



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PICNIC
in the Park
SUNDAY
7
SEPTEMBER

FOOD - FELLOWSHIP - FUN

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PICNIC
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

SCHENLEY PARK
AT THE VIETNAM
VETERANS PAVILION

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
412-736-2762
robertlykos@gmail.com

fr.ec@stnickspgh.org

Barbara Manners	Office Manager	412-682-3866
Mary Olszewski	Events Coordinator	412-628-4000
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

“But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each September, the Church calls our attention to the Cross—not only as an instrument of suffering, but as the very means of our salvation. The Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross (September 14) commemorates two historical events: the discovery of the true Cross by Saint Helen in the 4th century, and its recovery from the Persians in the 7th century after it had been taken during war. In both cases, the Cross was lifted high, elevated and exalted for all to see and to venerate. Even now, we raise the Cross—not as a relic of the past, but as the living testament and sign of Christ’s victory over sin and death.

And yet, Saint Paul reminds us that the Cross is not seen the same way by all. He writes, “But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles...” (1 Cor. 1:23). The Cross appears to many as a contradiction—how can an instrument of death be the very source of life?

But this is the paradox of the Gospel: what the world sees as defeat, we proclaim as victory. The Cross, once a symbol of humiliation, has become our ladder to heaven. It challenges the values of the world—pride, power, self-indulgence—and instead invites us to humility, self-sacrifice, and obedience to the will of God. To take up our cross means to live with courage, patience, and love, even when it is hard. It means forgiving those who have hurt us, staying faithful in the midst of suffering, and aligning our daily choices with Christ, who gave everything for our sake.

This is not easy. But Christ gives us strength. As He says: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). He does not ask us to carry our crosses alone.

In a beautiful hymn that we chant during the feast of the Cross, we proclaim: *O Cross, you are the guardian of the whole world... the believers’ firm support... the defeat of the demons.* This hymn reminds us that the Cross is not just a memory—it is a living force in the world, and in our lives.

Even something as simple as making the sign of the Cross becomes a silent prayer, a wordless confession of faith. Like the Jesus Prayer whispered in the heart, it reminds us

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

who we are (Christians) and whom we follow (Christ), who was lifted up on the Cross voluntarily to save us. Through His Cross, He bestows compassion upon us all and grants us His everlasting peace—not as escape from struggle, but as armor for the soul. The Cross is also our compass, guiding our thoughts and actions as we strive to walk the narrow path toward Christ.

There's a powerful story from the life of Saint Silouan the Athonite. A man once offered the saint a cigarette on a train. Saint Silouan accepted, but asked that they both make the sign of the Cross before smoking. The man replied, "I can't do that. That just feels wrong." And Saint Silouan gently said, "If it feels wrong to invoke the sign of the Cross before doing something, perhaps we should rethink what we are about to do."

The Cross is not just a symbol we wear or display—it is a guide for how we are to live.

And so, this month, let us lift up the Cross not only in our churches but in our hearts. Let us remember that while today's world may stumble at its message, we proclaim it as our strength, our glory, and our hope. And let us pray that our lives, too, may become a living sign—a symbol of the victory that Christ has won through the Cross.

Prayerfully yours,



† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

FUNERAL

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Vera Jane Poland* who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, July 12, 2025. Her funeral was on Thursday, July 16, 2025 at St. Nicholas Cathedral. May her memory be eternal.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Catherine Scales* who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. There was no public viewing or service. May her memory be eternal.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Mary Brahos* who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, June 27, 2025. Her funeral was on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in Braintree MA. May her memory be eternal.

PARISH COUNCIL

A New Year starting September 1st!

Acolytes, Chant, Choir, Church School, Food Festival Baking, GOYA, Greek Dance, Greek School, Little Angels/HOPE/JOY, Moms & Dads of St. Nicholas, Philoptochos, 60-Club, St. Chrysostom Bookstore and other ministries of the parish are preparing for the new Ecclesiastical Year.

Please join us Sunday, September 21, 2025, at the Ministries Sunday Open House for FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN! Each Ministry of the Church will have food and information about their Ministry. There is a place for **you** to get involved, in an environment that supports and motivates everyone in the life at St. Nicholas Cathedral.

It is up to us to make the Church the center of our lives, and focus on our Faith, through WORSHIP, SERVICE, EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH (Our Parish's Mission).

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Church!

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Marie Kotsagelos

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 7, 2025
(See attached flyer)

MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Sunday, September 21, 2025
(See attached flyer)

PANCAKES FOR A PURPOSE

Sunday, October 19, 2025
(See attached flyer)

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Keeping up with Parish Council:

We are changing to a new church management software, Realm. It will assist with our communication with the parish, as well as member data. More details forthcoming. 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.

PICNIC

in the
Park

SUNDAY

7

SEPTEMBER



FOOD - FELLOWSHIP - FUN

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PICNIC
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY



SCHENLEY PARK

**AT THE VIETNAM
VETERANS PAVILION**

FOOD FESTIVAL & BAKING, GREEK DANCE, GREEK SCHOOL, GOYA, LITTLE ANGELS, HOPE, JOY, MOMS & DADS, PHILOPTOCHOS, 60 CLUB, YAL, CHANTING, CHOIR, CHURCH SCHOOL,

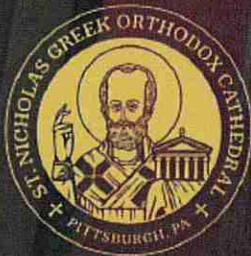
ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
PITTSBURGH, PA

MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Come and see how you can
get more involved in our
Cathedral Ministries

SEPTEMBER 21,
2025

FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY



www.stnickspgh.org
412-682-3866

STEWARDSHIP



Pancakes for a Purpose *Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism*

Our Saint Nicholas family has always answered the call to serve others. Fellowship, too, is at the heart of outreach. Beginning with the new ecclesiastical year, we are bringing these together in a new parish event: *Pancakes for a Purpose*, on Sunday, October 19, following the Divine Liturgy.

The purpose of this inaugural event is to unite the Saint Nicholas community in Fellowship and Outreach by giving back together to a cause beyond our usual avenues. This year, our love and support will be directed to Lending Hearts, chosen as the first recipient of our community's care for others.

Lending Hearts was founded by Vasso Paliouras as her way of giving back to pediatric patients and their families facing cancer. Many of you already know her sister, Constance Zotis, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 16. Their community came together in many ways to support Constance and her family during her treatment.

Today, Lending Hearts continues that spirit. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, it provides free, unique, and comprehensive services for pediatric patients and their families, offering emotional and supportive programs throughout treatment and into remission.

Join our Saint Nicholas family on October 19 for fellowship, pancakes, and more. Through your generosity, many patients and families will feel the love and care of our community.

Give from your hearts—for Lending Hearts—at this freewill event.

If you would like to volunteer or help sponsor the breakfast, please contact: Alexandra Davides at 412.956.6325 or Michelle Kotsagrelos at 412.680.1416.

See you on October 19!

Pancakes for a Purpose

Sunday, October 19

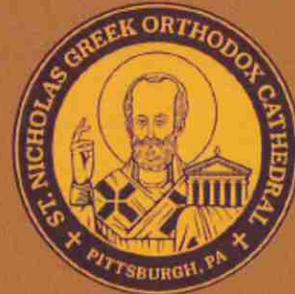
*St. Nicholas Cathedral Hall
following Divine Liturgy*

Our **purpose** is to give back to our local community.
This inaugural breakfast will benefit **Lending Hearts**.
Give from your heart, to this free-will event.

For more information, please contact:
Michelle Kotsagrelis or Alexandra Davides



Lending
Hearts



Gluten free options
will be available

2025 STEWARDSHIP

"YOUR OWN FROM YOUR OWN"

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



2025 STEWARDSHIP		06/30/2025
Total Stewards		249
Total Amount Pledged		\$144,906.00
Average Pledge		\$1,020.46
% Parish Participation to Date		83%
2024 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		56%
2025 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 255,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$142,164.23
As of:		06/23/2025
Income: Envelopes & Pledges, and Basket Collection	\$204,462.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$299,820.00	
	(\$ 95,358.00)	

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 | Mrs. Theodora Copetas | Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin |
| Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos | Mr. Vasili Copetas | Mrs. Elli Anne Karras & Mr. Kyle Glasser |
| Mrs. Michelle Ackerman | Mrs. Vasso Copetas | Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsois |
| Mr. William J. Adams and Ms. Constance Petros | Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas | Dr. & Mrs. Yianni Karvounides |
| James & Electra Agras | Mr. Gregory Countouris | Mr. Konstantinos Kasamias |
| Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Agras | Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig | Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas |
| Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis | Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos | Mr. Lee Katsafanas |
| Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos | Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos | Mr. Andron Kavouras |
| Ms. Anna Andrews | Ms. Bridgette Daugherty | Mr. Nicholas Kefal |
| Mr. Steven Andrews | Mrs. Denise Daugherty | Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos |
| Mrs. Elaine Andrianos | Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides | Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos |
| Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis | Mr. & Mrs. Robin Day | Ms. Elaine Keim |
| Mr. George Anthon | Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias | Mrs. Sandra Kemrer |
| Mrs. Jeanne Antonuccio | Mr. Anthony DeMatteo | Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas |
| Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou | Mrs. Christine DeMatteo | Ms. Nicole Klidas |
| Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos | Ms. Victoria Dionisos | Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis |
| Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou | Mr. Arthur J. Dordas | Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelis |
| Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris | Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris | Mr. Chris T. Kouklis |
| Mr. Arthur Baker | Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Doris | Ms. Christine Krelis [†] |
| Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris | Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt | Mr. Peter Krelis |
| Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber | Steve & Lydia Economou | Mr. & Mrs. Giorgios Krinis |
| Ms. Maria Bardakos | Mr. John Edgos | Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian |
| Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman | Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis | Mr. James S. Kukunas |
| Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman | Mrs. Elaine Ellis | Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas |
| Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel | Mr. & Mrs. James Elsen | Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Kypriotakis |
| Ms. Sophia Bender | Mr. Emmanuel Epitropoulos | Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros |
| Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom | Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos | Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lamprinakis |
| Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina | Mrs. Virginia Fekaris | Ms. Constantina Lardas |
| Ms. Pamela Bertos | Mrs. Olga Florence | Mrs. Kalliope Lardas |
| Mrs. Rebecca Bertos | Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank | Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas |
| Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos | Mr. & Mrs. John Frenzos | Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas |
| Mrs. Elaine Bolanis | Mrs. Alice Gary | Ms. Shqipe Latifi |
| Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Bouzos | Mr. & Mrs. William Gary | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno |
| Mrs. Mary Brahos | Mrs. Fran Gialamas | Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis |
| Ms. Krista Bullard | Mrs. Jamie Gori | Mr. Dean Leventopoulos |
| Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano | Mrs. Alexandra Gregory | Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos |
| Mrs. Elena G. Cerri | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory | Mr. Panagiotis Lidos |
| Mrs. Dee Chronis | Dr. & Mrs. Constantinos Hadjipanayis | Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky |
| Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos | Mr. & Mrs. James Hages | Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Lountziz |
| Ms. Theodora Constantine | Mrs. Aphrodite Halleran | Mrs. Janet Lykos |
| Mrs. Marion Constantinides-Bennett | Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna | Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin |
| Mr. Phillip Contacos | Mrs. Frances Hanna | Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam |
| Mrs. Eleni Contis | Dr. John Haretos | Ms. Karen Malobicky |
| Ms. Jamie Contis | Mr. Theodore Haretos | Mr. Christopher Mandros |
| Mr. & Mrs. George Contis | Mrs. Dena Haritos Tsamitis | Mrs. Eugenia Manganas |
| Mr. & Mrs. Nick Contis | Mrs. Rania Harris | Ms. Electra Markopoulou |
| Mrs. Sandra Contis | Ms. Maria Hnarakis | Mr. Gregory Markopoulou |
| Mrs. Alexandra Copetas | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg | Mr. & Mrs. Michail Marthas |
| Mr. Charles G. Copetas | Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis | Mrs. Helen Mastros |
| Mr. George Copetas | Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes | Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastros |
| Mrs. Helen G. Copetas | Mrs. Lucia Kalaras | Mrs. Dana Mathews |
| Mrs. Helen M. Copetas | Mr. & Mrs. John Kamarados | Mr. & Mrs. John C. McCann |
| Mrs. Maria Copetas | Mr. Peter Kamaras | Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure |
| Mr. & Mrs. Dino G. Copetas | Ms. Christine Kanakis | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire |
| | | Mrs. Patricia McKee |

2025 STEWARDSHIP, Continued



Mr. & Mrs. Christos Melacrinos
Mrs. Maria Menas
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
Mr. & Mrs. Casey Mindlin
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
Mr. Andrew Mitry
Mrs. Venetia Moreno
Mr. Paul L. Moses
Mrs. Filio Moshovakis
Mr. Mrs. Eric Paljug
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
Dr. George Pappas
Mr. John C. Paras
Mrs. Katherine Paras
Mr. Van Paras
Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Persinger
Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
Mrs. Stamatia Peters
Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolias
Mrs. Amal Philopes
Ms. Eleni Pikounis
Mrs. Vera Poland
Dr. Danae Powers
Mrs. Helene T. Powers
Mrs. Anastasia Raftis
Mr. George Raftis, II
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
Mr. Anastasios Raptis
Mrs. Kristina Rigoopulos & Mr. William Guttman
Mr. William Sfamenos
Mr. A. Robert Shott
Mr. Corran Smith
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. Nia Strintzis
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
Mr. Brett David Wells
Mrs. Debra Wiesen
Mr. & Mrs. David Williard
Ms. Franceska Xhakaj
Mr. Anthony Xyftis
Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras
Dr. Katerina Zavaras
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis
Mr. Michael Zikos

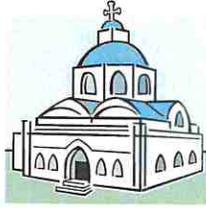


*Church School Schedule
2025-2026*



Sunday, September 21, 2025	Church School Begins with Agiasmo
Sunday, September 28, 2025	Great Race
Sunday, November 2, 2025	Godparent Sunday
Sunday, November 30, 2025	Thanksgiving Break
Sunday, December 7, 2025	St. Nicholas Bazaar
Sunday, December 21, 2025	Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 28, 2025	Christmas Break
Sunday, January 4, 2026	Church School Resumes & Vasilopita Cutting
Sunday, March 1, 2026	Sunday of Orthodoxy
Sunday, March 8, 2026	Church School Open House
Saturday, April 4, 2026	Breakfast/Retreat/Palm Making
Sunday, April 5, 2026	Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 12, 2026	Easter Sunday
Sunday, May 3, 2026	Pittsburgh Marathon
Sunday, May 10, 2026	Food Festival
Sunday, May 17, 2026	Commencement/Graduate Sunday
Sunday, September 21, 2025	No Classroom Attendance
Sunday, November 30, 2025	No Classroom Attendance
Sunday, December 28, 2025	No Classroom Attendance
Sunday, January 4, 2026	Participation in Procession
Saturday, April 4, 2026	Saturday of Lazarus
Sunday, April 5, 2026	Classroom Attendance
Sunday, April 12, 2026	No Classroom Attendance
Sunday, May 3, 2026	No Classroom Attendance
Sunday, May 10, 2026	No Classroom Attendance
Sunday, May 17, 2026	No Classroom Attendance

St. Nicholas Church School, Con't



Sunday, September 21, 2025, the bells will start to ring again for the beginning of Church School with an Agiasmo (Blessings of the Water)!

As the Church School Director I am looking forward to working with the teachers and **YOU** (the St. Nicholas parishioners) to enrich the lives of our children. St. Nicholas is our spiritual family and we all should take part in educating our **youth** (the **you** of tomorrow). As a community, we need to show our children our love and devotion to our Orthodox faith.

This year's Church School theme is "**Saints Alive.**" Each week in the bulletin, there will be information about different Saints that we, as Orthodox Christians, commemorate that week.

Every week your child is encouraged to bring "a donation" to Church School (this will help them learn the lesson of "stewardship"), plus, be assigned homework: Do something nice for someone!

Continuing this year, a Church School Choir! Psalteria Amy Hogg will continue to have special lessons with Church School students to teach them to chant the Divine Liturgy and quarterly will chant during Divine Liturgy.

Please take the time to look over the attached 2025-2026 Church School Calendar, fill out the registration form (and bring it on or before the 21st) and volunteer **your** time, talent, and treasure to help **our** children.

I would like to thank the parents in advance for sharing your children with us every Sunday! But what can you do to help? You can help our Church School program, in the final analysis, your child, by bringing him/her every Sunday. Encourage your child to tell you about the lesson taught for the day, as well as the craft brought home. Pray with your child. (Each lesson should begin and end with Prayer.) **Attend worship services together as a family; Divine Liturgy starts at 9:30 a.m.**

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

St. Nicholas Church School, Con't

**Registration Form
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Church School**

Parent's Names

Address

Phone Numbers

Home _____

Work _____

Cell _____

E-mail _____

Children	Grade	Birthday	Nameday	Allergies
----------	-------	----------	---------	-----------

May we call you to volunteer for one of our projects?

Substitute Teacher _____

Oratorical Festival _____

St. Nicholas Bazaar _____

Communion Breakfast _____

Christmas Pageant _____

Easter Egg Hunt _____

Snacks _____

Outreach Projects _____

Thanks for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

60 Club News

There will be slider lunch and business meeting in small hall **DECEMBER 5, after Liturgy.**

FOOD FESTIVAL

Yes! We're starting up again!! Be on the lookout for our upcoming food festival cooking, with one item in October and another in November.

GREEK SCHOOL

St. Nicholas Greek School for children will start on Saturday, September 13. The fun begins at 10 a.m. with all children accompanied by their parents reporting straight to the classes. Near the end of classes, an Aghiasmo (Blessing of the Waters) will take place, followed by the annual ice cream social. All registration forms and tuition will need to be turned in that day. This year Smart board presentations will be given by students which will enlighten everyone with the places in Greece, Cyprus, or other countries of their roots. Classes offered are from Pre -K to 7th. Children in Pre-K start at 4 years old. In order for a child to enter First in Greek School they must be in First Grade or higher in their American School.

Adult Greek lessons will be offered again on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. There are three levels offered with three different teachers. The teachers are k. Dimitra Agapitou, k. Christina Retsou, and k. Katerina Mavriki.

For more informations or to register for the children or the adult classes, e-mail Maria at mstamoolis@verizon.net

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year filled with much learning and enjoyment.

GREEK SCHOOL, Con't

**ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL
GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR CHILD
2025 - 2026**

Yearly Tuition for Children

1 student=\$250; 2 students =\$450; 3 students=\$675; 4 students=\$900
Make checks payable to St. Nicholas Cathedral with Greek School in the memo.

Child's LAST NAME (English&Greek) _____
 Child's First Name (English &Greek) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 HOME PHONE _____ primary CELL _____
 Primary E-MAIL _____
 Another CELL phone to receive info. _____
 Another E-MAIL to receive info. _____
 FATHER'S NAME (English & Greek) _____
 MOTHER'S NAME (English & Greek) _____
 School District Child Attends _____

Child's Age	Grade American School	Name Day	Birthdate	Grade Greek School	If Greek roots,name region

Any food allergies? Please list _____

IN case of EMERGENCY Εν ώρα ΑΝΑΓΚΗΣ Please give the names of relatives or other persons that could be reached. Children will be taken to Children's Hospital.

Emergency Name _____ PHONE _____
 Emergency Name _____ PHONE _____

Parent's Signature _____

Parent Volunteering – Your Help is Needed!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> serving on Greek School Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> with Costume fitting
<input type="checkbox"/> with St. Nicholas Bazaar
<input type="checkbox"/> with Christmas Caroling in nursing homes
<input type="checkbox"/> with copying | <input type="checkbox"/> Substituting
<input type="checkbox"/> March 25 th Luncheon
<input type="checkbox"/> setting up student activities
<input type="checkbox"/> with Bake Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> being a teacher's assistant |
|--|--|

Philoptochos News

As summer comes to an end we welcome a new member to our board, Elli Anne Karros. Along with this addition we have some changes to our officers.

Maria Bardakos, President
Cathy Pandeladis, Vice President
Michelle Kotsagrellos, Secretary
Denise Daugherty, Treasurer
Mary Peterson, Assistant Treasurer

Board Members: Elaine Andrianos, Alisa Balouris, Sophia Bender, Eve Elsen, Elli Anne Karras, Nicole Klidas, Marcie McGuire, and Joanne Melacrinos.

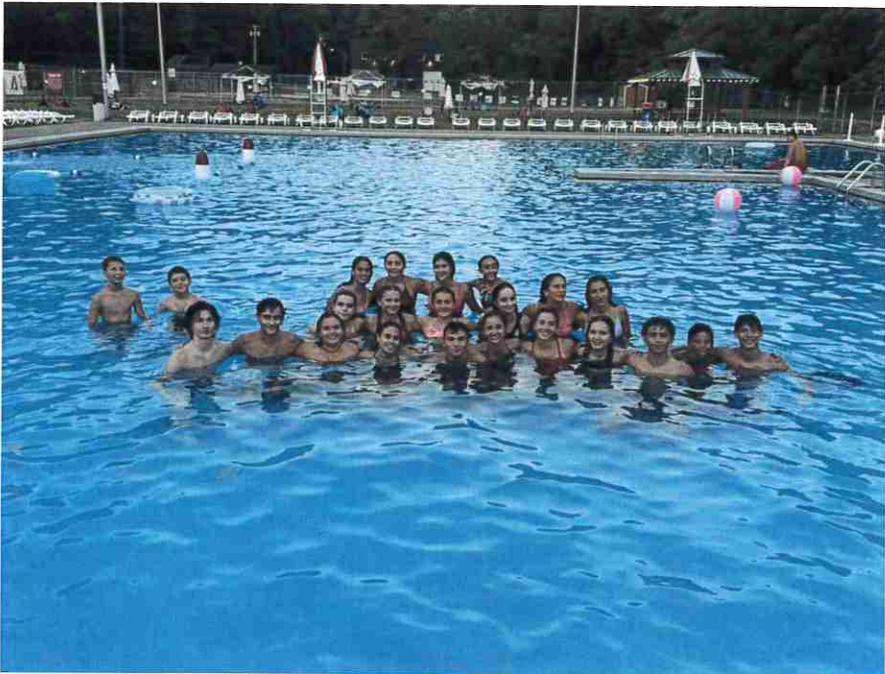
Our affirmation is scheduled for September 7, 2025 in the church proper.

As always, I am humbled and honored to again lead this amazing group of women in our efforts and outreach. If you know anyone in need of our assistance please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the board members or to me directly.

Yours in Christ,
Maria Bardakos
Philoptochos President
412-519-8684
Respectfully,
Maria Bardakos

GOYA NEWS

Our 2025-26 Goya season has kicked off and our Goyans couldn't be more excited! In August, we had an awesome kickoff party at the Avonworth pool. We have a new list of officers for the year with Houston and Nina as our new co presidents, Yoanna and Evangelos are our vice presidents, Marialena, Brooke, and Polina as our secretaries, and Demetri as our treasurer. We can't wait for the season to progress and see what September brings us.



Welcome Brunch for College Students 8.24.25

Welcome Brunch for College Students

Every year when colleges begin their fall semester in the Pittsburgh area, our St. Nicholas Cathedral Moms and Dads hosts the Annual Welcome Brunch for Students. This year the Brunch took place on Sunday, August 24, after Divine Liturgy. Fr. Eleftherios extended a warm welcome to the new and returning students on behalf of the Cathedral community and a group photograph was taken in church. It was a wonderful event and attended by many students, along with their families, enrolled at the surrounding colleges and universities. We are grateful to be able to host these students and want to let them know that they are welcome at St. Nicholas Cathedral during their time here in Pittsburgh. We met students from as far away as Greece, Virginia, New Jersey, Boston, Columbus, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Stroudsburg, Philadelphia and Bethlehem who are attending schools in Pittsburgh.

Thank you to the more than fifty volunteers who helped make this event possible through their donations of food (brunch casseroles, spanakopita, cheese/olives, fruit, pasta, Greek potato, and Mediterranean salads) and home baked goodies (brownies, cookies, cakes, finikia) along with monetary donations to help offset the cost of the event. Also, a big thank you to those who gave their time to set up, decorate, serve, clean up and socialize with the students. Every student received a welcome bag full of snacks, home baked koulourakia, chocolate chip cookies, a Starbucks gift card along with a welcome letter from Fr. Eleftherios, flyers about our church picnic, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), and young adult basketball and volleyball. Additionally, the students were informed that they are able to come to the Cathedral during normal business hours if they need a quiet place to study. We also collected their contact information so that we will be able to send information about our church life and activities throughout the year.

New this year, one lucky student got to take home the giant gift basket filled with Pittsburgh themed goodies along with a gift card to our St. Nicholas Bookstore.



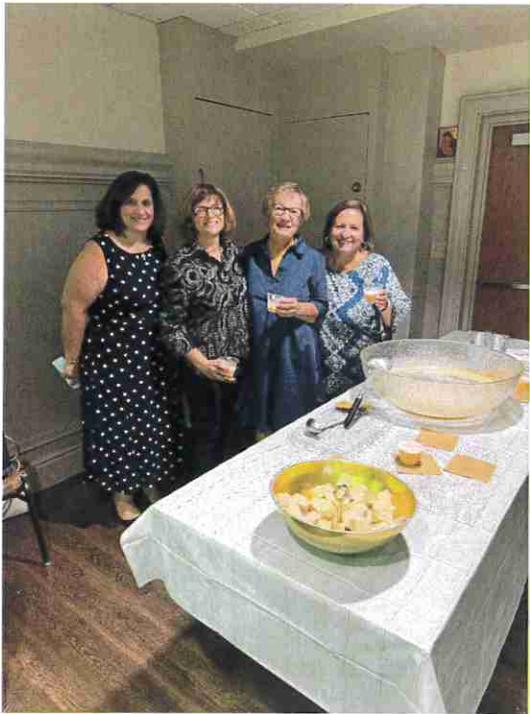
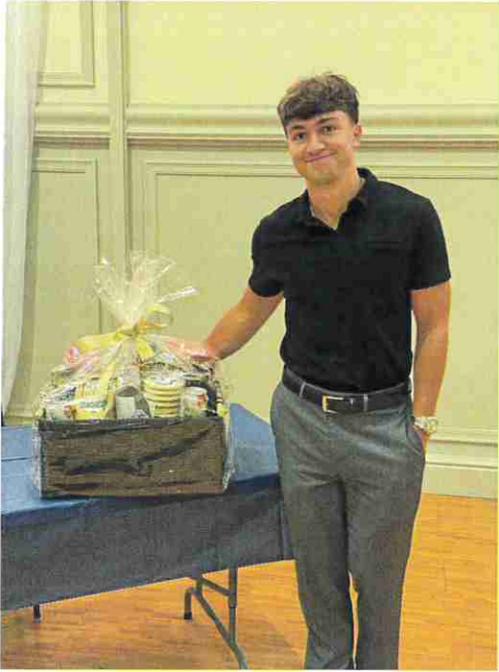
Welcome Brunch for College Students 8.24.25



Welcome Brunch for College Students 8.24.25



Welcome Brunch for College Students 8.24.25



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.



*St. John Chrysostom
Bookstore*

SEPTEMBER 2025

THURS
SEPT **11**

***Open During Registration of the 3rd
Annual Synaxis of Orthodox Women
Byzantine Cantors
3:00 PM - 5:30 PM***

SAT
SEPT **13**

***Open During First Day of Greek School
and the 3rd Annual Synaxis of Orthodox
Women Byzantine Cantors
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM***

SUN
SEPT **21**

***Visit Our Table at Ministries Sunday
Following Divine Liturgy***

SUN
SEPT **28**

Closed due to the Great Race

✉ bookstore@stnickpgh.org

*Gerontissa Theophano and the Sisters warmly welcome you to the
Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery
Summer Feast Days*

31st Memorial Commemoration for Gerontissa Taxiarchia

August 2nd - Saturday

9:00 am: Hours, Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service - Lunch Follows

In 2014, on the 20th Anniversary of the repose of Gerontissa Taxiarchia, we launched the capital campaign to build the new Monastery, something Gerontissa Taxiarchia greatly desired. Since then, all proceeds commemorating our Holy Gerontissa have gone to the construction project.

We invite you to come and honor her by attending the Memorial Commemoration and donating in her memory to complete the new Church.



**Prophet Elias
Feast Day**

July 18th - Friday
5:00 pm: Vespers, Orthros

July 19th - Saturday
9:00 am:
Hours, Divine Liturgy - Lunch Follows



**Nativity of the Theotokos
Feast Day**

September 5th - Friday
5:00 pm: Vespers, Orthros

September 6th - Saturday
9:00 am:
Hours, Divine Liturgy - Lunch Follows



Come to the Monastery with your family!

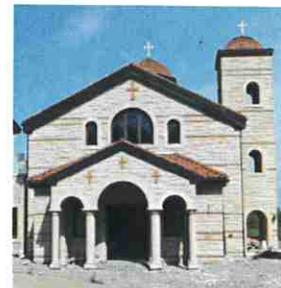
Enjoy our home-made pastries, frappes & items made by the Sisters, available for purchase.

**Become a part of completing a Monastery Church, a rare occurrence in America!
Donate for the Glory of God & the intercessions of His Holy Mother, The Theotokos.**

*Visitors should be modestly dressed for all visits to the Monastery.
Women are asked to wear long skirts & men to wear long pants, socks with sandals & shoes*

Please RSVP so that the Monastery has adequate hospitality:
Email us: info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org OR Call us: (724) 352 - 3999
Visit our web site & browse our Online Gift Shop & place preliminary orders at our web site:
www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

Thank you for your love and support!



OPA!

YOU'RE INVITED TO A GREEK VILLAGE-STYLE **GLENDI!**

Get ready for an unforgettable night in Pittsburgh with
GREEK MUSIC, DANCING, FOOD AND KEFI

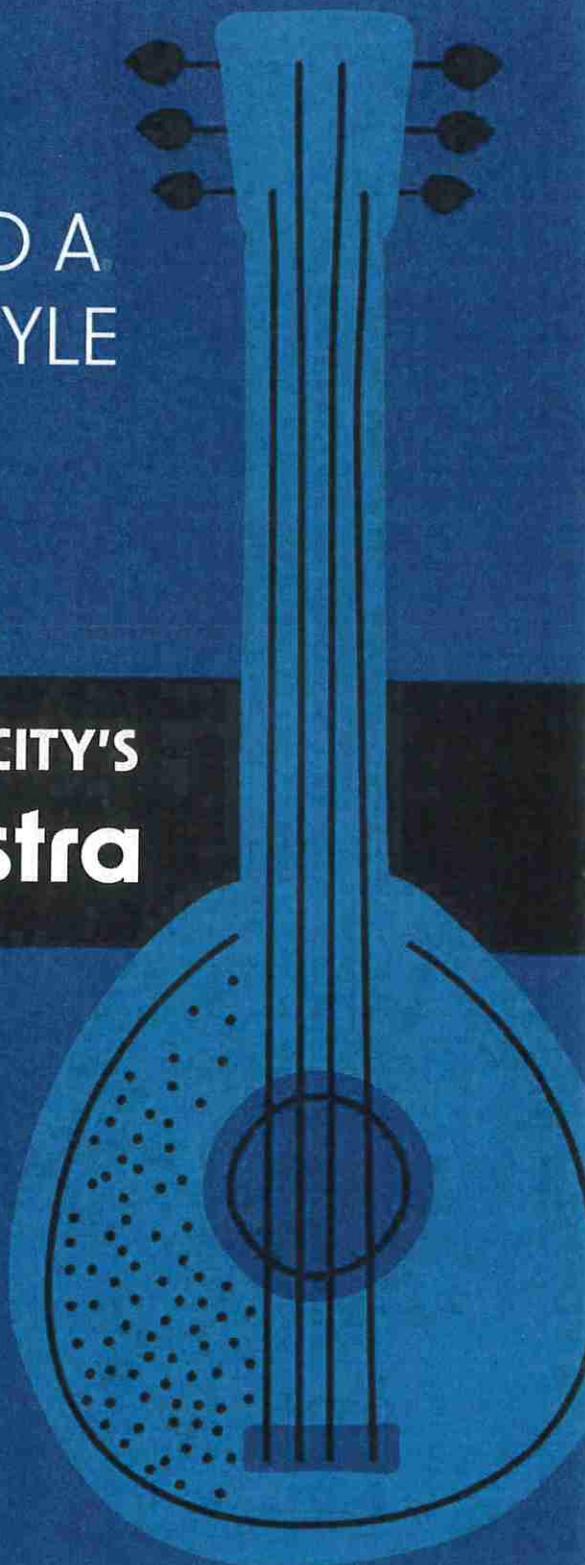
FEATURING NEW YORK CITY'S **Apollo Orchestra**

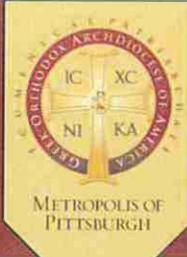
- Traditional dinner, dancing and a vibrant Greek atmosphere
- Celebrate culture, community, and connection!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
beginning at 6:00 PM

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Visit www.HolyCrossPGH.org for more information and to purchase your tickets.





VOLUME 9 NO. 5 ISSUE: 80

SEPTEMBER 2025

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH





SCAN FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS





2025 CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 2025
Registration opens 4:00pm
(Clergy 11:30am)

Annunciation Cathedral Columbus, OH
555 N High St, Columbus OH 43215-2068

pittsburgh.goarch.org/2025-assembly

SCAN FOR CLA REGISTRATION



Lodging:
Hampton Inn & Suites Columbus - Downtown
501 North High St, Columbus, OH 43215

Group Rate available until 09.03.2025

Use Group Rate Code: 92E or Metropolis Clergy Laity 2025 block

Call: 614-559-200

info@pittsburgh.goarch.org | 412 621 5529 | pittsburgh.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Family Camp

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025 | CAMP NAZARETH

"Honoring the Sabbath"

In the busyness of life, how can families slow down together?

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Adult Track: Priscilla Callos, MDiv, RBC, CT
Youth Track: Marina Giannirakis, MSW, MPS

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES! REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 14.



Scan our QR Code for more info!

Questions? Contact Fr. Joe DiStefano at
frjdistefano@yahoo.com

Blessed by His Eminence, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the Holy Synaxis of the Orthodox Church in America...

THE 3RD ANNUAL | 2025
**SYNAXIS OF ORTHODOX WOMEN
BYZANTINE CANTORS**

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
419 South Dithridge Street | Pittsburgh, PA | 15213 | USA

September 11 -
Thursday afternoon to Sunday midday **September 14**
Culminating on the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

\$250 per participant*
Includes all meals, workshops, e-music packet, & more

Blessed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, this synaxis (coming together) of female cantors from across the country and the world for Orthodox Christian worship, education, and practice in the Public Art was the first event of its kind in the USA and is celebrating for its third year in a new region of the country.

Workshop Instructors

 Irene Bullock
 Amy Hogg
 Sarah Roumas
 Phofoi Dowrie Robinson

Featured Presenter
Father Eleftherios Constantine
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Teaching License in Byzantine Music,
Central Music Conservatory of Thessaloniki



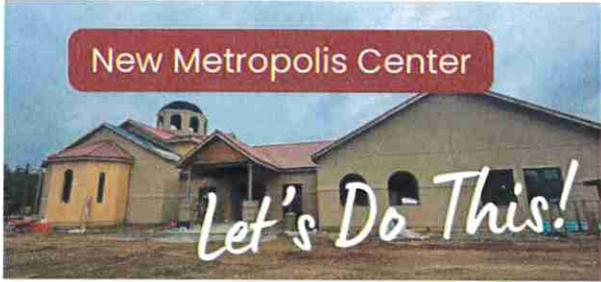
Register online before August 15!



*Additional Costs, Travel and Accommodations

REGISTRATION, Travel Info, and more at: www.stnick.org/synaxis2025

Metropolis Newsletter, Con't



New Metropolis Center

Our campaign goal is within sight! Please consider a donation to the campaign.

**New Metropolis Center
PO Box 640729
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-0729**

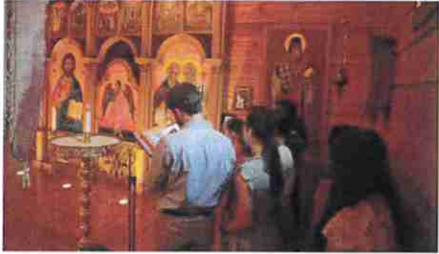


SUMMER CAMP - THIS IS THE WAY



This year's theme was "This is the Way" which focused on The Cross of Christ.

"My yoke is easy and my burden is light," Jesus was speaking to the multitudes when He said these words. At that time they didn't know what His physical or His spiritual burden would be. We know that the spiritual burden would be the weight of our sins. But the physical burden... The Cross. Only the power of Jesus Christ and His love for us can take the epitome of pain, humiliation and defeat and turn it into the perfect instrument of healing, exultation and victory. He has done this for us and calls us to come after Him, step by step, walking with our Cross toward our victory with Him and our ultimate JOY.



MONDAY: We talked about how sin entered the world and how only Christ, fully God and fully man, could save us. The Cross was part of God's plan from the beginning—like the Tree of Life in Eden.

TUESDAY: We looked at Old Testament stories—Abraham, Moses, and others—where signs of the Cross appeared. These moments showed God was always preparing us for Christ's sacrifice.

WEDNESDAY: We learned how Christ's death on the Cross happened exactly as the Scriptures said. Even the smallest details were part of God's plan to save us.

THURSDAY: We saw that Christ chose the Cross with love and strength. In the Church, the Cross is lifted high, not as a sign of loss, but of victory.

FRIDAY: Jesus tells us to take up our own cross. That means living with love, sacrifice, and helping others. The Church helps us do this together, as one Body in Christ.



In addition to our curriculum, our days were filled with Orthodox Life Sessions, Discussion Groups, Water & Land Olympics, Activities, Campfires, Music, and Arts and Crafts. Friendships were formed and connections were created by living our Faith in an Orthodox Christian Camp Community.



We are appreciative of all of the support from our families, parishes, donors, and the many prayers! It is a true joy to see our campers love one another and grow in their Orthodox Faith each summer!

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




SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;">Fr. Eleftherios will be away from the office Aug. 25 – Sept. 10</div>	2	3 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	4 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	5	6 <i>Feastday Celebration at Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg 9am</i>
7 Sunday Before Holy Cross Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	8 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">3rd Annual Synaxis of Orthodox Women Byzantine Cantors September 11-14</div>	12	13 First Day of Greek School Greek School 10am
14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthros 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	15 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	16	17 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	18 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	19	20 Greek School 10am
21 Sunday after Holy Cross Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. MINISTRIES SUNDAY First Day of Church School	22 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy Laity Assembly in Columbus, OH</div>	26	27 Greek School 10am <i>Sacrament – Wedding</i>
28 1st Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. <i>(PGH Great Race)</i>	29 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	30				

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

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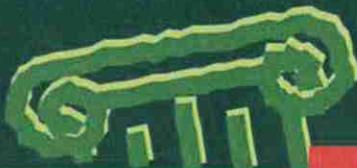
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www.stamoolisbros.com