



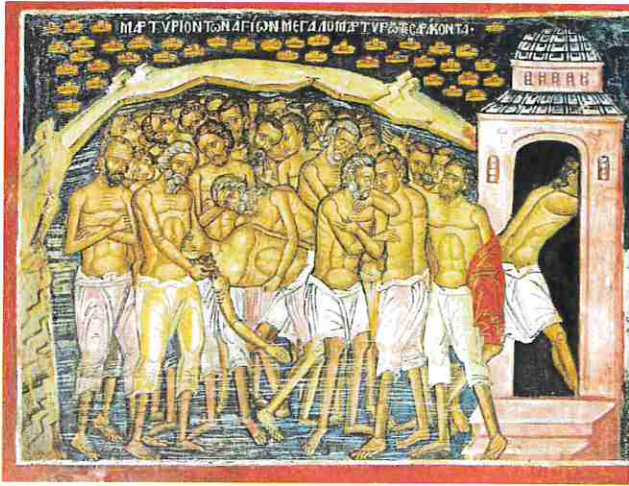
METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste were a group of Roman soldiers in the early fourth century who boldly professed their Christian faith despite facing severe persecution under Emperor Licinius. Stationed in the city of Sebaste in Armenia, they were commanded to renounce Christ and offer sacrifices to the pagan gods. Refusing to comply, they were subjected to cruel torture and ultimately sentenced to a slow death by exposure. Stripped of their clothing, they were cast into a freezing lake on a bitterly cold night, with a warm bathhouse nearby meant to lure any who might renounce their faith. One soldier succumbed to temptation and left the lake, but his place was miraculously filled when a pagan guard, inspired by the martyrs' faith, confessed Christ and joined them in the icy waters. Strengthened by their devotion, the martyrs endured the trial together, giving up their lives but not their Christian Faith.

The martyrdom of the Forty became a powerful testament to unwavering faith and communal perseverance. Their sacrifice was widely honored in both the Eastern and Western Churches, with numerous hymns and writings commemorating their victory. St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nyssa both praised their steadfastness, recognizing them as models of Christian unity and endurance. Their feast day, celebrated on March 9, continues to inspire the faithful to remain steadfast in trials, trusting in Christ's promise of eternal life.

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)
 Robin 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 - Constance Paras-Jennings
 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 - William Gary
 Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism - Alexandra Davides
 Technology & Communications - Robin Day
 Youth & Young Adult Ministries - Lee Katsafanas
AD HOC Committees
 Beautification Deacon Robert Lykos
 Bylaws/Legal

FATHER'S MESSAGE

March 2025

*"The stadium of virtue is now open; those who wish to compete, enter therein..."
(Aposticha, Vespers of Cheesefare Sunday)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we embark once again on the sacred journey of Great Lent, we are reminded that this is not merely a season of fasting, but is for each of us an opportunity for deep spiritual renewal. As we've discussed before, in the early Church, Lent was a time of preparation for catechumens; a period of transformation that led to their baptism at Pascha. Even for those of us already baptized, Lent remains a time of renewal and repentance—it is a return to the grace of our baptism, a second baptism of sorts as the Fathers describe it.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew reminds us in his catechetical homily for Great Lent this year that our Orthodox faith is profoundly personal, yet never individualistic. Lent calls us to a life of repentance, but also calls us to a life of love—a journey that is both self-reflective and communal. The asceticism of this season is not about a mere change in diet but about reordering and reorienting our lives in Christ. True fasting is not just abstaining from certain foods but abstaining from sin, as St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, have mercy. If you see an enemy, be reconciled."

At the very heart of this journey is forgiveness, which stands at the center of our Christian faith and life. Christianity itself is, above all, the faith of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is revealed in Christ, His Son, whom He sends to us so that by sharing in His humanity, we may also share in His love and be reconciled with Him and with those around us. Thus, Lent is more than a time of discipline—it is a renewal of love, a return to love, and a deepening of love. This is why the Church calls us to begin this season with Forgiveness Vespers. For truly, forgiveness is both the starting point and the necessary condition for the Lenten journey.

The hymns of this season remind us of our spiritual renewal. They call us to cultivate humility, to break free from the pride of the Pharisee, and to return to the Father like the Prodigal Son. They call us to love, as shown in the Parable of the Last Judgment, where Christ teaches us that salvation is found in how we serve the least among us. And they call us to forgiveness, as we hear on Cheesefare Sunday: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (*Matthew 6:14*).

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

As we step onto this path, let us embrace the spirit of the Church's hymnography, which exhorts us:

"The stadium of virtue is now open; those who wish to compete, enter therein, girded for the good contest of Lent, for those who compete according to the rules shall receive their laurels rightfully. Taking up the full armor of the Cross, let us do battle against the Enemy. As an impregnable wall, we have the Faith, prayer as our breastplate, and acts of mercy as our helmet. Instead of sword, there is fasting, which cuts every evil from the heart. He who does this shall attain a true crown from Christ, the King of all, on Judgment Day." (*Aposticha, Vespers of Cheesefare Sunday*)

May this Great Lent be a time of transformation for each of us. May we walk this path with repentance, prayer, and love, so that when we arrive at Holy Pascha, we may truly experience the joy of Christ's glorious Resurrection.

Prayerfully yours,

+Fr. 

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM

With much joy, we welcome into our Family of faith Diana May Persinger. She was baptized and took the name Maria. She is the daughter of Jake and Dina Persinger baptized on Sunday, February 23, 2025.

Her Godfather was Dean Leventopoulos.

FUNERAL

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Antegoni Kyros* who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Her funeral was on Monday March 3, 2025. May her 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

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

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 8:8-9:2 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 PASCHAI 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!

Our Lenten Journey is about to begin!

This 40-day journey should be filled with the three (3) pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and service which will help us develop a closer relationship to God.

Great Lent will commence March 3rd. Philoptochos will have a Lenten Meal (soup) following the 1st Salutations (March 7th), and the Church School students will participate in the Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession with their favorite icon (March 9th). Also on March 9th, there will be a Spaghetti Luncheon Camp Fundraiser.

Sunday, March 23rd, will be our Day of Service, where Philoptochos, along with the youth of our parish, will assemble 100 Birthday Cake Kits to donate to families in need.

To wrap up the month, Greek School will have their annual Evangelismos/Greek Independence Day Procession, Doxology, Luncheon and Program on March 30th.

Our Food Festival is just two (2) months away, and we will be preparing some of my favorite desserts. Finikia March 8th, Baklava March 14th– 17th, and Kourambiethes March 22nd to serve to the thousands of people who come through our doors. Hope you can volunteer your time. 1-2 hours or 1-2 pans, can lighten the load.

Looking forward to seeing **you** at St. Nicholas (in the **pews** or at one of these events)!

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Marie Kotsagrelou

What is happening at St. Nicholas during the beginning of Great Lent?

The answer: A LOT!

Just look 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.



STEWARDSHIP

Saint Nicholas is very grateful to our Stewards!

It is so important at this Lenten season to remember what Christ did for us.

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.

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

We thank those Stewards who have already turned in their pledge cards.

The cards are available in the Narthex as well as online at our website, www.stnickspgh.org. For your convenience, a copy is also available in this newsletter. Just print it out and send it in to the church office.

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

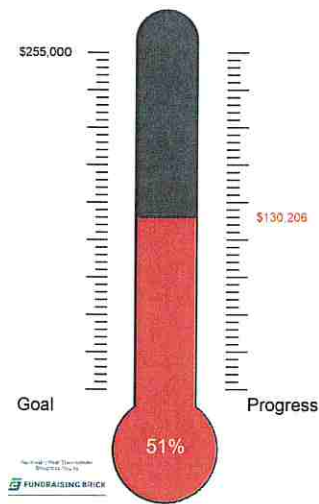
Give of your time, talents and treasure today. *Giving is the legacy of faith, hope and love* that will sustain our beloved Saint Nicholas generations to come.

Give of Your Own from Your Own: God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine!

2025 STEWARDSHIP

"YOUR OWN FROM YOUR OWN"

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



2025 STEWARDSHIP		02/27/2025
Total Stewards		187
Total Amount Pledged		\$130,206.00
Average Pledge		\$1,085.05
% Parish Participation to Date		62%
2024 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		51%
2025 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 255,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$69,618.39
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	Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis
Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos	Mr. & Mrs. Robin Day	Mr. Constantine Leventopoulos
Mr. William J. Adams and Ms. Constance Petros	Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
James & Electra Agras	Mrs. Christine DeMatteo	Mr. Panagiotis Lidos
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Agras	Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos	Mr. Steve Economou	Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Lountzis
Ms. Anna Andrews	Mr. John Edgos	Mrs. Janet Lykos
Mr. Steven Andrews	Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis	Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
Mrs. Elaine Andrianos	Mrs. Elaine Ellis	Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis	Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen	Ms. Karen Malobicky
Mr. George Anthon	Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos	Mr. Christopher Mandros
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Antonuccio	Mrs. Virginia Fekaris	Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
Mr. & Mrs. Spiliotis Argiropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank	Ms. Electra Markopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou	Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos	Mr. Gregory Markopoulos
Mr. Arthur Baker	Mrs. Alice Gary	Mrs. Helen Mastros
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris	Mrs. Jamie Gori	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastros
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber	Mrs. Alexandra Gregory	Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
Ms. Maria Bardakos	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman	Dr. & Mrs. Constantinos Hadjipanayis	Mrs. Patricia McKee
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel	Mr. & Mrs. James Hages	Mr. & Mrs. Christos Melacrinis
Ms. Sophia Bender	Mrs. Aphrodite Halleran	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom	Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna	Ms. Angela Mindlin
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina	Mrs. Frances Hanna	Mr. Andrew Mitry
Ms. Pamela Bertos	Mrs. Dena Haritos Tsamitis	Mrs. Venetia Moreno
Mrs. Rebecca Bertos	Mrs. Rania Harris	Mr. Paul L. Moses
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos	Ms. Maria Hnarakis	Mrs. Filio Moshovakis
Mrs. Elaine Bolanis	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Paljug
Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Bouzou	Ms. Gail Jones	Ms. Alexandra Panagis
Mrs. Mary Brahos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis	Ms. Catherine E. Pandeladis
Ms. Krista Bullard	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes	Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano	Mrs. Lucia Kalaras	Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
Mrs. Dee Chronis	Mr. Peter Kamaras	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos	Ms. Christine Kanakis	Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
Ms. Theodora Constantine	Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin	Mr. John C. Paras
Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett	Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis	Mrs. Katherine Paras
Mr. Phillip Contacos	Dr. & Mrs. Yianni Karvounides	Mr. Van Paras
Ms. Jamie Contis	Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas	Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis	Mr. Lee Katsafanas	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Persinger
Mrs. Sandra Contis	Mr. Andron Kavouras	Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
Mrs. Alexandra Copetas	Mr. Nicholas Kefal	Mrs. Stamatia Peters
Mr. Charles G. Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos	Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
Mr. George Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos	Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolis
Mrs. Helen G. Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas	Mrs. Amal Philopes
Mrs. Helen M. Copetas	Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis	Mrs. Vera Poland
Mrs. Maria Copetas	Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelis	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
Mr. & Mrs. Dino G. Copetas	Mr. Chris T. Kouklis	Mr. Anastasios Raptis
Mrs. Theodora Copetas	Ms. Christine Krellis	Mrs. Kristina Rigoopoulos & Mr. William Guttman
Mr. Vasili Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Giorgios Krinis	Mr. William Sfamenos
Mrs. Vasso Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Kypriotakis	Mr. A. Robert Shott
Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas	Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros	Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos
Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lamprinakos	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos	Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas	Mrs. Toula Stathopoulos
Ms. Bridgette Daugherty	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas	Mr. & Mrs. Pat L. Strauch
Mrs. Denise Daugherty	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno	Mrs. Argie Stuart
		Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis

2025 STEWARDSHIP, Continued



Mr. & Mrs.. Stephen Thomas
Mr. Christopher Thompson
Mr. Peter Tsoukalas
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis
Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
Mr. & Mrs. Achilles Vassilicos
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
Mrs. Angela Vergos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vergos
Mr. Adam Viccaro
Mr. John Vitsas
Ms. Jane Voros
Mrs. Helen Waskoskie
Mrs. Debra Wiesen
Mr. & Mrs. David Willard
Ms. Franceska Xhakaj
Mr. Anthony Xyftis
Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis





**Sunday,
March 23**



ST. NICHOLAS PHILOPTOCHOS

WEEKEND OF SERVICE



**Help us bring birthday joy to families in need!
Our parish will assemble 100 birthday cake kits
to donate to local food pantries.**

**Each kit costs \$15. Monetary donations can be made by
cash or check payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos with
"Weekend of Service" in the memo.**

**Parishioners of all ages are welcome to stay after church
on 3/23 to assemble the cake kits!**

Give a little--Help a lot!



Spaghetti Luncheon Sunday, March 9th, 2025

Adults \$15 Children under 12 \$10
TAKE OUT OR DINE IN

Dine in menu includes pasta, salad desserts and coffee
Take out includes salad and pasta only
Call for info or reservations

Keli 412-337-1297
Lisa 412-600-1240
Carrie 412-680-0210

Consider making a donation if you cannot attend
All proceeds go to offset costs for

St Nicholas' children to attend CAMP NAZARETH!

FOOD FESTIVAL

A Pittsburgh Marathon..... Greek Style!

Just like any good race that's worth running, you eventually reach the half way point. We are there now!

With half of our Festival's food and pastry items completed (mile marker 6) and in the freezer, it's time to tackle the last half of this marathon.

Any successful race worth running needs A LOT of participants. With your help, *and only with your help*, can we cross the finish line and win this race (mile marker 12!!!)

Please join us in our kitchen during the month of March and a bit of April (as we always say... many hands are needed) and help us finish in first place.

No warm ups, stretching or marathon experience needed, no medals are awarded but the gratitude of St. Nicholas Cathedral and our success in this very important fundraiser will be because of *you*.

Please join us!

See the March/April cooking schedule for the remainder of the items to be made.

2025 Festival Cooking Schedule Updated February 4, 2025

January

Spanakopita	COMPLETED
Pasta Flora	COMPLETED
Souzoukakia	COMPLETED

February

Pastitsio	COMPLETED
Galatoboureko	COMPLETED
Koulourakia	COMPLETED

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
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

YOUTH SAFETY WORKERS

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.

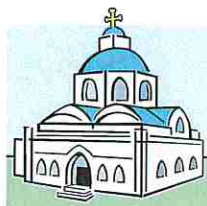
Even... Parents who occasionally help-out but are alone with other people's children.

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.

St. Nicholas Church School



From the Church School Desk!

Sunday, March 9, 2025, the Church School students will participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** with their favorite icon!

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 2025**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or eve.m.elsen@gmail.com.

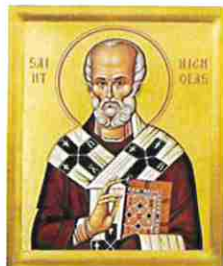
I appreciate the support from all of you and thanks for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

SUNDAY
OF
ORTHODOXY
ICON PROCESSION



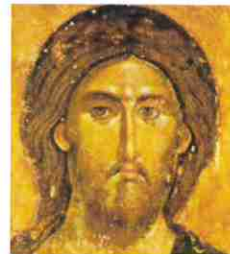
CHURCH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS



SUNDAY,
MARCH 9,
2025



PLEASE
BRING
AN
ICON



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

GREEK SCHOOL

**Celebrate the Evangelismos and
Greek Independence Day**

with

St. Nicholas Cathedral Greek School

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Luncheon-immediately after Doxology in church



για Πίστη και Πατρίδα - for Faith and Country

luncheon reservations, by Mar. 22

Call/Text Maria Stamoolis at 412-874-4422 or E-mail mstamoolis@verizon.net

Shrimp Luncheon – adults \$15 / children 13 and under \$10

**Then stay and celebrate with the children-- POEMS! SONGS! PLAY!
Dancing!**

GOYA TIMES

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

We kicked off February with our last two basketball tournaments! Great job to everybody that played and placed. And a special congratulations to all of our seniors on finishing their last few GOYA basketball tournaments. I hope that everyone had as much fun as I did!

Although there wasn't a first place, Saint Nicholas won in my heart. With all the dancing, food, basketball, friends, family, and love; I don't think the tournaments could've gone any other way. And besides the few tensions we had on the way, the amount of fun that we were able to have made up for it.

But enough with basketball, now we get to move on to dancing and volleyball! This February was great but we still have a lot ahead of us. With our first dance practice being March 2nd, and the spaghetti luncheon camp fundraiser being right after, there is not much time to rest.

GOYA Is wishing everybody a lovely February and March!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 2nd - Dance Practice
- March 9th - Dance Practice
- March 16th - Dance Practice
- March 23rd - Dance Practice
- March 30th - Dance Practice
- March 9th - Spaghetti Luncheon Camp Fundraiser
 - March 11th - Backpack Feeding Fundraiser
 - March 23rd - Weekend of Service
- March 29th - Indoor Volleyball Tournament

GOYA Con't

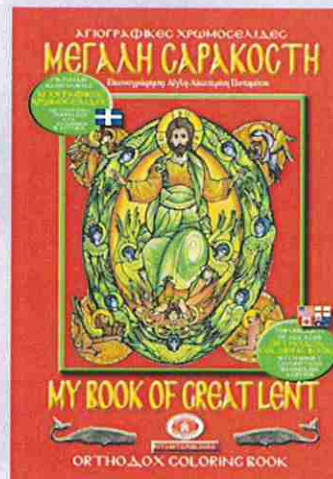
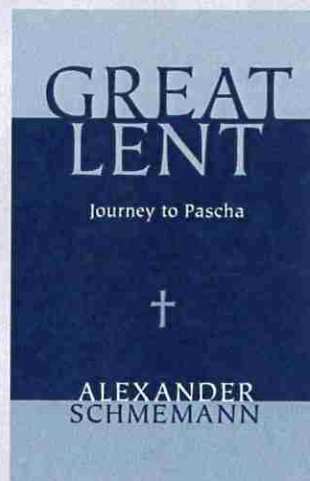
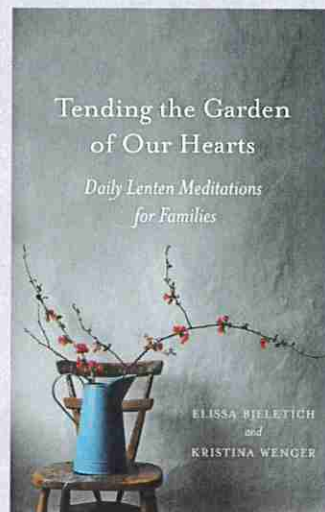
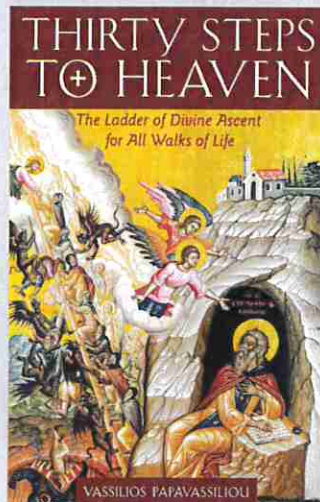


GOYA Con't

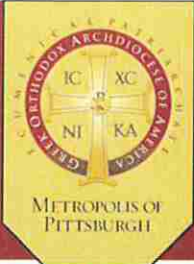


Prepare for Great Lent

Books available at
St. John Chrysostom Bookstore



Open Sundays after the Divine Liturgy
bookstore@stnickspgh.org



VOLUME 8 NO. II ISSUE: 74

MARCH 2025

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



2025 FEAST OF ST. PHOTIOS THE GREAT REGIONAL CELEBRATIONS



NEW METROPOLIS CENTER CONSTRUCTION FEBRUARY 2025 UPDATE

Inclement and severely cold winter weather has hampered progress as expected. Yet, more of the framing and roofing has been completed. You'll note the altar is completely enclosed as well as the chapel gables. The first hall trusses have been placed. 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 Lekas
New Metropolis Center
Project Manager



On Thursday February 6th, clergy from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Photios the Great, Patron of the Metropolis. Images from the regional celebrations in the Northwest, Southwest, and Central regions of the Metropolis. (East was cancelled due to inclement weather). May St. Photios watch over us!



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

Scan the QR code to make
reservations today!

Online
Reservations
Open

March 14



2025 St. Photios
Awards Banquet

Saturday May 3 2025
Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh Cranberry
pittsburgh.goarch.org/st-photios-awards-banquet



1. Left - Social Hall, Right - Chapel
2. Terrace
3. Back of Altar
4. Basement Consolidated Library Room
5. Meeting in Cocoon
6. Social Hall - First Ceiling Trusses
7. View Into Chapel



OTHER METROPOLIS HAPPENINGS ...



**The Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Philotochos Society**

2025 Daffodil Luncheon

Saturday, April 5, 2025 - 11am

**Holy Trinity Pittsburgh
Grand Room
985 Providence Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

Proceeds to benefit:
Seminarians Our Future Scholarship Fund and Emergency Fund

Speakers:
Jeana Watenpool, President of Mrs. Claus Club - Pittsburgh North Chapter
Ursula Bresner - Cancer Survivor

For information or questions, please contact:
Marianne Stearns - 412-600-2159 - mstearns@nauticom.net

Please fill out the reservation/sponsorship form enclosed and mail with payment to arrive by
Friday, March 14, 2025

Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. Payments for Reservations
/Sponsorships may be mailed by check. **Checks should be made payable to:**
Holy Trinity Pittsburgh Philotochos - 985 Providence Boulevard - Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Hotel Reservations QR Code:
Fairfield Inn & Suites Pittsburgh North/McCandless Crossing
901 Providence Blvd - Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - 412-227-9600
Use Group Code: *Holy Trinity Church* - \$169-\$179 / night
Last Day to Book: Friday, March 14, 2025



GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADES
Both in and out of our Metropolis



March 22 | Cleveland, OH
March 30 | Campbell, OH

March 30 | Baltimore, MD
March 30 | New York, NY
April 6 | Chicago, IL
April 6 | Philadelphia, PA



"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"
PSALM 46:10

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH CAMP

**GOYA SPRING
RETREAT**

APRIL 4-6, 2025

FINDING **STRENGTH** IN THE CHAOS
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: NITSA KAMBOUROGLOS

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AT 7:00 PM
y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/retreats

**WEEKEND OF
SERVICE**

MARCH 22-23, 2025

THE OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES ALONG WITH
THE METROPOLIS LADIES PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY WANT TO
ENCOURAGE ALL OUR PARISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S
ANNUAL WEEKEND OF SERVICE!

LED BY YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND PHILOTOCHOS CHAPTERS,
ENTIRE PARISHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME TOGETHER AND
DO SOMETHING TO SERVE OTHERS DURING THAT WEEKEND.

Questions? Contact Alyssa Kyriltis at akyriltis@pittsburgh.goarch.org
or Joyce Spanakis at jspanakis@yme.com



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



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Commemoration of the Holy Men and Women Who Excelled in Asceticism ("2nd Saturday of Souls") Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Greek School 10:00 a.m.
2 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday) Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. PARISH ASSEMBLY JOY, HOPE & Little Angels Greek Dancing Forgiveness Vespers 5:00 p.m.	3 CLEAN MONDAY First Day of LENT Great Compline 6:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	4 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	5 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture 7:15 p.m.	6	7 1st Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 p.m. <i>Reception Hosted by Philoptochos</i>	8 Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva wrought by Saint Theodore ("3rd Saturday of Souls") Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Greek School 10:00 a.m. <i>Festival Prep and Cooking: Finikia 9am-4pm</i> Byzantine Chant Workshop (3 of 3) 12:30 p.m.
9 1st Sunday of Lent SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Spaghetti Luncheon-CAMP Fundraiser JOY, HOPE & Little Angels Greek Dancing <i>Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Holy Cross (Mt. Lebanon)</i> 4:30 p.m.	10 Great Compline 6:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	11 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m. GOYA Service Project at the Neighborhood Resilience Project	12	13	14 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 p.m.	15 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
Festival Prep and Cooking: Baklava March 13 – 17 (9am-4pm)						
Pittsburgh Metropolis Clergy Lenten Retreat in Ligonier, PA March 11-13						
16 2nd Sunday of Lent Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	17 Great Compline 6:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	18 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	19 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture 7:15 p.m.	20	21 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 p.m.	22 Greek School 10:00 a.m. <i>Festival Prep and Cooking: Kou-rambiethes 9am-4pm</i> Metropolis HOPE/JOY Lenten Retreat 12pm – 4pm
Festival Prep and Cooking: Baklava March 13 – 17	Festival Prep and Cooking: Baklava March 13 – 17					

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 3rd Sunday of Lent Sunday of the Holy Cross Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. WEEKEND OF SERVICE JOY, HOPE & Little Angels Greek Dancing	24 <i>Vespers for</i> <i>Annunciation at</i> <i>Annunciation Church</i> <i>in White Oak, PA</i> 7:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos and Greek Independence Day Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Followed by Doxology Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	26 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture 7:15 p.m.	27	28 4th Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 p.m.	29 Greek School 10:00 a.m. GOYA Volleyball Tournament (Wheeling, WV)
30 4th Sunday of Lent Sunday of St. John Climacus Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School March 25th Program and Luncheon	31 Great Compline 6:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.					

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Orthodox Cathedral
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