



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA

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



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

THE HOLY PROPHET ZACHARIAH

Commemorated September 5



The Holy Prophet Zachariah, a priest of the Temple in Jerusalem, and his wife, Elizabeth, were the parents of St. John the Baptist. Though they had remained childless into old age, they continued to walk faithfully in the commandments of God. While Zachariah was serving in the Temple, the Archangel Gabriel announced that Elizabeth would bear a son. When Zachariah doubted, he was rendered mute; but at the child's naming, he wrote, "His name is John," and his speech was restored. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he proclaimed the hymn beginning, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people" — the words depicted on the scroll in this icon.

According to Holy Tradition, when King Herod sought to kill the infant John, Elizabeth fled with the child into the hills. Zachariah refused to reveal their hiding place and was slain between the Temple and the altar. His life bears witness that God remains faithful through long sorrow, human weakness, and persecution, transforming silence into praise and preparing the way for salvation.

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

*"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God."
(Romans 8:28)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We often say that God works in mysterious ways. Usually, we mean that the path God takes is not the path we would have chosen and that His purposes become clear to us only later, if at all. The Holy Prophet Zachariah (commemorated on September 5) offers us a beautiful example of this. His story teaches us that God can use even a difficult and unwelcome experience to humble us, to teach us, and to draw us into deeper trust.

The Evangelist Luke introduces Zachariah and his wife, Elizabeth, as people who were "righteous before God" (Luke 1:6). But they also carried a deep sorrow as they had no children and both had grown old. One day, while Zachariah was serving as a priest in the Temple, the Archangel Gabriel appeared beside the altar of incense and announced that Elizabeth would bear a son. This child would be John the Baptist, the Forerunner who would prepare the people for the coming of Christ. It was joyful news and the answer to years of prayer and longing. Yet Zachariah could not immediately receive it. "How shall I know this?" he asked. "For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years" (Luke 1:18). When God's promise exceeded what he thought was possible, Zachariah trusted the limits of his own understanding more than the word of God.

Because he did not believe the angel's words, Zachariah was unable to speak until the promise was fulfilled. While this was a correction, it was not spiteful. His silence became a kind of spiritual medicine. He needed to learn to trust God. When he could not speak, he was forced to listen. Yet even while unable to speak, Zachariah completed the days of his priestly service before returning home. Faithfulness does not always mean feeling strong or understanding everything. Sometimes it means continuing to serve, continuing to pray, and continuing to show up while God quietly works within us.

We should not conclude from this that every painful event is good or that God sends every hardship just to teach us a lesson. Illness, loss, and suffering are real evils in our fallen world, and we are not always given explanations for them. St. Paul does not say that all things are good; he says that "all things work together for good to those who love God." The Cross reveals this most clearly. Betrayal, injustice, suffering, and death were not good, yet God entered into them and transformed the Cross from an instrument of death into a symbol of victory and life. Our faith does not promise that every sorrow will make sense in this life. It does teach us that no sorrow is beyond God's presence and no circumstance is beyond His power to redeem.

FATHER'S MESSAGE, Con't

By the time John was born, something had changed in Zachariah. When his relatives wished to name the child after his father, Zachariah took a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John" (Luke 1:63), accepting the word God had given him. Immediately his mouth was opened, and his first words were words of praise: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people" (Luke 1:68). The man who had first asked, "How shall I know this?" had learned to trust. His circumstances had not unfolded as he expected, but through them he had learned greater faith.

This is also why Christ tells us that "unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). To become childlike does not mean becoming childish, thoughtless, or naive. It means learning to trust. A young child may not understand what a loving parent says or does, yet the child can rest in the knowledge that he or she is loved and cared for. Earthly parents are imperfect, but God is our perfect and loving Father. We trust Him not because we understand everything He permits, but because we know who He is and because He has revealed His love to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we begin this new ecclesiastical year, each of us carries burdens we did not choose, and questions we cannot yet answer. We may be waiting for God to respond to a prayer, adjusting to unexpected change, or moving through a season that feels quiet and unfruitful. In such times, our prayer is not only, "Why is this happening?" but also, "Lord, help me to be faithful. Show me what I need to learn. Keep me close to You." Often there are no immediate answers, and faith becomes very simple: to keep trusting and to hold on to our Father's hand. We may not see the path ahead, but we know the One who leads us.

And so, looking to the example of the Prophet Zachariah, may we ask the Lord to teach us to listen for His voice, to remain faithful when we do not understand, and to trust Him with the simple confidence of children—so that we too may enter His heavenly kingdom.

Prayerfully yours,



† Fr. Eleftherios Constantine

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM

With much joy, we welcome into our Family of faith **James Machin**. He is the son of Jimmy and Anna Machin and was baptized on Saturday, August 22, 2026. His Godparents are Nick & Angelina Hages.

FUNERAL

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of

Fran Vlahos who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, August 2, 2026. Her funeral was on Saturday August 8, 2026, at St. Nicholas Cathedral. May her memory be eternal.

St. Nicholas Picnic

PICNIC

**in the
Park**

SUNDAY

13

SEPTEMBER



FOOD - FELLOWSHIP - FUN

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PICNIC
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY



SCHENLEY PARK

**AT THE VIETNAM
VETERANS PAVILION**

Ιερά Μονή Γεννήσεως Τῆς Θεοτόκου
Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery

Gerontissa Theophano & the Sisters invite you to:

The Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos &
Θυρανοίξια (Thyranixia) - Opening of the Doors
of the newly completed Church

September 5, 2026 (Saturday)

September 4th (Friday)

5:00 pm Great Vespers & Orthros

September 5th (Saturday)

9:00 am: Θυρανοίξια followed by
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Lunch Follows

As the presiding Heirarch knocks on the main doors of a newly completed Church,
Psalm 24:7 is chanted:

“ἄρατε πύλας, οἱ ἄρχοντες ὑμῶν, καὶ ἐπάρθητε, πύλαι αἰώνιοι,
καὶ εἰσελεύσεται ὁ βασιλεὺς τῆς δόξης.”

“lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.”



This signifies Christ The King entering His Church in triumph,
and opening the gates to

Paradise previously closed to humanity because of sin.

The physical Church represents the
Kingdom of God, and Christ the Door:

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.” (John 10:9)

We ask that you please RSVP via email:
info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org or
by calling us at 724-352-3999

121 St. Elias Lane; Saxonburg, PA 16056

All visitors must be modestly dressed:

Men must wear long sleeves and long pants. Women must wear long sleeves
and a long dress or skirt. Socks must be worn with sandals or shoes.

PARISH COUNCIL

Summer days are waning; children are back at school which is a sure sign that our ministry activities have begun. The end of August brought the Saint Nicholas ministry, the [Moms](#) and Dads out in full force, hosting the Annual Welcome Brunch for new and returning college and post graduate students. Over 50 students [were welcomed](#) by Father Eleftherios and our parishioners. The Moms and Dads served up a delicious spread, including desserts that our church is known for.

I cannot thank everyone enough who donated monetarily, set up, cooked, baked, and cleaned up. They will do it all over again with their "Friendsgiving" for the students in late October / November. The date is TBD.

Repairs are continuing throughout our facility. Some roofing estimates have begun to filter in, and our hardworking Maintenance /Facilities Committee is sorting them out. No real numbers yet, as the estimates are not uniform. We have many roofs, including flat ones, thus making it a complex situation. The replacement of HVAC units that are no longer functioning is also on the high-priority list. We must do our best to [maintain](#) and upgrade our facilities, just like we do in our own homes.

Homeland and Cybersecurity assessments that [were done](#) in the summer are going to [be prioritized](#). Our church must be secure for all parishioners and visitors. We will also be reviewing how to best deal with medical emergency protocols.

Council needs the support of our parishioners through their Stewardship giving to carry out these needed tasks. We want our Cathedral to be around for you, your families and for the future.
You are the key.

Our ministries and outreach are continuing to grow and flourish. Again, we thank our parishioners for supporting all ministry efforts.

Finally, as we look towards the Fall, please note the following dates:

- September 13: Annual Church Picnic
- September 20: Ministries Sunday
- October 4: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy /Visit from His Eminence, Archbishop Elpithophoros and The Assembly of Canonical Bishops with a luncheon to follow. Details will be forthcoming as they are [finalized](#).
- October 17: Greek to Go ---many volunteers [are needed](#) for this fundraiser,
- October 18: Pancakes for A Purpose
- December 31: New Year's Eve *Raise the Roof Glendi* featuring Stigma

See you Sundays at Saint Nicholas,
Alexandra Davides

Homewood Cemetery

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Greek Section

There are currently 6 graves available for purchase.

Cost per grave:

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

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

STEWARDSHIP Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talent and treasure to the Church. The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.

Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

Parish Council compiles the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the year, circumstances may change. *Your* stewardship is valued because it is made of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – *we are glad you are a part of this parish.*

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



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

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. Spiliot 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 Constatinides
 Mr. Phillip Contacos
 Mr. & Mrs. George J. Contis
 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 Coutiris
 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
 Mr. Andreas Dometakis
 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
 Mr. George M. Epitropoulos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Dr. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. George P. Faines
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris
 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. Constantinos 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 Kartotis
 Dr. & Mrs. John Karvounides
 Mr. Andron Kavouras
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Mrs. Sandra Kemrer
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Mrs. Elaine Keim
 Mrs. Demetra Kontoulis
 Mr. Konstantinos Koromvokis
 Michelle Marie Kotsagrelot
 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
 Mrs. Maria Menas
 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 Rigopulos & Mr. William Guttman

2026 STEWARDSHIP



Ms. Maria– Emilia Sawaya
Mr. William Sfamenos
Mr. A. Robert Shott
Mrs. Stella Stratigos
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Stamoolis
Mrs. Toulia Stathopoulos
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



GOYA NEWS

The St. Nicholas GOYA held their annual GOYA Kick Off Party on Sunday, August 16th at the church. Pizza along with snacks and dessert were enjoyed by everyone.

The GOYAns enjoyed socializing, playing volleyball and had the opportunity to play against the adults.

Thank you to the officers who coordinated the event.

Everyone who attended had a great time and are looking forward to a great year.



Greek School

St. Nicholas Greek School, one of the longest continuously running schools in the United States, will open its doors for children on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Classes start at 10 a.m. and go until 12:30 p.m. Children's classes run until June 5, 2027. On the first day, all children accompanied by their parents, are to report straight to their classes. Near the end of classes, an Aghiasmo (Blessing of the Waters) will take place, followed by our "Annual Ice Cream Social." An emphasis on immersion in the Greek language and songs will be a primary focus this year. Fun, all school events will take place periodically. On the first day, all registration forms and tuitions are expected to be turned in. The children's classes offered are from Pre -K to 7th. Children in Pre-K start at 4 years old. In order for a child to enter First in Greek School they must be in at least First Grade or higher in their American School.

For those teenagers or adults who would like to learn Greek, Adult Greek Language Classes are offered on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Three different levels are taught by three different teachers on Tuesday evenings. The starting date for the adult classes are October 6, 2026, and they run until the end of May.

If you are interested in enrolling yourself or your children, please e-mail Maria at mstamoolis@verizon.net.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity.

GREEK SCHOOL, Con.t

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR CHILD 2026 - 2027

Yearly Tuition for Children

1 student=\$250; 2 students=\$450; 3 students=\$675; 4 students=\$900
Make checks payable to St. Nicholas Cathedral with Greek School in the memo.

Child's LAST NAME (English&Greek) _____
 Child's First Name (English &Greek) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 HOME PHONE _____ primary CELL _____
 Primary E-MAIL _____
 Another CELL phone to receive info. _____
 Another E-MAIL to receive info. _____
 FATHER'S NAME (English & Greek) _____
 MOTHER'S NAME (English & Greek) _____
 School District Child Attends _____

Child's Age	Grade American School	Name Day	Birthdate	Grade Greek School	If Greek roots,name region

Any food allergies? Please list _____

IN case of EMERGENCY Εν ὤπᾳ ΑΝΑΓΚΗΣ Please give the names of relatives or other persons that could be reached. Children will be taken to Children's Hospital.

Emergency Name _____ PHONE _____
 Emergency Name _____ PHONE _____

Parent's Signature _____

Parent Volunteering – Your Help is Needed!

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ serving on Greek School Committee
___ with Costume fitting
___ with St. Nicholas Bazaar
___ with Christmas Caroling in nursing homes
___ with copying
___ with Feast Day /or Birthday Celebrations | ___ Substituting
___ March 25 th Luncheon
___ setting up student activities
___ with Bake Sale
___ being a teacher's assistant
___ speaking Greek partner |
|---|---|

GREEK SCHOOL, Con.t

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL
GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR ADULT
2026 - 2027

Please select

- ☐ Beginners
☐ Intermediates
☐ Advanced

Yearly Tuition \$ 350 per student

Checks payable to

St. Nicholas Cathedral

Memo: Greek School

Books are purchased by students

Please print

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell phone _____

E-mail _____

Emergency contact _____

Emergency phone _____

Have you had previous Greek lessons? _____

If so where _____

Why do you want to learn Modern Greek? _____

Blessing of Backpacks 8.16.26



St. Nicholas Church School



Sunday, September 20, 2026, the bells will start to ring again for the beginning of Church School with an Agiasmo (Blessings of the Water)!

As the Church School Director I am looking forward to working with the teachers and **YOU** (the St. Nicholas parishioners) to enrich the lives of our children. St. Nicholas is our spiritual family and we all should take part in educating our **youth** (the **you** of tomorrow). As a community, we need to show our children our love and devotion to our Orthodox faith.

This year's Church School theme is "***Living the Liturgical Life.***" Each week in the bulletin & sermonette, there will be information about different Feast Days that we, as Orthodox Christians, commemorate, as well as proper Church etiquette.

Every week your child is encouraged to bring "a donation" to Church School (this will help them learn the lesson of "stewardship"), plus, be assigned homework: Do something nice for someone!

Continuing this year, a Church School Choir! Psalteria Amy Hogg will continue to have special lessons with Church School students to teach them to chant the Divine Liturgy.

Please take the time to look over the attached 2026-2027 Church School Calendar, fill out the registration form (and bring it on or before the 20th) and volunteer **your** time, talent, and treasure to help **our** children.

I would like to thank the parents in advance for sharing your children with us every Sunday! But what can you do to help? You can help our Church School program, in the final analysis, your child, by bringing him/her every Sunday. Encourage your child to tell you about the lesson taught for the day, as well as the craft brought home. Pray with your child. (Each lesson should begin and end with Prayer.) **Attend worship services together as a family; Divine Liturgy starts at 9:30 a.m.**

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle



**Registration Form
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Church School**

Parent's Names

Address

Phone Numbers

Cell _____

E-mail _____

Children	Grade	Birthday	Nameday	Allergies
----------	-------	----------	---------	-----------

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

May we call you to volunteer for one of our projects?

Substitute Teacher _____

Oratorical Festival _____

St. Nicholas Bazaar _____

Youth Retreat _____

Christmas Pageant _____

Easter Egg Hunt _____

Snacks _____

Outreach Projects _____

Thanks for sharing your children with us every Sunday!

Church School Schedule 2026-2027

Sunday, September 20, 2026		Church School Begins with Agiasmo
Sunday, September 27, 2026	No Classroom Attendance	Great Race
Sunday, November 1, 2026		Godparent Sunday
Sunday, November 29, 2026	No Classroom Attendance	Thanksgiving Break
Sunday, December 6, 2026		St. Nicholas Bazaar
Sunday, December 20, 2026		Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 27, 2026	No Classroom Attendance	Christmas Break
Sunday, January 3, 2027		Church School Resumes & Vasilopita Cutting
Sunday, February 28, 2027		Church School Open House
Sunday, March 21, 2027	Participation in Procession	Sunday of Orthodoxy
Saturday, April 24, 2027	Saturday of Lazarus	Breakfast/Retreat/Palm Making
Sunday, April 25, 2027	Classroom Attendance	Palm Sunday
Sunday, May 2, 2027	No Classroom Attendance	Easter Sunday
Sunday, May 16, 2027	No Classroom Attendance	Food Festival
Sunday, May 23, 2027		Commencement/Graduate Sunday

PREPARE FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR KEEP KIDS SAFE



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

Are You a Youth Worker or on Parish Council?

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



After a brief summer hiatus, Philoptochos is gearing up for a very busy fall with fundraisers and our on-going outreach programs, which is the very essence of Philoptochos. You are cordially invited to participate in our efforts!

OUTREACH:

FOOD BANK:

The Food Bank supports several of our parishioners and continues to need your support. You can donate by making a check payable to the "St. Nicholas Philoptochos Food Bank" or through the United Way by designating the St. Nicholas Food Bank through your employers United Way contribution. Just designate #3288. Any questions, please contact Elaine Andrianos (412-726-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

HOMEBOUND VISITATIONS:

The St. Nicholas parishioners who are homebound are looking forward to our annual fall visit. We will be giving each person a mum. If you are interested in visiting one of our homebound, please contact Mary Peterson (412-337-6759).

FEEDING THE HOMELESS:

Philoptochos is planning on making lunches and dinners for Neighborhood Resilience Project. Be on the lookout when we will be making lunches this fall!

FUNDRAISERS:

To fulfill our mission of helping those in need, fundraisers continue to be the primary source of income for Philoptochos. Besides making our traditional spanakopita rolls, Vasilopita & Easter Tsourekia, new ideas for fundraising are needed. If you have an idea, please contact any member of Philoptochos.

Please take a minute to see what Philoptochos is about!

Yours in Christ,
Maria Bardakos, President

HOLY CROSS PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS

GUS CONSTANTELLIS

Comedy Night!

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2026**

7 PM

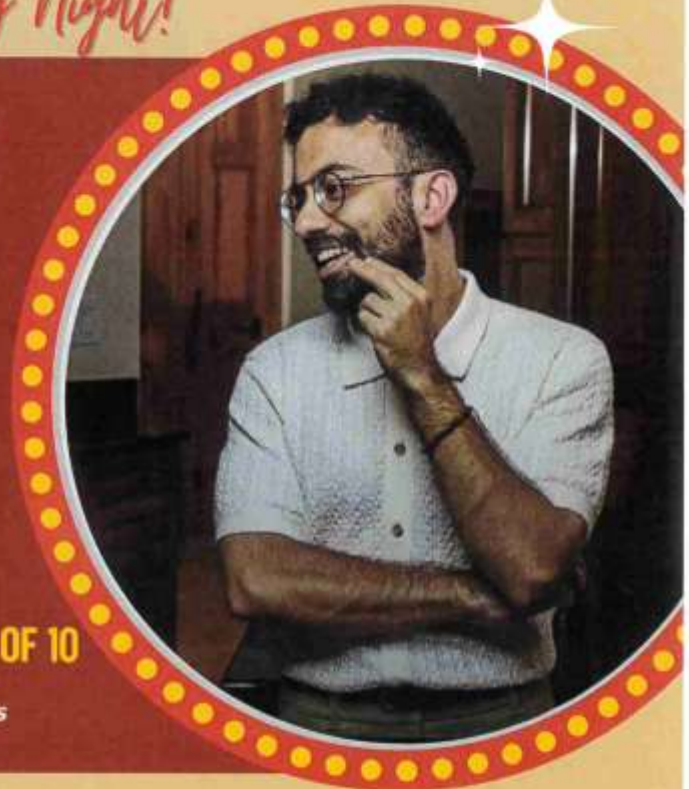
HOLY CROSS, MT. LEBANON
COMMUNITY CENTER

TICKETS:

\$40 INDIVIDUAL

\$300 TABLE OF 8 ✨ \$350 TABLE OF 10

Table purchase includes 2 mezze platters



FAMILY FRIENDLY ✨ LIVE BAND ✨ CASH BAR

Bring your family and friends for a
fun-filled night of laughter, followed by
dancing to the music of the Filarakia!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DENA YAMALIS
HCcomedynight@gmail.com - 412-589-2646

PAYMENT LINK FOR TICKETS AT THE QR CODE
CASH/CHECKS/ZELLE ALSO ACCEPTED



Welcome Brunch for College Students

Every year when colleges begin their fall semester in the Pittsburgh area, our St. Nicholas Cathedral Moms and Dads hosts the Annual Welcome Brunch for Students. This year the Brunch took place on Sunday, August 23, after Divine Liturgy.

Fr. Eleftherios extended a warm welcome to the new and returning students on behalf of the Cathedral community and a group photograph was taken in church. It was a wonderful event and attended by many students, along with their families, enrolled at the surrounding colleges and universities. We are grateful to be able to host these students and want to let them know that they are welcome at St. Nicholas Cathedral during their time here in Pittsburgh. We met students from all over the United States including Houston and Tampa and even as far away as Crete who are attending schools in Pittsburgh.

Thank you to the more than forty volunteers who helped make this event possible through their donations of food (pizza rolls, spanakopita, fruit, pasta, Greek potato, and Mediterranean salads) and home baked goodies (brownies, cookies, cakes, trifle, kourambethes) along with monetary donations to help offset the cost of the event. Also, a big thank you to those who gave their time to set up, decorate, serve, clean up and socialize with the students. Every student received a welcome bag full of snacks, home baked koulourakia, chocolate chip cookies, a Starbucks gift card along with a welcome letter from Fr. Eleftherios, flyers about our church picnic, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), and young adult basketball and volleyball. We also collected their contact information so that we will be able to send information about our church life and activities throughout the year.

Two lucky students got to take home a gift basket filled with Pittsburgh themed goodies along with a gift cards to our St. Nicholas Bookstore and Door Dash.

Once again, thank you to our St. Nicholas parishioners for their generosity in underwriting this event and welcoming the students to our 11th Annual College Welcome Brunch.

Welcome Brunch for College Students



Beautification Committee

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

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

We are seeking donations for the following additional items:

1. Two candlesticks: \$835 each



2. A few pairs of glass saucers: \$25 per pair



3. A reliquary, including a miniature icon of St. Nicholas inside the lid: \$1,650



4. A vigil light: \$715



Or a vigil light with alternate glass: \$715



5. Two Communion spoons: \$275 each



Beautification Committee, Con't

6. Artophoron: \$2,800



7. Chalice cover (kalymata) set, with an icon of St. Nicholas in place of the pictured St. Barbara: \$1,250



8. Complete chalice set: \$4,650



9. New altar cloths
10. Liturgical chairs. The cost of one Archbishop's chair is \$3,100 and the cost of each bishop's chair is \$2,500



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



St. John Chrysostom Bookstore

Begin the new ecclesiastical year
with a visit to our bookstore.

New products from Greece

Stop in and explore books, gifts,
and devotional items.



Obiecte una reprezentational



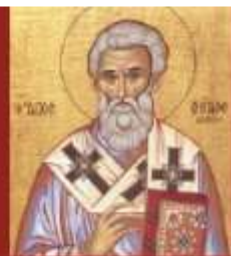


VOLUME 10 NO. 5 ISSUE: 92

SEPTEMBER 2026

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



SUMMER CAMP

"What a beautiful season of our Metropolis of Pittsburgh Summer Camp at Camp Nazareth! Glory to God!!! We welcomed 409 campers and over 100 staff members, including cabin, support, arts & crafts, activities, media, administrative, medical, and Clergy. We are truly grateful for their time, dedication, and love for our program! We are appreciative of all of the support and prayers that we received from our families, parishes, and donors.

This year's theme was about the Apostolic Succession and the foundation of Orthodoxy from Christ, through the Apostles, Martyrs, Bishops, Elders, Saints, and everyone who continued to pass on the Word, eventually reaching us to where we are today. Through the curriculum and the many spiritual leaders who joined us this summer, the campers and staff were taught about Pentecost, Sts Peter & Paul, many Martyrs and Sts. Equal to the Apostles, and what our call to action is as Orthodox Christians. We learned about the importance of being strong in our faith and having the courage to spread the Love and Light of Christ to the next generation. We grew as a camp community closer to God and built many awesome relationships along the way. We are Christ's army and left camp excited to continue to be a part of that Apostolic movement. We pray that God continues to give us all of the support and strength that is needed in today's society, which can be difficult to navigate, but through Him all things are possible.



Our days at camp, which many feel is the only place that they have experienced Heaven on earth, were full of excitement and activities. While at camp, we are able to live the way that God intended. We put away the electronics and all cares of this world and focus on Him! We eat together, pray together, play together, we learn the music of the church and sing ALL DAY LONG, we work with our hands in arts & crafts, we have pool days, quiet time, campfires, Olympic games, we completed a service project, and the list goes on. We try to provide a moment of peace for our youth to step away from the heaviness that this world creates. We try to show them that what God has in store for us is beautiful, just keep your head in the game and focus on the Light, He will always provide.

Camp is an incredible opportunity to watch God's miracles unfold right in front of your face. He is the reason for it all and when we remember that, things all work out. Thank God for God!"



Metropolis Newsletter, Con't



Join us!

2026 CLERGY-LAITY, PHILOTOCHOS, YOUTH WORKER & RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR ASSEMBLY

Sat September 26
7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Registration \$100pp

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Center
100 Enterprise Road,
Washington PA 15301

www.pittsburgh.goarch.org/
2026-assembly
Registration closes: Sept 18 | 11:30 PM

REGISTER NOW

HOTEL \$129.00 + TAX
Ends: Sept 1

Courtyard by Marriott
Pittsburgh Washington
Meadowlands
Call: (724) 222-5620
Group Rate Code: 80MOPCLA26

2026 GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

FAMILY CAMP

GRACE IS ENOUGH: GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S EMBRACE

"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN
WEAKNESS." 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Join us for a beautiful weekend where your relationship
with Christ and one another will grow and flourish!
Open to families of all ages and sizes!

Youth Keynote:
Gavrielia Constantine
Orthodox Service Leader Supervisor at St.
Basil Academy
Former Orthodox Volunteer Corp Member

Adult Keynote:
Fr. Tom and Pres. Vasiliki Constantine
Head Priest at St. George, New Castle
English as a Second Language Teacher
Parents of 9 children!

**SEPTEMBER
18-20**

AT CAMP NAZARETH
339 PEW ROAD MERCER, PA

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ALYSSA AT
ALYSSA@PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG

SCAN THE QR
CODE TO
REGISTER

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

WONDERFULLY MADE RETREAT

Open to all youth and young adults with disabilities.

**OCTOBER 17, 2026
AT HOLY CROSS G.O.C.**
125 GILKESON RD, PITTSBURGH, PA

"LET'S TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS!"

Based off of our summer
camp theme, participants
will learn about the
disciples and their mission
by learning songs, acting in
plays, and so much more!

**LEARN MORE
& REGISTER
USING THE
QR CODE!**

Questions? Contact Alyssa Kyrtsis at alysa@pittsburgh.goarch.org



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



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fr. Eleftherios will be away from the office Aug. 24 – Sept. 5		1	2	3 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:00 p.m.	4	5 <i>Feastday Celebration at Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg 9:00 a.m.</i>
6 14th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	7 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	10 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:00 p.m.	11	12
13 Sunday before Holy Cross Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Church Picnic in Schenley Park <i>Great Vespers at Holy Cross in Mt. Lebanon, PA</i>	14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	15	16 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	17 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:00 p.m.	18	19 <i>Sacrament: Wedding</i>
20 Sunday after Holy Cross Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Ministries Sunday	21 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	22	23 Paraklesis 6:30 pm	24 Pitt/CMU OCF 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy Laity Assembly
27 1st Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. <i>PGH Great Race</i>	28 YAL Basketball 7:00 p.m.	29	30 Paraklesis 6:30 pm			

St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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