



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

SO
CELEBRATE
SPRING AT
OUR...



63rd Annual Greek Food Festival

Sunday, May 4 thru
Saturday, May 10, 2025

SERVING HOURS

Sunday Noon to 8p
Monday to Thursday 11a to 9p
Friday 11a to 10p (music until 11p)
Saturday 1p to 10p (music until 11p)

Live Bouzouki Music &
Greek Dancing every Evening
Outdoor Patio Grill
Food Certificates Available
Daily Cathedral Tours

Credit Cards Accepted

ATM on Premises

Online ordering available all week* (starts Sunday at 4p)

* Online ordering closes ONE HOUR before food line

Order by visiting the FOOD FESTIVAL section of our website
www.stnickspgh.org



St. Nicholas Cathedral Community Center • 419 S. Dithridge St., Oakland
412.682.3866 • Across from the Carnegie Museum

Our Mission & Vision Statements

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

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

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

Reverend Father Eleftherios Constantine, Dean

+

Reverend Deacon Robert Lykos

fr.ec@stnickspgh.org

412-736-2762

robertlykos@gmail.com

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
Bylaws/Legal

Deacon Robert Lykos

FATHER'S MESSAGE

May 2025

"He is not here, for He is risen, as He said." (Matt. 28:6)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

Each Pascha, we greet one another with the words "Christ is Risen!" These are not only words of joy—they are also a call to action. In the light of the Resurrection, we are invited to forgive as we have been forgiven and to love as we have been loved by the One who sacrificed His life for all of humanity. For the Risen Christ comes not to condemn, but to fulfill all righteousness. He forgives His betrayers, He comforts the fearful, and restores the fallen. In Him, all things are made new. And in the brilliance of His Resurrection, we are called to forgive, to reconcile, and to live not for ourselves but for one another.

One of the most powerful hymns of the Feast proclaims: *"It is the day of the Resurrection. Let us shine brightly for the festival, and also embrace one another. Brethren, let us say even to those who hate us, 'Let us forgive everything for the Resurrection.'"* This is the heart of Pascha—not only that Christ is risen, but that we rise with Him and to Him when we forgive. In the Risen Lord, we are no longer held captive by past misdeeds. We are free. He has freed us. And we are invited to extend that same freedom and that same love to others.

It is in that same spirit of Resurrection—of love freely given and joy shared together—that our Cathedral family comes together for the 63rd Annual Greek Food Festival. What a beautiful expression of our faith it is to see so many, both young and old, offering their time, talents, and their hearts for the good of our Cathedral. This labor of love is more than an event; it is a living icon of our life in Christ: a community united in joyful service, working side by side in celebration of our Orthodox Christian faith and Hellenic heritage.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

May this holy season of Pascha find us not only celebrating the Resurrection with our words, but also living it with our lives. May we be quick to forgive, eager to serve, and joyful in hope. And with one voice, let us cry out from the depths of our hearts: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Prayerfully yours in the risen Lord,

+Fr. 

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

FUNERAL

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *JoAnn Kartsonas* who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Her funeral was on Monday April 7, 2025 at St. Nicholas Cathedral. May her memory be eternal.

PARISH COUNCIL

"May the month of May be a month of sunshine, happiness, and endless blessings." Unknown

The annual **Food Festival** is **Sunday-Saturday, May 4-10, 2025**. Thank you to all the women and men, who have given of their time to make sure the food items have been prepared. Don't forget to **volunteer** your time to help serve our patrons. No experience necessary. **Help is always welcomed in the Food Line, Pastry Line and Online.**

Congratulations again to Marcie McGurie and Art Velisaris our Cathedral's parish recipients of this year's **St. Photios Award**! They will be honored at the 11th St. Photios Awards Banquet Saturday, May 3rd (yes, the day before of our Festival) at the Pittsburgh-Cranberry Double Tree Hotel in Mars, PA.

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

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

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Marie Kotsagrelou

Thank you to Philoptochos for sponsoring the Anastasi Meal. Lamb (prepared by Yianni Athans), rice, Avgolemono soup (compliments of Ritter's Diner), cheese (compliments of Stamoolis Brothers), Tsoureki and dessert were shared by the St. Nicholas Family and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas.

Keeping up with Parish Council:

**Homewood Cemetery
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Greek Section**

There are currently 38 graves available for purchase.

**Cost per grave
\$2,800 per grave for member of St. Nicholas.
\$3,300 per grave for non-member.**

Contact the church office at 412-682-3866 for further information.

STEWARDSHIP



“Your Own from Your Own we offer to You”.

Everything we have comes from Him. Everything we offer to God comes from Him. What as we Orthodox can we do for our church, so it thrives and grows.

Saint Nicholas can grow even further as a parish with your loving offering. See our Church as it could be. Imagine the possibilities.

Your pledge can be made online through our website or by filling out a pledge card. It's that easy. No matter the amount, miracles will happen.

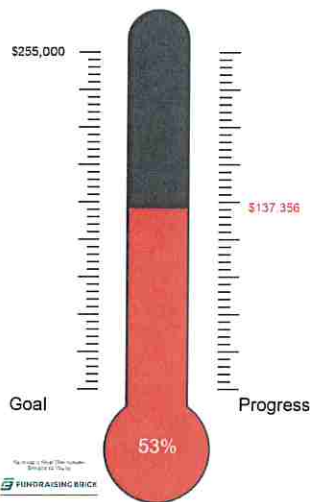
Saint Nicholas thanks all who have pledged to date.

2025 STEWARDSHIP

"YOUR OWN FROM YOUR OWN"

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

2025 STEWARDSHIP		04/29/2025
Total Stewards		228
Total Amount Pledged		\$137,356.00
Average Pledge		\$1,048.52
% Parish Participation to Date		77%
2024 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		53%
2025 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 255,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$109,855.36
As of:		03/13/2025
Income: Envelopes & Pledges, and Basket Collection	\$ 61,024.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$102,752.00	
	(\$ 41,728.00)	



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
 Mrs. Michelle Ackerman
 Mr. William J. Adams and Ms. Constance Petros
 James & Electra Agras
 Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Agrad
 Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis
 Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis
 Mr. George Anthon
 Mrs. Jeanne Antonuccio
 Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou
 Mr. & Mrs. Spiliotis Argiropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou
 Mr. Arthur Baker
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
 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
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano
 Mrs. Elena G. Cerri
 Mrs. Dee Chronis
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Ms. Theodora Constantine
 Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett
 Mr. Phillip Contacos
 Mrs. Eleni Contis
 Ms. Jamie Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis
 Mrs. Sandra Contis
 Mrs. Alexandra Copetas
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mr. George Copetas
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen M. Copetas
 Mrs. Maria Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Dino G. Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. Vasili Copetas

Mrs. Vasso Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig
 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. Petros Delivorias
 Mr. Anthony DeMatteo
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo
 Ms. Victoria Dionisos
 Mr. Arthur J. Dordas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt
 Steve & Lydia Economou
 Mr. John Edgos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen
 Mr. Emmanuel Epitropoulos
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. William Gary
 Mrs. Jamie Gori
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory
 Dr. & Mrs. Constantinos Hadjipanayis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hages
 Mrs. Aphrodite Halleran
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna
 Mrs. Frances Hanna
 Dr. John Haretos
 Mr. Theodore Haretos
 Mrs. Dena Haritos Tsamitis
 Mrs. Rania Harris
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes
 Mrs. Lucia Kalaras
 Mr. Peter Kamaras
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin
 Mrs. Elli Anne Karras & Mr. Kyle Glasser
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis
 Dr. & Mrs. Yianni Karvounides
 Mr. Konstantinos Kasamias
 Mrs. Georgina Katsafanas

Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. Andron Kavouras
 Mr. Nicholas Kefal
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Ms. Elaine Keim
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Ms. Nicole Klidas
 Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelis
 Mr. Chris T. Kouklis
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Mr. Peter Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. Giorgios Krinis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian
 Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Kypriotakis
 Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lamprinakos
 Ms. Constantina Lardas
 Mrs. Kalliope Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleantis Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Ms. Shqipe Latifi
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis
 Mr. Dean Leventopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
 Mr. Panagiotis Lidos
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Lountzis
 Mrs. Janet Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadav
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mr. Christopher Mandros
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Ms. Electra Markopoulou
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulou
 Mrs. Helen Mastro
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastro
 Mrs. Dana Mathews
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. McCann
 Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
 Mrs. Patricia McKee
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos Melacrinis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
 Ms. Angela Mindlin
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
 Mr. Andrew Mitry
 Mrs. Venetia Moreno
 Mr. Paul L. Moses
 Mrs. Filio Moshovakis
 Mr. Mrs. Eric Paljug

2025 STEWARDSHIP, Continued



Mrs. Tara Pallas-Sheetz
 Ms. Alexandra Panagis
 Ms. Catherine E. Pandeladis
 Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Panousis
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
 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 J. Peters
 Mrs. Stamatia Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolias
 Mrs. Amal Philopes
 Ms. Eleni Pikounis
 Mrs. Vera Poland
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mr. Anastasios Raptis
 Mrs. Kristina Rigoopulos & Mr. William Guttman
 Mr. William Sfamenos
 Mr. A. Robert Shott
 Mrs. Gloriann Snyder-Aneja
 Mr. George Sockos⁺
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
 Mrs. Toula Stathopoulos
 Mrs. Stella Stratigos
 Mr. Demetri Strauch

Mr. & Mrs. Pat L. Strauch
 Mrs. Argie Stuart
 Mrs. Katia Sycara & Mr. Michael Lewis
 Ms. Evangeline Theodoridis
 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. Panagiota Vasilakis
 Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
 Mr. & Mrs. Achilles Vassilicos
 Mr. & Mrs. Orestis Velisaris
 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. Anthony Zaras
 Dr. Katerina Zavaras
 Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis
 Mr. Michael Zikos



PHILOPTOCHOS **UPDATES**

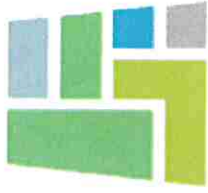
Philoptochos Elections – This year is an election year for Philoptochos. We will have our election/voting meeting on **Sunday, May 18th after church**. If you are interested in serving on the Philoptochos Board, please reach out to Nikki Lykos (412-897-8208). We would LOVE to have some new members with new ideas join the Board.

Food Drive for Neighborhood Resilience Project – We will have our third quarterly food drive benefitting Neighborhood Resilience Project on **Sunday, May 18th**. Please bring non-perishable food items and leave them on the table in the atrium!

Spanakopita Rolls for Sale

Just a few delicious spanakopita rolls remain 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.





NEIGHBORHOOD
RESILIENCE
PROJECT

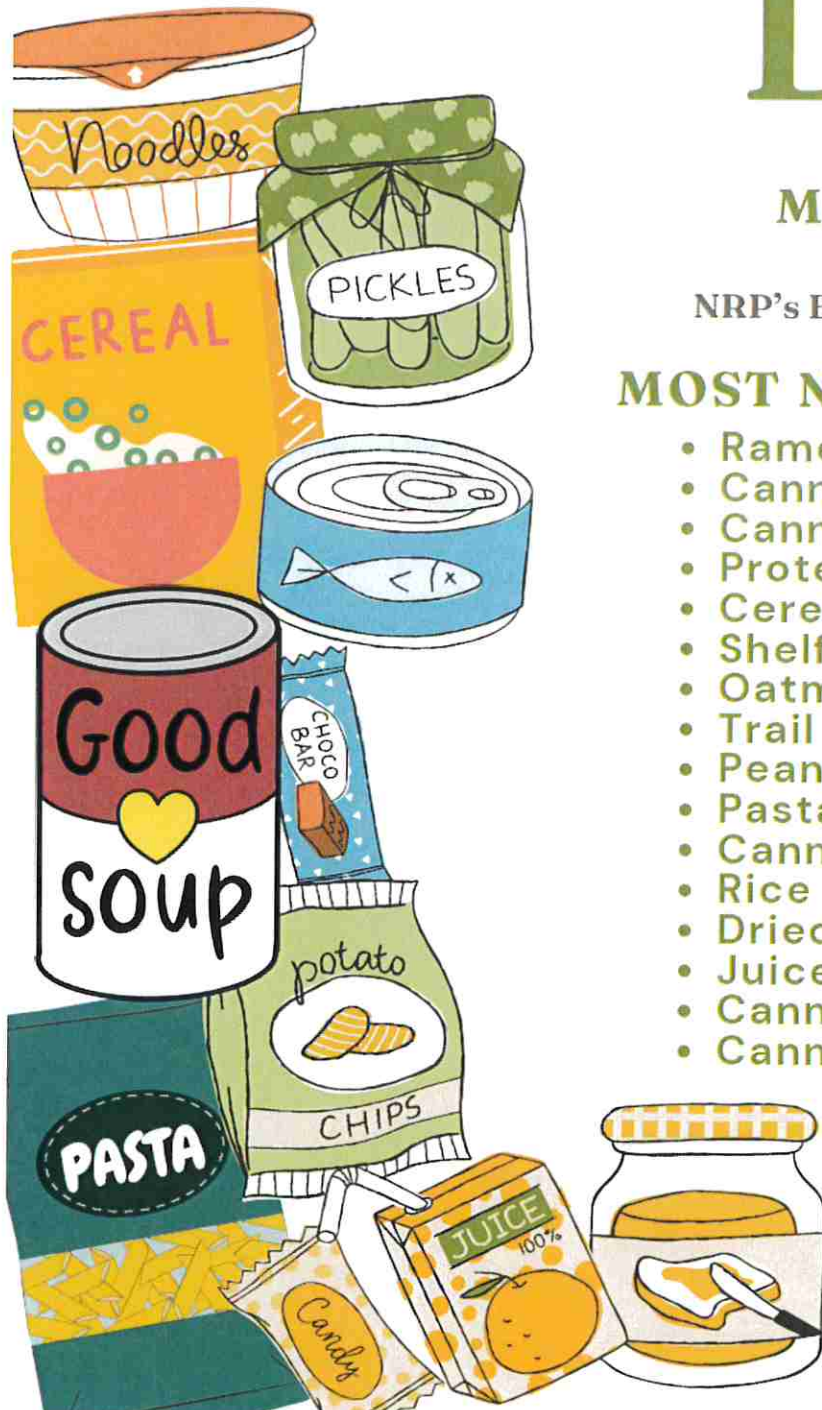
Food Drive

SUNDAY
MAY 18, 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



Celebrating
FATHER'S DAY

St. Nicholas Philoptochos believes in honoring the men in our lives. Honor your husband, father, grandfather, godfather, brother, uncle or a special friend with a gift to Philoptochos. Your donation will enable us to continue our work of charitable giving to individuals and families in need, area food banks, shelters for the homeless, social service agencies and countless research efforts in the battle against cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Join us this Father's Day by honoring someone you love with a gift to Philoptochos.

Make checks payable and send to: St. Nicholas Philoptochos, 419 S. Dithridge St. Pittsburgh, PA 15213, Memo: Father's Day

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR INCLUSION IN BULLETIN – SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

(minimum gift of \$5.00 per name please — all donations are tax deductible)

Your Name: _____

Honorees will receive a special Father's Day acknowledgement card.

The amount of your gift will not be disclosed.

☐ Please accept this gift in **honor** of:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ Please accept this gift in **memory** of:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

*List any additional names and addresses on the back of this flyer and indicate whether donation is in Honor or in Memory.
Please print clearly.*

ST. NICHOLAS WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OF OUR GRADUATES MAY 18th!

Please fill out this short questionnaire and submit to church office via email (church@stnickspgh.org), fax (412-683-4960) or mail (419 S. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213) by **May 12, 2025**. Thank you!

Name _____
Phone: _____
Month of Graduation _____
High School: _____
Or
University/ Graduate School: _____
Degree Earned: _____

***Please email a recent photo to church@stnickspgh.org so that we can include in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Awards and Honors:

Activities:

Future Plans:

St. Nicholas Church School



Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Thank you to the Darakos, Hages and Kotsagrellos Families for organizing a delicious **Youth Retreat Breakfast** after the Divine Liturgy Saturday, April 12, 2025, (St. Lazarus Day) and the Kotsagrellos Family for the **Agape Service Coffee Hour & Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025!

A special thank you to our **Myrophores (Myrrh Bearing Women) Eirini Bouzos, Anastasia Constantine, Marina Constantine, Roma Day, Evina Frentzos, Augusta Hejmowski, and Sophia Koromvokis**, who participated in the Good Friday evening service, our **GOYA young women (Anastasia Beridze, Marialena Bouzos, Zoe Darakos, Polina Kulidi, Yanna Mavrogeorgis, and Elisabeth Tsourekis)** who **received and distributed the light** at the Anastasi Service, and to the **Altar Boys**.

Congratulations to **Yoanna Lykos** (Junior Division), **Sophia Hogg** (Senior Division) and **Kingston Stamoolis** (Senior Division) our St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival participants, who took the time out of their busy schedules to research and write about their faith. **Sophia** represented our parish Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh's **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church (Lancaster, PA), as a Senior Division finalist in the speech and vocal divisions. And... **PLACED FIRST IN BOTH! Sophia will represent our parish and the Metropolis of Pittsburgh at the National St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival here at St. Nicholas May 30-June 1, 2025.** In the weeks to come, the participants will be presenting their speeches to the congregation during the sermon. Congratulations Yoanna, Sophia and Kingston, we are proud of you!

As with all "school" years, Church School must end. **Church School Graduation** will be **Sunday, May 18, 2025**. All students present will receive their graduation certificate and an icon. The teachers and staff will receive a gift, too. Special books will be given to the Kindergarten class (The Bible for Young People) and the High School Graduates (the New Orthodox Study Bible (Old and New Testament)).

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

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

Parish St. John Chysostom Oratorical Festival



Metropolis St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival



41st ANNUAL ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

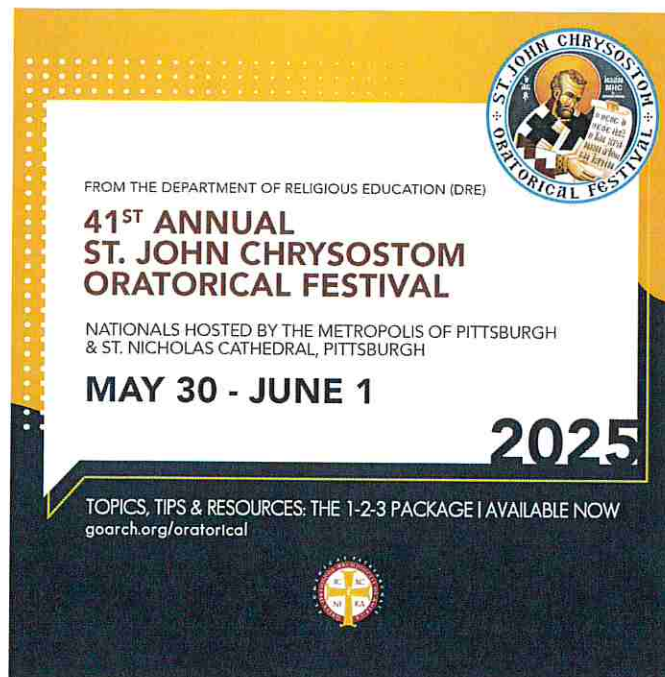
With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh has been granted the distinct honor of hosting the 2025 St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical Festival! This prestigious event will be hosted May 31-June 2, 2025 at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

To host an event of this magnitude and importance takes not only the efforts of many incredible volunteers, but also a substantial amount of funding. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese covers the scholarships given to our speakers, but all weekend events, including activities, meals, transportation, etc. is the responsibility of our Parish, St. Nicholas. **This is where you come in!**

We humbly ask that you consider a donation, of any amount, to help make this a most memorable event for the young people joining us from across the country. For many, this will be their first time in Pittsburgh, so our prayer is to welcome them with the love and hospitality we have all grown so accustomed to. *Your donation is 100% tax deductible and will be recognized at our event within the program available to all participants.*

Thank you for the love, support and prayers for a successful National Oratorical Festival. This is a vital ministry within our Metropolis, and we are truly blessed to be given this opportunity!

Yours in Christ,
Eve Elsen and Elaine Keim
Co-Chairs of the 2025 St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical



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.

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.

FOOD FESTIVAL

You can sense it in the air... the excitement and anticipation as tents are set up, as tables are arranged and as our children get in the last of their dance practices!

Our festival is finally here!

If you have not yet volunteered to help, please do so. Signing up is easy by either calling the Church Office at 412-682-3866, Ext. 3. or by going on our church's website www.stnickspgh.org. If you're available at the last minute, just show up.

**We're ready!
See you at the festival!**

The BEST week of the year!

GREEK SCHOOL

Χριστός Ανέστη! The final month of St. Nicholas Cathedral Greek School Language Classes has already approached. Classes for Children from Pk – 7th will be held on Saturday, May 3 and on Saturday, May 17. On May 17, an “End of the Year Program” and party will be held at noon including the distribution of the Promotional Certificates.

Doors will reopen for the 2025 – 2026 school year in the beginning of September. The entire school of children, family, and staff were elated to hear the great news of the children we have been praying for and made cards for are doing well and the little girl, Constantina, will be ringing the bell soon at the hospital. Glory to God!

Classes for Adults will end the last Tuesday in May, which is May 27. They will reopen the first Tuesday of October.

May is also the month where the Ellinomatheas Exams are administered at St. Nicholas. We are the testing center for the Metropolis.

The children, their families, and our teachers: Theano Kiafa, Sophie Vroulou, Christina Retsou, Dimitra Agapitou, Aikaterina Mavriki, with Maria Stamoolis wish to everyone “Καλές Διακοπές.”



**SATURDAY
OF
LAZARUS
YOUTH
RETREAT
&
PALM
MAKING**



**HOLY WEDNESDAY,
HOLY THURSDAY
&
GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON
SERVICES**



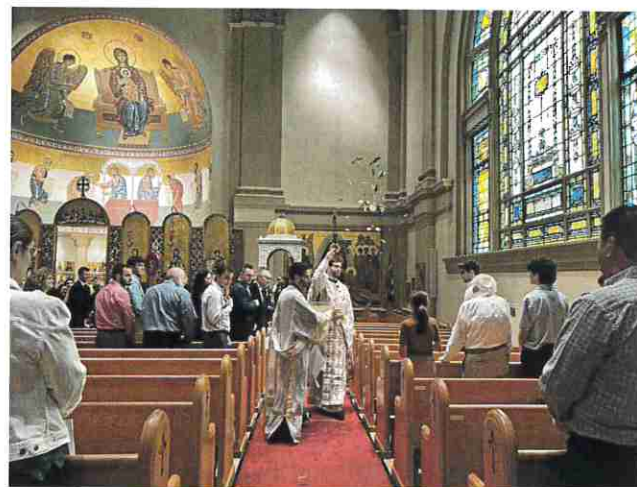
GOOD FRIDAY



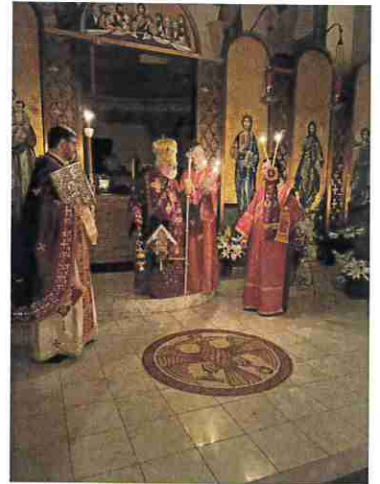
GOOD FRIDAY



HOLY SATURDAY MORNING AND CHRISMATION OF 3 NEW ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS



ANASTASI SERVICE



Easter Sunday AGAPE SERVICE & Easter Egg Hunt





St. John Chrysostom BOOKSTORE

*A Ministry of
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral*

**We invite you to visit us
during the food festival!**

Sunday, May 4 - Saturday, May 10

Bookstore Hours: 2-8 p.m.

**Books, icons, prayer supplies,
gifts and more!**

Located on the first floor past the atrium entrance.

JOIN CHAPTER ICAROS FOR THE 48th ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MINI CONVENTION DANCE!

Sunday, May 25, 2025 ~ 9:00pm-2:00am

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church Hall, 12 Washington Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139



Adults: \$25.00 Children (12 and under): \$5.00

Cash Bar ♦ Mezethes ♦ Chinese Raffle

Live Music with Ta Filarakia, featuring Victoria Mavrogeorgis on Violin!

Contact: Michelle Kotsagrelas at 412-680-1416 or mmk8317@hotmail.com

JOIN CHAPTER ICAROS FOR THE 23rd ANNUAL STEVE MANNERS ICARIAN OPEN



Steve Manners
5/25/1951 – 9/15/2000

Saturday, May 24, 2025

Meadowink Golf Course

4076 Bulltown Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

*Don't be left out! Get a foursome together, and we will
make foursomes as best we can for the rest.*

PRICE: \$115.00 includes green fees, cart, snack at turn, beer, & dinner

AGENDA: 12:00pm Registration

1:00pm Shotgun Start

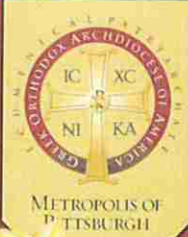
6:00pm Dinner



CONTACT: Anna Aivaliotis at 412-310-7290 or annaca@pitt.edu

Dress Code: Collared shirts. No cut-offs.
Reminder: PA LCB do not allow you to bring your own beer.

Remembering Mike Aivaliotis
3/12/1951 – 2/12/2025



VOLUME 9 NO. 13 ISSUE: 76

MAY 2025

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH PHILOPTOCHOS ANNUAL DAFFODIL LUNCHEON

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society held its annual Daffodil Luncheon on Saturday, April 5, 2025. The event was hosted by the Holy Trinity Pittsburgh Philoptochos with close to 130 guests from Philoptochos chapters across the Metropolis of Pittsburgh in attendance. Congratulations to Chapter president, Marianne Stearns, Assistant Treasurer, Sandy Schall, Fr. John Touloumes, and the entire Holy Trinity Daffodil Luncheon Committee for organizing and hosting a such a lovely event. From the beautiful centerpieces to the colorful balloon arch, every detail was perfectly executed! Approximately \$30,500 was raised from the luncheon that will benefit the Metropolis Philoptochos Seminarian Our Future Fund and the Emergency Fund. Banquet Center caterers and Holy Trinity parishioners, Evan and Kelley Kaparakos, generously provided the meal for the luncheon at no cost to the Philoptochos. Jeana Watenpool, president of the Pittsburgh North Chapter of the Mrs. Claus Club was the guest speaker. The Mrs. Claus Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing hope,



Daffodil Luncheon Committee with His Eminence Metropolitan Savas



From left to right: Joyce Spanakis, Marianne Stearns, Jeana Watenpool (President of the Mrs. Claus Club), Metropolitan Savas, Melissa Bradfield, Ursula Bresnei, and Sandy Schall

prayer, comfort baskets, and personal contact with individuals of all ages suffering from cancer. Jeana and others from the organization gave touching remarks about the work they do. On behalf of the Metropolis Philoptochos, President Joyce Spanakis, presented Jeana with a check for the Mrs. Claus Club in the amount of \$500. His Eminence Metropolitan Savas gave remarks, and in honor of National Poetry month and the Daffodil Luncheon theme, eloquently read the words in English of the Hymn of Kassiani from Holy Tuesday, a poignant poem entitled Easter in the Cancer Ward by Nicholas Samaras, and William Wordsworth's "I Wondered Lonely as a Cloud."

It was a beautiful day filled with love, fellowship, and joy! We give Glory to God for the blessings He gives to our Philoptochos so that we may in turn be a blessing to others.



YOUR CLERGY AT THE 2025 CLERGY FAMILY SPRING RETREAT



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas and the Metropolis of Pittsburgh clergy and families attended the Annual Clergy Family Spring Retreat at Antiochian Village Conference and Retreat Center in March.

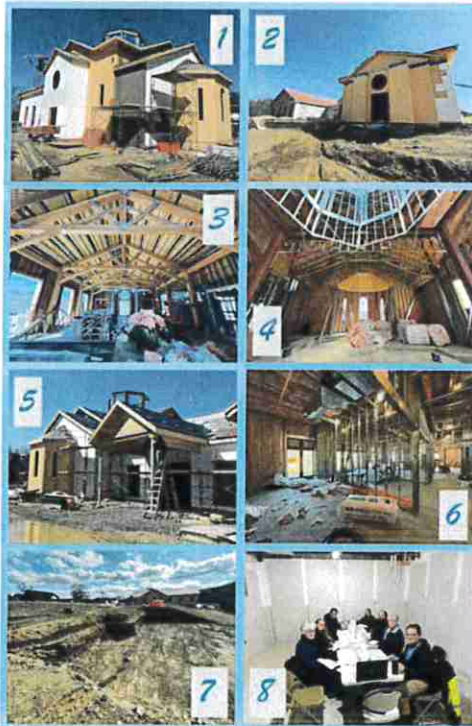
NEW METROPOLIS CENTER APRIL UPDATE

We are getting closer to the finishing line for the public fundraising campaign and the construction!

(Projected for late Summer/early Fall 2025). We cannot wait to open YOUR new Metropolis Center and share the wonderful facilities with YOU, the community of our Sacred Metropolis. Please consider a contribution to the campaign. For online donations please scan the QR code below or mail your donation 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.



1. Left - Social Hall, Right - Chapel
2. Main Entrance to Hall (at rear)
3. Social Hall
4. Chapel
5. Canopy Over Main Entrance
6. Offices
7. Residence Excavation
8. Meeting in Basement (Drywall)

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Metropolitan Savas invites YOU to the 2nd Annual **SAT. AUG. 23RD 11am - 9pm** **St. Demetrios Community Center 1225 ELLSWORTH ST. #1 PITTSBURGH, OH**

GOMOPALOOZA

Are You a Musician, Band or Artist?

Want to Perform or Display Art?

Contact Fr. Joe DiStefano
frjdistefano@yahoo.com

Free Admission

Fun for All the Family!

2 Music Stages

Kids Games

Art & Craft Exhibits

Food & Beverages

Free Parking

AUG. 23 2025

MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

All Proceeds go to the GOMoP Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Bands Solo Acts Arts & Crafts

Scan me!



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



MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 Greek School 10:00 a.m. St. Photios Awards Banquet
	Food Festival Set-up					
4 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. PGH Marathon	5	6	7	8	9	10
63 RD ANNUAL GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL MAY 4 - 10						
11 Sunday of the Paralytic Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Mother's Day	12	13 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Greek School Promotion Party (Small Hall) 10:00 a.m.
18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting, Elections & Food Drive	19 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	20 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	21 Saints Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	22	23	24 <i>Sacrament</i> 11:00 am
25 Sunday of the Blind Man Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	26 Memorial Day Divine Liturgy and Trisagion at Homewood Cemetery 9:30 a.m. Trisagion at Wilkinsburg Cemetery 12:00 noon	27 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	28 Leavetaking of Pascha <i>Pan-Orthodox Orthros and Liturgy at Holy Cross in Mt. Lebanon</i>	29 Ascension of our Lord Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	30	31
			31	St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical Festival (May 30-June 1)		

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

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www.stamoolisbros.com