas generations to come.

If you have not fulfilled your 2024 card, we ask that you do so.

Part of church membership is fulfilling his or her stewardship obligation to the Parish according to the Special Regulations and the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. The responsibilities of membership, fall into three categories:

***Liturgical:** regular participation in Worship and Sacraments of the Church*

***Stewardship:** Making and fulfilling a financial commitment. It affords being a "member in good standing".*

It allows participation in volunteering in all aspects of church life, be it, serving on boards, teaching Sunday School, etc. and voting in Parish elections.

***Canonical:** Living within the canonical standards of the Greek Orthodox church, be it through, baptism and chrismation, becoming a godparent and marriage*

Give of your time, talents and treasure today. Giving is the legacy of faith, hope and love that will sustain our beloved Saint Nicholas generations to come.

2025 STEWARDSHIP

"YOUR OWN FROM YOUR OWN"

**We offer back to God
that which He has given us.**



2025 STEWARDSHIP		01/27/2025
Total Stewards		138
Total Amount Pledged		\$111,194.00
Average Pledge		\$1,158.27
% Parish Participation to Date		43%
2024 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		43%
2025 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 255,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$29,846.00
As of:		12/31/2024
Income: Envelopes & Pledges, Basket Collection and Food Festival	\$673,390.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$692,151.00	
	(\$ 18,761.00)	

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

2025 STEWARDSHIP



Fr. Eleftherios & Presvytera Elizabeth Constantine
 Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Mr. William J. Adams and Ms. Constance Petros
 Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Agras
 James & Electra Agras
 Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Antonuccio
 Mr. & Mrs. Spiliot Argiropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris
 Mr. Arthur Baker
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Ms. Sophia Bender
 Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Ms. Pamela Bertos
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Bouzos
 Ms. Krista Bullard
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett
 Mr. Phillip Contacos
 Ms. Jamie Contis
 Mrs. Sandra Contis
 Mrs. Alexandra Copetas
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Dino G. Copetas
 Mr. George Copets
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. Vasili Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
 Ms. Bridgette Daugherty
 Mrs. Denise Daugherty
 Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt
 Mr. John Edgos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Dr. Constantinos Hadjipanayis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hages
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna

Mrs. Frances Hanna
 Mrs. Rania Harris
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes
 Mrs. Lucia Kalaras
 Mr. Peter Kamaras
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 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
 Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelas
 Mr. Chris T. Kouklis
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. Giorgios Krinis
 Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Kypriotakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lamprinakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis
 Mr. Panagiotis Lidos
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Lountzis
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos
 Mrs. Helen Mastros
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastros
 Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos Melacrinis
 Mrs. Maria Menniti
 Ms. Angela Mindlin
 Mr. Andrew Mitry
 Mr. Paul L. Moses
 Mrs. Filio Moshovakis
 Mr. Mrs. Eric Paljug
 Ms. Catherine E. Pandeladis
 Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Mr. John C. Paras
 Mr. Van Paras
 Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings
 Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Persinger
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolis
 Mrs. Amal Philopes
 Mrs. Vera Poland
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mrs. Kristina Rigoopulos & Mr. William Guttman
 Mr. William Sfamenos
 Mr. A. Robert Shott
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
 Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas
 Mr. Peter Tsoukalas
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
 Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
 Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis
 Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
 Mr. 7 Mrs. Achilles Vassilicos
 Mrs. Angela Vergos
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vergos
 Mr. Adam Viccaro
 Ms. Jane Voros
 Mr. & Mrs. David Willard
 Mrs. Debra Wisen
 Mr. Anthony Xyftis
 Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis

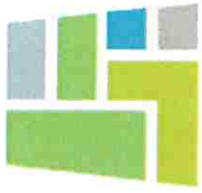
PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

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 Donations – Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to support our annual Vasilopita cutting. We collected \$1,167 that will go towards youth ministries across the Archdiocese and our Metropolis.



NEIGHBORHOOD
RESILIENCE
PROJECT

Food Drive

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Supporting
NRP's Emergency Food Pantry

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Ramen noodles
- Canned tuna & chicken
- Canned pudding
- Protein bars
- Cereal
- Shelf-stable milk
- Oatmeal
- Trail mix/ nuts/ cookies
- Peanut butter & jam/jelly
- Pasta and sauce
- Canned pasta
- Rice
- Dried or canned beans
- Juice or juice boxes
- Canned veggies/fruit
- Canned soup



Join Us for The 98th Annual
Vlahokerasiotiki Makaronada

Saturday, February 22nd

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

*Dinner followed by Open Greek Night**
Featuring The Filarakia

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. • Dinner Served at 7:00 p.m.

Live Music Begins at 8:30 p.m.

Adults - \$40.00 • Children 12 and under - \$15.00

Children 3 and under - Free

*No Cover Charge for Greek Night

*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the
St. Nicholas Cathedral church beautification fund*

For dinner reservations, please contact Jamie Zonghetti by February 15th
phone: 412-897-2475 e-mail: jamiezonghetti@gmail.com

Name: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ Adults _____ Children 12 and under _____ Children 3 and under

Make checks payable to Manthyrea Educational Society and mail to:

Jamie Zonghetti
4010 Overview Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

FOOD FESTIVAL

We're on a roll! Let's keep up the pace. Join the lively conversations in St. Nick's kitchen as we stock up for our festival. The more the merrier.

This past month we were blessed with Alice Lardas Gary and John Edgos chairing Spanakopita, Marcie McGuire and Tina Argiropoulos Hammerling chairing Pasta Flora and George Bellios chairing Souzoukakia, backed up with an amazing crew who dropped in to help.

February brings us Pastitsio, Galatoboureko and Koulourakia.

Our doors are open! No experience needed!

2025 Festival Cooking Schedule Updated February 4, 2025

January

Spanakopita	COMPLETED
Pasta Flora	COMPLETED
Souzoukakia	COMPLETED

February

Pastitsio	Wednesday, February 5, 9:00-4:00 Thursday, February 6, 9:00 – 4:00 Friday, February 7, 9:00 – 4:00
Galatoboureko	Friday, February 14, 9:00 – 4:00 Saturday, February 15, 9:00 – 4:00 Sunday, February 16, After Church till 4:00
Koulourakia	Monday, February 24, 9:00—4:00 Tuesday, February 25, 9:00 – 4:00

March

Finikia	Saturday, March 8, 9:00 – 4:00
Baklava	Friday, March 14, 9:00 – 4:00 Saturday, March 15 9:00—4:00 Sunday, March 16, After Church till 4:00 Monday, March 17, 9:00 – 4:00
Kourambietes	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!

55 hats, 87 pairs of gloves, 11 scarves, 52 pairs of socks, 1 set of earmuffs, 1 headband AND 49 coats were delivered to the Neighborhood Resilience Project and Second Avenue Commons for their **Project Bundle-up**. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause (and to Eric Paljug for delivering all the items).

The St. Nicholas Church School teachers and students want to wish our GOYANs (and Church School students) Good Luck at their upcoming **GOYA Basketball Tournaments** at Annunciation (Cleveland, OH) on 01/31-02/02/25, and Holy Dormition/Ypapanti (Oakmont/East Pittsburgh, PA) on 02/14-16/25.

Attention parents and grandparents: Please join your child or grandchild in worshiping during the Divine Liturgy, receive Holy Communion together then attend Church School to see firsthand what your children are learning, **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, for **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School Open House!**

'Our' children are very busy with school and extracurricular activities and could easily find reasonable excuses not to spend any time researching, writing and speaking about their faith, but please save the date (Church School students in grades 7th-12th) for the **St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival** to be held **March 2025**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or 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

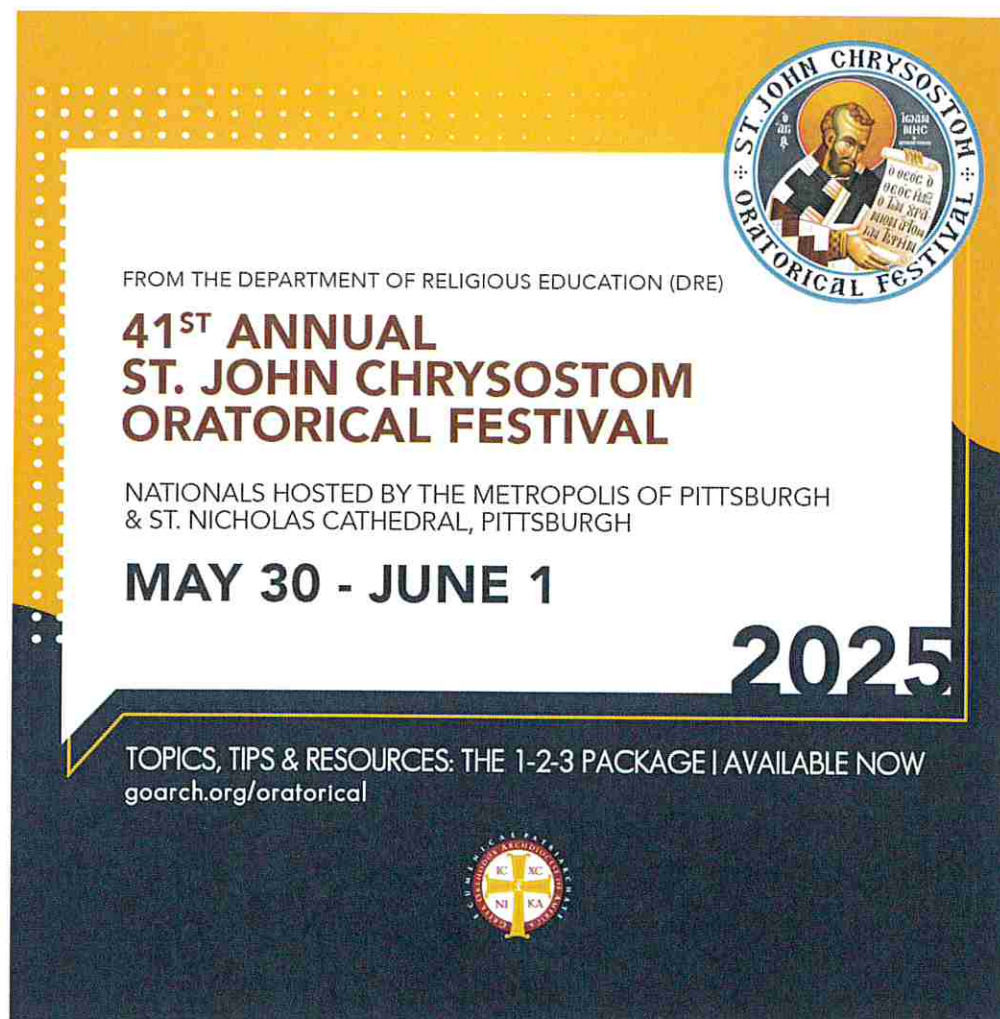
This year the Metropolis Oratorical Festival will be held on April 26, 2025. There will not be District Festivals so parish finalists will proceed directly to the Metropolis Festival hosted by Anunciation GOC in Lancaster, PA.

We are pleased and honored that our Metropolis will be hosting the National Finals May 30-June 1, 2025, here at St. Nicholas Cathedral!

In addition to our Speech Divisions our Metropolis Festival will once again include Poetry, Essay & Iconography Divisions. And are also pleased to announce that we are introducing a Vocal Division for 2025! The Topic Lists and guidelines for the Poetry, Essay, Iconography & Vocal Divisions are available on our Metropolis website.

The goal for 2025 is to increase participation among our parishes and youth. With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas we are encouraging all our parishes to make discussion of Oratorical topics a part of their Church School (grades 7th-12th). Since most parish festivals are held in March the beginning of the new year is a perfect time to begin topic discussion in Church School.

Teachers of students in grades 4-6th can also discuss possible topic choices for the elementary division to encourage those students to participate.



FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (DRE)

**41ST ANNUAL
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
ORATORICAL FESTIVAL**

NATIONALS HOSTED BY THE METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
& ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL, PITTSBURGH

MAY 30 - JUNE 1

2025

TOPICS, TIPS & RESOURCES: THE 1-2-3 PACKAGE | AVAILABLE NOW
goarch.org/oratorical



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's
Church School

Open HOUSE

Sunday, February 9, 2025



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

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

January ended with the commemoration of the Three Hierarchs/Greek Letters on Sunday, January 26. An Annual Artoclasia for our school and community took place along with a Trisagion for those who made a major impact in the long unbroken continuation of our school. Some of our students with a few Armonia Chorus students chanted Fos Hilaron in remembrance of Metropolis Protopsalti Peter Clyde Papadakos, who also volunteered teaching Biblical Greek at our school and had Fallen Asleep in the Lord with that hymn. In addition, a list of students were recognized with passing the International Ellinomatheia Proficiency Exams. During coffee hour, a display of student work on the Three Hierarchs and annual Bake Sale had taken place.

February 9 is International Greek Language Day. It is celebrated worldwide having started in 2017. It 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.

Students will soon start working on celebrating Evangelismos and Greek Independence. Mark your calendars for Sunday March 30, 2025, for our celebration of Evangelismos, Greek Independence Day. Support our school and join us for lunch and a program.

GOYA TIMES

Congratulations to GOYA for officially finishing six months of fun!!!

We kicked off the new year with a fun snow tubing event. We hope that everyone was able to have fun bolting their way down the hills! GOYA thanks everybody that made this happen. After this we had our first tournament! Thank you to all the chaperones, coaches, and parents that helped with the tournament.

Although the trip to and from York was a journey, I was so happy to see everybody have so much fun in the end! And although we weren't able to attend church on Sunday morning, the service we got to attend on Saturday was such a delight. Congratulations to both the boys AND girls for making it to the championship. When was the last time that happened? We are wishing everybody luck in the upcoming games this Sunday.

Great job to everybody, but we can't rest yet because we still have two more basketball tournaments to go!

GOYA Is wishing everybody an amazing 2025 !

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31st-February 2nd - Second GOYA tournament
February 14th-February 16th - Third GOYA tournament

GOYA



SIXTY CLUB NEWS

MEMBERS and FRIENDS

WINTER SOCIAL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 12:00 PM CRYSTAL ROOM

Chase away the winter blues and join us for an informal buffet luncheon!

Wear your Valentine Red (optional) and enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie, breaking bread together and a few words from Fr. Eleftherious on the timeless theme of LOVE.

RSVP by February 6

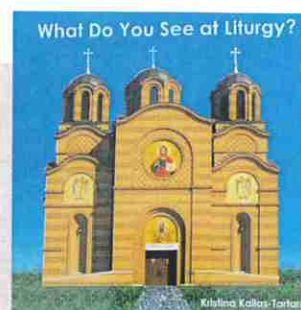
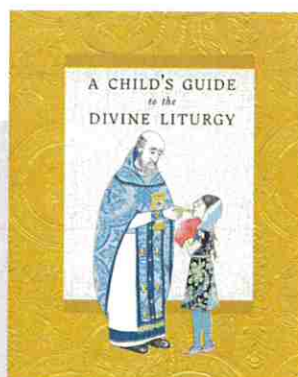
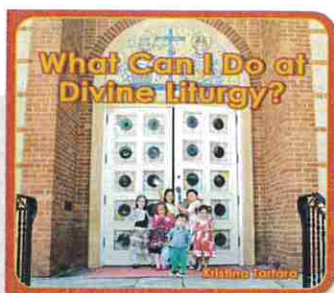
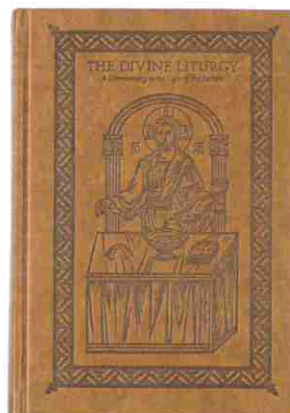
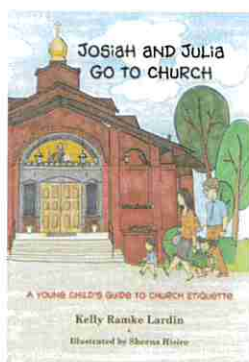
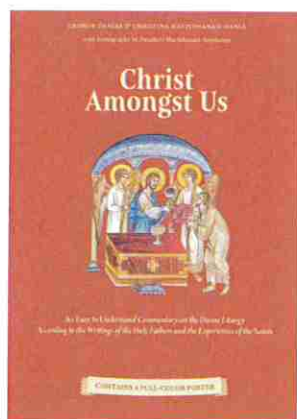
Contact Alice Gary (412.249.8612) Argie Stuart (412.681.6754), Helen Waskoskie (724.327.3539) or Fran Hanna (412.731.0790) to reserve your spot. Please include your phone number in case we need to notify you about any changes due to inclement weather.

We look forward to seeing you there!



UNDERSTANDING THE DIVINE LITURGY

Books for adults and children

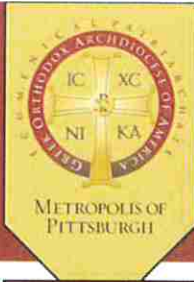


AVAILABLE AT THE ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM BOOKSTORE

OPEN SUNDAYS AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY



bookstore@stnickspgh.org



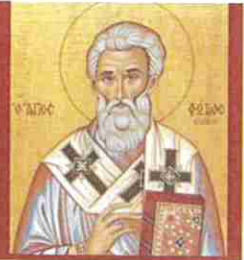
VOLUME 8 NO. 16 ISSUE: 73

FEBRUARY 2025

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

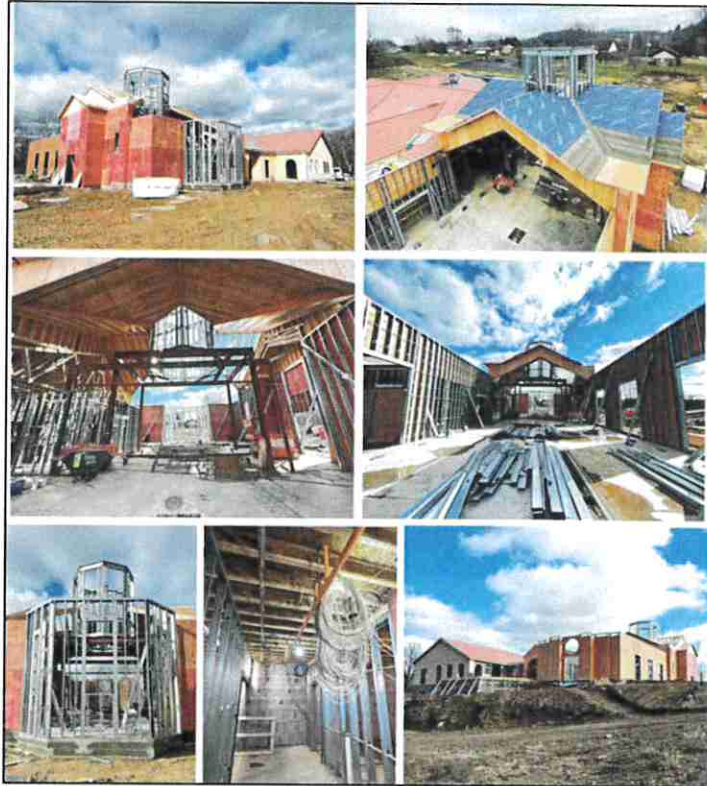


NEW METROPOLIS CENTER CONSTRUCTION JANUARY 2025 UPDATE

We are now seeing more of the social hall and chapel enclosed and with roofing as well (top two images) with the top left showing the altar on the right. Center two images are looking through the social hall and into the chapel. The bottom left is the back of the chapel. Center bottom shows the immense cabling that will allow us state-of-the-art networking, audio/visual and security. The bottom right shows the social hall entrance on the right with the terrace progress on the left. Construction is progressing well. Please consider a pledge or donation towards this worthy campaign that will benefit all! For online donations please scan the QR code below or mail donations to: New Metropolis Center, PO Box 640729, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-0729 Please make checks payable to "Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh" with NMC Donation written in the memo.

Thank you as always for your support!

Archon Nick Leks
New Metropolis Center
Project Manager



January 2024



January 2025

OTHER METROPOLIS HAPPENINGS ...

 METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

SAVE THE DATE

3RD ANNUAL RETREAT MEETING
SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 2025

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON WASHINGTON
MEADOW LANDS
340 Racetrack Road Washington, PA 15301

For Metropolis Board Members, Chapter Presidents,
Chapter Officers and Members



More details on special room rates,
reservations, meeting agenda and activities
coming soon!

*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 Camp

**GOYA SPRING
RETREAT**

APRIL 4-6, 2025

AT CAMP NAZARETH

Camper Registration &
Staff Applications will open
Monday February 17th at 7:00 pm

More information
y2ampittsburghgoarch.org/retreats





 Save the Date

2025 St. Photios Awards Banquet

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



St. Photios Awards Banquet
Nominations
Due:
MARCH 28

 2025 Metropolis of Pittsburgh
St. John Chrysostom
Oratorical Festival

Saturday April 26, 2025
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Lancaster, PA

Please consider donating to the Metropolis
Scholarship Fund so that we may continue to
offer scholarships to our talented youth.
To contribute please scan the QR code.
Checks can also be mailed directly to the
Metropolis, made payable to the "Greek
Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh." Please
write "Oratorical Scholarship" in the memo
line of your check. Thank you!







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



FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Greek School 10:00 a.m. <i>Vespers</i> <i>at Ypapanti</i> <i>in East Pittsburgh</i> 5:00 p.m.
2 <i>Ypapanti</i> (Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple) Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. <i>Sacrament</i> 12:30 p.m.	3 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	4 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	5	6 Feast of St. Photios <i>Orthros, Divine</i> <i>Liturgy and</i> <i>Ordinaiton</i> <i>of</i> <i>Dn. Frank (Photios)</i> <i>Dickos</i> <i>to the Priesthood</i> <i>in Aliquippa, PA</i>	7	8 Byzantine Music Workshop 9:30 a.m. Greek School 10:00 a.m.
			Food Festival Prep Pastitsio February 5th, 6th, & 7th			
9 Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee <i>Triodion</i> Begins Today Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting Go Red Sunday	10 Feast of St. Haralambos Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Catechism Class 5:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	11 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	12 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	13 60 Club Luncheon 12:00 noon	14	15 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
					Food Festival Prep Galatoboureko February 14th, 15th, & 16th	
16 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	17 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	18 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Saturday of Souls Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
					GOYA BBall Tournament in Oakmont, PA	
						Greek School 10:00 a.m.
23 Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. <i>Sacrament</i> 1:00 p.m.	24 Catechism Class 5:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m. Food Festival Prep Koulourakia February 24th & 25th	25 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	26 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	27	28	

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