



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA



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

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



St. Theodore the Recruit (February 17)

Each year on February 17, we commemorate St. Theodore the Tyro (the Recruit), a Great Martyr whose witness of faith shines brightly in the early Church's history. A newly enlisted soldier from Amasea in Pontus, Theodore was ordered to offer sacrifice to pagan gods but boldly confessed Christ as his only Lord and Savior even in the face of persecution. When accused of destroying an idol and brought before the Roman governor, he endured prison, torture, and finally martyrdom by fire without renouncing his faith. According to his life, as recorded in the Orthodox tradition, Theodore stood in the flames with unwavering courage, made the sign of the Cross, praised God, and surrendered his soul into God's hands around the year 306.

Beyond his personal martyrdom, St. Theodore's care for the faithful continued after his repose. During the reign of Julian the Apostate, when Christians in Constantinople were deceived into buying food contaminated with idolatrous sacrifices, St. Theodore appeared in a vision to warn the faithful to abstain and instead prepare kollyva (boiled wheat with honey), a tradition that the Church still honors on the first Saturday of Great Lent. His life reminds us that true devotion to Christ bears fruit not only in bold confession at the risk of life, but in pastoral concern for the spiritual well-being of the Church.

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	Maria Bardakos	412-519-8684
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
Profora	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

February 2026

*"With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Your servants,
where there is no pain, nor sorrow, nor suffering, but life everlasting."
(Kontakion for the Saturday of Souls)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we journey through the preparatory weeks of the Triodion, the Church turns our attention not only toward repentance and renewal, but also toward remembrance. During this time leading up to Great Lent, we encounter the Saturday of Souls: a day set aside for the prayerful commemoration of all the faithful departed. While every Saturday in the life of the Church carries a quiet association with remembering those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, this particular Saturday gathers the entire Church into a unified and intentional act of praying—of intercession—reminding us that life and love do not end at the grave and that our bonds in Christ transcend even death.

It is helpful, however, to understand that although many speak of "three Saturdays of Souls," only the first Saturday, the Saturday before Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday, is structured in the services as a universal Saturday of Souls (the other being the day before Pentecost). On this day, the hymns, readings, and petitions are explicitly devoted to praying for all Orthodox Christians who have departed this life, known and unknown, near and far. The Church lifts up their names before the Lord and asks that He grant them rest in His heavenly Kingdom, expressing our faith that death is not an ending, but a passage into eternal life through Christ, who said: *"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die"* (John 11:25-26).

The Saturdays that follow (Cheesefare Saturday and the First Saturday of Great Lent) are also days when memorial services are often offered in our parishes, yet each of these carries its own distinct commemoration. Cheesefare Saturday honors the memory of the holy ascetics and God-bearing Fathers and Mothers of the Church, while the First Saturday of Great Lent recalls the miracle of the kollyva through St. Theodore the Recruit, a sign of God's providence and care for His people. Because these days still fall on Saturdays, and because Saturday itself is traditionally associated with remembrance of the departed, memorial prayers are typically held, which has led to the understandable but common misconception that all three are identical in purpose. Why, then, do we pray for the departed at all? We do so because love in Christ does not cease with physical death, and because the Church is not necessarily divided into the living and the dead, but united as one Body in Him.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

Our prayers are acts of mercy, hope, communion, and love. We entrust our loved ones to the infinite compassion of God, asking that any shortcomings be forgiven and that they be received into His eternal light. At the same time, these prayers shape our own hearts, reminding us of our mortality, calling us to repentance, and strengthening our awareness that eternal life is not a distant idea but a present reality toward which we are all journeying. *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body”* (Phil. 3:20-21).

Nevertheless, the presence of memorial prayers on these days reveals something deeply beautiful about Orthodox life: we never cease praying for one another. The funeral service is not the conclusion of our care for the departed, but rather the beginning of an ongoing remembrance expressed through memorial services, kollyva offerings, and the calling to mind of names during the Divine Liturgy. These acts are not merely cultural customs, but are genuine expressions of our faith in Christ's victory over death and in the communion of saints that unites heaven and earth.

As we approach the Saturday of Souls, we are invited to participate not simply as observers, but as intercessors—offering prayers for loved ones, parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, and even those whose names have been forgotten by history but are never forgotten by God. In so doing, we reaffirm our hope in the Resurrection and our trust in the boundless mercy of the Lord, who is *“not the God of the dead, but of the living”* (Mark 12:27). May these days of remembrance soften our hearts, deepen our love, and strengthen our hope in the eternal life promised to all who rest in Christ.

Prayerfully yours,



† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

FUNERAL

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Frances “Fran” Hanna* who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Her funeral was on Monday, January 19, 2026, at St. Nicholas Cathedral. May her memory be eternal.

New Years Day Service 1/1/26



PHILOPTOCHOS Vasilopita Cutting 1/4/26



Blessing of the Waters (Agiasmo) 1.5.26



Homewood Cemetery

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Greek Section

There are currently 21 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.



STEWARDSHIP

“RISE UP AND BUILD”
Nehemiah 2:18

Building Up the Body of Christ

“Rise up and build” were the words used by Nehemiah to call up the people after seeing the crumbling walls of Jerusalem. He could not do it alone. But he inspired the people, sharing his vision, to which the response to him by those people: “Let us rise up and build.”

Nehemiah’s story calls out to us today, not to build and rebuild with actual bricks and mortar, but a rebuild of a deeper, spiritual building, a rebuilding as well as our renewal of our faith.

We are asked to give thanks for what God has given to each one of us, via our time, talent and treasure; to be faithful in our Stewardship. As Orthodox Christians, we understand that ***Stewardship is a joint effort of all members of our Saint Nicholas Community.*** Every steward has a role to play

Nehemiah was moved by compassion and faith; he saw the need and embraced it as his own. True Stewardship is seeing the needs of God’s Church and then responding with love and sacrifice.

Nehemiah knew that he had to pray to God, for he understood, that true rebuilding, whether physical or spiritual, begins and ends with God. HE works through us. Nehemiah inspired others, sharing his vision, reminding them of the importance of the process; it is crucial for our parish stewardship.

We as Stewards, must lead by example, inspiring others to participate and offer their unique gifts for the good of our Church. We must be like Nehemiah in our lives and in our parish.

Building the walls of worship requires our faithfully to attend church, hearing the Divine Liturgy as it is meant to be, in its entirety, and offering our time, our worship and our gratitude for His blessings as *it is all for the Glory of God.*

With Christ’s love, we can serve those in need, with outreach, both in our parish as well as our outside community and the world.

To rise up and ultimately rebuild requires effort, dedication and yes, perseverance. Only when committing ourselves fully and sacrificially, will God bless our efforts.

It all begins with us, building up the Kingdom of God through the walls of our souls and extending to the life of our beloved parish and the world around us.

2025 STEWARDSHIP

"Your Own from Your Own"

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

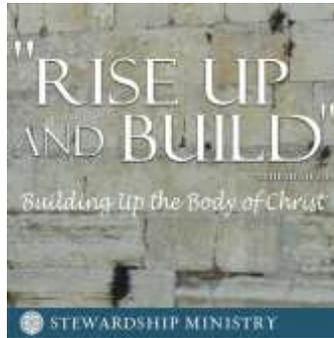


2025 STEWARDSHIP		12/30/2025
Total Stewards		304
Total Amount Pledged		\$168,223.00
Average Pledge		\$ 966.80
% Parish Participation to Date		101%
2025 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		65%
2025 Budget (GOAL)		\$ 255,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$270,564.67
As of:		12/17/2025
Income: Envelopes & Pledges, Basket Collection & Food Festival	\$648,113.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$673,920.00	
	(\$ 25,807.00)	

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>

2026 STEWARDSHIP



Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos
Ms. Anna Andrews
Mr. Steven Andrews
Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
Mr. George Anthon
Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos
Ms. Maria Bardakos
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
Fr. Christopher & Presvytera Filitsa Bender
Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
Mrs. Elena G. Cerri
Mrs. Dee Chronis
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
Ms. Jamie Contis
Mrs. Sandra Contis
Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
Mrs. Alexandra Davides
Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias
Arthur J. Dordas
Mrs. Elaine Ellis
Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
Mrs. Alice Gary
Drs. Athan & Lydia Georgiades
Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
Mr. Corey Gregory
Mrs. Frances Hanna+
Rania Harris
Ms. Maria Hnarakis
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Janis
Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin
Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis
Mr. Lee Katsafanas
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
Mrs. Sandra Kemrer
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
Mrs. Demetra Kontoulis
Michelle Marie Kotsagrelas
Mr. Chris T, Kouklis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis
Mr. & Mrs. David Levine
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
Ms. Barbara R. Manners
Mrs. Helen Mastro
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastro

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mitrakos
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
Mrs. Patricia McKee
Mr. Paul L. Moses
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
Mrs. Constance Paras Jennings
Mr. John C. Paras
Mr. Van Paras
Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
Mr. Robert M. Reitz
Mrs. Kristina Rigoopulos & Mr. William Guttman
Mr. William Sfamenos
Mrs. Stella Stratigos
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas
Mr. Peter Tsoukalas
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
Mrs. Angela Vergos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vergos
Mrs. Helen Waskoskie
Mr. Brett D. Wells
Mr. & Mrs. David Williard
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis



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

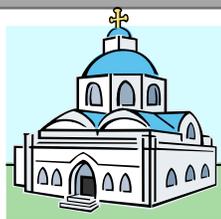
TALENT- Please check the items below that you or a family member has some expertise or interest. Place initials of the specific family member after each item checked.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Church School _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Office/Newsletter _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Choir _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation of Elderly _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Ministry _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Mgmt. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Festival _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Mechanical/Plumbing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philoptochos _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Church School



41 pairs of gloves, 24 hats, 10 scarves, 3 pairs of socks, 3 headbands AND 12 coats were delivered to the Neighborhood Resilience Project for their **Project Bundle -up**. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

The St. Nicholas Church School teachers and students want to wish our GOYANs (and Church School students) Good Luck at their upcoming **GOYA Basketball Tournaments** 01/30-02/01/26, at Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral (Cleveland Heights, OH) and on 02/13-15/26, that we are hosting.

The **Metropolis of Pittsburgh's Oratorical Education Sunday** will be Sunday, February 8, 2026. Previous St. Nicholas Cathedral Oratorical Festival participants will pass a special tray to benefit the Metropolis of Pittsburgh's Peter Clyde Papadakos Memorial Oratorical Scholarship Fund. Proceeds from the tray will be used to award cash scholarships to the top two (2) finalists in each Division (Junior and Senior) at the Metropolis Festival Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the New Metropolis Center (Washington, PA).

Sunday, March 1, 2026, the Church School students will participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** with their favorite icon!

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School Open House will be **Sunday, March 8, 2026**, where parents and grandparents attend Church School to see firsthand what their children are learning.

'Our' children are very busy with school and extracurricular activities and could easily find reasonable excuses not to spend any time researching, writing and speaking about their faith, but please save the date (Church School students in grades 7th-12th) for the **St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival** to be held **March/April 2026**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or eve.m.elsen@gmail.com.

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

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

**SUNDAY
OF
ORTHODOXY
ICON PROCESSION**

	CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS	
	SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026	
	PLEASE BRING AN ICON	

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's
Church School

Open HOUSE

Sunday, March 8, 2026



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

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

 **MARCH/APRIL 2026**

CONTACT

Eve Elsen
EVE.M.ELSEN@GMAIL.COM
412-580-9415



The 99th Annual
VLAHOKERASIOTIKI
MAKARONADA
An Evening of Food, Music and Dancing

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

DOORS OPEN at 6 PM
 Hors d'Oeuvres & Cocktails

DINNER Served at 7 PM
 Our Famous Vlahokerasiotiki Makaronada

LIVE MUSIC at 8:30 PM
 Featuring *STIGMA*
Open Greek Night - Dances, Sing & Celebrate!

ADMISSION
 Adults: \$40
 Kids 12 & Under: \$15
 Kids 3 & Under: FREE

For dinner reservations, please contact Nikki Lykos by February 1st
 412-897-8208 - nlykos@gmail.com

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
EDUCATION SUNDAY

Sunday

FEBRUARY 8, 2026



Reschedule 

Happy Birthday
USA

Celebrate 250 Years with Friends & Family!

★ ★ ★

A Classic American Luncheon
Sunday, February 8th, 2026
Following Divine Liturgy

Sponsored by The 60's Club
All are welcome



ST NICHOLAS GREEK
 ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
 419 S DITHRIDGE STREET
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15203

SIXTY CLUB NEWS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

The cold weather and 14 inches of snow will not deter us from celebrating the red, white and blue.

Come prepared for this delicious all-American lunch hosted by the St. Nicholas 60 club, along with some patriotic music and fanfare.

This will be the start of the country's 250 years celebration.

You won't want to miss out - see you in the lower lobby right after church.

GREEK SCHOOL

On February 1, St. Nicholas Greek School will celebrate the Three Hierarchs/Greek Letters Day. All classes learned about these highly educated, very wise and holy hierarchs—St. Basil the Great, St John Chrysostom, and St. Gregory the Theologian. Students learned about some quotes from these Hierarchs which help us to be illumined by their wisdom. Students also learned two hymns in Greek: Hymn for the Artoclasia (Blessing of the 5 Loaves) and the Hymn, Fos Ilaron, which was the oldest recorded hymn that was also stated by St. Basil the Great as an established hymn. This hymn was chosen, not only for its connection to the Three Hierarchs, but also in commemorating the memory of Archon and Protopsalti for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, Peter Clyde Papadakos. He not only volunteered teaching Biblical Greek at our church, but had dedicated his life to promoting education and chanting.

On February 9 is International Greek Language Day, which is celebrated worldwide. It was officially designated by UNESCO in 2017 and coincides with the commemoration of Dionysios Solomos who is the National Poet of Greece. He wrote the 158-stanza poem – “Hymn to Liberty” of which the first two stanzas are the National Anthem of Greece and Cyprus. You can view the entire poem performed by many Greek School students of our Metropolis in Greek and with a translation done by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas. Join in and speak the Greek Language on February 9 and every day!!

Students will soon start working on celebrating Evangelismos and Greek Independence. Mark your calendars for Sunday March 22, 2026, for our celebration of Evangelismos, Greek Independence Day. Support our school and join us for lunch and a program.

GOYA NEWS



**Happy February
from St Nick's Goya!**

This month we had a great time snowtubing at Boyce park for our little Goya Christmas party. We attended our first tournament at Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio. The senior girls team placed second. And the senior boys team placed third! Congratulations to them, and shoutout to Cbus for a fantastic tournament!



We are preparing for our second tournament coming up at the end of this month, at Sts Constantine and Helen Cathedral, Cleveland Heights.



**Volunteers Needed - Metropolis GOYA Basketball Tournament
Hosted by St. Nicholas Cathedral,
February 13-15, 2026**

Our St. Nicholas GOYA is looking forward to hosting the upcoming Metropolis Basketball Tournament the weekend of February 13-15, 2026. This is the last basketball tournament of the season and all the graduating seniors from all the participating parishes will be recognized on Sunday after Liturgy. We have planned a social for Friday evening after registration, a Dinner/Dance on Saturday evening and Sunday Brunch along with all the basketball games played all day Saturday. The championship games will be played Sunday after Liturgy.

We provide a hospitality room with baked good and pastries for the parents, chaperones, coaches, and advisors. Many volunteers are needed over the weekend including score keepers, clock keepers, medical support at the courts, decorators, servers, set up and clean up for all the meals. If you would like to donate your time during the weekend or would like to just bake an item for our hospitality room, please contact Linda Hages at 412-523-7938 or Maria Coutris at 412-915-7838.

In order to help with the expenses of the tournament, there will be a Tournament Program Book. Please consider supporting our tournament by placing an advertisement or line sponsor. Please look for more information and the submission form in this Newsletter.

Thank you to all of our parishioners for your continued support of our youth programs.

GOYA NEWS, Con't



St. Nicholas GOYA

AD BOOK

Dear Parishioners

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's youth group (GOYA) is thrilled to be hosting a Metropolis Basketball Tournament at our church this year. We are hoping that you will consider placing an advertisement in our tournament book, to help support our youth. Given the escalating costs of hosting these tournaments, the Tournament Program Book contributes greatly to the essential revenue needed as part of our overall cost raising efforts.

The tournament will be held the weekend of February 13-15, 2026 and we are expecting over 500 people from across PA and OH to attend! The program book serves as a great way to advertise local businesses and recognize our GOYANS. Attached you will find our submission form, which has all of the information you need to place the ad. The deadline for advertisements is February 4th.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (412)915-7838.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

Maria Coutris

Maria Coutris

GOYA NEWS, Con't

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Pittsburgh, PA

GOYA METROPOLIS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

TOURNAMENT PROGRAM BOOK SUBMISSION FORM

Please support our youth by placing an ad in the tournament book. Advertisements may include business as well as personal wishes to the groups and/or individual players.

Please check your choice below:

- Centerfold \$250.00
- Full Page (5 ½ X 8 ½) \$150.00
- Half Page (5 ½ X 4 1/4) \$100.00
- 1/4 Page (2 ¾ X 4 1/4) \$60.00
- Line sponsor (maximum of 60 characters/line) \$30.00

- One photo may be included in FULL or HALF page ads
- Additional photos are \$5.00 each
- Submission MUST BE .jpg format
- All ads are BLACK & WHITE, no color options

Ads may be submitted in hard copy or through email by FEBRUARY 4th to:

Maria Coutris
mvcoutris@gmail.com

8551 Ivy Hill Drive #9
Poland, OH 44514

Please make checks payable to:
St. Nicholas GOYA (mail to address above)
If you have questions, please call: (412)915-7838

Thank you for your continued support!



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.

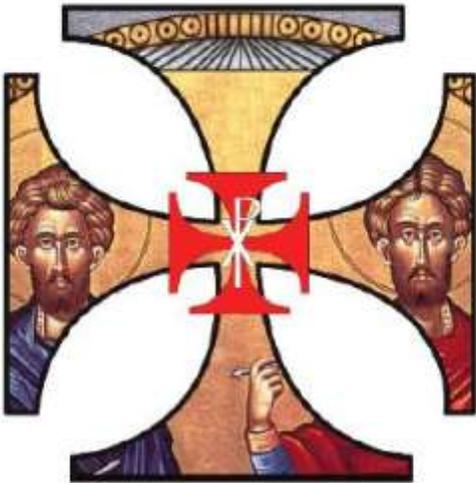
youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org



Questions? Email: youthsafety@goarch.org

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

JOIN US



**Saint Nicholas Cathedral
Ladies Philoptochos Society**

**2026
MEMBERSHIP
CAMPAIGN**

*"You are an 'army of agape'
that conquers pain and anguish
through generosity and
kindness."*

— Archbishop Elpidophoros of America



2026 Membership

You define what kind of member you will be. We are always looking for new skills, experiences and personalities, and we welcome you with open arms to join us in making a difference.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Enclosed is my 2026 membership donation in the amount of:

() \$50 () \$ _____

Make checks payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
419 S. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Philoptochos News , Con't

Philoptochos News

Join us Sunday February 8, 2026, for our annual membership drive. Since it is also the Sixty Club's USA Birthday Celebration stop by, pay your membership dues at our Crafted for Compassion table and enjoy a beer sample from a local woman owned brewery. As usual our Vasilopita and Spanakopita were a huge hit! Thank you for your support. We are humbled by the generous donations for Operation Classroom thus far. If you know of any district, school, teacher, or institution in need of school supplies please contact Sophia Bender or Eve Elsen. 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 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

Food Festival

The good news is that we're moving along with three major items already completed in January! (In reality, it was a struggle.)

A BIG SHOUT OUT this month goes to:

- ◆ Alice Gary and John Edgos for chairing Spanakopita;
- ◆ George Bellios, for chairing Souzoukakia, and to
- ◆ John Frenzios and Vasili Copetas who braved the elements to prepare the meat sauce, Bechamel and pasta for Pastitsio.

A HUGE THANK YOU to those of you who did come to help.

Our festival takes a great deal of preparation. Simply said, if we don't have enough volunteers, the festival cannot happen. We are asking for your help. We are asking for your help to continue the tradition for our 64th Annual St. Nicholas Food Festival.

February schedule:

Koulourakia, Tuesday, February 3
Pasta Flora, Tuesday, February 10
Finikia, Saturday, February 28

March schedule:

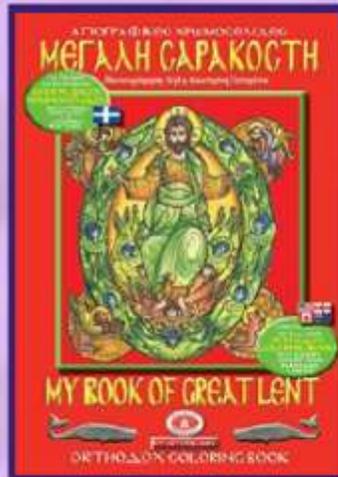
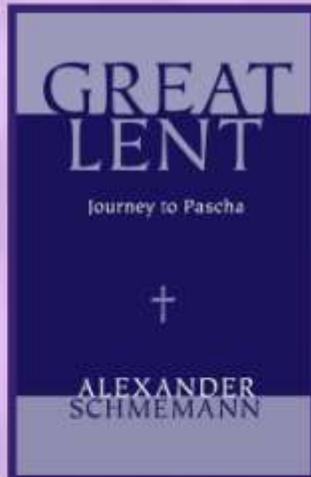
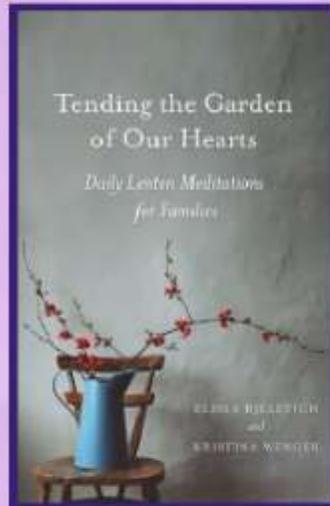
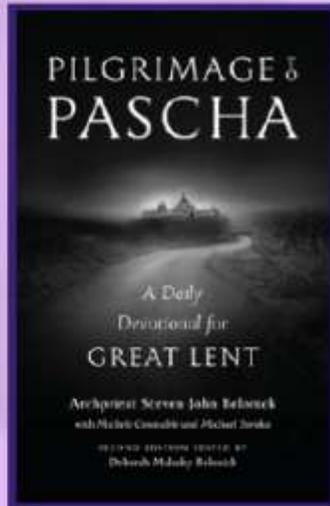
Galatouboureko, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 9, 10 and 11
Tiropita, Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28

April Schedule

Kourambiethes, Saturday, April 18
Diples, Monday, April 27
Karidopita, TBD

Prepare for Great Lent

Books available at
St. John Chrysostom Bookstore



Open Sundays after the Divine Liturgy
bookstore@stnickspgh.org

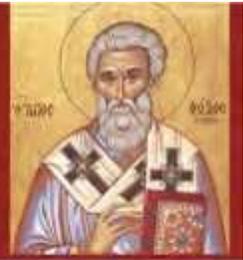


VOLUME 9 NO. 10 ISSUE: 85

FEBRUARY 2026

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



Introducing New Camping Ministries Coordinator - Sophia Milinkovic



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas is pleased to announce the hiring of Sophia Milinkovic as our new Camping Ministries Coordinator, effective January 16.

Sophia Milinkovic was born in Pittsburgh and raised in Boca Raton, Florida where she later graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Science. She was brought up in a strong, faith-centered family where the life of the Church was at the heart of daily life. As the daughter of a priest, of blessed memory, her upbringing was deeply rooted in love for Christ and His Church. She was actively involved in the Metropolis of Atlanta and spent many formative summers in Orthodox camping ministry, including time at St. Stephen's Camp (Metropolis of Atlanta) and the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Camp, first as a camper and later as a counselor.

While Sophia's professional background is not directly rooted in camping ministry, it has provided her with strong leadership, organizational, and interpersonal skills. Her career has centered on working closely with people, building and supporting teams, navigating challenges, and fostering environments where individuals can grow and thrive.

Sophia moved back to Pittsburgh in 2011 and has been deeply committed to her parish life at Holy Cross, Pittsburgh and the continued work of the Church as a whole. She serves as a Sunday School teacher and is an active member of her parish council. Through her work with the youth, she recognizes the unique challenges they face today and is passionate about providing them with a safe and supportive space. A space that offers joy, encouragement, spiritual grounding, and a true sense of belonging.

She looks forward to working closely with clergy, volunteers, families, and campers throughout the Metropolis to strengthen the camping ministry and to help nurture the spiritual lives of its youth!

Axia, Sophia!



ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET ANNOUNCEMENT

The St. Photios Awards Banquet Committee with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas regret to announce that there will be no awards banquet this year due to the relocation of the Metropolis, and hosting the Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland.

See you in 2027!



**48th BIENNIAL
CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS**
SAVE THE DATE! - JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2026
Join us in Cleveland, OH
at the Huntington Convention Center

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Camp

SAVE THE DATE!

**STAFF APPLICATIONS
OPENING SOON**

GOYA Spring Retreat & Summer Camp 2026

Summer Camp
Staff applications open from February 1st to March 1st.

GOYA Spring Retreat
Staff applications open from February 15th to March 1st.

**APPLY BY
MARCH 1 AT
11:59 PM!**

More information ——— yam.pittsburgh.goarch.org/campstaff

**THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE
PRESENTS:**

LENTEN RETREAT

“Living in Community”

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2025
10 AM - 2PM

ST. NICHOLAS GOC
220 N WALNUT ST.
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

COFFEE, SWEETS & LUNCH PROVIDED

The retreat will offer points to consider regarding:

- The importance of engaging with others.
- Ultimately, Christians can only be saved in community.
- We learn from the example of the early church who “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42).

Our speaker, Presvytera Eleri Christakos is the wife of a Greek Orthodox priest who serves in central Massachusetts and a homeschool mother of three children. She holds a degree in pharmacy and is currently working for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Marriage and Family, coordinating clergy wife peer groups. Presvytera Eleri also is very active in her church community directing and teaching in the religious education program and managing the book store and lending library. Drawing from her passion for teaching people of all ages, she is on a committee to start a classical Orthodox school. Living with a focus on health and wellness - physical, emotional and spiritual - is close to her being. She enjoys spending time outdoors hiking and kayaking. A true bibliophile, if she is not actively with her family she can be found reading or coordinating book discussion groups.

Presvytera Eleri Christakos

To Register, Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yww3sr7p>

**New Metropolis Center Progress -
January 2026**



**His Eminence's Residence
Progress - January 2026**



Please consider a pledge or donation towards this worthy campaign that will benefit all. To donate please scan the QR code or visit pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge

Thank you as always for your support!



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES!

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

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

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-621-5529 (Main) 412-465-0460 (Camp) 412-621-8543 (Youth)
pittsburgh.goarch.org info@pittsburgh.goarch.org

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: <i>Triodion</i> Begins Today Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School: Three Hierarchs Celebration	2 The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple <i>Orthros & Divine Liturgy at Ypapanti in East Pittsburgh</i> YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6 Feast of St. Photios <i>Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i> Location: TBD	7 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
8 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	9 Bible Study 6:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	10 Feast of St. Haralambos Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	11	12 Catechism Class 6:00 p.m. Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	13	14 Saturday of Souls Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School 10:00 a.m.
15 Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. GOYA Basketball Tournament	16 Bible Study 6:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	17 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	18	19 Catechism Class 6:00 p.m. Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	20	21 Commemoration of the Holy Men and Women Who Excelled in Asceticism (2nd Saturday of Souls) Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School 10:00 a.m.
22 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday) Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Forgiveness Vespers 5:00 p.m.	23 CLEAN MONDAY First Day of LENT Great Compline 6:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	24 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	25 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture 7:30 p.m.	26 Catechism Class 6:00 p.m. Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	27 1st Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 p.m. <i>Reception Hosted by Philoptochos</i>	28 Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva wrought by Saint Theodore (3rd Saturday of Souls) Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School 10:00 a.m.

GOYA BBall Tournament

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

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