



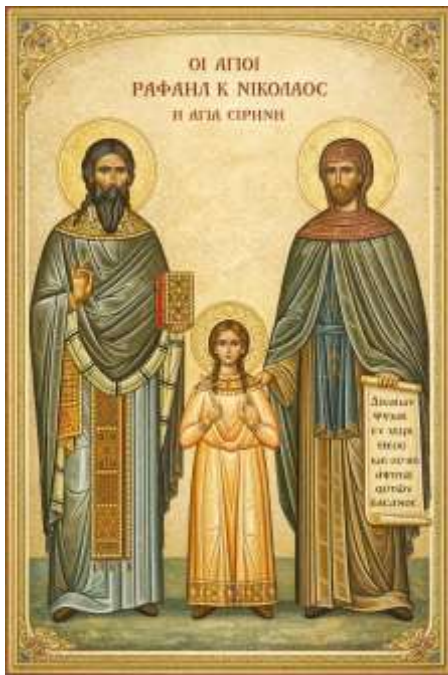
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA



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

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Saints Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene of Lesbos (Commemorated on Bright Tuesday)



The Newly-Revealed Martyrs Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene bore witness to Christ with courage and unwavering faith during the persecutions following the fall of Constantinople. In 1463, on the island of Lesbos, Saint Raphael, an abbot, and Saint Nicholas, a deacon, were tortured and martyred for refusing to renounce Christ. The young Irene, the daughter of the village elder, also endured brutal suffering and was put to death, sealing her faith with extraordinary courage.

For centuries, their witness remained hidden, known only to God. Then, beginning in the 20th century, they revealed themselves through a series of miraculous appearances to the faithful, guiding them to the place of their martyrdom and the uncovering of their holy relics. Through these revelations, their story came to light, strengthening the faith of countless believers and bearing witness to the living presence of the saints in the life of the Church.

As intercessors and protectors, they remind us that the victory of Christ is not confined to the past, but is alive and active in every generation. Their witness—both in their suffering and in their miraculous revelation—calls us to steadfast faith, even in times of trial, and to trust that Christ is always at work, bringing light out of darkness.

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

2026 Parish Council

Alexandra Davides, President (412-956-6325)
 Victor Bertolina, Vice President (412-860-2315)
 James Machin, Treasurer (724-413-3607)
 Robin Day, Assistant Treasurer (917-569-8622)
 James Hages Assistant Secretary (412-523-7937)
 Lee Katsafanas, Secretary (412-215-6089)
 Maria Bardakos (412-519-8684)
 George Bellios (412-897-5354)
 Vasili Copetas (412-352-9323)
 William Gary (412-889-4795)
 John Frentzos (412-287-0275)
 Peter Krelis (412-370-2809)
 Van Paras (412-527-4248)
 Constance Paras-Jennings (412-302-8960)
 Peter Tsudis (412-915-7006)

Service Schedule

All Year Round

Orthros 8:15 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Hall Rentals

If you are interested in renting either our small or large hall, please contact our Events Coordinator, Mary Olszewski, at 412-628-9466 or events@stnickspgh.org for more information and availability.

Metropolis	412-621-5529	www.pittsburgh.goarch.org
Archdiocese	212-570-3500	www.goarch.org

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

www.stnickspgh.org

www.stnickscathedralroom.com

And look for us on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Nicholas-Greek-Orthodox-Cathedral-Pittsburgh-PA>

Watch Sunday services streaming live from St Nicholas Cathedral at www.stnickspgh.org/ and click on "Live Streaming Click Here".

On-Line Giving donations are up and running on our web page www.stnickspgh.org by clicking please donate button - or you may access the donation page by using <https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give>

ORGANIZATIONS

Church School	Michelle Kotsagrelou	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	Alice Gary	412-951-7334
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 - Vasili Copetas & John Frentzos
Operational & Administration - John Frentzos
Parish Sustainability - Vasili Copetas
Religious & Greek Education/Greek Affiliations - Lee Katsafanas
Social - William Gary
Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism - Robin Day
Technology & Communications - Robin Day
Youth & Young Adult Ministries - James Hages
AD HOC Committees
Beautification Deacon Robert Lykos
Bylaws/Legal William Gary

FATHER'S MESSAGE

*"With candles and lamps let us go out to be with Christ who emerged from the sepulcher like the Bridegroom; and with festive ranks of Angels let us also celebrate God's holy Pascha that saves us all."
(Paschal Matins, Ode 5)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Christ is Risen!

As we journey once again through Great Lent and Holy Week and approach the radiant Feast of Feasts, the Church places before us a beautiful and poignant image: the Risen Christ as the Bridegroom, and we, His people, going out to meet Him with lamps burning.

On Holy Tuesday, we commemorate the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1–13), a familiar yet deeply sobering story. Five were wise, prepared with oil for their lamps; five were foolish, unprepared for the coming of the Bridegroom. At first glance, this parable speaks to watchfulness, readiness, and the uncertainty of the hour. But in the light of Pascha, it reveals something deeper: the One for whom we wait is not distant—He is the One who has already passed through death and emerged victorious from the tomb.

The above hymn from the Orthros of Pascha draws this connection together beautifully. With "candles and lamps," we go out to meet Christ—not just as those awaiting some sort of future event, but as those who can encounter the Risen Lord here and now. The light we hold in our hands on the night of Pascha is not simply a ritual gesture; it is the very light of the Resurrection, the unwaning light that shines forth from the empty tomb.

And yet, the parable gently asks each of us: Are our lamps ready?

The oil of the wise virgins has often been understood by the Fathers as the life of faith expressed through love, mercy, prayer, and repentance. It is not something that can be borrowed at the last moment; it is cultivated over time, especially in the hidden and quiet places of the heart. Great Lent itself has been precisely this – a season given to us to "fill our lamps," to return to the Lord, and to prepare ourselves to receive Him.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

Each year, as we stand in the dark church eagerly awaiting to receive the paschal light, we are, in a sense, stepping into the very scene of that parable. We go out with candles in hand to meet the Bridegroom. The question is not whether or when He will come. For Christ has already come, and as we confess, "He was, is, and ever shall be." But we must ask ourselves whether or not we will be ready to receive Him with joy and not only to go through the motions.

May we be numbered among the wise virgins, with lamps brightly burning, hearts awake, and lives prepared to receive the Risen Christ. And as we celebrate His holy Pascha, may His light not only illumine our candles, but fill the entirety of our lives...so that we may enter with Him into the eternal wedding feast of the Kingdom.

Prayerfully yours in the risen Lord,



† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM

With much joy, we welcome into our Family of faith Gabriel James Keiper He is the son of Nicholas Keiper and Lacey Gori, and was baptized on Saturday, March 14, 2026. His Godmother is Debra Wiesen.

FUNERAL

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of *Helene T. Powers* who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Her funeral was on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at St. Nicholas Cathedral. May her memory be eternal.



2026 Holy Week Service Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 — SUNDAY, APRIL 12

LAZARUS SATURDAY (4/4)	Orthros and Liturgy <i>Followed by Youth Retreat and Palm Folding</i>	8:30 a.m./9:30 a.m.
PALM SUNDAY (4/5)	Orthros and Liturgy Bridegroom Service	8:15 a.m./9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
HOLY MONDAY (4/6)	Bridegroom Service	6:30 p.m.
HOLY TUESDAY (4/7)	Bridegroom Service	6:30 p.m.
HOLY WEDNESDAY (4/8)	Holy Unction Bridegroom Service <i>with Holy Unction</i>	3:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
HOLY THURSDAY (4/9)	Vespereal Liturgy Service of the 12 Gospels	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
HOLY FRIDAY (4/10)	Royal Hours Apokathelosis Service of Lamentations	9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
HOLY SATURDAY (4/11)	Proti-Anastasi Vespereal Liturgy Midnight Office (Pannychis) Service of the Resurrection	9:30 a.m. 11:00 p.m. 11:45 p.m.
PASCHA SUNDAY (4/12)	Agape Vespers	11:00 a.m.

CALL FOR READERS!

Readers are needed for Services as we celebrate Holy Week and Pascha. There are services each night and the opportunity to read at the Services is open to all. Our parish needs special commitments from readers to participate in the services below.



Holy Wednesday

Service of Holy Unction

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

at 3:00 p.m.

The seven (7) Epistle Readings at the Holy Unction Service are read in English. If you or someone you know is interested in offering one of these readings, please contact Michelle Kotsagrelis.



Great & Holy Pascha

Agape Vespers

Sunday, April 12, 2026

at 11:00 a.m.

During this brief service, the Gospel is proclaimed in as many languages as possible. If you or someone you know can read in any foreign language, please contact Michelle Kotsagrelis or Fr. Eleftherios.

PARISH COUNCIL

Spring has arrived and Saint Nicholas is addressing many maintenance needs, including landscaping, painting, boiler issues along with Food Festival cooking and baking and Spring Cleaning.

Our Lenten season has been a positive journey with many attending weekly services and the popular Lenten Lectures.

Parish Council is asking for volunteers for ushering and serving on Council committees. Give of your time, treasure and talents to your church.

On behalf of your Parish Council, I wish you a Blessed Easter.

Alexandra Davides
Parish Council President

Homewood Cemetery

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Greek Section

There are currently 19 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.

2026 STEWARDSHIP



Fr. Eleftherios & Presvytera Elizabeth Constantine
 Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Dr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis
 Mr. & Mrs. Rudy J. Agras
 Jim & Electra Agras
 Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Ms. Jeanne Antonuccio
 Mr. George Anthon
 Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou
 Mr. & Mrs. Spiliou Argiropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Fr. Christopher & Presvytera Filitsa Bender
 Ms. Sophia Bender
 Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Ms. Pamela Bertos
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos
 Ms. Krista Bullard
 Mrs. Elena G. Cerri
 Mrs. Dee Chronis
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Ms. Theodora Constantine
 Marion Constatinides
 Mr. Phillip Contacos
 Ms. Jamie Contis
 Mrs. Sandra Contis
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Dino G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen M. Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mrs. Vasso Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Coutris
 Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
 Denise Daugherty
 Bridgette Daugherty
 Mrs. Alexandra Davides
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias
 Mr. Anthony Dematteo
 Mrs. Christine Dematteo
 Arthur J. Dordas
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Economou
 Mr. John H. Edgos
 Mrs. Sophia Edgos
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Drs. Athan & Lydia Georgiades
 Ms. Jami Gori
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. Corey Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory
 Dr. Constantinos Hadjipanayis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Hages
 Aphrodite Haritos Halleran
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna
 Mrs. Frances Hanna+
 Rania Harris
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Janis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Mr. Konstatinos Kasamias
 Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis
 Dr. & Mrs. John Karvounides
 Mr. Andron Kavouras
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Mrs. Sandra Kemrer
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Mrs. Elaine Keim
 Mrs. Demetra Kontoulis
 Michelle Marie Kotsagrelou
 Mr. Chris T. Kouklis
 Mr. Peter Kreilis
 Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Krinis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. David Levine
 Mrs. Janet Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Ms. Karen Malobicky
 Mr. Christopher Mandros
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Ms. Barbara R. Manners
 Ms. Electra Markopoulos
 Mr. Greg Markopoulos
 Mrs. Helen Mastro
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastro
 Dr's Tom & Dana McClure
 Ms. Patricia McKee
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
 Mr. Paul L. Moses
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
 Mrs. Constance Paras Jennings
 Mrs. Katherine Paras
 Mr. John C. Paras
 Mr. Van Paras
 Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger
 Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
 Ms. Stamatia Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolias
 Mrs. Constance Petros
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mr. George S. Raftis, III
 Mr. Robert M. Reitz
 Mrs. Kristina Rigopulos & Mr. William Guttman
 Ms. Maria- Emilia Sawaya
 Mr. William Sfamenos
 Mr. A. Robert Shott
 Mrs. Stella Stratigos
 Mr. & Mrs. Gus Stamoolis
 Toula Stathopoulos
 Mrs. Argie Stuart
 Mrs. Stella Stratigos
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Stepanow
 Mrs. Evangeline Theodoridis
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas
 Mrs. Dena Haritos Tsamitis
 Mr. Peter Tsoukalas
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
 Mr. Sotirios Tsourekis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tsudis
 Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis
 Mr. & Mrs. Achilles Vassilicos
 Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
 Mrs. Angela Vergos
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vergos
 Ms. Elaine Vitsas
 Mr. John Vitsas
 Ms. Jane Voros
 Mrs. Helen Waskoskie
 Mr. Brett D. Wells
 Mrs. Debra Wiesen
 Mr. & Mrs. David Williard
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras
 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

Give a little--Help a lot!



Spaghetti Luncheon

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Adults \$20 Children under 10 \$15

Keli 412-337-1297

Lisa 412-600-1240

Carrie 412-680-0210

Consider making a donation if you cannot attend

All proceeds go to offset costs for
St Nicholas' children to attend CAMP NAZARETH!



St. Nicholas Church School

Church School students in grades 7th–12th can learn more about their faith and participate in the **St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival** that will be held in **April 2026**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or eve.m.elsen@gmail.com.

Upcoming dates to remember:
Youth Retreat, Breakfast & Palm Cross Making
Saturday, April 4, 2026
Following the Divine Liturgy

Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday, April 12, 2026
Following the Agape Service

Church School Graduation
Sunday, May 17, 2026

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

Wishing you a Blessed Easter!


Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle



Myrophores

Any young girl (grades 2nd - 6th)
who would like to be a Myrophora
on Good Friday
during the Lamentation Service,
please contact Miss Michelle
(412-680-1416).

You will need to wear
your own white dress.



GOYA GIRLS:

Your help is needed to distribute the light
of the Resurrected Lord as Myrophores.

Please be at church by 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 11, 2026

**ST. NICHOLAS WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OF
OUR GRADUATES MAY 17th!**

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

Name _____
Phone: _____
Month of Graduation _____
High School: _____

Or
University/ Graduate School: _____

Degree Earned: _____

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

Awards and Honors:

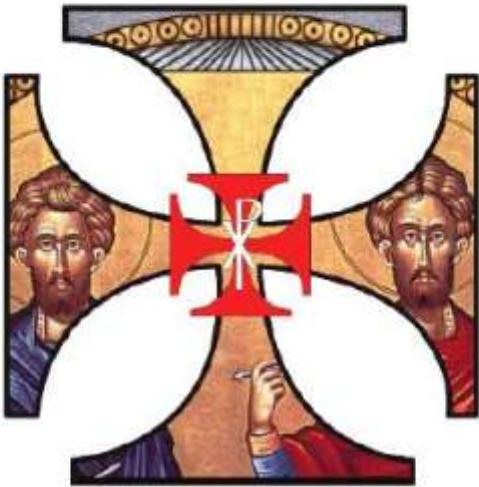
Activities:

Future Plans:

Sunday of Orthodoxy 3/1/26



JOIN US



**Saint Nicholas Cathedral
Ladies Philo托chos 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 Philo托chos

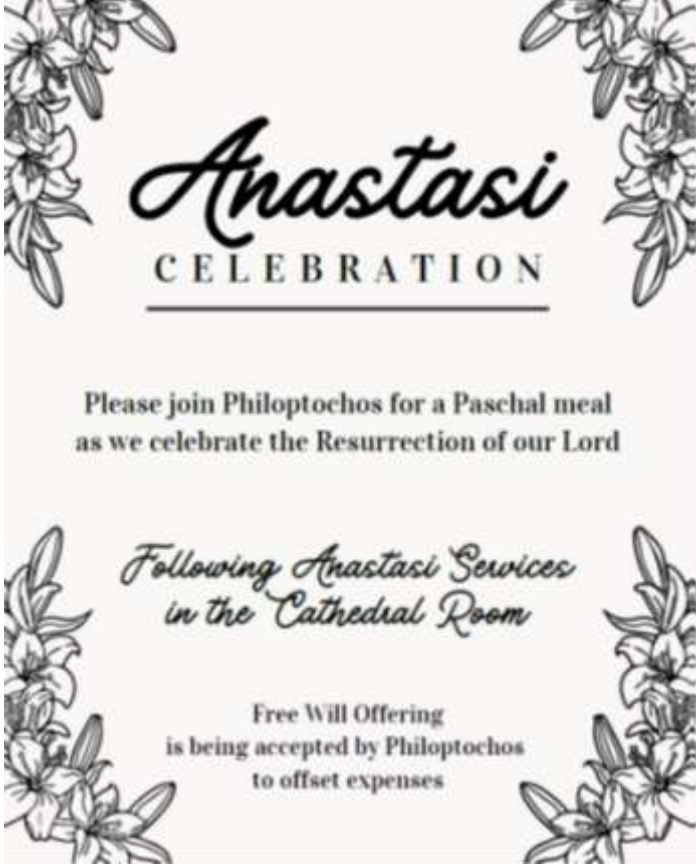
RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
St. Nicholas Philo托chos
419 S. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Philoptochos News , Con't




Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Ladies Philoptochos Society
Virtual Daffodil Fundraiser
March 15, 2026 – April 18, 2026
Proceeds to benefit:
**Metropolis Social Service Fund
&
Our Seminarians Our Future Fund**
Join us in observing this Lenten Season and help make this year's
Virtual Daffodil Fundraiser a true blessing to others!
Donations can be made
by scanning this QR code:

Or by check payable to:
The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos
c/o Pious Vahanian
270 Latta Road
Allentown, PA 18104



Anastasi
CELEBRATION

Please join Philoptochos for a Paschal meal
as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord

*Following Anastasi Services
in the Cathedral Room*

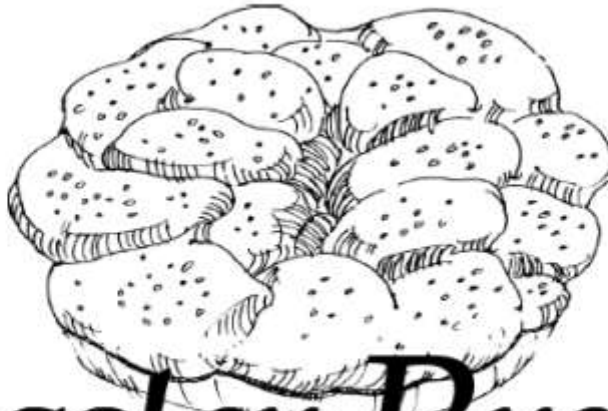
Free Will Offering
is being accepted by Philoptochos
to offset expenses



WEEKEND OF SERVICE 2026



Philoptochos & our parish youth assembled 100 hygiene kits that were delivered to local shelters.
THANK YOU to everyone who donated in support of this year's **WEEKEND OF SERVICE PROJECT!**



Easter Bread

**ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL PHILOPTOCHOS IS TAKING ORDERS
FOR OUR DELICIOUS GREEK EASTER BREAD.**

\$12 per loaf

ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY MARCH 29

BREAD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP AFTER CHURCH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5

----- ORDER FORM -----

Complete the order form below and mail along WITH A CHECK made payable to:
St. Nicholas Philoptochos/Easter Bread, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Name _____

Telephone _____ Number of Loaves _____

with Sesame Seeds

without Sesame Seeds

ORDERS CAN BE PLACED BY CALLING (412) 682-3866

Thank you for your support.

All Proceeds Benefit the Ongoing Charitable Activities of our Philoptochos.



**Please Join Philoptochos
for our Annual
Palm Sunday
Family Luncheon**

Sunday, April 5th 2026
Following Church Services

\$20 for Adults ~ \$10 for Kids (12 and under)

***Reservations are Required*
by Monday, March 30th**

Call or Text Michelle Kotsagrellos (412) 680-1416 or fill out the reservation form below & mail it along with check to St. Nicholas Philoptochos



Name _____

Phone # _____

Reservations:

_____ Adults x \$20 = _____ Kids x \$10 = _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Food Festival

And suddenly, it's April with 11 items completed, and only two more to go!

Our Shout-Out this month goes to Lenna Cominos and Keli Frentzos for chairing Tiropita with an amazing turnout, and Vasili Copetas, John Frentzos and Nick Kleissas for making the Galatoboureko filling. A special well-deserved Shout Out goes to John Edgos for still continuing to break all those eggs!

Looking ahead into April, we have Kourambiethes, Saturday, April 18, and Diples, Monday, April 27. As always, no experience needed. Training is gladly provided here on the spot!

Please note our new festival dates and spread the word. Our six day festival begins Tuesday, May 5, and runs through Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10.

Our food items are pretty well complete, our children are busy practicing and banners will soon appear. Our festival is right around the corner!

It takes a village to run a smooth festival. Please consider how you would like to volunteer, be it at online ordering, the food or pastry line, Baklava Sundaes, the coffee station, the bar area, set up, or serving as a greeter, runner, server or chair.

As always, Saint Nicholas thanks you!

April Schedule

Kourambiethes, Saturday, April 18

Diples, Monday, April 27

Karidopita, TBD



SAVE THE DATES!
**2026 St. Nicholas
Greek Food Festival**

For many years, our festival has taken place during the first full week of May.

In 2026, we're trying something new.

Tuesday, May 5 – Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day)

Please note that this year's festival will begin on Tuesday and conclude on Sunday.

The poster features the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral logo on the left and a stylized 'Greek Food Festival' logo on the right. The background is a light blue and white pattern.

FOOD FESTIVAL AD BOOK

FOOD FESTIVAL AD BOOK

The 64th edition of our St. Nicholas Greek Food Festival ad book will be hitting the press soon. Please consider supporting it with either a personal ad or one from your business. All proceeds benefit the Saint Nicholas Building Fund. Contract forms are located in the Narthex.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

**2026 GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL
ADVERTISING CONTRACT**



Name _____
 Business _____
 Address _____

 Phone/ Cell _____
 Email _____

AD DEADLINE APRIL 14, 2026

Ad Size	Color
Center Fold – (2 full page premium ads) /9w x 7.5h	\$2,000
Full Page Premium* / 4.5w x 7.5h – (4- inside cover flaps and adjacent pages)	\$900
Full Page/ 4.5w x 7.5h	\$800
Half Page/ 4.5w x 3.75h	\$450
Quarter Page/ 4.5w x 1.875h	\$250
Patron (for St. Nicholas Parishioners only)	\$50

For repeat customers, please indicate below if you would like to use the same ad as last year.

Use same ad as previous year

Please make check payable and mail to St. Nicholas Cathedral. Check enclosed Bill me

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Please print or attach ad copy, or email ad file in a high-resolution JPEG format to: foodfestadbook@stnickspqh.org

Date Received:

Check Number:

Receipt Number:

419 S. Dithridge St. Pittsburgh, PA 15213 • Phone: 412-412-682-3866 • Fax: 412-683-4960

Luminary Memorials

Good Friday Luminary Memorials



**Remember your loved ones with Luminaries
on Good Friday, April 10, 2026.**

*To include your loved one,
please fill out the form below.*

**Luminaries will have names included on the bags and
will be displayed on the steps of the church on
Good Friday Evening, as we walk with the
“Epitaphio” around the church.
Names will also be published.**

Please fill out the form below and give to one of the Parish Council members or mail to the Parish Office. Donations of \$10.00 per Luminary to be paid to St. Nicholas Cathedral by Monday, April 6th.

Names to be commemorated:

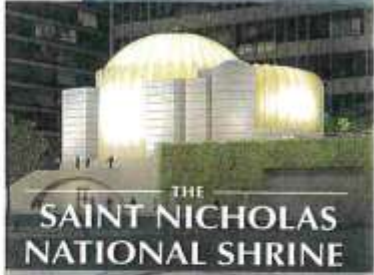
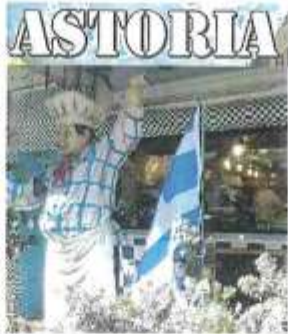
Paid By	
Check #	
Amount	
Date Rec'd	



\$ 989 per person double occupancy
\$ 1,288 per person single occupancy
\$ 959 per person triple occupancy

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- * 2 Nights lodging
- * 2 Breakfasts
- * Luncheon Cruise around Manhattan
- * Lunch at Greek Restaurant in Astoria
- * 1 Dinner in Manhattan
- * St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine
- * Tour of Upper Manhattan
- * Tour of Lower Manhattan
- * Broadway Show (*The Great Gatsby*)
- * Souvenir gift
- * Luggage handling
- * Taxes and meal gratuities
- * Motorcoach transportation



Cancellation insurance is available & highly recommended; see reverse side for details.

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Alice Gary
2120 Greentree Rd., #406E
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 249-8612

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK 3 Days - 2 Nights

The sample itinerary described below is approximately like the one your group will be following during your stay with WHITE STAR TOURS. However, the exact times, days, and destinations may vary for your group.

- Day 1** A morning departure from Pittsburgh has you traveling to New York City where you will meet your local guide for a **tour of Lower Manhattan**. The tour includes the famous buildings and colorful districts such as Soho, Little Italy, Chinatown, the Garment District, the Financial District, and Ground Zero. End your tour at Rockefeller Center where you can grab lunch on your own. If time permits, you can do some sightseeing or shopping on your own in the area. This evening you will enjoy a delicious **dinner** at a popular restaurant in Manhattan. Afterwards, travel to New Jersey to check into your hotel for a two-night stay and relaxing evening.
- Day 2** Enjoy breakfast, then board your motor coach and head for Lower Manhattan to visit the **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine** which has been rebuilt after the September 11 attacks destroyed the original church. After your visit, you will depart for the docks to board a scenic **luncheon cruise around Manhattan** with spectacular views of New York's skyline. This afternoon you will enjoy some free time in the city. After dinner on your own, take in a **Broadway show, The Great Gatsby**.
- Day 3** After breakfast, check out and meet your guide for a **tour of Upper Manhattan** which will include the Lincoln Center, United Nations, Fifth Avenue, Harlem, St. John Divine Cathedral, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Central Park, and Rockefeller Center. After the tour, travel to Astoria, Queens where a delicious **lunch** awaits your arrival at a Greek restaurant. In the afternoon you will depart for home with lasting memories of your trip to the "Big Apple".

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING WHITE STAR TOURS TO BE A PART OF YOUR TRAVELS!

TRIP CANCELLATION PROTECTION

*Cancellation protection is encouraged for medical emergencies that may occur. The **Enhanced option must be paid within 14 days** from the day the first deposit for the trip is paid to the organization and/or group leader. There is an additional Enhanced upgrade - **Cancel for Any Reason**. Cancellation must be made no later than 48 hours prior to your scheduled departure, conditions, limitations, and exclusions do apply. These plans are only valid for trips booked through White Star Tours. To purchase the protection, please contact NTA/AON Insurance via their website at <https://nta.aontravelprotect.com> and provide the **Tour Operator Location #386097**.*

GREEK SCHOOL

On March 22, St. Nicholas Greek School celebrated Evangelismos and Greek Independence. It is always heartwarming to see children dressed in traditional costumes and it is cute as the little ones struggle keeping sashes and things on. They all did a wonderful job chanting “Ypermacho” in church. And all the children did an amazing performance downstairs after the luncheon. Some sang, some recited poems, some read about heroes of the Greek Revolution, some acted out a skit on the history of the Greek flag. Dimitri Kitsios and Magdalini Kazas did a short skit on the Evangelismos in biblical Greek, and this year’s play was on St. Menas and how he stopped a second attack by the Turks at the Metropolitan Church of St. Menas in Iraklion, Crete on Pascha of 1826. The play was performed beautifully by all the children. This year an absolutely amazing horse was made by Vann Paras which is life size and moves easily. We thank him and his brother John Paras for this incredible horse. We no longer need to cut out cardboard horses for plays again. With the smoke machine, sound effects, Roman soldier costume, stand up church, and life size horse, it all came together very well. All performances were also projected with translations for everyone to follow designed and done by Savannah Stamoolis. But all this was possible after three incredible cooks – Tina Hammerling, John Frentzos, and Vasili Copetas came together again to make the delicious shrimp meal which was all fasting.

During Great Lent we have the beautiful Salutation Services to our Most Holy Theotokos. Past students of our Greek School and others come to read the prayers in Greek. We thank Victoria Dionisos from the choir, Yanna and Victoria Mavrogeorgis, Toula, Dimitri, and Harry Darakos, and Panayiotis Stamoolis who come to read the prayers with intonations.

In April there will not be Greek School on Saturday of Lazarus and on Holy Saturday. We hope that everyone will still come to church for services on those days.

St. Nicholas Cathedral Greek School wish everyone a “Καλή Ανάσταση.”

The Department of Greek Education
for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

The Annual Greek Language Story Contest



**Do you know of someone in your family or community
with a fascinating story to tell?**

Interview and write the life story of an elderly immigrant with Greek or Cypriot roots living (either) independently or dependently, such as in a nursing home, assisted living, etc.; or interview the child or spouse of an elderly or deceased immigrant and tell their life story.

1 Tell of their life before and after coming to the U.S.

- where they traveled from and why they left
- who they traveled with and how they traveled
- who they prayed to for strength and any miracles
- how old they were when they arrived to the U.S.
- what challenges they faced
- what did they do here in the U.S.

2 Provide pictures

- of them, their family
- of places where they lived abroad, and in the U.S.
- of their favorite places and pastimes, both abroad and in the U.S.

3 Provide samples of

- their favorite Greek songs, hymns, poems, etc.

1ST PLACE - \$500

2ND PLACE - \$300

3RD PLACE - \$100

**You are not limited to only the above questions, nor are all of the above
imperative**

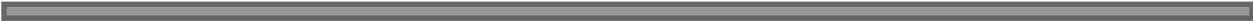
Type this in Greek and in English in a Word document. Provide a copy for the person you interviewed and send a copy to:
The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Department of Greek Education,
5201 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, also email a copy with the pictures
separately not in the word document to mstamoolis@verizon.net
Student interviewers are from 4th - 12th grade. Awards given to students who
display thoroughness and hard work.

**Deadline to register is June 4, 2026. Deadline for submission is June 11, 2026.
For information e-mail Marla Stamoolis, mstamoolis@verizon.net.**

Greek School March 25th Celebration



GREEK SCHOOL, Con't



GOYA NEWS

St. Nick's Goya is gearing up for April!
This month we have a volleyball tournament in Ambridge which we can't wait for. With an all new weekend setup with a Goya dance there as well!

April 26th we are hosting a spaghetti luncheon fundraiser for Camp Nazareth after church!

The Saint Nicholas Golf Outing Fundraiser is on Monday, June 22, 2026. The Committee would love your help to make this event a great success. Please contact the church office at 412-682-3866 if interested.





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



St. John Chrysostom Bookstore

PASCHA SUPPLIES

Special gifts for the Paschal Season

Now through April 11

CHRIST IS RISEN CARDS
GIFTS FOR BASKETS
RED EGG DYE
CANDLES
BOOKS
ICONS



VOLUME 9 NO. 12 ISSUE: 87

APRIL 2026

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



This year's Clergy Family Spring Retreat at Antiochian Village Conference & Retreat Center, Bolivar, PA



48th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2026

Join us in Cleveland, OH at the Huntington Convention Center

Hotel Group Rates are now available:

<https://www.clergylaity.org/hotels>

Choose from Three Hotels: Delegates, attendees, and exhibitors of the 48th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress have the choice of staying in one of three hotels in the downtown Cleveland area, just minutes from the Huntington Convention Center where the Clergy-Laity Congress will be held.*

Plan Your Visit: Parish delegates should plan to arrive on Monday, June 29. The Clergy-Laity Congress will begin at 10 AM on Tuesday, June 30 and will continue through 10 PM Thursday, July 2.

*Meetings of the National Philoptochos Convention will be held at the Hotel Cleveland.


Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Ladies Philoptochos Society
Virtual Daffodil Fundraiser
March 15, 2026 ~ April 18, 2026

Proceeds to benefit:
**Metropolis Social Service Fund
&
Our Seminarians Our Future Fund**

Join us in almsgiving this Lenten Season and help make this year's Virtual Daffodil Fundraiser a true blessing to others!

Donations can be made
by scanning this QR code:



Or by check payable to:
The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos
c/o Paula Yekomesan
220 Little Road
Allapattola, PA 15001

Metropolis Newsletter, Con't

4th Annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society Retreat

The 4th Annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society Retreat brought together 75 members from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia at the DoubleTree Hotel in Washington, Pennsylvania. The weekend featured fellowship and meaningful engagement, including reports from Metropolis President Joyce Spanakis and committee chairs, an update on the New Metropolis Center from Chancellor Fr. George Callos, and a Lenten reflection offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas. Participants also spent time preparing for upcoming National Philoptochos Convention in Cleveland, to be held June 29–July 2. The retreat was a successful and enriching gathering, and the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos looks forward to welcoming sisters from across the country this summer.



New Metropolis Center



Have you received our recent mailing? Please consider a pledge or donation towards this worthy campaign that will benefit all. We are so close to our goal! To donate please scan the QR code or visit pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge



All donations received by **MARCH 25** will have their names added to a plaque in the main entrance and also in the bricks lining the prayer garden walkway.

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





APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Catechism Class 6:00 p.m. Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	3	4 Lazarus Saturday Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. <i>Followed by Youth Retreat and Palm Making</i>
5 PALM SUNDAY Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Luncheon Bridegroom Service 6:30 p.m.	6 HOLY MONDAY Bridegroom Service 6:30 p.m.	7 HOLY TUESDAY Bridegroom Service 6:30 p.m.	8 HOLY WEDNESDAY Holy Unction 3:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service 6:30 p.m. <i>Holy Unction offered at end of service</i>	9 HOLY THURSDAY Vesperal Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Service of the 12 Gospels 6:00 p.m.	10 HOLY FRIDAY Royal Hours 9:30 a.m. Apokathelosis 3:00 p.m. Lamentations 6:30 p.m.	11 HOLY SATURDAY Vesperal Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Midnight Office of the Resurrection 11:00 p.m. Service of the Resurrection 11:45 p.m.
12 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA Agape Vespers 11:00 a.m.	13	14 Feasts of Ss Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, the Newly-revealed Martyrs of Mytilene <i>Liturgy at their Chapel at Dormition Church in Oakmont</i> Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	17	18 Greek School 10:00 a.m. <i>Sacrament: Baptism 11am</i>
19 Thomas Sunday Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	20 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	21 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Feast of St. George the Trophy-bearer <i>Liturgy at either St. George Antiochian Cathedral in Oakland or St. George Chapel in the North Hills</i> Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.	24	25 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
26 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	27 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	28 Adult Greek Classes 6:30 p.m.	29	30 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:30 p.m.		
			Food Festival Set-up			
			35			

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No 287



STAMOOLIS
BROTHERS CO. • SINCE 1909

RETAIL & WHOLESALE
Greek • Italian • Middle Eastern Food

STORE HOURS:
Monday thru Friday 7 am to 4 pm • Saturday 8 am to 4 pm

412.471.7676

In the Heart of the Strip District
2020 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15222



www.stamoolisbros.com