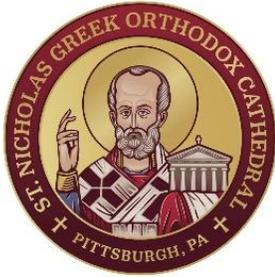


**SUNDAY, February 22, 2026 — Cheesefare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)**

*On this Sunday we remember the expulsion of the first-formed Adam from the Garden of Eden*

**Fourth Mode · Fourth Eothinon**



## WELCOME TO ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL!

VISIT [www.stnickspgh.org](http://www.stnickspgh.org) for news and updates about our parish!

CLERGY: Rev. Fr. Eleftherios Constantine and Rev. Dn. Robert Lykos

Father's e-mail address: [fr.ec@stnickspgh.org](mailto:fr.ec@stnickspgh.org)

PROTOPSALTRIA: Amy Hogg

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steve Andrews | ORGANIST: Brett Wells

Questions about our Parish? E-mail [church@stnickspgh.org](mailto:church@stnickspgh.org) or call 412-682-3866

***Our weekly Sunday worship schedule: Orthros 8:15 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.***

**WELCOME, VISITORS!** You are honored guests here at St. Nicholas Cathedral and welcome at all our services. We invite you to receive the Holy Eucharist (Communion) if you are an Orthodox Christian who is prepared through fasting, prayer, and confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are Orthodox but have not prepared, we respectfully invite you instead to come forward at the end of the service for a blessing by the priest and a piece of blessed bread (antidoron).

If you cannot join us in person, you may participate in our services live at [www.stnickspgh.org/](http://www.stnickspgh.org/) by selecting the link "Click Here for Live Streaming."

### OUR MISSION

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

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

To make a donation, visit our website or scan the QR code



### TODAY:

- Memorial Services for Fran Hanna (40 days) & Antegone Kyros (1 yr).
- Coffee Hour hosted by GOYA and sponsored by the Hanna & Kyros families in the Large Hall.
- Forgiveness Vespers 5:00 p.m.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- Monday, February 23: CLEAN MONDAY First Day of Lent; Great Compline 6:00 pm; YAL Basketball 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 24: Adult Greek Classes 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, February 25: Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm; Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture 7:30 pm
- Thursday, February 26: Catechism 6:00 pm; Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 pm
- Friday, February 27: 1<sup>st</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm. Reception Hosted by Philoptochos
- Saturday, February 28: "3rd Saturday of the Souls" Orthros 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am; Greek School 10:00 am
- Sunday, March 1: Sunday of Orthodoxy ICON PROSESSION

### New Days for our Festival this Year

We're making a slight change in our usual festival days this year. Our festival will begin on a Tuesday and end on a Sunday.  
64th Annual St. Nicholas Greek Food Festival  
Tuesday, May 5 to Mother's Day, Sunday May 10

## TODAY'S HYMNS AND READINGS



*The Resurrection Hymn of the week in fourth mode is chanted twice for the Small Entrance:*

**Τ**ὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριάι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

**W**hen the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, “Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!”

*At the Small Entrance, the usual Entrance Hymn is chanted.*

*Following the Small Entrance, the Resurrection Hymn of the week in fourth mode is repeated (see above).*

*Then, the clergy chant the hymn for the memorial service in plagal fourth mode.*

**Μ**νήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ Σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μεταστᾶσι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

**R**emember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

*We then chant the Apolytikion hymn for our patron, St. Nicholas, in fourth mode:*

**Κ**ανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιίμνῃ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτίσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ ἱεράρχα Νικόλαε· πρόσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

**T**he truth of things have revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause you have achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

*Finally, we chant the Kontakion of the day, in first mode (for Cheesefare Sunday):*

**Τ**ῆς σοφίας ὁδηγέ, φρονήσεως χορηγέ, τῶν ἀφρόνων παιδευτά, καὶ πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστά, στήριξον, συνέτισον τὴν καρδίαν μου Δέσποτα. Σὺ δίδου μοι λόγον, ὁ τοῦ Πατρὸς Λόγος· ἰδοὺ γὰρ τὰ χεῖλῃ μου, οὐ μὴ κωλύσω ἐν τῷ κρᾶζειν σοι· Ἐλεῆμον, ἐλέησόν με τὸν παραπεσόντα.

**O** guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You, give me a word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

### **Today's Epistle Reading (Cheesefare Sunday):**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (13:11-14; 14:1-4)

**Α**δελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νῦξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν. Αποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκότους καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὄπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρᾳ εὐσημῶνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κώμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ, ἀλλ' ἐνδύσασθε τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιεῖσθε εἰς ἐπιθυμίας. Τὸν δὲ

ἀσθενοῦντα τῇ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὃς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθίοντα μὴ ἐξουθενεῖτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθίοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ Θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; τῷ ἰδίῳ Κυρίῳ στήκει ἢ πίπτει, σταθήσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ Θεὸς στῆσαι αὐτόν.

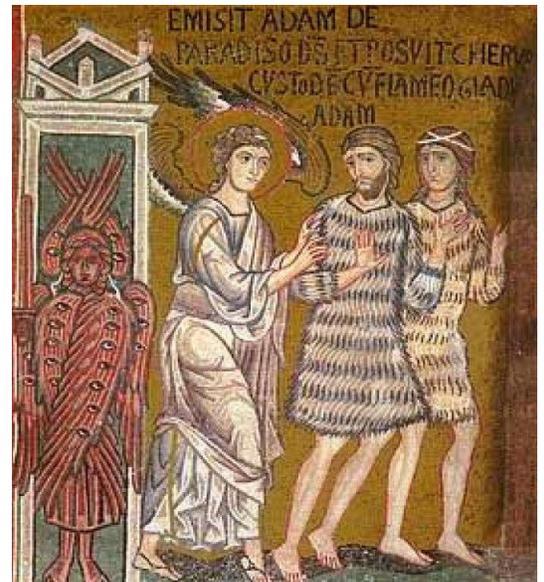
**B**rethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand. [RSV]

### Today's Gospel Reading (Cheesefare Sunday):

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (6:14-21)

**Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος·** Ἐὰν ἀφήτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, ἀφήσει καὶ ὑμῖν ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος· ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀφήτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ἀφήσει τὰ παραπτώματα ὑμῶν. Ὅταν δὲ νηστεύητε, μὴ γίνεσθε ὡσπερ οἱ ὑποκριταὶ σκυθρωποὶ, ἀφανίζουσι γὰρ τὰ πρόσωπα αὐτῶν ὅπως φανῶσι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύοντες· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ὅτι ἀπέχουσιν τὸν μισθὸν αὐτῶν. σὺ δὲ νηστεύων ἄλειψαί σου τὴν κεφαλὴν καὶ τὸ πρόσωπόν σου νίψαι, ὅπως μὴ φανῆς τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύων ἀλλὰ τῷ πατρί σου τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ· καὶ ὁ πατὴρ σου ὁ βλέπων ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ ἀποδώσει σοι ἐν τῷ φανερῷ. Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σῆς καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται διορύσσουσιν καὶ κλέπτουσιν· θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῷ, ὅπου οὔτε σῆς οὔτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται οὐ διορύσσουσιν οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν· ὅπου γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θησαυρός ὑμῶν, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδιά ὑμῶν.

**The Lord said,** “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” [RSV]



Prot. No. 119

CATECHETICAL HOMILY  
For the Opening of Holy and Great Lent

+ BARTHOLOMEW

By God's mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome  
and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church

May the grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;  
and from us, prayer, blessing, and forgiveness.

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

Filled with sacred emotion, we enter once again, by God's goodwill, into Holy and Great Lent, the arena of ascetic struggle, the time of fasting and repentance, of humility and prayer, of spiritual vigilance and love, with the eyes of our heart directed to the life-giving Cross of the Lord, which guides us all toward Holy Pascha that opens the gates of Paradise to the human race.

This blessed period now opening before us constitutes an opportunity to comprehend once more the truth of asceticism according to Christ and its inseparable association with the Eucharistic realization of the Church, whose every expression and dimension is illumined by the light and joy of the Resurrection. The spirit of asceticism is hardly a foreign element introduced into Christianity, nor is it the result of influence by dualistic ideologies outside the Church. Asceticism is another word for the Christian existence, connecting it with absolute trust in Divine Providence, with the inexhaustible spiritual gladness of a life dedicated to Christ, with self-transcendence and self-offering, with charitable love and respect for all creation.

Asceticism is not a matter of self-willed choices and subjective particularities, but of submission to the rule and the "catholic experience" of the Church. It has been described as an "ecclesiastical" rather than an "individual" event. Life in the Church is indivisible. Repentance, prayer, humility, forgiveness, fasting, and philanthropic deeds are

interconnected and interwoven. In the Orthodox tradition, there is no asceticism as an end in itself, for that only leads to an overestimation of individual effort and feeds tendencies of self-justification.

Great Lent is the appropriate time to experience the Church as the place and the manner in which the gifts of divine Grace are revealed, always as a foretaste of the joy of the Lord's Resurrection, the cornerstone of our faith and the all-radiant horizon of "the hope within us." It is by divine inspiration that the Church honours on Cheesefare Saturday the sacred memory of saintly men and women who have shone brightly in asceticism, for they are the supporters and companions of the faithful in the long course of asceticism. In the arena of spiritual struggle, we have the benevolence of the Triune God with us, the protection of the All-Holy Mother of God and Mother of us all, and the intercessions of the saints and martyrs of the faith.

Healthy Christian asceticism is the participation of the whole human being—as a unity of spirit, soul, and body—in the life in Christ, without undervaluing matter and the body, and without a Manichaean reduction of spirituality. As it has been written, Christian asceticism is ultimately a struggle "not *against*, but *for* the body"; as the *Gerontikon* affirms: "We have been taught not to destroy the body, but to destroy the passions."

Unfortunately, and inaccurately, Christian asceticism has been labelled by contemporary thinkers as a denial of the joy of life and as a restriction of human creativity. Nothing could be further from the truth! As release from "having" and from attachment to the possession of things, and especially as liberation from the ego, from "seeking one's own," and from the "having of our being," asceticism is the source and expression of genuine freedom.

What can be more truthful than the exodus from the captivity of "individual right" and the openness and love for our fellow human beings, the inner "good change" and steadfastness in fulfilling God's commandments? What could be more creative than fasting, when it is a holistic attitude of life and expresses the ascetic and Eucharistic spirit of the Church, when it is a "common struggle" and not an "individual feat"? What could be more existentially striking than repentance and internal conversion, as a vital direction toward the truth and a renewed discovery

of the power of divine Grace, of the depth of life in Christ and the hope of eternal life?

It is truly impressive that, when the early Christian character of Holy and Great Lent as a period of preparation for Holy Baptism in the Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection was replaced by the “ethos of repentance,” there nevertheless remained its experience as a “second baptism.” For this reason, the period of fasting and repentance is not sorrowful. Our hymnology speaks of the “spring of fasting,” while theology calls Great Lent a “spiritual spring” and a “period of joy and light.” All of this assumes special timeliness and significance in the face of the anthropological confusion of our time, as well as the new alienations rooted in contemporary civilization.

With these sentiments and thoughts, reminding all the children of the Holy Great Church of Christ throughout the Lord’s dominion, that on the day of the Akathist Hymn, the festivities will culminate, marking the 1400th anniversary of the year 626—when, in expression of gratitude to the Theotokos for the deliverance of the City of Constre from a perilous siege, the Akathist Hymn was chanted standing in the sacred Church of Blachernae—we wish you all a smooth course of the Fast, with asceticism and patience, with thanksgiving and doxology.

May we all, speaking the truth in love and being sanctified in the Lord, travel this way toward the fullness of joy in His radiant Resurrection.

Holy and Great Lent 2026  
✠ BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople  
Your fervent supplicant for all before God

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To be read in churches on Cheesefare Sunday, 22 February 2026,  
immediately after the Holy Gospel.

# SAINTS ALIVE



## February 22<sup>nd</sup>

- The Finding of the Precious Relics of the Holy Martyrs in the Quarter of Eugenius
- Our Righteous Fathers Thalassius and Baradatus

## February 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Polycarp the Holy Martyr & Bishop of Smyrna
- Proterios, Archbishop of Alexandria

## February 24<sup>th</sup>

- First & Second Finding of the Venerable Head of John the Baptist

## February 25<sup>th</sup>

- Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople
- Reginos, Bishop of Skopelos

## February 26<sup>th</sup>

- Porphyrus, Bishop of Gaza
- The Holy Great Martyr Photine, the Samaritan Woman

## February 27<sup>th</sup>

- Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis
- Raphael of Brooklyn

## February 28<sup>th</sup>

- Basil the Confessor



## From the Church School Desk:

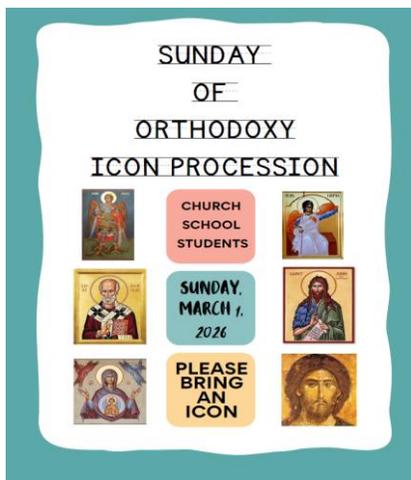
Next week, **Sunday, March 1, 2026**, the Church School students will participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** with their favorite icon!

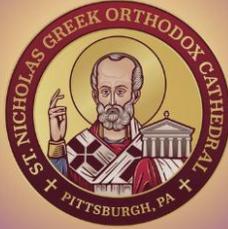
**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School Open House** will be **Sunday, March 8, 2026**, where parents and grandparents attend Church School to see firsthand what their children are learning.

'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](mailto: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*





# 2026 LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

**"CREATING SPACE  
FOR GOD:  
SILENCE, REPENTANCE,  
AND WATCHFULNESS"**

WEDNESDAYS  
FOLLOWING  
PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

COME AND BRING A  
LENTEN POTLUCK MEAL  
TO ENJOY

**PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY**

🕒 6:00 P.M.

**POTLUCK MEAL AND  
LENTEN LECTURE**

🕒 7:30 P.M.

[WWW.STNICKSPGH.ORG](http://WWW.STNICKSPGH.ORG)

## SPEAKERS

**FEBRUARY 25**



**"IF I'D-A LISTENED WHAT  
MOMMA SAID:"  
ON PARENTS, PROVERBS,  
AND THE PRODIGAL**

**JOEL BRADY**

*PH.D.,  
PROFESSOR OF ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIANITY AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH*

**MARCH 4**

**NO PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY**

*METROPOLIS CLERGY  
LENTEN RETREAT*

**MARCH 11**



**CAN SILENCE BE  
ACHIEVED IN TODAY'S  
NOISY WORLD?**

**FR. TOM CONSTANTINE**

*M.DIV.,  
INTERIM PROISTAMENOS AT  
ST. GEORGE CHURCH IN NEW CASTLE, PA*

**MARCH 18**



**THE COURAGE TO  
SLOW DOWN**

**ALYSSA KYRITSIS**

*M.DIV.,  
DIRECTOR OF Y2AM FOR THE  
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH*

**MARCH 25**

**NO PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY**

*FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION  
(AND GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY)*

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

## SUNDAYS

## THEMES / GOSPEL READING

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Fast - Free Week  
**FEBRUARY 1st**



*TRIODION WEEKS*  
**Publican and the Pharisee**

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15  
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.

Normal Fast Week  
**FEBRUARY 8th**



**The Prodigal Son Returns!**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.

Meatfare  
**FEBRUARY 15th**  
FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY



**The Last Judgement**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2  
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.

Cheesefare  
**FEBRUARY 22nd**  
FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY



**Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!**  
*FORGIVENESS SUNDAY*

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4  
Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.

1st Sunday of Lent  
**MARCH 1st**



*GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS*  
**SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY**

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2  
Gospel: John 1:43-51

Bring an icon to church for a procession.

2nd Sunday of Lent  
**MARCH 8th**



**ST GREGORY PALAMAS**

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3  
Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.

3rd Sunday of Lent  
**MARCH 15th**



**VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
*HALF WAY TO PASCHA!*

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6  
Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!

4th Sunday of Lent  
**MARCH 22nd**



**ST JOHN of the LADDER**

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20  
Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!

5th Sunday of Lent  
**MARCH 29th**



**ST MARY of EGYPT**

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14  
Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.

FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!  
**APRIL 5th**  
GREAT WEEK BEGINS



*GREAT AND HOLY WEEK*  
**ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9  
Gospel: John 12:1-18

Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY  
**APRIL 10th**



**GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY**

*JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS*  
CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.

FEAST OF FEASTS!  
**APRIL 12th**  
NO FASTING!



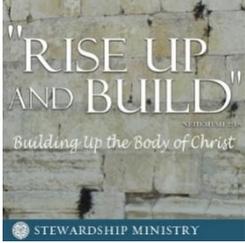
*BRIGHT WEEK*  
**HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)**

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

**GREEK SCHOOL**

**Keep open March 22, 2026**, to join us in the celebration of the Feast Day of Evangelismos and Greek Independence. On that day a Doxology, a luncheon, followed with an annual program presented by the Greek School.



We build up the Body of Christ by offering our time, talents, and treasures with love and joy.

Visit our website to fill out a Stewardship Card or to donate at [www.stnickspgh.org](http://www.stnickspgh.org).

<u>2026</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
<b>Total Stewards</b>	<b>80 (GOAL 300)</b>
<b>Total Pledged</b>	<b>\$ GOAL (\$255,000.00)</b>
<b>Avg. Pledge</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Stewardship 2026:** Thank you to our new and returning Saint Nicholas Stewards! For those who have not filled out a card, please do so as our church depends on stewardship for ongoing ministries as well as maintaining our beautiful Cathedral.  
  
Cards are available in the Narthex and online at <http://www.stnickspgh.org>.

**SIXTY CLUB NEWS**

Come one come all for this end of the summer special fun trip to New York City, August 18th, 19th, & 20th. The price for double occupancy is \$989 per person; single occupancy is \$1289 and triple occupancy is \$959 per person. This includes all taxes and gratuities, a Broadway show, a visit to the St. Nicholas Shrine and much more.

For more information, please contact  
Alice Lardas Gary  
412-249-8612

**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](https://youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org)**

**Questions? Email: [youthsafety@goarch.org](mailto:youthsafety@goarch.org)**



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

### PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Philoptochos is trying to put together a list of individuals who are willing and able to help the area college students (Pitt, CMU, Carlow, Chatham, Duquesne, RMU, CCAC, Penn State (Pittsburgh), Point Park, and LaRoche) during their stay here in Pittsburgh. A list of drivers, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, etc. is being compiled so they will have someone to call. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. The goal is to have this list complete by the end of the year for distribution in January (next semester'). For more information, contact Michelle Kotsagrelas at 412-680-1416.

#### Homewood Cemetery

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Greek Section

There are currently 21 graves available for purchase.

Cost per grave:

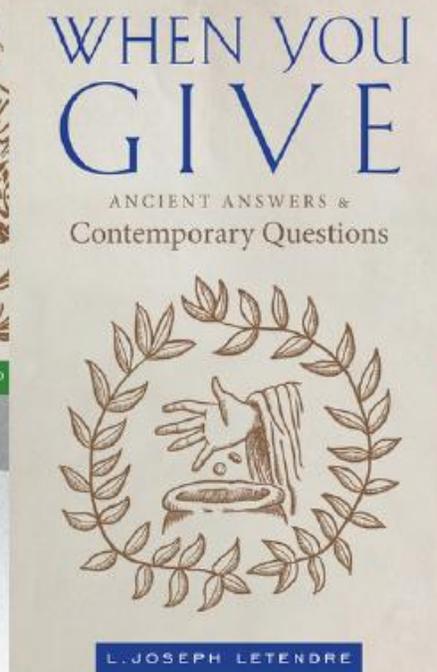
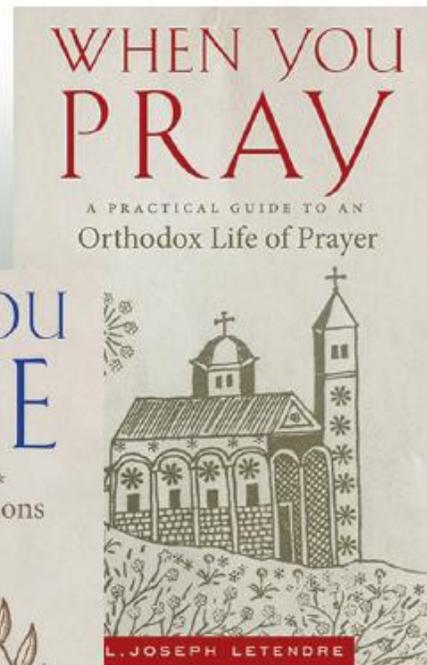
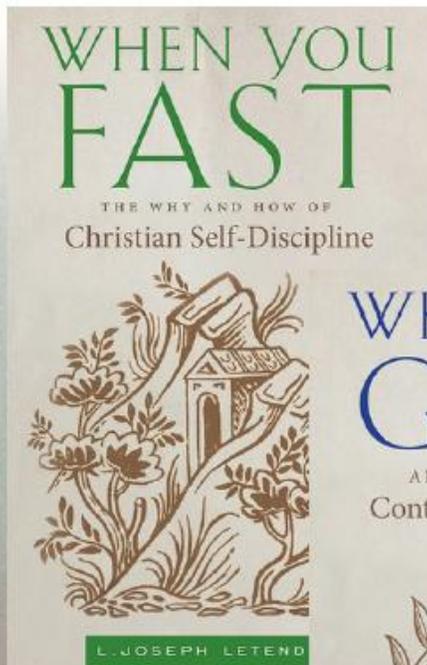
\$2,800.00 per grave for a member of St. Nicholas.

\$3,300.00 per grave for non-member.

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

# Fast. Pray. Give.

Titles for Lent and Everyday



Available at the St. John Chrysostom Bookstore

[bookstore@stnickspgh.org](mailto:bookstore@stnickspgh.org)

# GOYA

## **THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU**

A big THANK YOU to everyone for helping  
make our St. Nicholas GOYA

Metropolis Basketball Tournament this  
past weekend a huge success. It was a great  
weekend for all the GOYAns, chaperones,  
advisors, coaches, families and parishioners.

There were thirteen parishes from our  
Metropolis participating from as far away as  
Bethlehem, Pa. with over 475  
participants. We could not have done this  
without the help of the entire parish.  
Pictures and more information will be in the  
upcoming Newsletter.

## **Food Festival Prep**

**Please join us on Saturday, February 28th to mix, roll, bake, dip and pack our delicious finikia for this year's  
food festival!**

**We will have dough ready to begin rolling around 8:30 a.m. If you can spare a few hours (or want to spend the  
whole day with us), please stop down.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Lykos (412-897-8208).**

**Finikia, Saturday, February 28**

**Galatoboureko, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 9, 10 and 11**

**Tiropita, Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28**

**Kourambiethes, Saturday, April 18**

**Diples, Monday, April 27**

**Karidopita, TBD**

Metropolis of  
Pittsburgh Camp



MARCH 27-29, 2026

# GOYA SPRING RETREAT



Camper Registration opens on Monday,  
February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM EST!

QUESTIONS?

[camp@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:camp@pittsburgh.goarch.org)

*For questions, contact our Camping Ministries Coordinator, Sophia Milinkovic.*

## 2026 Summer Camp Dates

WEEK 1 (2ND-4TH GRADE): JUNE 21ST-27TH

WEEK 2 (5TH-7TH GRADE): JUNE 28TH-JULY 4TH

WEEK 3 (7TH-9TH GRADE): JULY 5TH-JULY 11TH

WEEK 4 (10TH-12TH GRADE): JULY 12TH-JULY 18TH

CAMPERS WILL ATTEND THE WEEK OF THE GRADE  
LEVEL THEY ARE COMPLETING IN THE 2025-2026  
SCHOOL YEAR. REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SPRING  
2026. FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[Y2AM.PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG/SUMMERCAMP](http://Y2AM.PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG/SUMMERCAMP)



# FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
22 <b>Forgiveness Sunday</b> (Cheesefare Sunday) Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.  <b>Forgiveness Vespers</b> 5:00 p.m.	23 <b>CLEAN MONDAY</b> First Day of LENT  <b>Great Compline</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>YAL Basketball</b> 7:00 p.m.	24  <b>Adult Greek Classes</b> 6:30 p.m.	25  <b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture</b> 7:30 p.m.	26  <b>Catechism Class</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>Pitt/CMU OCF</b> 7:30 p.m.	27  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos</b> 6:00 p.m. <i>Reception Hosted by Philoptochos</i>	28  <b>Commemoration of the Miracle of Kollyva wrought by Saint Theodore (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Souls)</b> Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.  <b>Greek School</b> 10:00 a.m.	
<b>1 MARCH</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY</b> Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.  <i>Pan-Orthodox Vespers at All Saints in Canonsburg 4:00 p.m.</i>	2  <b>Great Compline</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>YAL Basketball</b> 7:00 p.m.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <b>Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy Family Lenten Retreat</b>                      March 3-5 (at Antiochian Village)                 </div>			5  <b>Pitt/CMU OCF</b> 7:30 p.m.	6  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos</b> 6:00 p.m.	7  <b>Greek School</b> 10:00 a.m.  <b>WEEKEND OF SERVICE</b>
8  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas</b> Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.  <b>WEEKEND OF SERVICE</b>	9  <b>Great Compline</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>YAL Basketball</b> 7:00 p.m.	10  <b>Adult Greek Classes</b> 6:30 p.m.	11  <b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture</b> 7:30 p.m.	12  <b>Catechism Class</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>Pitt/CMU OCF</b> 7:30 p.m.	13  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos</b> 6:00 p.m.	14  <b>Greek School</b> 10:00 a.m. <i>Sacrament: Baptism</i>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <b>Festival Prep and Cooking: Galaktoboureko</b>                      March 9 – 11                 </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <b>Metropolis Young Adult Spring Retreat</b>                      March 13-15 (at Camp Nazareth)                 </div>					
15  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Sunday of the Holy Cross</b> Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	16  <b>Great Compline</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>YAL Basketball</b> 7:00 p.m.	17  <b>Adult Greek Classes</b> 6:30 p.m.	18  <b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Potluck Dinner and Lenten Lecture</b> 7:30 p.m.	19  <b>Catechism Class</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>Pitt/CMU OCF</b> 7:30 p.m.	20  <b>4<sup>th</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos</b> 6:00 p.m.	21  <b>Greek School</b> 10:00 a.m.  <b>Central Region HOPE and JOY Lenten Mini Retreat at Dormition Church in Oakmont</b>	