



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



*Glory to
God in the
highest, and
on earth,
PEACE, and
goodwill
towards
mankind*

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	412-682-4000
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)
 James Hages (412-523-7937)
 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

December 2025

"Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christ is come from heaven! Go and meet Him! Christ is on earth! Arise to Him! Sing to the Lord, all you inhabitants of earth, and all you peoples, praise Him, and with merriment extol Him who is glorified!"

(1st Ode of the Christmas Katavasies)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year, as the joyous Feast of our Lord's Nativity approaches, we are greeted with these words: "Christ is born! Glorify Him!" This ancient hymn has a sense of exuberant joy and a sort of urgency. It invites us not merely to commemorate Christ's birth, but to respond to it. "Go and meet Him," the hymn proclaims. "Arise to Him." In other words: we must not remain still. We must not remain unchanged. The coming of Christ calls forth a response from the entirety of creation, and from each and every one of us.

But how are we to respond? Another hymn of Christmas tells us that the angels responded with song, the shepherds with wonder, the Magi with faithful seeking, the heavens responded with a Star, the earth with a humble Cave, and all peoples with praise. And so, echoing throughout the ages, we are today placed among them: "Sing to the Lord, all you inhabitants of earth!" This is not an invitation for just a chosen few, but is a universal call offered to every person's heart willing to respond with praise and glory for our Savior—for God becomes a human being to save us.

And yet, the hymn does more than merely call us to worship. Its urgency reminds us that Christ does not enter this world abstractly, but personally. He comes from heaven and is on earth. God is everywhere present and filling all things: entering our homes, our relationships, our struggles, and our hopes. The Incarnation is not simply a mystery to be observed, but a reality to be met. To "go and meet Him" means to make room for Him in the rhythm of our daily lives: in our prayers, in our compassion for others, in our willingness to be transformed by His presence.

To "arise to Him" is to allow His coming to lift us up out of our complacency, out of our spiritual weariness, and out of the shadows that may cloud our hearts. Christ comes to raise us to new life in Him, casting off the old man (as St. Paul teaches) to restore our dignity as His beloved children, and to rekindle our joy. But like the Magi, who traveled from afar, and like the shepherds, who left their flocks, our rising equires movement.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

It requires μετάνοια-repentance in the sense of a turning of the mind and heart, and a willingness to reorient our live by leaving behind whatever prevents us from drawing near to Christ.

During this sacred season, let us listen attentively to the hymn's exhortation. Let us go to meet Christ through our prayer and worship, and by our service to one another. Let us rise to Him by offering every aspect of our lives to God as humble signs of gratitude for His immeasurable gift to us. And let us join all of creation in glorifying the One who comes not only into the world, but into the depths of every willing heart.

May the joy of our Lord's Nativity fill each of our homes with hope and peace, joy and gladness. And may our hearts be ever ready to go, to receive, to arise, and to glorify the One who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation.

Prayerfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "+Fr. E. Constantine".

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Wedding

Congratulations to Dominic Boston & Theodora Constantine who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Nicholas Cathedral on Saturday, November 1, 2025. The Koumbara was Gavrielia Constantine. May God grant them many years!

Baptism

With much joy, we welcome into our Family of faith Katerini Karvounides. She is the daughter of John & Lisa Karvounides and was baptized on Saturday, November 28, 2025. Her Godmother is Constantina Lardas.

PARISH COUNCIL

"Let us **RISE UP AND BUILD**" Nehemiah 2:18

Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? Is it the **GIFTS**?

Now, before you pull out your credit cards, I would like you to think about the idea of gift-giving as a wonderful faith tradition.

We are beginning our 2026 Stewardship Campaign and must carefully assess our efforts of contribution and sacrifice to help our community continue its mission: "To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a spirit of Unity and Love for All through WORSHIP, SERVICE, EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH."

Please use **your gifts** of **TIME, Talent & treasure** to St. Nicholas. Every good gift is, indeed, from the Father. Enjoy them and share them by signing up for any of the parish's many ministries.

As we approach Christmas, St. Nicholas Parish Council would like to thank all volunteers and parishioners of our community for their support, friendship and care they have provided in 2025.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Marie Kotagrebos

St. Nicholas Nameday Vespers & Reception by Parish Council

Friday, December 5, 2025
6:30 p.m.

St. Nicholas Nameday Liturgy & Luncheon

Saturday, December 6, 2025
9:30 a.m.

Stewardship Sunday, St. Nicholas Bazaar & Parish Council Elections

Sunday, December 7, 2025
(See attached flyer)

Homewood Cemetery

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Greek Section

There are currently 23 graves available for purchase.

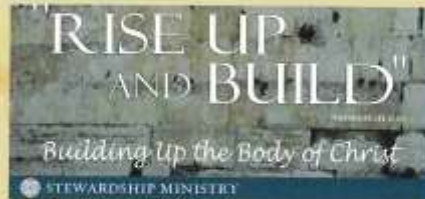
Cost per grave:

\$2,800.00 per grave for a member of St. Nicholas.
\$3,300.00 per grave for non-member.

Contact the Church Office at 412-682-3866 for further information.



SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, December 7th

Stewardship Sunday

For More Information

412-682-3866

www.sttnickspgh.org

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

DECEMBER 7, 2025

DURING
THE BAZAAR

VOTE





Join Us For
The Annual

Gt. Nicholas Day
BAZAAR

12.07.25

Following Divine Liturgy

Food - Games - Fun
Loukamades - Shopping

Special Guest Appearance From
The Man In The RED Suit!



**SEND
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
WITH
THE 2025
ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL
CHRISTMAS CARD**

Suggested \$25 donation benefits our beloved Cathedral!

Name _____

**List of names
(please print)**

Kindly return this form, along with your check
(made payable to St. Nicholas Cathedral), and mail to:

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

All names MUST be submitted NO LATER than December 7, 2025!

Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!

Please help us decorate
our beloved Cathedral
with beautiful poinsettias for the
Nativity Season.

Name _____

Please list the names of your loved ones
to be remembered
at every Divine Liturgy through Christmas.

For the Health of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Suggested Donation \$25.00
Online at: www.stnickspgh.org
Click Online Giving
or

Please make check payable to
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Memo: Poinsettia
Mail to: 419 S. Dithridge Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN
DECEMBER 7, 2025.



Winter Coat Drive



December 1-31, 2025

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

We are looking for new or clean & slightly used coats
to donate to Pittsburgh area shelters this winter season.

Please drop off coats in the bin by the Church Office.



2025 CHRISTMAS *Services*



CHRISTMAS EVE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

ROYAL HOURS

3:30 P.M.

VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

5:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

FESTAL ORTHROS

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

9:30 A.M.



STEWARDSHIP

November 2025

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Book of Nehemiah, we hear the call: *“Let us rise up and build”* (Nehemiah 2:18). These words were spoken in a time of renewal, when the people of God gathered together with faith and courage to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem which had fallen into ruin. And yet, they were not only restoring walls, but renewing their hope, their unity, and their trust in God.

Today, that same call echoes in our hearts. To *rise up and build* means to strengthen what God has entrusted to us: our Cathedral, its ministries, and the spiritual life we share as the Body of Christ. Like the faithful of Nehemiah’s time, we are called to take up our tools—our time, our talents, and our treasure—and labor together in the Lord’s vineyard.

Our stewardship is not simply about sustaining what we have, but also about transforming what we can become through God’s grace. Every gift offered in love is a building block in His Kingdom. When we give, we build. However, we don’t only build walls or programs, but people and possibilities. We build up faith in the hearts of our children, hope in the neighbor we serve, and love within the life of our parish.

We are reminded by St. Peter that, *“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house”* (1 Peter 2:5). Together, we form that living Church, strengthened by each act of love, by each offering of ourselves, by each prayer, and by each step of faith. As we look toward the future, may we hear again the words of Nehemiah and answer them with one heart and voice: *Let us rise up and build!*

As you prayerfully consider your 2026 Stewardship Commitment, know that your offering—whatever it may be—helps our Cathedral to grow in faith, serve with compassion, and shine as a beacon of Christ’s love in this city and beyond. Thank you for being a vital part of our Cathedral family, and for helping to build up the life of our Church through your love, your prayers, and your presence.

With profound gratitude and prayers,

Fr. Eleftherios Constantine
Cathedral Dean

2025 STEWARDSHIP

"Your Own from Your Own"

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



2025 STEWARDSHIP		11/25/2025
Total Stewards		289
Total Amount Pledged		\$167,283.00
Average Pledge		\$ 984.02
% Parish Participation to Date		95%
2025 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		65%
2025 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 255,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$224,269.67
As of:		11/04/2025
Income: Envelopes & Pledges, Basket Collection & Food Festival	\$597,730.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$606,296.00	
	(\$ 8,566.00)	

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

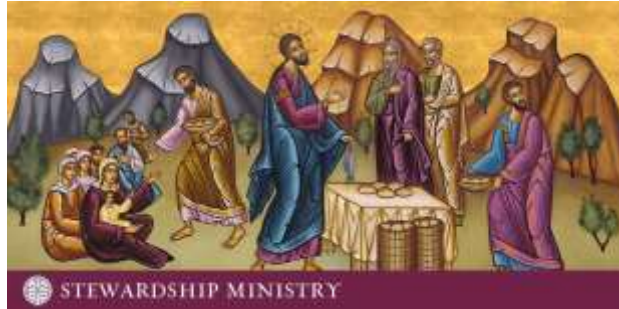


Fr. Eleftherios & Presvytera Elizabeth Constantine
 Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Mr. Alexander Abrams
 Mrs. Michelle Ackerman
 Mr. William J. Adams and Ms. Constance Petros
 James & Electra Agras
 Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Agras
 Dr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis
 Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Andrianos
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis
 Mr. George Anthon
 Mrs. Jeanne Antonuccio
 Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou
 Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris
 Mr. Arthur Baker
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Barber
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
 Ms. Sophia Bender
 Mr. Christopher Bennett
 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
 Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas
 Mrs. Dee Chronis
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Mrs. Theodora Constantine & Mr. Dominic Boston
 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
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. Vasili Copetas
 Mrs. Vasso Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mr. Gregory Countouris
 Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig
 Dr. & Mrs. John DaPos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
 Ms. Bridgette Daugherty
 Mrs. Denise Daugherty
 Dr. & Mrs. K.C. Davides
 Mr. & Mrs. Robin Day
 Mr. & Mrs. 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
 Ms. Carol Elsser
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Epitropoulos
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Faines
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 Mrs. Olga Florence
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mr. & Mrs. John Frentzos
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. William Gary
 Drs. Athan & Lydia Georgiades
 Mrs. Frances Gialamas
 Mrs. Jamie Gori
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory
 Dr. & Mrs. Constantinos Hadjipanayis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hages
 Mrs. Aphrodite Halleran
 Mrs. Christina Hammerling
 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. Andrew Janis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kalabokes
 Mrs. Lucia Kalaras
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kamarados
 Mr. Peter Kamaras
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Dr. & Mrs. Geprge Kappakas
 Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin
 Mrs. Elli Anne Karras & Mr. Kyle Glasser
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsoitis
 Dr. & Mrs. Yianni Karvounides
 Mr. Konstantinos Kasamias
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. Andron Kavouras
 Mr. Nicholas Kefal
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Ms. Elaine Keim
 Mrs. Sandra Kemrer
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Ms. Nicole Klidas
 Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis
 Mrs. Estair Kotsagrelos
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrelos
 Mr. Chris T, Kouklis
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Mr. Peter Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. Giorgios Krinis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian
 Mr. James S. Kukunas
 Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas
 Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Kypriotakis
 Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros
 Mr. Nicholas Labrakopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lamprinakos
 Ms. Constantina Lardas
 Mrs. Kalliope Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Ms. Shqipe Latifi
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
 Mr. Richard Lepidi
 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

2025 STEWARDSHIP, Continued



Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Mr. & Mrs. James L. Machin
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mrs. Kay Mandalakas
 Mr. Christopher Mandros
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos
 Mr. Gregory Markopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Michail Marthas
 Mrs. Helen Mastro
 Mr. & Mrs. Costa Mastro
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastro
 Mrs. Dana Mathews
 Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Mavrogeorgis
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. McCann
 Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
 Mrs. Patricia McKee
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos Melacrinos
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Mellas
 Mrs. Maria Menas
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
 Mr. & Mrs. Casey Mindlin
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
 Mrs. Georgia Mitrakos
 Mr. Andrew Mitry
 Mrs. Venetia Moreno
 Mr. Paul L. Moses
 Mrs. Filio Moshovakis
 Mr. Jacob Murray
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nychis
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Paljug
 Mrs. Tara Pallas-Sheetz
 Ms. Alexandra Panagis
 Ms. Sophia Panagis
 Ms. Catherine E. Pandeladis
 Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantinos Panousis
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Papanikolaou
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
 Dr. George Pappas
 Mr. John C. Paras
 Mrs. Katherine Paras
 Mr. Van Paras
 Mrs. Constance Paras -Jennings
 Ms. Maria Patterson
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
 Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Persinger
 Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
 Mrs. Stamatia Peters

Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolas
 Mrs. Amal Philopes
 Ms. Eleni Pikounis
 Mr. George Pilafas
 Mrs. Vera Poland⁺
 Dr. Danae Powers
 Mrs. Helene T. Powers
 Mrs. Anastasia Raftis
 Mr. George Raftis, II
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mr. Anastasios Raptis
 Mr. Robert Reitz
 Mrs. Kristina Rigoopoulos & 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
 Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Stepanow
 Mr. Paul Stillman
 Mrs. Stella Stratigos
 Mr. Demetri Strauch
 Mr. Nicholas 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
 Mrs. Chrisoula Torlidas
 Mr. Peter Tsoukalas
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
 Mr. Athanasios Tsourekis
 Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
 Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis
 Mrs. Panagiota Vasilakis
 Mrs. Stella Vassilaros
 Mr. & Mrs. Achilles Vassilicos
 Mr. & Mrs. John Velisaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Orestis Velisaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
 Ms. Eugenia Vergis

Mrs. Angela Vergos
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vergos
 Mr. Adam Viccaro
 Mr. John Vitsas
 Ms. Jane Voros
 Mr. Sarantos Vrettacos
 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
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Zotis



2026 STEWARDSHIP



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Pittsburgh, PA

2026 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 2026 \$ _____ 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

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

ST. NICHOLAS BUILDING FUND BUDGET

In the last Newsletter, the 2025 projected income and expenses for our Cathedral were summarized and the budgets for 2026 presented. This article will summarize the budgets for the St. Nicholas Building Fund.

The purpose of the Building Fund is to pay for any significant repairs and to pay for updates to our facilities. The Building Fund is financed by the Food Festival Ad Book, by In-Memory donations, and other individual donations and bequests. In 2025, the Ad Book profited 20,000, In Memory donations were \$14,000, and donations were \$9, 000. There was an additional \$8,500 in interest income.

The projects completed in 2025 were

- Replaced one of the AC Compressors for the small hall
- Purchased new microphones for the Altar
- Painted the large hall, fellowship room, and the kitchen (labor donated)
- Purchased dishes and flatware to fill gaps in our service for events

The planned projects planned for 2026 include

- Replace the 9 remaining single pane windows in the old portion of the building
- Rebuild the 2 stained glass window panels where the lead is giving way
- Replace the fogged large Atrium Window
- Replace 2 broken room AC units
- Purchase a generator to provide back up power for the freezer and cooler
- Remove the large dead tree in our green space.

The Building Fund has two accounts. The primary account is a PNC Money Market, and we have a Wells Fargo Investment account, whose holdings are dedicated to funding the replacement of the Cathedral roof. Approximate current balances

Building Fund Money Market - \$315,000
Roof Replacement Fund - \$152,000

In 2025, the Foundation Fund granted \$25,000 of its income to the Roof Replacement Fund.

Thanks to parishioner support, the St. Nicholas Building fund can continue to maintain our large facility, which provides a home for our many important Church Ministries.

A Look Ahead...

2026 Food Festival Preparations

Food festival preparations will be picking up again in January starting with three big sellers. We appreciate all help.

The turnout for Baklava and Moussaka was amazing.

Spanakopita, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, January 7, 8 and 9

Souzoukakia, Friday and Saturday, January 16 and 17

Pastitsio, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 27 and 28, (possibly Thursday, January 29).



St. Nicholas Church School

From the Church School Desk!

Church School will again have a **Bake Sale** at the **St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**, as well as sponsor a Balloon artist.

The Church School children will present their **Christmas Pageant** under the direction of Joanna Darakos on **Sunday, December 21, 2025**. Please refer to the enclosed practice schedule for further details.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School is preparing for their Holiday Outreach Project: We are looking for hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. for **NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT'S Project Bundle-up** to decorate our tree. Thanks in advance for your warm winter accessories and teaching the children the gift of giving.

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

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season!

Yours in Christ
Miss Michelle

CHURCH SCHOOL

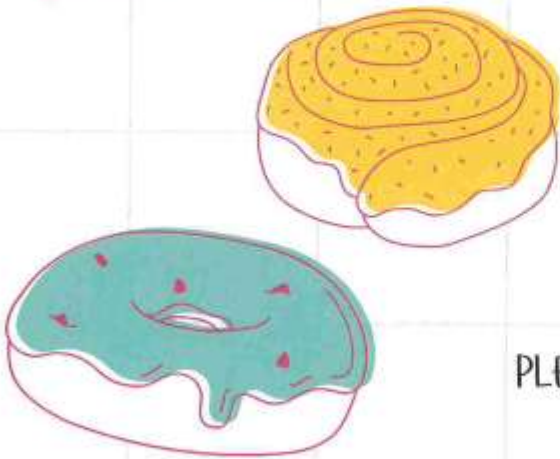
Bake
Sale



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR

PLEASE BRING 2 DOZEN BAKED GOODS



QUESTIONS:
CONTACT
SOPHIA BENDER
412-999-1391



**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule**

Sunday, November 23, 2025
For 45 minutes immediately following the Divine Liturgy for all children

Sunday, December 7, 2025
During Church School for Nursery-6th Graders

Sunday, December 14, 2025
For 45 minutes immediately following the Divine Liturgy for all children

Saturday, December 20, 2025
42:45 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Final Rehearsal for all children

Sunday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Pageant in Church

QUESTIONS?

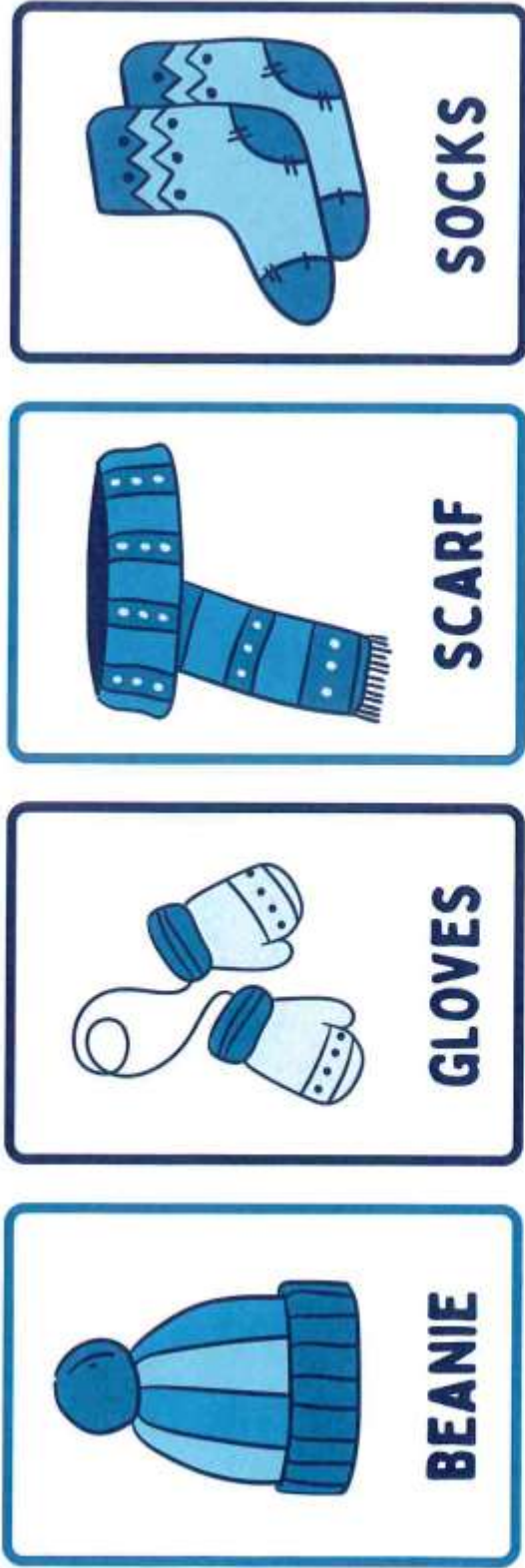
CONTACT

DIRECTOR

JOANNA DARAKOS

412-867-5376





PROJECT BUNDLE UP

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR HATS, GLOVES/MITTENS, SCARVES & SOCKS
FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECTS' PROJECT BUNDLE UP!**

JOY/HOPE
LITTLE ANGELS



together with



GREEK
SCHOOL



Christmas Caroling

Juniper Village at Forest Hills
107 Fall Run Road, 15221

Saturday December 13th @ 1:30
Bring the whole family!

RSVP to Stavroula
stav828@gmail.com



GREEK SCHOOL. Con't

In November the Greek School had Open House for parents to come into the classes and see what their children are learning. Children are practicing Christmas Carols in Greek, as well as hymns, in preparation for joining Joy, Hope, and Little Angels at Juniper Village on December 13 and add a few Greek Carols to their program.

There will not be Greek School on December 6 as this is the Feast Day of St. Nicholas. We are hoping many of the children and their families will attend Divine Liturgy that day and celebrate the feast day together.

Our last day of classes for 2025 will be on December 20, which will end with merriment and our Annual Christmas Party and Singing of Christmas Carols.

We will return on Saturday, January 3 with the Annual Cutting of Vasilopita.

St. Nicholas Greek School continues to pray for Elias and Konstantina and kindly request if you all can add these children on your prayer list.

All the parents, staff, and children wish to everyone “Καλά Χριστούγεννα!”

GOYA

GOYA News

ANGELS - Christmas Angels for the Neighborhood Resilience Project are available. Please visit the GOYA table after church and help make a child's Christmas brighter. This is one of GOYA's annual outreach projects. Please plan on bringing your wrapped gift or gift card to church by Sunday, December 7.

Thank you for helping make a difference in a child's life.

Our GOYA is once again having their annual Pastitsio sale and Sarris Chocolate sale for the holidays. Please look for both flyers in this bulletin. Pastitsio is available to purchase today.

The online Sarris Chocolate Sale will continue through December 14.

We greatly appreciate all the support for our fundraisers. The funds raised help support our GOYA ministry.

Also, look for our upcoming Soup sale on December 7 after Liturgy at the St. Nicholas Bazaar.



Sarris CANDIES

Success Is Just a Click Away with

ONLINE ORDERING

Help us reach our goals!

St. Nicholas GOYA

ORGANIZATION NAME

10-2873

GROUP ID#

SELLER ID# (optional)

FREE GROUND SHIPPING
on orders of \$100 or more
or \$7 Flat-Rate Ground Shipping

Must spend a minimum of \$100 per address to receive free ground shipping. No minimum purchase required to receive \$7 flat-rate ground shipping per address. Warm weather packaging and rush shipping charges are additional. Shipping offers subject to change at any time.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Visit SarrisCandiesFundraising.com to shop using our unique Group ID# or my individual Seller ID#.
- 2 Our group earns 25% profit with every purchase made.
- 3 Items will ship directly to your home or can be picked up at Sarris Candies in Canonsburg.

GOYA
Pastitsio
FUNDRAISER



Enjoy a half-pan of delicious pastitsio. Perfect for family gatherings, holidays, or as a thoughtful gift for someone in need.

Pans are sold frozen.

\$35 *Benefits our youth group activities.*

Sold on Sundays after Divine Liturgy beginning November 16, while supplies last.

Or

Call the church office at (412) 682-3866 or Argy Darakos at (412) 979-4131 to request one.

Pick one up today!

FRIENDSGIVING DINNER 10/26/25



Friendsgiving Dinner - Hosted by Moms and Dads of St. Nicholas

On Sunday, October 26th the Moms and Dads of St. Nicholas hosted a Friendsgiving Dinner for the area college students at St. Nicholas Cathedral. A home cooked traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by the Moms and Dads was served along with delicious home baked desserts. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and food that included turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, yams, stuffing, green bean casserole, glazed carrots, cranberry sauce as well as take home care packages. The dinner provided a great opportunity for the more than 40 students to talk and socialize with Fr. Eleftherios, our Moms and Dads and each other.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this event a success.



KEEP KIDS SAFE

ARCHDIOCESE POLICIES



Are You a Youth Worker?

All Clergy, Altar Helpers, Sunday School or Greek School Teachers, Folk Dance Instructors, Oratorical Festival Chairs, GOYA Advisors, Basketball Coaches, Chaperones, JOY Advisors, etc! Parish Council Members too.

If so, you must register or log-in to your account each year.

youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org

Note: PA Law has additional requirements. For more info, search Keep Kids Safe PA on the internet.



Questions? Email: youthsafety@goarch.org

Philoptochos News

A heartfelt Thank you to everyone who helped with spanakopita rolls (and those who planned on coming later in the day). We made 260 rolls and were done by 130! A special thank you to Steve Andrews for squeezing 90 lbs of spinach and Alexandra Gregory for cracking 100 eggs and portioning most of the 260 rolls! Thank you to Connie Stamoolis for the quick delivery of ingredients. Rolls are on sale now (\$15 per roll) and available for pickup after service on Sundays and will be at the Bazaar on Sunday December 7th. We have less than 100 left!

We will be baking **Vasilopita on Thursday December, 4th**. Most help is needed from 830am-1130am and 2pm-till done (usually by 5). Please see Nikki Lykos or Alisa Balouris for more information or to let them know you can help. It is a fun day of baking and fellowship. Vasilopita is available for preorder and pick up at the Bazaar (\$12 each).

We are greatly appreciative of the support we received for Operation Classroom. I was contacted for assistance with a giving pantry for students affected by the government shut down. With little notice we raised \$1200 and were able to stock the giving pantry with needed items. Another parishioner requested printer paper as her school is on a spending freeze, unable to purchase basic supplies. We were able to provide the printer paper within days thanks to your generosity. Funds are still available. If you know of any district, school, teacher, or institution in need of school supplies or other items please contact Sophia Bender, Eve Elsen, or me, Maria Bardakos.

Wednesday December 17th at 6 pm, instead of a general meeting we will meet at the Lot at Edgewater in Oakmont for a holiday gathering, all are welcome. Please contact me at 412-519-8684 (text preferred) if you plan on attending.

As always, I am humbled and honored to 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.

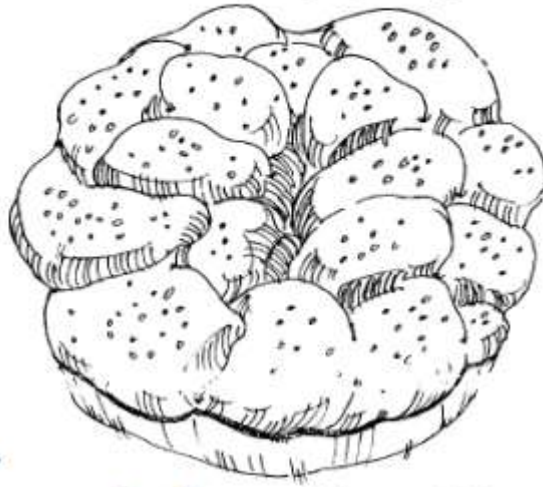
Yours in Christ,

Maria Bardakos

Philoptochos President

412-519-8684

Start the New Year Out by Helping Philoptochos Help Others



New Year's Bread

St. Nicholas Cathedral Philoptochos is taking orders for delicious Greek New Year's Bread.
Each loaf contains the traditional New Year's coin.

\$12 per loaf

Bread will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 7 during the St. Nicholas Bazaar.
For additional information contact Nikki Lykos at 412.897.8208

ORDER FORM

Complete the information below and mail along WITH A CHECK, made payable to:
St. Nicholas Philoptochos/New Year's Bread, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 S. Dithridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Name _____

Telephone _____ Number of Loaves _____

_____ with Sesame Seeds _____ without Sesame Seeds

Thank you for your support.

All proceeds benefit the ongoing charitable activities of our Philoptochos

SIXTY CLUB NEWS

SAVE the DATE: January 25, 2026

EVERYONE IS INVITED

USA Birthday Party--250 years. Look for details.

Anyone willing to join the planning committee for this event, please contact Fran Hanna
(412-731-0790) this week.

Please remit \$15.00 dues to Argie Stuart for 2025-2026.



Decorating for the Holiday Season



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ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR

DECEMBER 7, 2025

ST. NICHOLAS BOOKS, NATIVITY BOOKS,
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YOUTH AND ADULT BOOKS, HOME ALTAR
SUPPLIES AND GIFTS

HOLIDAY HOURS

SUNDAYS -FOLLOWING LITURGY

WEDNESDAYS -DEC. 3, 10, AND 17

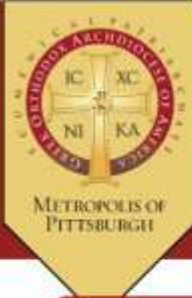
10:00 AM-1:00PM

SATURDAYS -DEC. 6 AFTER LITURGY,

DEC.13 AND DEC. 20 10:00-12:30 PM

MORE INFO AT

BOOKSTORE@STNICKSPGH.ORG



VOLUME 9 NO. 8 ISSUE: 83

DECEMBER 2025

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



The Investiture of Three New Archons of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh

On Sunday October 19, 2025, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, His Eminence Gerasimos of San Francisco, and His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, presided at the investiture of thirty-eight new Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from throughout the United States which included three of our own from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. The Divine Liturgy was held at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City. The investiture was the final event of the annual Archon Weekend of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The newly invested Archons, like their distinguished brethren, have dedicated themselves to the protection and defense of the Mother Church of Constantinople. AXIOS!



L-R: James Trakas and John Trihas of St Paul, North Royalton, and Nick Spanakis of Holy Trinity, Canton, Ohio.

Happy Name Day to
His Eminence Metropolitan Savas
 FEAST OF ST. SAVAS THE SANCTIFIED
 DECEMBER 5TH

20 Athletic 26 Seminars



For Advisors,
Clergy,
Coaches, and
GOYA Officers!

December 6 at 1 PM

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/Dec6Athletic>

December 7 at 5 PM

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/Dec7AthleticSem>

ANNUNCIATION COLUMBUS, OH T1: JANUARY 16-18	HOLY TRINITY CANTON, OH T1: JANUARY 16-18	ANNUNCIATION AKRON, OH T2: JAN 30-FEB 1
2026 GOYA BASKETBALL HOST PARISHES		
ST. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH T2: JAN 30-FEB 1	ST. DEMETRIOS WARREN, OH T3: FEBRUARY 13-15	ST. NICHOLAS PITTSBURGH, PA T3: FEBRUARY 13-15



**Spotlight on 2025 Metropolis of Pittsburgh
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Winners**

Junior Division Essay Topic 1

"Philanthropy is an important part of the Church's mission. It involves more than giving money. Why is it important to support people in different ways besides donating? In what ways can we offer support and how can these other forms help make a difference in the lives of individuals and the community?"

Junior Division Essay Winner - Claire Gaitanis, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camp Hill

More Than Giving Money

The effort to increase the well-being of humankind, as by charitable act or donation: philanthropy. Simply speaking, philanthropy is an act of kindness, usually giving or donating, to help someone in need. There's another definition of this word, one that I think is a bit more important than the first: love to humankind. If you're familiar with 1 Corinthians 13, you would know that out of faith, hope, and love, the greatest of these is love. Philanthropy should be more than just giving money—you should give your time, talent, and treasure.

But how do you give your time, talent, and treasure? Giving money, for one thing. But while donating to the poor and needy can be good, it is better if you can do something better for them. Specifically, helping them through their hardships. Things like clothing or food drives or even giving a school common supplies like pencils or paper, would be better than simply donating money. Instead of giving people something they could use to get what they need, why not provide what they need to them yourself?

One reason for this lies in Matthew 25:35-36, Christ says, *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."* When questioned, He replies, *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

When you show kindness to someone, you show kindness to Christ. Giving money isn't the only way to be kind. You can show people kindness by giving your time, talent, and treasure—anything you can do to help them. Even if it is a simple act, like giving food or clothing to someone in need. Giving money isn't the only form of philanthropy. Use philanthropy to show people kindness and love.

**Junior Division Essay Winner - Claire Gaitanis,
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camp Hill**

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



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES!

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis - including Metropolitan Savas's Archpastoral visitations, preparations for summer camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry, and more.

Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis:

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

412-621-5529 (Main) 412-465-0460 (Camp) 412-621-8543 (Youth)

pittsburgh.goarch.org info@pittsburgh.goarch.org



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	3 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	4 Barbara the Great Martyr Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	5 Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas 6:30 p.m.	6 Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. St. Nicholas Day Luncheon No Greek School BAZAAR (set up)
7 10th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. St. Nick's Bazaar Stewardship Sunday Parish Council Elections	8 Bible Study 5:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	9 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	10	11 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	12 Spyridon of Trymithous, the Wonderworker Liturgy in Monessen	13 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
14 11th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	15 Eleftherios the Hieromartyr Orthros 8:30 a.m. Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	16 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17 YAL Volleyball 7:00 p.m.	18 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	19	20 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
21 Sunday before Nativity Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant	22 Bible Study 5:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	23 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	24 Royal Hours 3:30 p.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 5:00 p.m.	25 The NATIVITY of OUR LORD Festal Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 9:30 a.m.	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 Sunday after Nativity Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	29 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	30 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	31	JANUARY 1, 2025 NEW YEAR'S DAY, CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, FEAST OF BASIL THE GREAT: Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m. Office Closed		

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

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