



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA



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

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

Saints Peter & Paul (June 29)



The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, commemorated by the Church on June 29, are honored as the foremost leaders of the Apostles and pillars of the Christian faith. Saint Peter, the chief among the disciples, boldly confessed Christ as “the Son of the living God,” while Saint Paul, the great Apostle to the Gentiles, carried the Gospel throughout the Roman world after his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. Though very different in background and personality, both devoted their lives entirely to Christ, enduring many persecutions, imprisonments, sufferings, and ultimately martyrdom in Rome for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. Through their preaching and witness, countless souls came to know Christ, and their proclamation truly “went forth into all the earth.” For this reason, the Church commemorates them together on a single feast day, often depicting them embracing one another in holy brotherhood and unity of faith. Their feast, preceded by the Apostles’ Fast, calls the faithful to imitate their courage, steadfast faith, and zeal for the Gospel, proclaiming Christ with boldness in every generation.

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

"Their proclamation went forth into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world"
(Psalm 18:4)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year on June 29, the Church brings us to the Feast of the Holy, Glorious, and All-Praised and Paramount Apostles Peter and Paul. These two towering pillars of the Church stand before us not merely as men we read about in the pages of Scripture, but as living witnesses to what becomes possible when we give ourselves wholly to God.

Saint Peter came to know Christ as a disciple who walked beside Him, heard His voice, and witnessed His miracles. Saint Paul encountered Christ in a blinding revelation on the road to Damascus after first persecuting the Church. Their paths to faith were very different — Peter, an uneducated fisherman, and Paul, a highly-educated Pharisee — yet both arrived at the same destination: lives that became entirely Christocentric.

This is what made them great. They did not merely believe in certain ideas about Christ. Rather, they lived in Him and for Him. Their hearts, minds, and wills were transformed by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Saint Paul could therefore say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). Saint Peter, who once denied the Lord out of fear, became the bold preacher who proclaimed Christ before the world without hesitation.

What did these Apostles possess that enabled them to endure imprisonments, beatings, shipwrecks, dangers, persecutions, and finally martyrdom itself? They possessed Christ. And because they possessed Christ, they could offer Him to the world.

When the lame man asked Peter for alms outside the Temple, the Apostle replied: "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6). This remains the true treasure of the Church from the time of the Apostles until this very day. Youth programs, food festivals, and parish accomplishments all have their place, but the Church's true treasure is Christ Himself.

The Apostles' Fast, which prepares us for this feast, reminds us of this very truth. Beginning on the day after the Sunday of All Saints and continuing until the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29, this fasting season is one of the lesser-known fasting periods of the Church year. And yet, it is deeply meaningful.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

Like the other fasting seasons of the Church, it is not merely about food, but about re-centering our lives on Christ. Through prayer, fasting, repentance, and the continual remembrance of the Name of Jesus, we strive to loosen the grip of our sins, distractions, self-centeredness, and worldly anxiety so that Christ may dwell more fully within us. In this way, the Apostles' Fast becomes not simply a preparation for a feast day, but an invitation to rediscover the same Christ-centered spirit that shaped the lives of Peter, Paul, and all the Apostles.

In many ways, this feast asks each of us a simple but profound question: What is truly at the center of my life?

For Peter and Paul, the answer was unmistakable. Christ was their strength, their purpose, their joy, and their hope. Their proclamation truly "went forth into all the earth," not because of worldly power, but because their lives had become transparent to the presence of Christ Himself.

And yet later in Paul's life — after years of preaching, suffering, and laboring for the Gospel — the same Apostle still writes: "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). The closer Paul came to Christ, the more deeply he desired Him. For the spiritual life is not static, nor is Christ something we simply "figure out" once and for all. Rather, the more we draw near to Him, the more we long for Him — and the more we realize how inexhaustible and beyond comprehension He truly is.

May these holy Apostles intercede for us, strengthen us during this season, and inspire us to become ever more Christ-centered in our own lives. And may we, like them, learn to proclaim Christ not only with our words, but with the witness of how we live our lives.

Prayerfully yours,

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

† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

WEDDING

Congratulations to **Nicholas Hages & Angelina Natalie** who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Nicholas Cathedral on Saturday, May 23, 2026. The Koumbaro & Koumbara were Alexander & Eva Lountzis. May God grant them many years!

BAPTISM

With much joy, we welcome into our Family of faith **Atlas Steele McCoy** He is the son of Tyler and Sabrina Sofia-McCoy and was baptized on Saturday, May 16, 2026. His sponsors were Sofia and Samatha Sofia.

FUNERALS

OUR CONDOLENCES to the families of :

- **Petros Papas** who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, May 1, 2026. His funeral was on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at St. Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Church, Greensburg, PA. May his memory be eternal.
- **Nikos Andrianos** who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, May 1, 2026. A service to honor his life was held on Saturday, May 23rd, at the Bradford Woods Community Church in Bradford Woods, PA 15015. May his memory be eternal.
- **Georgia Pandeladis** who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Her funeral was on Friday, May 8, 2026, at Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church in Oakmont, PA. May her memory be eternal.
- **Estair Kotsagrelos** who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday May 8, 2026. Her funeral was on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at St. Nicholas Cathedral. May her memory be eternal.

PARISH COUNCIL

May began with our annual Greek Food Festival that saw record numbers in sales. It goes without saying that it could not have been done without YOU, our parishioners. Preparing the food, serving, making those ever popular louks are all because of our festival volunteers of all ages who gave of their time and talent to this most important fundraiser. My thanks to all of you.

Our church and Greek schools have winded down for the summer break, but our church remains open to all throughout the year. Our utility expenses are at a record high. Unexpected repairs are also at the forefront. Stewardship is an integral part in maintaining all church ministries as well as the church.

For those who love golf and help our beloved church, please consider attending our golf outing, which [is scheduled](#) this year on June 22. For more information, please contact the church office.

Our College Welcome Brunch will also be held on August 23, and it will be here before we know it. Please look at future Sunday Bulletins on how you can help.

Coffee hour is [being expanded](#) for more of the parish to help set up and serve coffee following services. One does not have to bring in anything elaborate, cookies, donuts...an Open Table of sorts. It is an effective way to help our community in the summer months and get to know your fellow parishioners. Information will be forthcoming in emails shortly.

Have a wonderful summer everyone and see you Sundays at St. Nicholas.

Alexandra Davides

Homewood Cemetery

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Greek Section

There are currently 17 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	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Economou	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leombruno
Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos	Mr. John H. Edgos	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Leventis
Dr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis	Mrs. Sophia Edgos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
Jim+ & Electra Agras	Mrs. Elaine Ellis	Mr. & Mrs. David Levine
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy J. Agras	Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis	Mrs. Janet Lykos
Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos	Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis	Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
Ms. Anna Andrews	Dr. Mike Epitropoulos	Ms. Karen Malobicky
Mr. Steven Andrews	Mr. & Mrs. George P. Faines	Mr. Christopher Mandros
Mrs. Elaine Andrianos	Mrs. Olga Florence	Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
Ms. Jeanne Antonuccio	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank	Ms. Barbara R. Manners
Mr. George Anthon	Mrs. Alice Gary	Ms. Electra Markopoulos
Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou	Mr. & Mrs. William Gary	Mr. Greg Markopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Spilios Argiropoulos	Drs. Athan & Lydia Georgiades	Mrs. Helen Mastro
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris	Ms. Jami Gori	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mastro
Ms. Maria Bardakos	Mrs. Alexandra Gregory	Dr's Tom & Dana McClure
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman	Mr. Corey Gregory	Ms. Patricia McKee
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
Fr. Christopher & Presvytera Filitsa Bender	Dr. Constantinos Hadjipanayis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Menniti
Ms. Sophia Bender	Mr. & Mrs. John Hages	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
Ms. Sofia Bennett	Aphrodite Haritos Halleran	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mitrakos
Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom	Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina	Mrs. Frances Hanna+	Mrs. Patricia McKee
Ms. Pamela Bertos	Ms. Aphrodite Halleran Haritos	Mr. Paul L. Moses
Mrs. Rebecca Bertos	Dr. John Haretos	Mr. George Panagis
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos	Mr. Theodore Haretos	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
Ms. Krista Bullard	Rania Harris	Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano	Ms. Maria Hnarakis	Mrs. Constance Paras Jennings
Mrs. Elena G. Cerri	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg	Mrs. Katherine Paras
Mrs. Dee Chronis	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Janis	Mr. John C. Paras
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis	Mr. Van Paras
Ms. Theodora Constantine	Ms. Christine Kanakis	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
Marion Constatinides	Mr. Konstatinos Kasamias	Mr. Valentin Pejic
Mr. Phillip Contacos	Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin	Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger
Ms. Jamie Contis	Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartotis	Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
Mrs. Sandra Contis	Dr. & Mrs. John Karvounides	Ms. Stamatia Peters
Mr. Charles G. Copetas	Mr. Andron Kavouras	Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Dino G. Copetas	Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas	Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolis
Mrs. Helen G. Copetas	Mr. Lee Katsafanas	Mrs. Constance Petros
Mrs. Helen M. Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
Maria A. Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos	Mr. George S. Raftis, III
Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas	Mrs. Sandra Kemrer	Mr. Robert M. Reitz
Mrs. Vasso Copetas	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas	Mrs. Kristina Rigopoulos & Mr. William Guttman
Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Coutris	Mrs. Elaine Keim	Ms. Maria- Emilia Sawaya
Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig	Mrs. Demetra Kontoulis	Mr. William Sfamenos
Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos	Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos	Mr. A. Robert Shott
Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos	Mr. Chris T. Kouklis	Mrs. Stella Stratigos
Denise Daugherty	Mr. Peter Krelis	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Stamoolis
Bridgette Daugherty	Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Krinis	Toula Stathopoulos
Mrs. Alexandra Davides	Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas	Mrs. Argie Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias	Mr. James S. Kukunas	Mrs. Stella Stratigos
Mr. Anthony Dematteo	Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros	Mrs. Nia Strintzis
Mrs. Christine Dematteo	Mr. Paul Kyros	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Stepanow
Arthur J. Dordas	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas	
Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Doris	Ms. Shqipe Latifi	
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt		

2026 STEWARDSHIP



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher
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
Ms. Panagiota Vasilakis
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+
Dr. Katerina Zavaras
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

Finishing up my 19th year as Church School Director, I want to thank Father Eleftherios, Deacon Robert, my teachers (Pam Bertos, Aimee Walker, Linda Hages, Nicholas Hages, & Angelina Natalie, Sophia Bender & Anna Spanos, Presvytera Ellie Constantine & Denise Daugherty, and Lee Katsafanas), the students and **YOU** (the St. Nicholas parishioners) for helping to make this year a memorable one. We all came together to enrich the lives of **our** children. St. Nicholas is our spiritual family, and we all took part in educating our **youth** (the **you** of tomorrow). As a community, we showed our children our love and devotion to our Orthodox faith. Thank you for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

Church School did a lot this year and here is a recap:

An **Agiasmo Service** was done on Sunday, September 21, 2025, to start off the Church School year!

Sunday, November 2, 2025, was **Godparent Sunday**. Godparents and Godchildren worshiped during the Divine Liturgy, received Holy Communion together and attended Church School to see what their Godchild learns there (and made cards to send to children at Children's Hospital & VA Hospital for Make a Difference Day). Afterwards many attended the Coffee Hour hosted by Philoptochos. It was the start of a wonderful day together!

Church School, organized by Sophia Bender, had a successful Bake Sale, and sponsored a Balloon artist at the **St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**. Thank you, Sophia, for your efforts!

The Church School children presented their annual **Christmas Pageant** under the direction of Joanna Darakos on Sunday, December 21, 2025. It was a beautiful program enjoyed by the whole congregation. Thank you, Joanna!

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 supported our GOYANs (and Church School students) at the Annunciation Cathedral (Columbus, OH), Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral (Cleveland Heights, OH) and St. Nicholas Cathedral (we hosted) **GOYA Basketball Tournaments** they attended (1/16-18/26, 01/30-2/1/26, and 2/13-15/26). Both the boys' and the girls' teams did well. They also supported them at the **GOYA Volleyball Tournaments** on 04/25/26, Holy Trinity (Ambridge, PA), and 05/30/26, (OH).

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

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

St. Nicholas Church School, Con't

Thank you to the Hages and Kotsagrellos Families for organizing a delicious **Youth Retreat Breakfast** after the Divine Liturgy Saturday, April 4, 2026, (St. Lazarus Day) and the Kotsagrellos Family for the **Agape Service Coffee Hour & Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2026!

A special thank you to our **Myrophores (Myrrh Bearing Women) Eirini Bouzos, Anastasia Constantine, Marina Constantine, Roma Day, Evina Frentzos, Augusta Hejmowski, and Sophia Koromvokis**, who participated in the Good Friday evening service, our **GOYA young women (Rosie Andriotis, Elina Antoniadis, Marialena Bouzos, Christina Coutris, Dimitra Coutris, Zoe Darakos, Polina Kulidi, Stamatia Lykos, Yoanna Lykos, Sophia (Savannah) Stamoolis, and Nina Velisaris)** who received and distributed the light at the Anastasi Service, and to the **Altar Boys**.

Thank you to the **GOYAnS** for assembling the white candles used for the Good Friday Evening, Anastasi and Agape Services, decorating the Kouvouklion, preparing the leaves for the Holy Saturday Morning Service and assembling the Luminaries!

Congratulations to **Marialena Bouzos** (Junior Division) and **Sophia Hogg** (Senior Division) our St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival participants, who took the time out of their busy schedules to research and write about their faith. **Marialena** represented our parish Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh's **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** at Presentation of Christ (Ypapanti) Greek Orthodox Church (East Pittsburgh, PA), as a Junior Division finalist in speech. **Eli Elsen, Augusta Hejmowski, Anastasia Constantine** and **Thomas Constantine** also participated in the Elementary Division. On Sunday, June 7, 2026, the participants will be presenting their speeches to the congregation during the sermon. Congratulations Marialena and Sophia, Eli, Augusta, Anastasia and Thomas, we are proud of you!

And, as with all 'school' years, Church School had to end. **Graduation** was Sunday, May 17, 2026. All students who were present received their graduation certificate and an icon of Jesus and the Children. The teachers and staff received a gift, too. Special books were given to the Kindergarten class (Children's Bible Reader) and the graduates (the Orthodox Study Bible).

Have a wonderful summer and see you in September!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

Church School Graduation (5/17/26)



Pre-School



Kindergarten & First Grade



Second & Third Grades



Fourth & Fifth Grades



Sixth, Seventh & Eighth
Grades



High School

Graduate Sunday, Oratorical Participants & Thank You (5/17/26)



College Graduate



High School Graduates



Oratorical
Senior Division
Finalist



Oratorical
Elementary Division
Participants



Thank you, Michelle, for your many years of service on Parish Council (and as President).

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



Congratulations!

Elina Antoniades

Graduation:

May 2026 from Moon Area School District

Awards and Honors:

National Honors Society Member (4 years)

4-year Distinguished Honor Roll recipient

3-year Varsity Letterman for Moon Volleyball

8 time recipient of the Beaver County Times. Top Volleyball performer of the week.

2 time All Star selection for Class 3A/Section 2 Volleyball

Activities:

Volunteer @ Coraopolis Food Pantry & Community Garden

Active member of GOYA & St. Nicks dance Group

Journalism Club, Newspaper Staff, Peer-to-Peer, SADD all @ Moon H.S.

Participated in Mission walks for Guatemala

Played for Pittsburgh Elite Volleyball Club

Peer buddy for Cornell School District Special Olympics team

Future Plans:

Will attend The Ohio State University in Fall of 2026 majoring in Health Sciences / Medicine

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!

Nicholas Athanassiou

Graduation:

May 2026 from Central Catholic High School

Awards and Honors:

Debate – Ranked top 10 nationally in Public Forum Debate
- Semifinalist at the National Tournament of Champions
High Honor Roll

Activities:

President of Speech and Debate Club
Director of Morning News Network
Chess Team
FBLA Club – Digital Video Production

Future Plans:

Plan to Study Political Science at the University of Michigan

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!
Christina Erena Coutris

Graduation:

May 2026 from Boardman High School

Awards and Honors:

Spartan Award for Honesty & Dedication
4.0 High Honors ward Graduate

Activities:

Boardman Girls Golf - Captain
GOYA – Co-President & Treasurer
Big Spartan/Little Spartan Mentorship Program

Future Plans:

To attend The Ohio State University

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!
Dimitra Eleni Coutris

Graduation:
May 2026 from Boardman High School

Awards and Honors:
High Honors Award Graduate
Fair Housing Art Banner Design Award
All American Conference – 1st Team Girls Tennis

Activities:
Boardman Girls Tennis – Captain
GOYA – Co-President & Secretary
Big Spartan/Little Spartan Mentorship Program

Future Plans:
To attend The Ohio State University

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!
Houston John Frenzoz

Graduation:
May 2026 from Central Catholic High School
Awards and Honors:

Activities:
JV Volleyball – Freshman
V Volleyball – Soph - Senior

Future Plans:
I will attend The Ohio State University and
Fisher Business School for accounting

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!

Michael Spilios Hammerling

Graduation:

May 2026 from Winchester Thurston High School

Awards and Honors:

Received a merit scholarship to Washington and Jefferson and will study business,

Along with committing to their basketball program. He has scored 1000 points in his basketball career and has several MVP awards along with going to the states.

Activities:

Basketball

Future Plans:

Attending Washington and Jefferson

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!

Sophia Hogg

Graduation:

May 2026 from The Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh

Awards and Honors:

National Finalist in the St John Oratorical Festival

2nd Place at Metropolis Level in the St. John Oratorical Festival in 2023

1st Place in PPTA piano composition competition in the Junior division in 2023

Activities:

Byzantine Chant

Pittsburgh Girls Choir

School Play – played Titania, the fairy Queen in A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Greek Dance

Cross Country

Future Plans:

Will attend Templeton Honors College at Eastern University

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!

Dimitri Alec Gary

Graduation:

May 2026 from La Roche University
Graduated with a B.A. in Business Management
and a minor in Sports and Exercise Science

Awards and Honors:

Honor Roll
AMCC (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference)

Activities:

Baseball

Future Plans:

Working as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist, focusing on
program design and nutrition for individuals at all levels,
including athletes across all sports

CLASS OF 2026



Congratulations!

Christos Mavrogeorgis

Graduation:

December 2025 from Saint Vincent College
And the University of Pittsburgh
Graduated with a B.A. in Mathematics/ Engineering
And a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from the *Swanson School of Engineering

Activities:

National Society of Leadership and Success, Pittsburgh Chapter – Student Member
Social Media Manager (Volunteer) Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America (National)
Study Abroad Ambassador – University of Pittsburgh
Institute of Industrial & Systems Engineers – Student Member
Food Festival Committee Member (Volunteer) – St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
University of Pittsburgh Sailing Club – Member

Future Plans:

Pursuing a job in industrial engineering industry

CLASS OF 2026

American Legion



Pittsburgh Hellenic Post No. 595

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

419 South Dithridge Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest veteran's service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

The Pittsburgh Hellenic Post No. 595 of the American Legion is dedicated to those Americans of Hellenic descent who served our country and to those who made the supreme sacrifice in order that this land of ours shall remain free.

Pittsburgh Hellenic Post No. 595 has met at St. Nicholas Cathedral since its founding in 1938. The post meets the **second Sunday of every other month** and is seeking new members. Service men and women interested in joining may call any of the listed officers below.

1. Van Paras	vanparaspgh@gmail.com	412.527.4248
2. Taki Darakos	edarakos@aol.com	412.944.4961
3. Gus Stamoolis	gstamoolis@verizon.net	412.913.6451

Philoptochos is continuously preparing for fundraisers and our on-going outreach programs, which is the very essence of Philoptochos. You are cordially invited to participate in our efforts.

OUTREACH:

HOMEBOUND VISITATIONS:

If you are interested in visiting one our homebound, please contact Mary Peterson at (412) 337-6459.

FUNDRAISERS:

To fulfill our mission of helping those in need fundraisers continue to be the primary source of income for Philoptochos.

MOTHER'S DAY HONOREES/MEMORIALS:

Philoptochos thanks all our parishioners who supported the Mother's Day card fundraisers by honoring/memorializing the special women who had touched their lives.

FATHER'S DAY CARDS:

This popular fundraiser honors Fathers, Uncles, Nounos, Papous and "special" men, both living and those who have passed. A card is sent to the honoree, and their name is also listed in the bulletin on Father's Day (and the Newsletter). It is a wonderful way to honor and remember those who are thought of in a loving way.

MEMBERSHIP:

Thank you to Michelle Kotsagrellos for chairing the successful membership drive. Although the drive is over, it is never too late to join/renew your membership.

Together we can accomplish great things!

Yours in Christ,
Maria Bardakos, President

Philoptochos Mother's Day Honorees

All Mothers & Friends of St. Nicholas
Anonymous

Kathy Amurgis
Michelle Kotsagrellos

Anna Andrews
Denise Panos Daugherty

Elaine Andrianos
Theo Andrianos

Emilee Andrianos
Elaine Andrianos
Theo Andrianos

Joyce Athanasiou
Corey Gregory

Alisa Balouris
Denise Panos Daugherty

Presvytera Filitsa Bender
Sophia & Maria Bender

Melissa Bennett
Demetri & Irene Ellis

Helen G. Copetas
Constance Paras-Jennings

Maria Coutris
Tulla Velisaris

Argy Darakos
Tulla & Gene Rakoczy

Joanna Darakos
Tulla & Gene Rakoczy

Bridgette Daugherty
Denise Panos Daugherty

Callie Pallas DeSimone
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz

Maria Hnarakis
Nikki & Maddi Kazas

Martha Kartsotis
Patti McKee

Estair Kotsagrellos
Michelle Kotsagrellos
Georgette Nelson
Aimee Walker
Stacey Whipple
Tyson, Tyrann & Tyra Nelson
Brooke & Drew Walker
Tasso & Faith Whipple

Michelle Kotsagrellos
Nikki & Maddi Kazas
Tyson Nelson
Faith Whipple

Dana Lampariello
Denise Panos Daugherty

Lindsey Noss Lozzi
The Panagis, Liambotis & Lozzi
families

Alexandra Panagis Lozzi
The Panagis, Liambotis & Lozzi
families

Janet Lykos
Yoanna & Stamatia Lykos

Nikki Lykos
Yoanna & Stamatia Lykos
Tulla Velisaris

Patti McKee
Martha Kartsotis

Alea Melacrinis
Nikki & Maddi Kazas

Georgette Nelson
Tyson, Tyrann & Tyra Nelson
Brooke Walker

Sophia Panagis
Nikki & Maddi Kazas

PHILOPTOCHOS Mother's Day 2026 Honorees

Cathy Pandeladis
Nikki & Maddi Kazas

Arlene Paras
Constance Paras-Jennings

Abby Losco Parker
Sophia Panagis & Alexandra Lozzi

Elizabeth Peterson
Martha Kartsotis
Patti McKee

Electra Roman
Michelle Kotsagrelou

Trudy Trifanoff
Mary Peterson

Christina Tsiatis
Alexandra Davides

Carrie Velisaris
Tulla Velisaris

Tulla Velisaris
Yoanna & Stamatia Lykos

Lorraine K. Watts
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz

Aimee Walker
Brooke & Drew Walker
Tasso Whipple

Stacey Whipple
Tasso & Faith Whipple

Sophia Zozos
Nikki Lykos

Names listed were received as of May 7, 2026. We apologize for any misspellings or omissions.

Philoptochos Mother's Day Memorials

All Mothers & Friends of St. Nicholas
Anonymous

Bessie Andrews
Steve Andrews

Pauline Geanopoulos Barry
Michelle Kotsagrelas
Georgette Nelson
Aimee Walker
Stacey Whipple

Mary Bender
Sophia & Maria Bender

Mary Elizabeth Campbell
The Panagis Family

Marcella Shahan Cavoulas
The Panagis, Liambotis & Lozzi
families

Elaine Christ
Martha Kartsotis

Deaconess Mary Christulides
Denise Panos Daugherty

Cathy Contis
Mary Peterson

Eleni C.A. Contis
Alexandra Davides

Eleni Contis
The Lykos Family
Tulla Velisaris

Eugenia Dakis
Alexandra Gregory

Margery DeSimone
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz

Gail Dietz
Sophia Panagis

Martha Flocos
Martha Kartsotis
Patti McKee

Barbara Garbinski
Demetri & Irene Ellis

Mary Gregory
Alexandra Gregory

Frances K. Hanna
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz
The Panagis Family

Sophia Hatzivasiliou
Sophia & Maria Bender

Shirley Ann Hinkle
Sophia Panagis

Magdalini Theodorakis Hnarakis
Maria, Nikki & Maddi

Thespina Antjas Holliger
Sophia Panagis

Sophie James
Mary Peterson

Emorfia Kotsagrelas
Michelle Kotsagrelas
Georgette Nelson
Aimee Walker
Stacey Whipple

Evangeline Lardas
Nick & Zoe Lardas

Lola Lykos
The Lykos Family

Mary Jean Mahfood
The Panagis Family

Hermione Malachias
Nick & Zoe Lardas

PHILOPTOCHOS Mother's Day 2026 Memorials

Kiki Markopoulos
Greg & Electra Markopoulos

Florence L. Pallas
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz

Julia F. Pallas
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz

Georgia Pandeladis
Nikki & Maddi Kazas
Cathy Pandeladis
Sophia Panagis

Caroline Panos
Denise Panos Daugherty

Mary Papandreas
Elaine Andrianos

Lillian Paras
Constance Paras-Jennings

Maria Paras
Constance Paras-Jennings

Toula Peterson
Mary Peterson

Mary Petinos
Alice Lardas Gary

Helene Powers
Sophia Panagis

Marjorie Raftis
Alexandra Gregory

Angela Sfamenos
Denise Panos Daugherty

Kristina Shakallis
The Panagis Family

Betty H. Sheetz
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz

Cleopatra Spathis
Demetri & Irene Ellis

Garifalia Stoyias
The Lykos Family

Eleni Supertzi
Peter Tsoukalas

Roseanna Supertzi
Peter Tsoukalas

Adele Sylvester
Sophia Panagis

Calliope Tousimis
Elaine Andrianos

Anastasia Tsoukalas
Peter Tsoukalas

Vicky Tsoukalas
Peter Tsoukalas

Eleni Velissari
The Lykos Family

Barbara Vitsas
Martha Kartsotis
Patti McKee

Catherine Vitsas
Martha Kartsotis
Patti McKee

Doris B. Watts
Tara A. Pallas-Sheetz

Anastasia Wimmer
Demetri & Irene Ellis

Neove Young
The Panagis Family

Names listed were received as of May 7, 2026. We apologize for any misspellings or omissions.

Celebrating
FATHER'S DAY

St. Nicholas Philoptochos believes in honoring the men in our lives. Honor your husband, father, grandfather, godfather, brother, uncle or a special friend with a gift to Philoptochos. Your donation will enable us to continue our work of charitable giving to individuals and families in need, area food banks, shelters for the homeless, social service agencies and countless research efforts in the battle against cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Join us this Father's Day by honoring someone you love with a gift to Philoptochos.

*Make checks payable and send to: St. Nicholas Philoptochos, 419 S. Dithridge St. Pittsburgh, PA 15213, Memo: Father's Day
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR INCLUSION IN BULLETIN – SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026*

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____
(minimum gift of \$5.00 per name please — all donations are tax deductible)

Your Name: _____

Honorees will receive a special Father's Day acknowledgement card.
The amount of your gift will not be disclosed.

Please accept this gift in **honor** of:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Please accept this gift in **memory** of:

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

*List any additional names and addresses on the back of this flyer and indicate whether donation is in Honor or in Memory.
Please print clearly.*

SIXTY Club News

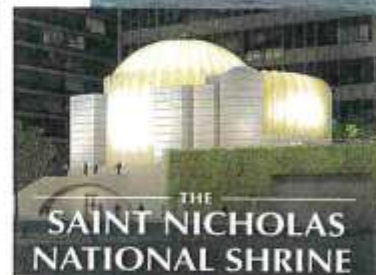
A wonderful trip to the Big Apple is planned for August 18, 19, 20. Four seats are still available for this popular and exciting trip. \$988 per person double occupancy for this outing sponsored by our 60 club, you don't want to miss this great summer outing. Please contact Alice 412-249-8612,



\$ 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**.*

FOOD FESTIVAL

**THANK YOU!!
2026 St. Nicholas Food Festival
A Great Success!**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 64th Annual Greek Food Festival such a wonderful week for our parish community.

Even with one less day this year, the festival was incredibly well attended and nearly matched last year's totals — a testament to the generosity, dedication, and support of so many people.

Whether you volunteered your time, sponsored an ad in our ad book, attended the event, or simply helped spread the word, we are truly grateful. Because of your hard work and hospitality, so many people were able to experience the food, traditions, and spirit of our St. Nicholas Cathedral family.

Thank you again to all who helped in ways both seen and unseen. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and love for our parish community.

Also, keep an eye out for information about our annual Food Festival Thank You Luncheon later this summer, when we will gather together in gratitude and fellowship as we share the final numbers and festival results.

I want to personally thank everyone who worked in online this year. From the seasoned veterans, to the newcomers, and to the ones who came back to their roots, you crushed it. A huge shout out to Maria Bardis, Valerie Carlisano and Peter Leventopoulos who stepped up, when I needed them to, even with the Tzatziki Crisis of 2026. If you are reading this, say “Tzatziki” to make me smile. **“I’m sorry,” TAKE-OUT RULES!**

THE 2026 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS GUIDE

It's a great tradition, and it's here again: 39 days of Greek Festivals in the greater Pittsburgh region, so plan well and you can eat Greek all summer! Post this schedule on your refrigerator and share copies with others. Bring your family and friends! We look forward to serving you!

LOCATION	DATES
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland)	May 5-10
<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints (Canonsburg)	June 8-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Trinity (Steubenville)	June 10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon)	June 15-19
<input type="checkbox"/> Kimisis Tis Theotokou (Aliquippa).....	June 11-13
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Dormition (Oakmont).....	June 26-28
<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints (Weirton)	July 10
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Spyridon (Monessen)	July 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Trinity (Ambridge).....	July 14-18
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of Christ/Ypapanti (East Pgh.)	July 23-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh/North Hills)	September 3-6

SEE BELOW FOR FESTIVAL HOURS & HOST PARISH WEB SITES. CHECK FOR UPDATES.

THE 2026 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS: ALL THE DETAILS

Don't cook tonight...go Greek! Please pass copies on to your friends! Greek food is always enjoyed best with good company!

Parish	Dates	Address	Phone	Website	Hours
Saint Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland)	May 5-10	419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh	412-682-3866	www.StNicksPgh.org	Tue-Thu: 11a-9p; Fri: 11a-10p; Sat 12-10p; Sun 12-8p
All Saints (Canonsburg)	June 8-12	601 West McMurray Rd., Cburg	724-745-5205	www.AllSaintsCbg.org	Mon-Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Trinity (Steubenville)	June 10-12	300 S. 4th St., Steubenville	740-262-9835	www.holytrinitystb.org	Wed-Fri: 11:00a-9:00p
Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon)	June 15-19	123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh	412-833-3355	www.HolyCrossPgh.org	Mon-Thu: 11a-9p, Dinner til 8p; Fri: 11a-10p, Dinner til 9p
Kimisis Tis Theotokou	June 11-13	2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa	724-375-5341	www.Theotokou.org	Thu-Sat: 11a-8p
Holy Dormition (Oakmont)	June 26-28	12 Washington Ave., Oakmont	412-828-4144	www.DormitionPgh.org	Fri-Sun: 12p-11p Dinner until 9p
All Saints (Weirton)	July 10	3528 West St., Weirton	304-797-9884	allstwww.org/greek-festival	Fri: 11a-9p
Saint Spyridon (Monessen)	July 10	1207 Grand Blvd., Monessen	724-684-5411	stspyridon.pa.goarch.org	Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Trinity (Ambridge)	July 14-18	2930 Beaver Rd., Ambridge	724-266-5336	www.htgoc.org	Tue-Sat: 11:30a-8:30p
Ypapanti/Presentation of Christ	July 23-25	1672 Electric Ave., E Pittsburgh	412-824-9188	www.ypapanti.net	Thu-Sat: 11a-9p
Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh/North Hills)	Sep. 3-6	985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh	412-366-8700	HolyTrinityPgh.org/festival	Thu-Sun: 11a-9p

Thank you for enjoying our great Greek food, music and culture. Take a church tour and ask about the timeless Orthodox Christian faith while you're there, too! Also, want to help us feed, minister to and provide health care for the hungry and needy of the Pittsburgh area? Support the Neighborhood Resilience Project, an Orthodox Christian philanthropic ministry united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions for poverty-and-trauma-affected communities in the region. Find out more or donate at neighborhoodresilience.org.

This free guide is provided as a public service of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Pittsburgh/North Hills). Please share it with your friends! Find it online at HolyTrinityPgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide.

GOYA NEWS

The St. Nicholas dancers performed at our annual St. Nicholas Greek Food Festival every evening. Thank you to our instructors Kelly Gary, Jimmy Machin and Eleni Contis for all their time and dedication. At the end of our festival, we honored the following graduating seniors: Elina Antoniadis, Christina Coutris, Dimitra Coutris, Houston Frentzos and Alexa Kartofilis.

The St. Nicholas dancers have been invited and are looking forward to dancing for the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Aliquippa Greek Food Festival on June 11.

Over Memorial Day weekend, our GOYAns participated in their annual placing of flags on the graves of all our veterans at the St. Nicholas Cemetery in Wilkinsburg. Thank you to everyone who participated and to the Kristian family for chairing.

Our GOYAns participated in the Annual Metropolis Sand Volleyball Tournament in Cleveland on May 30th. It was a beautiful day for the outdoor event.

The wrap up meeting along with elections will be held on June 7th after Liturgy. Thank you to the current officers: Co-Presidents Houston Frentzos and Nina Velisaris, Co-Vice Presidents Evangelos Coutris and Yoanna Lykos, Treasurer Demetri Darakos, Corresponding Secretary Marialena Bouzos, Recording Secretaries Polina Kulidi and Brooke Walker.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors and wish them all the best and many blessings in their future - Elina Antoniadis, Christina Coutris, Dimitra Coutris, Houston Frentzos, Michael Hammerling and Sophia Hogg.



GOYA NEWS, Con't



On Saturday, May 30, St. Nicholas Greek Language School ended the year with a light-hearted, joyous program. The program, all done in Greek, started with the St. Nicholas Troparion, followed by Despina Gavrilos who played the Greek National Anthem on her flute. Some classes performed songs, some stated riddles for the audience to guess, some made digital presentations about the places they visit in Greece showing where their roots are located. The four graduates – Magdalini Kazas, Nikoletta Kazas, Chris Halvas, and Constantine Halvas reflected on their years at Greek School. The performance ended with a few traditional songs; one of the songs was livened by many of the children bringing their stuffed farm animals to join in the singing. All students received their Promotional Certificates from Rev. Fr. Eleftherios. The graduates received an icon medal of St. Nicholas with ribbon which they wore around their necks, similar to what the Archons wear. In addition, they received a copy of the Iveron Icon made by the Sisters of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery. It was a special blessing that each of the graduates' icons was placed upon the Hawaii Iveron Icon that was actively streaming myrrh and visited the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery just a few days prior to their graduation.

An award was given to 6th grader, Demetri Kitsios, who received The Icarian Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Greek Language Studies and fifty dollars. Starting this year each graduate receives a personalized St. Nicholas Greek School Award with fifty dollars. We wish to all the children much success in their future years and to always pray to Christ and Panaghia for guidance for all their decisions. Congratulations to all the graduates –Magdalini, Nikoletta, Chris, Constantine and to their families!!

Children's Classes will begin in September and Adult Classes will begin Tuesday of the first week in October. If you have questions or would like to register, e-mail Maria at mstamoolis@verizon.net

All the teachers – Theano Kiafa, Sophie Halvas, Christina Retsou, Dimitra Agapitou, Katerina Mavriki, Dr. Anna Papazoglou, and Maria Stamoolis wish to everyone Καλό Καλοκαίρι!

GREEK SCHOOL, Con.t



GREEK SCHOOL, Con.t



GREEK SCHOOL, Con.t



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.**

A Message from the Church Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee is happy to announce some new projects that we have been working on over the last months. We have consulted with artisans who specialize in marble work, woodwork, lighting and iconography and have obtained both ideas and quotes from them for updates to the nave and altar. Ideas include a marble throne for the bishop to replace the existing bishop's chair, a marble synthronon behind the altar, wood paneling, cabinets and a larger prothesis in the altar, and a preliminary design to update the iconostasis. To ensure that these ideas suitably compliment each other and harmoniously uplift the church's appearance, the committee desires to consult a designer named Andrew Gould, who specializes in designing Byzantine churches and liturgical art. Examples of his work can be found on his website, www.newworldbyzantine.com Bringing Mr. Gould to Pittsburgh to spend a full day at St. Nicholas Cathedral, take photographs and measurements, consult with the committee and to present a report detailing his recommendations will cost \$5,400. The committee is seeking donations from anyone interested in contributing to this project.

The committee is also working on the following projects:

- Purchasing two curtains to replace the doors leading into the altar from the rear left and right. The approximate cost for both curtains is \$1,573.
- Ordering wooden chairs for visiting hierarchs. The cost of one Archbishop's chair is \$3,100 and the cost of each bishop's chair is \$2,500.
- Obtaining a new glass or plexiglass cover for the altar table.
- Buying new altar cloths.
- Ordering new icons for the narthex to replace the icons of Christ and St. Nicholas on the right and of the Theotokos and St. Markella on the left, which have all become damaged over time.

Should anyone wish to donate towards any of these items, please see any member of the committee: Alexandra Davides, Rob Day, Amy Hogg, Peter Krelis, Carol Tsudis, Tulla Velisaris, Fr. Eleftherios or Deacon Robert.

ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Invites you to our

GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

Shannopin Country Club

1 Windmere Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15202



PRICING

\$225/golfer or \$900/foursome: includes greens fees, cart, range, locker services, lunch and dinner, skill prizes and golfer gift

Dinner only, \$50/person

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

Skill prizes: Mens/Seniors/Women

First place team prizes: Men/Seniors/Women

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11 AM: Registration

11-12: Sit-down lunch

12:30: Shotgun start

5-6: Cocktail reception (cash bar)

6:00: Dinner/silent auction/skill prizes

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Golfer Gift Sponsorship \$2500: name on golfer gift, one foursome, recognition

Gold \$1500: one foursome, tee sign, recognition

Beverage Cart \$1500: one foursome, logo on bev cart

Putting Contest Sponsor \$500

Hole in One Sponsor \$500

Tee Sponsorship \$200

Program Sponsor \$100: includes dinner

For more information, please contact: George Bellios, 412 897-5354 or St Nicholas, 412-682-3866

PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

To pay & register by mail, mail this form with payment to:

St. Nicholas Cathedral Attn. Golf Outing 419 South Dithridge Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Make checks payable to: St. Nicholas Cathedral Please mark "Golf Outing" in the memo line

Golfer name/s:

Your Cell:

Your Email:

To register and pay online, please visit:

<https://online.com/SaintNicholasGolfOuting>



Greek Night At PNC Park (8.9.26)



The poster features a background image of ancient Greek columns and a white building with a blue sky and clouds. The word "PIRATES" is written in a stylized, arched font. Below it, the word "PRESENTS" is written in a smaller font. The main title "GREEK NIGHT" is in large, bold, blue letters. To the left of the title is a blue circular graphic with the text "SUNDAY, AUGUST 9". Below the title is a white baseball jersey with "Pittsburgh" written on it and "SHEETZ" on the sleeve. To the right of the jersey is a circular logo with a Greek key pattern. Below the jersey is a QR code and the text "TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!". At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the text "FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 412-325-4902".

PIRATES
PRESENTS

GREEK NIGHT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

AT PNC PARK

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VOLUME 10 NO. 2 ISSUE: 89 JUNE 2026

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν
 NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
 METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH




48th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2026

Join us in Cleveland, Ohio
 at the Huntington Convention Center

Online Registration is now open
Registration Rate increases June 1

www.clergylaity.org

The theme of the Congress, "Rise and Build" (Neh. 2:18), emphasizes the growth and development of the parish — its ministries, its people, and its witness in the world.

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.

YAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE '26 JULY 1-5 2026 CLEVELAND, OH

Join hundreds of young adults for a weekend full of faith & fellowship!

Rise & Build: Claim Your Calling

KEY TOWER
 Hosted at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown!

Featuring:
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 Themed evening events - Free time in Cleveland

Register Now!
clergyalaity.org/yalconference

IG/FB @yainationalconference
 Questions? Email us at yal@goarch.org.

YOUR NEW METROPOLIS CENTER



We invite you to join our mission
pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge



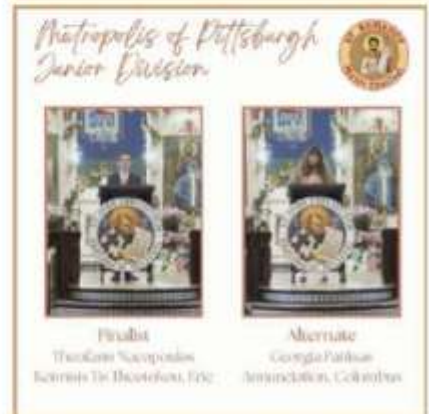
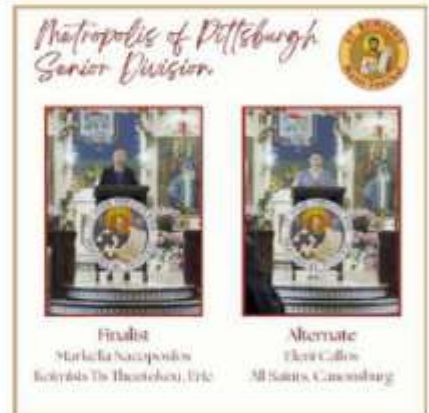
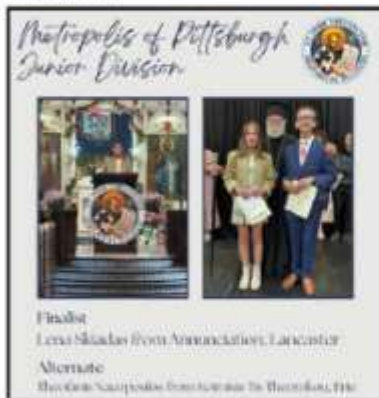
2026 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival & St. Romanos Music Festival

On Saturday, May 2 His Eminence Metropolitan Savas attended the Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and St. Romanos Music Festival at Presentation of Christ "Ypapanti" Greek Orthodox Church, East Pittsburgh, PA.

Young people from across the Metropolis gathered to share their faith through speech and hymn, leaving us all in awe of their poise and brilliance!

We are delighted to share those who will be representing us at the National Oratorical Festival on June 12-14 at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Northridge, California:

Junior Division Finalist: Lena Skiadas, Annunciation, Lancaster
 Junior Division Alternate: Theofanis Nacopoulos, Koimisis Tis Theotokou, Erie
 Senior Division Finalist: Sophia Shay, Holy Trinity, Camp Hill
 Senior Division Alternate: Nicoletta Gianakopoulos, Annunciation, Columbus



We also want to share the finalists from the St. Romanos Music Festival. This year, it goes as far as the Metropolis Level but next year, the prayer is to make it a National Ministry:

Senior Division Finalist: Markella Nacopoulos, Koimisis Tis Theotokou, Erie
 Senior Division Alternate: Eleni Callos, All Saints, Canonsburg
 Junior Division Finalist: Theofanis Nacopoulos, Koimisis Tis Theotokou, Erie
 Junior Division Alternate: Georgia Patitsas, Annunciation, Columbus

Thank you to our Oratorical Chairwoman Ann Economou Ariano and our St. Romanos Chairwoman Amy Hogg for the time, patience and love they offered to both events. Glory to God!



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



JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Monday of the Holy Spirit <i>Orthros and Liturgy at Holy Trinity in the North Hills or Holy Trinity in Ambridge</i>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Sacrament:: Wedding</i>
7 Sunday of All Saints Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	8 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14 2nd Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	15 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m. Paish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Sacrament:: Wedding</i>
21 3rd Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Father's Day	22 St. Nick's Golf Outing YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27
	Fr. Eleftherios at Camp Nazareth – Week One					
28 4th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	29 Sts. Peter and Paul, the Holy Apostles Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	30	JULY 1	2	3	4 Independence Day
		48 th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland, OH				

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