



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



JULY/AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

The Transfiguration of Our Lord — August 6



On Mount Tabor, Christ took Peter, James, and John up the mountain to pray. There His face shone like the sun, and the disciples were permitted to behold, as far as they were able, the uncreated glory of His divinity manifested in and through His humanity. Moses and Elijah appeared beside Him, and the Father's voice proclaimed Him His beloved Son—a foretaste of the glory of the Kingdom promised to those who follow Him.

Although the Transfiguration took place shortly before Christ's Passion, the Church celebrates it on August 6, forty days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, joining the glory of Tabor to the mystery of Golgotha. The One who would soon be betrayed, crucified, and buried is revealed as the eternal and beloved Son of God.

The light witnessed by the Apostles was not a created or merely physical light, but Christ's own divine radiance—the glory that was always His, now briefly unveiled. As St. Gregory Palamas taught, the disciples did not perceive this Light by their natural sight alone; they were transformed by the Holy Spirit and enabled to behold it. The feast therefore invites us to purification and illumination, turning away from fleeting pleasures toward the unfading beauty and glory of God.

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 Kotsagrellos	412-680-1416
Greek School	Maria Stamoolis	412-963-7283
Philoptochos	Maria Bardakos	412-519-8684
GOYA Advisors	Maria Coutris	412-915-7838
	Linda Hages	412-523-7938
Little Angels/HOPE/JOY	Stavroula Doris	STAV828@gmail.com
60 Club	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
Prosfora	Argy Darakos	412-319-7330
	Jim Hages	412-523-7937
Kolyva	Tulla Velisaris	412-889-1648
St Nicholas Dancers		
GOYA	Kelly Gary	412-741-8567
JOY	Aimee Walker	412-398-6094
Boys Basketball:	Nicholas Hages	412-523-9885
	Alex Lountzis	610-743-0903
Girls Basketball:	Nikki Lykos	412-897-8208
	Lenna Cominos	412-370-8181

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Cemetery - Constance Paras-Jennings
Community Center & Catering - George Bellios
Facilities - Victor Bertolina
Finance - James Machin
Food Festival - 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

July-August 2026

"For you who fear My name, the Sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in His wings."

(Malachi 4:2)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During these summer months, the sun is difficult to ignore. The days are long, its warmth fills the air, and its light remains with us well into the evening. Our schedules, our travels, and even the ordinary rhythms of our days are shaped by it. Yet the Church speaks to us of another Sun.

In the Apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ, we sing that the Magi were led by a star "to worship You, the Sun of righteousness." Although we hear these words at Christmas, they reflect a truth that belongs to every season: that Christ is the Light by which we see and the Life by which we live.

The title comes from the Prophet Malachi, who looked forward to the day when "the Sun of righteousness" would rise "with healing in His wings." The people of God — the Israelites — had received the Law and heard the words of the Prophets. Like the first light appearing on the horizon, the Law and the Prophets announced that the night would not last forever. They pointed toward the One who was to come. Then, in Bethlehem, the promised day finally dawned.

Christ came not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them. Everything toward which the Law and the Prophets pointed finds its completion in Him. Our Lord does not merely teach us about righteousness; He is the Righteous One. He does not simply show us a path toward God; He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He does not merely speak words of life; He is Life itself. This new dawn, however, is not only something that happened long ago.

Many of the hymns of our Church begin with the word "Today." At the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Baptism of Christ, and throughout many feasts in the liturgical life of the Church, we hear this same proclamation. The Church does not say only, "Once, many centuries ago." Instead, we hear, "Today."

In our worship services, we are not merely remembering or observing the saving works of God from a distance. We are invited to enter into them. Christ is born today. Christ is baptized today. Christ is transfigured today. Christ is crucified and risen today not because these events are repeated, but because their saving reality is mystically made present to us.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

On August 6, we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord, when His face “shone like the sun” before His disciples. For a brief moment, Peter, James, and John were permitted to behold the radiant glory that had always been His. The One born humbly in the cave is indeed the eternal Sun of righteousness, shining with the uncreated light of God. The question for us, then, is not simply whether Christ has risen upon the world, but whether we are living in His light.

The sun may be bright in the summer sky, yet we can still close the curtains and remain in darkness. In the same way, Christ does not force His light upon us. We must turn toward Him through repentance, prayer, worship, and love. We must allow His light to reveal what needs to change within us, to heal what has been wounded, and to guide us along the path toward *theosis*.

And so, as we enjoy the brightness and beauty of these summer days, may they remind us of the true Sun who has risen upon the world. May we not merely admire His light from a distance, but step into it and walk as children of the day.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and spiritually refreshing summer.

Prayerfully yours,



† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

WEDDING

Congratulations to **Nicholas Patrick Strauch & Sarah Madeline Caoili Santos** who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Nicholas Cathedral on Saturday, June 20, 2026. The Koumbaro was George Copetas. May God grant them many years!

FUNERAL

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of :

Evelyn Mastros who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. Her funeral was on Saturday June 27, 2026, at St. Nicholas Cathedral. May her memory be eternal.

PARISH COUNCIL

Midsummer is upon us. Graduations have occurred. The Food Festival is behind us. Time has certainly flown by.

I recently attended the Clergy-Laity in Cleveland (enemy territory to some!) where I met a lot of fellow attendees, from as far away as Washington State, including clergy. The Metropolis of Pittsburgh, including our beloved Philoptochos, hosted and did a wonderful job along with the Archdiocese of enabling all to partake in many workshops and panel discussions, be it fundraising/ Capital Campaigns, church security, and church leadership, just to name a few.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomed almost 2000 attendees with a key note speech focusing on this year's Stewardship theme, ***Rise and Build: Our Sacred Responsibility***. Parishes are growing and our church has received more converts than ever. A much needed Church School curriculum revision was also presented.

Metropolitan Savas also spoke as Metropolis host, with the theme at hand, in the calling of Christians to be "... living stones that are built into a temple, ...". He quoted his favorite singer, Bob Dylan with these words: " May God bless you and keep you always/May your wishes all come true/ May you always do for others/And let others do for you/May you build a ladder to the stars/ And climb every rung...May you grow up to be righteous/ May you grow up to be true/ May you always know the truth/And see the lights around you/May you always be courageous / Stand upright and be strong/ May your hands always be busy/ May your feet always be swift/May you have a strong foundation/ When the winds of changes shift/ May your heart always be joyful/May your song be always sung."

These words are also applicable to our 2026 high school and college graduates as they go off in their new chapters: Elena Antoniades, Nicholas Athanasiou, Christina Coutris, Dimitra Coutris, Houston Frentzos, Michael Hammerling, Sophia Hogg, Dimitri Gary and Christos Mavrogeorgis. Saint Nicholas will always be here for you all.

Vacations and taking steps back may be part of the summer routine, Parish Council and the many volunteers continue to do the necessary repairs and updates to the facilities. The Facilities and Maintenance Committee are still in the research stage and gathering estimates, of which some are still outstanding. Hopefully by September, Council will have a better idea of what the church is looking at, moneywise, as we embark on a major Capital Campaign for the roof.

Food Festival numbers are at their highest. Many thanks to all who are a vital part of this Committee. May you all have a great remaining summer and see you at Saint Nicholas on Sundays!

Alexandra Davides

Homewood Cemetery

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Greek Section

There are currently 15 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
 Jim+ & Electra Agrad
 Mr. & Mrs. Rudy J. Agrad
 Mr. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Ms. Jeanne Antonuccio
 Mr. George Anthon
 Dr. Artemisia Apostolopoulou
 Mr. & Mrs. Spiliotis Argiropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Balouris
 Ms. Maria Bardakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Fr. Christopher & Presvytera Filitsa Bender
 Ms. Sophia Bender
 Ms. Sofia Bennett
 Mrs. Alexandra Bergstrom
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Ms. Pamela Bertos
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis
 Ms. Krista Bullard
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Carlisano
 Mrs. Elena G. Cerri
 Mr. & Mrs. William Chapas
 Mrs. Dee Chronis
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Ms. Theodora Constantine
 Marion Constantinides
 Mr. Phillip Contacos
 Ms. Jamie Contis
 Mrs. Sandra Contis
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Dino G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen M. Copetas
 Maria A. Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mrs. Vasso Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Yianni Coutris
 Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig
 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

Mr. Anthony Dimitriou
 Arthur J. Dordas
 Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Eberhardt
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Economou
 Mr. John H. Edgos
 Mrs. Sophia Edgos
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Dr. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. George P. Faines
 Mrs. Olga Florence
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mrs. Alice Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. William Gary
 Drs. Athan & Lydia Georgiades
 Ms. Jami Gori
 Mrs. Alexandra Gregory
 Mr. Corey Gregory
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gregory
 Dr. Konstantinos Hadjipanayis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Hages
 Aphrodite Haritos Halleran
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Hanna
 Mrs. Frances Hanna+
 Ms. Aphrodite Halleran Haritos
 Dr. John Haretos
 Mr. Theodore Haretos
 Rania Harris
 Ms. Maria Hnarakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hogg
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Janis
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kakavis
 Ms. Christine Kanakis
 Mr. Konstantinos Kasamias
 Dr. Diane Karnavas & Mr. Bart Bodkin
 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartsotis
 Dr. & Mrs. John Karvounides
 Mr. Andron Kavouras
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Mrs. Sandra Kemmer
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Mrs. Elaine Keim
 Mrs. Demetra Kontoulis
 Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos
 Mr. Chris T. Kouklis
 Mr. Peter Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Krinis
 Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas
 Mr. James S. Kukunas
 Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros

Mr. Paul Kyros
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Ms. Shqipe Latifi
 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. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mitrakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McGuire
 Mrs. Patricia McKee
 Mr. Paul L. Moses
 Mr. George Panagis
 Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Papanikolaou
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Dr. George P. Pappas
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro Papas
 Mrs. Constance Paras Jennings
 Mrs. Katherine Paras
 Mr. John C. Paras
 Mr. Van Paras
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
 Mr. Valentin Pejic
 Mr. & Mrs. Jake Persinger
 Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
 Ms. Stamatia Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petrolis
 Mrs. Constance Petros
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mr. George S. Raftis, III
 Mr. Robert M. Reitz
 Mrs. Kristina Rigopoulos & Mr. William Guttman
 Ms. Maria- Emilia Sawaya
 Mr. William Sfamenos
 Mr. A. Robert Shott
 Mrs. Stella Stratigos
 Mr. & Mrs. Gus Stamoolis
 Toula Stathopoulos

2026 STEWARDSHIP



Mrs. Argie Stuart
Mrs. Stella Stratigos
Mrs. Nia Strintzis
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Stepanow
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swisher
Mrs. Evangeline Theodoridis
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Thomas
Mrs. Dena Haritos Tsamitis
Mr. Peter Tsoukalas
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
Mr. Athanasios 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
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.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| ☐ Greek Language School _____ | ☐ Church School _____ | ☐ Office/Newsletter _____ | ☐ Church Choir _____ |
| ☐ Visitation of Elderly _____ | ☐ Outreach Ministry _____ | ☐ Website Mgmt. _____ | ☐ Cooking/Festival _____ |
| ☐ Youth Ministry _____ | ☐ Gardening _____ | ☐ Construction/Mechanical/Plumbing | |
| ☐ Philoptochos _____ | ☐ Other _____ | | |

TIME- St. Nicholas Cathedral is grateful for our many volunteers. *Thank you!*

Name & relationship i.e., self, spouse, child, etc. Date of birth Marital Status Occupation OR school/grade

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

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

To all those who supported or participated in the Saint Nicholas Golf Outing, thank you!

A special shout-out to our wonderful, hard-working committee, whose dedication made this event possible.

Thanks to your generosity, this year's outing raised over \$20,000 for our Cathedral.

We are truly grateful for everyone's support. May God bless you all!

MEET THE CUSTODIAL STAFF

St. Nicholas has a great custodial staff and this month we are highlighting two of them. If you haven't met them yet, please do so! We will highlight more next month.

Vincent Nelson- Head Custodian

Vince has been with St. Nicholas for close to 18 years and is always smiling no matter which direction he is being pulled to. A dad of five, he knows the ins and outs of the entire building. Thanks, Vince, for all that you do!



Mike Brown

Mike hails from Philly and is a baseball fan. He works 3 days a week along side with Vince and Weekends.



GOYA NEWS

The St. Nicholas dancers had the pleasure of dancing on Thursday, June 11 at the 50th Greek Food Festival of the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church in Aliquippa, Pa. Thank you to our sister parish for the warm welcome and hospitality.



Congratulations to our upcoming officers for the 2026-27 academic year:

- **Co-Presidents Demetri Darakos and Brooke Walker;**
- **Co-Vice-Presidents Evangelos Coutris and Yoanna Lykos;**
- **Treasurer Marialena Bouzos;**
- **Recording Secretaries Harry Darakos and Polina Kulidi; and**
- **Corresponding Secretaries Milana DaPos and Stamatia Lykos.**

This upcoming year, GOYA is looking forward to hosting a Metropolis Volleyball Tournament in the Spring.

Young Adult News

Our St. Nicholas Young Adult Dance Group "Oniero," under the direction of Kelly Gary, performed at the Annual Greek Fest at Holy Trinity Church in Steubenville, Ohio on June 12.

The group was warmly received by both the parish and patrons alike.



PREPARE FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR KEEP KIDS SAFE

Are You a Youth Worker or on Parish Council?



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

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

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

youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org

Questions? Email Saint Nicholas Cathedral's Parish Youth Safety Administrator (PVSA), Carol Tsudis, ctsudis@gmail.com or youthsafety@goarch.org



Beautification Committee

A Message from the Church Beautification Committee

Our many thanks to the donors who helped us purchase new curtains in the altar, plexiglass for the altar table and icons in the narthex (which are in the process of being created).

We are also seeking donations for any of the following items:

Liturgical 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.

New altar cloths.

A new blessing cross. A photo is included below. The price is \$1,400.

We plan to continue consulting with artisans who specialize in marble work, woodwork, lighting and iconography to update both the nave and altar. Ideas currently under consideration include new iconography in the nave, a marble throne to replace the existing bishop's chair, a marble synthronon behind the altar, wood paneling, cabinets, a larger prothesis in the altar, and a preliminary design to update the iconostasis. The committee is seeking donations from anyone interested in contributing to this project.

If you wish to donate or have questions, please see any member of the committee: Alexandra Davides, Rob Day, Amy Hogg, Peter Krelis, Tulla Velisaris, Fr. Eleftherios or Deacon Robert.



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
☐ St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland)	May 5-10
☐ All Saints (Canonsburg)	June 8-12
☐ Holy Trinity (Steubenville)	June 10-12
☐ Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon)	June 15-19
☐ Kimisis Tis Theotokou (Aliquippa).....	June 11-13
☐ Holy Dormition (Oakmont).....	June 26-28
☐ All Saints (Weirton)	July 10
☐ St. Spyridon (Monessen)	July 10
☐ Holy Trinity (Ambridge).....	July 14-18
☐ Presentation of Christ/Ypapanti (East Pgh.)	July 23-25
☐ 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	740-282-9835	www.holytrinitystb.org	Wed-Fri: 11:00a-9:00p
Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon)	June 15-19	123 Glikeson 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.

Greek Night At PNC Park (8.9.26)



The poster features a background image of ancient Greek columns and a blue sky with 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, a blue circle contains the text "SUNDAY, AUGUST 9". Below the circle, the text "AT PNC PARK" is written. Further down, "FIRST PITCH 1:35PM" is displayed. A QR code is located to the left of the text "TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!". In the center, there is an image of a white Pittsburgh Pirates baseball jersey with blue and white patterned sleeves. To the right of the jersey is a circular logo with a Greek key pattern and the word "SHEETZ" in a red box. Below the jersey, the text "CELEBRATE GREEK HERITAGE AND CHEER ON THE PIRATES WITH FELLOW FANS AND FAMILY!" is written. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text "FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 412-325-4902".

PIRATES
PRESENTS

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

AT PNC PARK

FIRST PITCH 1:35PM

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THE BOOKSTORE WILL
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August 2
August 9

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Sunday,
August 16

Thank you for your continued support of our bookstore ministry.

We wish you a joyful and restful summer!

JULY 2026



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



2026 Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Junior Division Essay Finalist

Christina Agrafiotis - Koimisis Tis Theotokou, Erie

Junior Division Essay Topic #2: Choose a Saint who was a child or young person. How did their faith influence their life, and what can we learn from them?

Saint Irene of Lesbos

Saint Irene of Lesbos suffered martyrdom at the age of 12 by the Ottoman Turks. Irene was born in Cappadocia, nowadays Turkey, from a very well-off family. Her father was the mayor of Thermi, a region nearby to Lesbos. When the Ottoman Turks invaded Lesbos, St. Irene and her family hurried to the Monastery of the Nativity of the Theotókos to give warning to the monks. At the monastery, the soldiers were murdering the holy abbot and the holy deacon. The soldiers cut off one of Irene's arms and threw it at the feet of her parents. While her parents were watching, the soldiers put her inside of an earthen cask and boiled her in oil, causing her to suffocate. Then the soldiers murdered Irene's parents and cousin, along with many other villagers. Irene died for her faith and was declared a martyr afterwards, along with all of the others. She did not give in to the Turks and she stood for her faith. Saint Irene's actions are an example of great faith and should inspire us to live a true Christian lifestyle, putting our faith above all. Saint Irene lived in a place that was not Christian influenced. With this, she was still able to have compelling and strong faith. In today's times, we don't live in a Christian influenced time. We have to show Saint Irene's strong faith and be an example for all of those around us. Saint Irene had such a strong faith at the very young age of twelve, and her sturdy faith should be a faith we all strive to have, and we should look up to Saint Irene because she had the ability to stick up to the Turks with the strength of her faith at such a young age. May the prayers of Saint Irene of Lesbos be with us always.



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Questions? Contact Alyssa Kyriakou at akyrakou@pittsburgh.goarch.org

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YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT
PARAKLESIS SERVICES**



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HOLY CROSS CHURCH PITTSBURGH, PA	STs. CONSTANTINE & HELEN READING, PA	STs. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 6:30 PM	MONDAY, AUGUST 10 6:30 PM	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 7:00 PM



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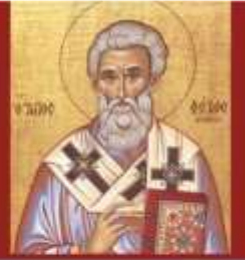


VOLUME 16 NO. 4 ISSUE: 91

AUGUST 2026

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



48th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

SPECIAL EDITION

Hosted by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh

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.



Nearly 2,000 people from around the Archdiocese of America gathered in Cleveland for the 2026 Clergy-Laity Congress, Philoptochos Convention, and Young Adult Conference. Beginning with the pre-Congress activities on Sunday, June 28, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to Ohio's North Coast for the first-ever Congress hosted within the boundaries of this Metropolis, along with Their Eminences Metropolitans Arsenios of Austria and Filotheos of Thessaloniki and V.Rev. Archimandrite Iakovos Krochack who represented His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew at the festivities. The week featured a blessing of the

Greek Cultural Gardens of Cleveland, a visit to the Greek festival at St. Demetrios GOC of Rocky River, the opening of the largest vendor hall in Congress history, a moving Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address by the Archbishop on the theme of "Rise and Build" drawn from the book of Nehemiah, stirring presentations on the ongoing work of the Archdiocese, informative educational sessions, and a prayerful Liturgy on Wednesday celebrated by the Archbishop, members of the Eparchial Synod, Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese, and over 180 priests. At the Grand Banquet on Thursday the Archbishop and our Metropolitan thanked the host committee led by Congress co-chairs John and Effie Trihas, Convention chair Anna Vedouras, Conference chair John Panos, the staff of the Archdiocese, and all the volunteers for a wonderful and moving week.



August Metropolis Newsletter, Con't

PHILOPTOCHOS DELEGATES GATHER FOR 48TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Centered on the theme Rise and Build: Women Leading, Inspiring, and Impacting the World, 386 Philoptochos delegates from across the Archdiocese gathered in Cleveland, Ohio, for the 48th Biennial National Philoptochos Convention. The convention was chaired by National Treasurer and Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Board member Anna Vedouras, with Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos President Joyce Spanakis and National Philoptochos 1st Vice President Anita Kartalopoulos and 2nd Vice President Stella Piches serving as tri-chairs.



In addition to the joint Clergy-Laity Congress Opening and the Synodal Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, delegates attended presentations on Hunger and Homelessness, Orthodox Prison Ministry, the Neighborhood Resilience Project, AI and Our Faith, National Philoptochos-supported mission work in Buenos Aires, and the impact of Philoptochos support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, presented by Patriarchal Representative Grand Archimandrite Iakovos Krochak.

A convention highlight was the AGAPE (All Generations Achieving Philanthropic Endeavors) Breakfast, where approximately 450 delegates and guests honored nine Philoptochos chapters - one from each of the eight metropolises and the Archdiocesan District - for excellence in chapter participation, membership growth, and philanthropic service. Representing the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, the St. Paul Philoptochos chapter of North Royalton, Ohio, received the AGAPE Award. Each honoree received a handcrafted icon plaque created by the sisters of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, and the national anthems were performed by Alexa Zeremenko of All Saints Church in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Chapters throughout the Metropolis of Pittsburgh also sponsored tables to help offset centerpiece costs. Following the convention, the teddy bear centerpieces were donated to Cleveland EMS for use in its pediatric units.



Delegates also enjoyed an evening aboard the Goodtime III, featuring dinner, dancing, and scenic views along the Cuyahoga River. Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos women prepared the appetizers, pastries, and centerpieces, creating a warm atmosphere that reflected the hospitality and fellowship shared throughout the evening.

As host of the National Philoptochos Convention, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos remained focused on three goals: to do everything for the glory of God, to make His Eminence Metropolitan Savas proud, and to ensure every attendee experienced the love and philoxenia of our metropolis while gaining ideas and inspiration to strengthen her home chapter. We are confident that each of these goals was achieved.



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August Metropolis Newsletter, Con't

2026 NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE (YAL) CONFERENCE

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the 2026 National Young Adult League (YAL) Conference was held July 1–5, 2026, in Cleveland, Ohio, hosted by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. Bringing together young adults representing 24 states across the United States, the Conference provided five days of worship, learning, service, fellowship, and leadership development under the theme “Rise and Build: Claim Your Calling.”

Made possible through a foundational grant from Leadership 100 and the generosity of numerous donors and partners, the Conference was guided by an exceptional leadership team and was chaired by John Panos (formerly of Holy Cross, Pittsburgh), who led a dedicated Planning Committee composed of young adult representatives from each Metropolis of the Archdiocese.

The beginning of the conference coincided with the 48th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, enabling participants to join clergy and lay leaders from across the Archdiocese in discussions regarding the future and mission of the Church.

Throughout the Conference, young adults participated in a wide variety of workshops, presentations, and panel discussions led by clergy, ministry leaders, and professionals. These sessions explored topics related to faith, vocation, discipleship, leadership, service, relationships, and parish engagement, while inviting participants to reflect on how God is calling them to serve Christ and His Church in meaningful and transformative ways. This culminated during a question-and-answer session with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, where he offered his heart and wisdom to our young adults.

A central highlight of the Conference was the annual Diakonia Project. Hosted in partnership with the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and supported through a generous grant from the National Philoptochos Society, participants assembled IOCC Period Packs containing essential feminine hygiene products for women and girls facing hardship, displacement, disasters, and conflict around the world. The project offered a tangible opportunity for attendees to put their faith into action through compassionate service and outreach.



The Conference also featured numerous fellowship activities designed to foster meaningful relationships. Participants attended a Cleveland Guardians baseball game, enjoyed a spirited Sand Volleyball Tournament at SandBox Volleyball Club, and gathered along the Cleveland waterfront for an Independence Day celebration featuring spectacular fireworks.



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2026 NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE (YAL) CONFERENCE CONT'D....

One of the most anticipated events of the week was the annual National YAL Conference Gala. The evening began with a social hour graciously sponsored by Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology, creating opportunities for networking, fellowship, and conversations about ministry and educational opportunities. During the Gala, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America offered inspiring remarks on the theme "Rise and Build: Claim Your Calling," encouraging participants to carry the spirit of the Conference back to their home parishes and communities. The evening concluded with fellowship, music, dancing, and joyful celebration of faith and friendship.



The Conference concluded on Sunday, July 5, with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cleveland, celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh and joined by His Grace Bishop Nektarios of Diokleia and local clergy. As participants prepared to return home, they departed strengthened in faith, enriched by new friendships, and inspired to continue building the life of the Church wherever they serve.



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JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	4 HAPPY 4th of JULY
48 th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland, OH						
5 5th Sunday of Mat- thew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	6 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9	10	11
12 6th Sunday of Mat- thew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	13 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16 St. Marina the Great-Martyr <i>(in anticipation)</i> Orthros 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.	17	18
19 Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	20 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	21	22 St. Markella of Chios & St. Mary Magdelene Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	23	24	25
26 8th Sunday of Mat- thew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	27 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
				NOTE: DORMITION FAST – AUGUST 1—14		
2 9th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	3 Small Paraklesis 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:30 p.m.	4 Great Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.	5 Great Vespers for the Transfiguration of our Lord 6:30 p.m.	6 The Transfiguration of our Lord <i>Liturgy at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA</i>	7 Regional Paraklesis with Central Region Youth 6:30 p.m. <i>At Holy Cross in Mt. Lebanon</i>	8
9 10th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	10 Small Paraklesis 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:30 p.m.	11 Great Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.	12 Small Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.	13 Great Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.	14 <i>Great Vespers for the Dormition of the Theotokos in Oakmont or Aliquippa</i>	15 Dormition of the Theotokos Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
16 BLESSING OF BACKPACKS 11th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	17 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Sacrament: Baptism</i>
23 COLLEGE STUDENT WELCOME SUNDAY 12th Sunday of Matthew 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	24 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29
30 13th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	31 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.					

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