

Father's Message

When Jesus saw her weeping. . . he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. — John 11:33-35

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the hinterlands of Mexico, the old ways die hard. Most Americans are somewhat familiar with the "Day of the Dead," which is timed to coincide with the Roman Catholic All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). At this time in many parts of Mexico, families visit the cemeteries to honor, pray for, and even make offerings to their deceased relatives. Images of skulls and skeletons are commonplace. What this represents is a Christianized form of an ancient practice. The Catholic friars who converted the native inhabitants of Mexico simply connected it to their pre-existing Christian holidays. This represents a clever accommodation to local custom, and is not so different from what the Christian Church often did in earlier centuries in Europe.

In some places, however, poor believers went much further & created their own unauthorized versions of folk Catholicism, centered on far more sinister entities, which allow these cultists to separate religion from morality. For instance, some worship "La Sante Muerte," St. Death, who is not holy at all, but rather, resembles the blood-thirsty deities of the Aztecs who practiced human sacrifice. The relevance for us is that she has become the "patron saint" of many of the violent drug gangs who have plunged much of Mexico into a state of war in recent years. Since 2006, their feuds with one another & the civil authorities have claimed some 120,000 lives. This twisted religious cult helps to explain the ferocity of many of these criminals. They don't fear death—they *worship* it. They are not alone in glorifying the murder of innocents. We have seen a similar situation arise among young Taliban/Al Qaeda recruits in Afghanistan and elsewhere, who are brainwashed by watching footage of violent acts for hours on end into becoming suicide bombers, and even more notoriously on the internet where ISIS has been successful in recruiting foolish young men from around the world by posting execution videos. They become anesthetized to the horror. They are told that if they do likewise in the name of *Jihad* and die, they will go immediately to Paradise. They don't fear death—they *welcome* it.

Such attitudes represent one extreme of the human effort to come to terms with the fact that we are all mortal. These individuals, who often come from backgrounds & situations where they feel deprived, oppressed, alienated or disrespected, seek to exercise power by embracing violence & death. Their entire thought-world is built on delusion & despair. They are willing servants of the evil one, whom Jesus calls a "murderer, a liar & the father of lies," (John 8:44)—whether they consciously know it or not. How different our Lord was, in encountering the pity and sorrow of death. That was what motivated him to restore Jairus' daughter to life, as well as the son of the widow of Nain. He did not celebrate death, nor did he resist it. When one of His disciples cut off the ear of the high priest's servant with a sword in the Garden of Gethsemane, He admonished him to put it back into its place, "for all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matt. 26: 52). But His most dramatic and moving moment, prior to His Passion, was when He encountered the enormity of death at the tomb of His friend Lazarus (see John 11:1-44). Deeply moved by the tears of the dead man's sisters Martha and Mary, as well as the entire company, He asked, "Where have you laid him?" "Lord, come and see," they replied.

"Come and See." Those words echo out of the page, reminding us of the invitation that Jesus extended to His first disciples, Andrew and Peter, when they met Him, and also what Philip said to Nathanael (see John 1). Now, though, the bright hope of that early call, filled with excitement and expectation, has been replaced with grief and sorrow. After all, Lazarus had been dead already for four days. What could Jesus do? And standing there at the grave, His reaction was visceral and immediate: "Jesus wept." In all of His humanity, He stood there and cried—just as we do, when we experience the loss of somebody close to us. There were some onlookers who understood: "See how he loved him." But others expressed dismay: "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

But then Jesus said something totally unexpected: "Take away the stone," He ordered. Martha protested, perhaps thinking that He just wanted to see His friend again one last time. But too many days had passed. "Lord, by this time there will be an odor." Jesus admonished her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" When they did as He commanded, He cried out, "Lazarus, come forth." And the glory of God indeed was revealed, as the Son of God incarnate, God the Word, spoke the words which brought a dead man back to life, because He is the Lord of Life, and cannot be contained or limited by death. Lazarus emerged from the tomb, still wrapped in his winding-cloth, but restored to health & life.

Because the account of the raising of Lazarus appears in only one Gospel, some modern Biblical scholars question whether it ever actually happened. But our Church takes this event quite seriously. In fact, we consider the weekend when it is remembered to be a "dual holiday," because of the close connection between what happened in Bethany (celebrated on Lazarus Saturday) and the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem that took place the next day (Palm Sunday). Simply put, the raising of Lazarus was a major factor in the decision by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish court) to execute Jesus. Any man who could bring the dead back to life was clearly a threat to the established order—both for the Romans, and, not coincidentally, for the Jewish authorities who cooperated with the Romans. But how could they justify killing an innocent man? They began to speculate: what if He were to start a nationalist movement, and thus give the Romans an excuse to crush the troublesome Jewish people? Caiaphas, the High Priest, told them what to do, but in the process, he unconsciously spoke a true prophecy: "You know nothing at all; It is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish" (John 11:50). And that is exactly what did happen. But in the end, the Lord died not just for one people, but in fact for the whole world.

In the story of Lazarus, our Lord gives us the good example of how to face the death of a loved one. He was not afraid to go to his friend's grave. He shed tears of grief and rage, but He did not fall into despair. He trusted in His Father, and in Himself, to demonstrate that the Creator of all is more powerful even than death. He went on to conquer death by death, through His own Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. The raising of Lazarus is the harbinger of the Resurrection of the Christ, who shall never die again. In Him we have our hope. We, too, shall rise to eternal life. There is no need for those who live in the Light of Christ to fear dying, or God forbid, to fall into such delusion and despair as to worship death. We are children of the light & of the day. John's Gospel recounts that, at the beginning of this episode, Jesus said to His disciples, who were trying to convince Him not to return to Judea for Lazarus' sake because they thought it too dangerous, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if any one walks in the night he stumbles, because the light is not in him" (John 11:9-10). Jesus is our Light, our Life, and our Hope. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness & the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

With prayers that you may have a most blessed celebration of Holy Week and Christ's Resurrection,

Father Christopher Bender, Protopresbyter

Rev. Christoph H. Bender

St.
Nicholas
Greek
Orthodox
Cathedral

APRIL 2017
Newsletter

Points of Interest Inside:

- ◇ Holy Week Schedule
- ◇ GOYA TROPHY PRESENTATION
- ◇ Cooking Schedule, Festival Preparations, volunteers needed!
- ◇ Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession Photos
- ◇ 5th Annual Greek Language Festival
- ◇ Luminary & Easter Bread order forms
- ◇ Stewards List
- ◇ Church School Communion Breakfast & Palm Making
- ◇ LAST CHANCE to get an ad in the 2017 Food Festival Ad book!
**DEADLINE:
APRIL 14**
- ◇ Palm Sunday Family Luncheon

The Department of Greek Education for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

THE FIFTH ANNUAL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh 11 a.m.—3 p.m.

- - - Donations to help defray expenses will also be greatly appreciated! - - -

Yes, I would like to support the Greek Language Competition and Festival!

Please make checks payable to **Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh**, With "Greek Language Festival" in the memo & mail to:

Metropolis of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Greek Education, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pgh., PA 15232

Enclosed please find my tax deductible donation in the amount of ☐\$100 ☐\$150 ☐\$200 ☐\$_____

Name & Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name as you would like it to appear in the program: _____

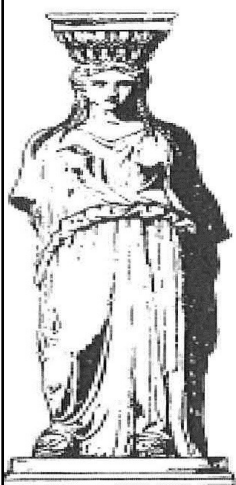
2017 GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

419 S. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-682-3866 Fax: 412-683-4960 e-mail: foodfestadbook@stnickspgh.org

Ad Book Advertising Contract



Name: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Ad Size **Price** (check size desired)

Full Page (5-1/2w x 8-1/2h)* **\$375** _____

Half Page (5-1/2w x 4-1/4h) **\$225** _____

Quarter Page (5-1/2w x 2h) **\$150** _____

Patron (Listing) **\$50** _____

**Inside cover pages and back cover has an up charge of \$100 (based on availability)*

Please make check payable to: St. Nicholas Cathedral. **Check Enclosed** _____ **Please Bill** _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Please print or attach ad copy, or e-mail copy in pdf format.

Date Received:

Receipt Number:

Deadline: April 14, 2017

Rev: 2.5.2017

FOOD FESTIVAL NEWS

Totally awesome! The completion of 424 pans of Spanakopita in less than three days was truly miraculous... a true record-breaker! It was so exciting too, to see so many new, young faces helping out! Even without any experience, a number of young and old alike, both male and female, mastered the art of filo and spanakopita-making. What a heartwarming three days it was! Thanks to all who were there! Can you believe it? Only two items left! Let's keep up this momentum!

Much help is needed the week of the festival, Sunday, May 7 - Saturday, May 13.

We do remain open from 11 a.m. thru to the dinner hour and beyond. With so many people at work during the day, lunches are particularly difficult. Please check your schedule for times that you can serve throughout the week.

We have a lot of hungry customers to feed!

Tiropita	Monday, April 3
Diples	Monday, April 24

SIXTY CLUB NEWS

Join us on May 20th for a **Saturday matinée at the O'Reilly Theater, 2 p.m. for**

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

Arthur Miller's dramatic Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning play about aging, economics and the American Dream as seen through the life of Willy Loman, the most famous traveling salesman in history.

We have 8 available seats in the upper, center section. **\$33 due April 30th.**

We may have to cancel this order if there is not more interest.

As always, we invite all ages to join us for theater productions. Contact Virginia Fekaris, 412-687-4804 OR Fran Hanna, 412-731-0790. Please make all checks, including **2017 dues (\$10)**, payable to St. Nicholas Sixty Club. Virginia is the membership chairman.

Keeping up with Philoptochos

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. **Please take a minute to see what Philoptochos is all about!**

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 United Way by designating the St. Nicholas Food Bank through your employers United Way contribution. Just designate #3288. Questions: contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

HOMEBOUND VISITATIONS—The St. Nicholas parishioners who are homebound are looking forward to our annual Easter visit. We will be giving each person an Easter Tsourekis and potted plant. If you are interested in visiting one of our homebound, contact Mary Peterson at 412-337-6759.

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

MOTHERS DAY CARDS - This popular fundraiser honors Mothers, Aunts, Nounas, Yiayias and "special" women, both living and those who have passed. A card is sent to the honoree and their name is also listed in the bulletin on Mother's Day and the newsletter. It is a wonderful way to honor and remember those who are thought of in a loving way.

EASTER BREAD-All Bread Bakers, Wrappers & Bow Makers! Please reserve **Wednesday, April 5th** for the annual Philoptochos' **Easter Bread Baking** session. Everyone is welcome to come any time after 9 a.m. and join us in the Cathedral's kitchen for fun & fellowship. As always, any amount of time you can offer to help us in this important project helps our Philoptochos to continue to help those in need. Any questions, contact Nikki Lykos (412-897-8208).

SPANAKOPITA LOGS - Philoptochos has a limited quantity of our delicious Spanakopita Logs available for sale. **ONLY \$9 PER LOG; GET YOURS TODAY!**

FEEDING THE HOMELESS—
Packing "backpacks"
for FOCUS' Backpack Feeding Program on
Wednesday, April 19, 2017,
at 6 p.m.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!



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We have had a **great** month of booking weddings for both 2017 & 2018, with hopes that this terrific streak continues!!

In April, we will support the I.O.C.C. Syrian Refugee Dinner on Sunday, April 2, 2017 AND a Comedy Night for a firefighter with ALS on Saturday, April 22, 2017, among other events! We are honored to support these two worthy causes.

WE URGE all Facebook users to "like" us on Facebook. Our page is "The Cathedral Room at St. Nick's Pittsburgh", and has some amazing news and photos from our great events.

Contact us if you have questions or suggestions. Thanks!

Keeping up with Philoptochos (Continued)

PHILOPTOCHOS' MISSION:

Your time, talent and treasure, is needed so we can continue to help those individuals in need.

The next **BOARD MEETING** will be **Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 7 p.m.** in the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Conference Room.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 1, 2017, Daffodil Luncheon (Columbus, OH)
Sunday, April 2, 2017, IOCC Syrian Relief Dinner
Wednesday, April 5, 2017, Easter Bread Baking
Sunday, April 9, 2017, Palm Sunday Luncheon
Sunday, April 16, 2017, Anastasi Meal
Tuesday, April 18, 2017, Board Meeting
Monday, May 22, 2017, General Meeting and Board Elections

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - It's that time of year again for the **Philoptochos Membership Drive!** The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society has held fast to the tradition of philanthropy and we have strengthened the sense of love and compassion for all individuals that are in need. Philoptochos is a connection with other women who share the same

feeling and who desire to share their thoughts and talents. **PLEASE JOIN or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!** It's easy, just complete the membership form and send it in or visit us at our table.

Men are welcome to join, too!



Thoughts of Spring

After our winter hibernation, the St. Nicholas Garden Club is beginning to spring around again!

2017 dues may be paid to Lillie Panagoulas or Elaine Andrianos.

Your \$10 dues sustain the maintenance of our Forbes Avenue lawn, our trees, shrubs and flowers.

We thank you in advance.



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

Philoptochos Membership Application

All contributions are tax deductible.

Memberships are due by April 23, 2017.

*Please fill out the application form below and send it, along with your tax deductible check made payable to Philoptochos, c/o **MEMBERSHIP** St. Nicholas Cathedral Philoptochos, 419 S. Dithridge Street, Pgh., PA 15213.*

I would like to () Renew my Membership () Join as a New Member

Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

Address _____
Street Apt. /Unit #

City State Zip Code

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

I wish to receive announcements by: (please circle preference) e-mail US mail telephone

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution in the amount of:

() \$30 () \$35 () \$40 () \$ _____

I would like to volunteer (circle preferences):

OUTREACH: FOCUS, Homebound Visitations

TALENTS: Cooking, Decorating

Thank you for your valuable support of this very worthwhile organization.

Church School Open House - Sunday, April 2, 2017

Join your Child or Grandchild for Church Worship,
Holy Communion & Church school!



ATTENTION:
ALL CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Communion Breakfast & Palm Making

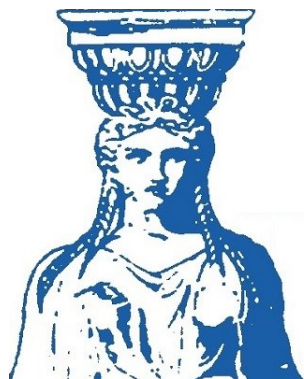
Saturday, April 8th, 2017

(Following the Divine Liturgy in the Small Hall)

*****Remember there is Church school on Palm Sunday, April 9th, 2017!**

IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.....!!

The deadline for the 2017 St. Nicholas Food Festival Ad Book is **April 14**. Your support for the ad book **directly** benefits the



Church Building Fund. Every little bit helps in whittling down our remaining mortgage! Last year the ad book netted over \$20,000.

Let's do it again!
Your ads are greatly appreciated!

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas Cordially Invites you to celebrate the dedicated volunteers of our Holy and God-Protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh at the

4TH ANNUAL ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

On Saturday, April 22, 2017
4 p.m. Hors D'oeuvres, 5:15 p.m. Dinner

The Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel, Station Square
300 W. Station Sq. Dr., Pgh 15219 * 412-261-2000

Reservation Deadline is April 7
\$75 per adult, \$25 per child (under 12)

Questions? Mary Doreza, 412-877-3415

Make checks payable to:
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pgh.

Please join us for our

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, April 16th, 2017, Following the Agape Service

If you wish to help, please bring one dozen pre-filled plastic eggs on Sunday and drop them off in the Narthex before Church.

ALL PARISHIONERS are welcome to join the fun!

There will be coffee, juice, bagels, fruit and donuts after the service!

Questions: Call Michelle Kotsagrellos (412) 680-1416

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Stewards as of March 15, 2017

Mr. & Mrs. James R. Agras
 Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Amorgianos
 Ms. Anna Andrews
 Mr. Anthony N. Andrews
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Andrews
 Mr. Steven Andrews
 Mrs. Elaine Andrianos
 Mr. George Anthon
 Mrs. Virginia Anthon
 Mr. & Mrs. Spiliios Argiropoulos
 Mrs. Lamona M. Athens
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Avery
 Mr. Joshua Ballew
 Mr. & Mrs. Simon A. Barber
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Baughman
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bedel
 Miss Andrea Beldecos
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas A. Beldecos
 Dr. & Mrs. George Bellios
 Fr. Christopher & Dr. Filitsa Bender
 Mrs. Marion C. Bennett
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bertolina
 Mrs. Rebecca Bertos
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Blastos
 Mr. Bart Bodkin & Dr. Diane Karnavas
 Mrs. Elaine Bolanis
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bonini
 Mrs. Mary Brahos
 Mr. & Mrs. Reyman Branting
 Dr. Steve N. Caritis
 Dr. Vasiliki Christopoulos
 Dr. & Mrs. Antonios Christou
 Archdeacon E. P. & Diakonissa Mary Christulides
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Clarke
 Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Cominos
 Mrs. Afrodite Condos
 Mrs. Eleni Contis
 Ms. Jamie Contis
 Mr. & Mrs. John J. Contis
 Mr. Charles G. Copetas
 Mrs. Helen Copetas
 Mrs. Maria Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter C. Copetas
 Mrs. Theodora Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Copetas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nevin Craig
 Mr. John C. Dakis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Darakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Taki Darakos
 Mr. & Mrs. Petros Delivorias
 Mrs. Christine DeMatteo
 Mrs. Christine Dickos
 Mr. Arthur J. Dordas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Doris
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Drapas
 Mr. & Mrs. Speros Drelles
 Mr. John Edgos
 Dr. & Mrs. Demetrius Ellis
 Mrs. Elaine Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Elsen
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Epitropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Falck
 Ms. Alexandra Fatandas
 Mrs. Virginia Fekaris

Mrs. Alice K. Flocos
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Frank
 Mrs. Kalliope Frentzos
 Mr. & Mrs. James Gary
 Mr. & Mrs. William Gary
 Dr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Gialamas
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 Mrs. Frances Hanna
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 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Kamaras
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 Mr. & Mrs. Foster Kartotis
 Mrs. Georgia Katsafanas
 Mr. Lee Katsafanas
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Kefalos
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kefalos
 Ms. Karen Kietzke
 Dr. & Mrs. Georgios Kitsios
 Mrs. Mary Kleissas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kleissas
 Mr. & Mrs. Anest G. Kotsagrellos
 Ms. Michelle Marie Kotsagrellos
 Mr. Chris Kouklis
 Ms. Christine Krelis
 Ms. Georgia Krelis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kristian
 Mr. James S. Kukunas
 Mr. & Mrs. James T. Kukunas
 Mr. Paul Kukunas
 Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas
 Mrs. Antigoni Kyros
 Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros
 Ms. Constantina Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kemon Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kleanthis Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas D. Lardas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Lefcakis
 Mrs. Lucia Leventis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Leventopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lipecky
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Locascio
 Rev. Dn. & Mrs. Robert Lykos
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Machin
 Dr. Nicoletta Machin & Dr. Suman Yadam
 Mr. & Mrs. Spero Maginas
 Mrs. Kay Mandalakas
 Mrs. Eugenia Manganas
 Ms. Valerie Mastandrea
 Mrs. Helen Mastro
 Mr. Kostas J. Mastro
 Mr. and Mrs. John McCann
 Drs. Thomas & Dana McClure
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom McGuire
 Mrs. Patricia McKee
 Mr. & Mrs. Christos S. Melacrinous
 Mrs. Antigone P. Mellas
 Mrs. Maria Menas
 Mr. Conrad Mitchell
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moratis
 Dr. & Mrs. Jose Moreno
 Mr. Paul E Moses
 Mrs. Beulah Mougianis
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Paljug
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Panagulias
 Mrs. Georgia Pandeladis
 Mr. & Mrs. John N. Panos
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pantages
 Dr. & Mrs. Spiro N. Papas
 Mr. John C. Paras
 Mr. Van Paras
 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paul
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pease
 Mr. & Mrs. George J. Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Peterson
 Mrs. Toulia Peterson
 Mr. Thomas Plakidas
 Mrs. Vera Poland
 Mrs. Barbara Polimus
 Mr. & Mrs. D. John Powers
 Mr. Plato Powers
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rakoczy
 Mr. Anastasios Raptis
 Mrs. Irene Richmond
 Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos Sahinidis
 Ms. Catherine Scales
 Mrs. Angela Sfamenos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Sockos
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stamatelos
 Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Stamoolis
 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Strauch
 Mrs. Argie Stuart
 Mr. William J. Tangalos
 Mrs. Kay Thimoleas
 Mrs. Donna Thomas
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Thomas
 Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsourekis
 Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Tsourekis
 Mrs. Semie Tsudis
 Mrs. Joanna Tzortzis
 Ms. Mary Vasilakis
 Mrs. Panagiota Vasilakis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Vassilaros
 Mr. & Mrs. Perry Velisaris
 Mrs. Angela Vergos
 Mr. John Vitsas
 Mrs. Becky Vlahoulis
 Mrs. Helen Waskoskie
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Whipple
 Dr. & Mrs. Karl Williams
 Dr. & Mrs. Leo Yannopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Yannopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaras
 Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Zervoudis
 Mrs. Dorothea Zikos
 Mrs. Sophia Zozos

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR
 ONGOING AND FAITHFUL
 STEWARDSHIP!!!***

Good Friday Luminary Memorials



Remember your loved ones with Luminaries on Good Friday, April 14, 2017. To include your loved one, please fill out the form below. Luminaries will have names included on the bags and will be displayed on the steps of the church on Good Friday Evening, as we walk with the "Epitaphio" around the church. Names will also be published.

Please fill out the form then give to a parish council member, mail to or leave at the parish office.

Donations of \$10 per Luminary to be paid to St. Nicholas Cathedral by Monday, April 10th.

Names to be commemorated:

Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession



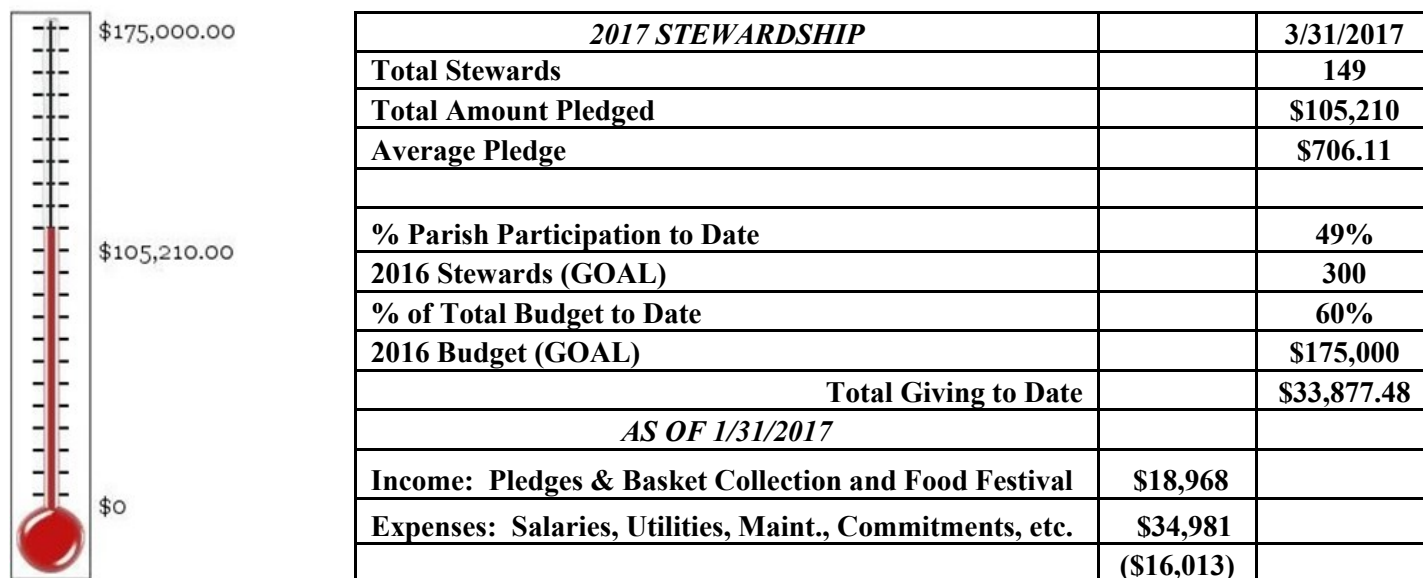
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

*You are the Voice of Christ in a Changing World "As the Father Has Sent Me, So I Send You" - John 20:21
(And the theme of the 2016 Clergy-Laity Congress)*

If you have already submitted your 2017 Stewardship Commitment, **THANK YOU!**

If not, please take the time to make your financial Stewardship Commitment today and complete the talent portion of the card to enable **OUR** Community to grow and carry on the mission of our faith.

HELP US REACH/EXCEED OUR GOAL!!



GOYA NEWS

BASKETBALL RESULTS

*The Junior Boys earned two 3rd place trophies at the First & Second tournaments
The Girls earned two Consolation trophies at the Second & Third tournaments
The Senior Boys earned a 1st place AND 2nd place trophy at the First & Second tournaments*

METROPOLIS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

(Held on Sat., March 11th held at S.N.G.O.C.)

*The Junior team won 3rd place
The Senior A Team won 3rd place*



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Volleyball and Basketball Trophy Presentation



“Treason and Passion, from Bethany to Golgotha:
A Byzantine Musical Journey through Holy Week”

A LECTURE-CONCERT

The Byzantine Choir of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

With Special Invited Guest Expert and Master Cantors

A musicologic, theologic, and cultural exploration of Holy Week
through the ecclesiastic hymnology on Judas and the Faithful Disciples

Saturday, April 1st, 2017

6:00 PM

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

419 South Dithridge Str.

Pittsburgh, PA, 15213

For more information, contact: asbmh@pitt.edu

Anastasi

CELEBRATION

April 16, 2017



After the Midnight Resurrection Service,
Please join Philoptochos for a Paschal
meal as we celebrate the
Resurrection of our Lord.

Meal follows the Anastasi services in the Cathedral Room.

*A Free-Will offering is being accepted by the
Philoptochos Society to offset expenses.*

*For More information,
call Michelle Kotsagrellos at 412-680-1416*



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2017

Lazarus Saturday, April 9 – Σάββατο του Λαζάρου, 9 Απριλίου:

Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Όρθρος, 8:45 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία, 10:00 π.μ.

PALM SUNDAY, April 10 – ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ, 10 Απριλίου:

Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Όρθρος, 8:30 π.μ., Θεία Λειτουργία, 10:00 π.μ.

1st Bridegroom Service, 7:00 p.m. – 1^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου, 7:00 μ.μ.

Holy Monday, April 10 – Μεγάλη Δευτέρα, 10 Απριλίου:

2nd Bridegroom Service, 7:00 p.m. – 2^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου, 7:00 μ.μ.

Holy Tuesday, April 11 – Μεγάλη Τρίτη, 11 Απριλίου:

3rd Bridegroom Service, 7:00 p.m. – 3^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου (Τροπάριον της Κασσιανής), 7:00 μ.μ.

Holy Wednesday, April 12 — Μεγάλη Τετάρτη, 12 Απριλίου:

Holy Unction and Anointing, 3:00 p.m. – Το Ευχέλαιον, 3:00 μ.μ.

Holy Thursday Orthros (by anticipation), 7:00 p.m. (*Please note:* Holy Unction anointing will be offered
just for those who cannot make it to the 3:00 service).

Όρθρος της Μεγάλης Πέμπτης μαζί με το Χρίσμα Ευχελαίου, 7:00 μ.μ.

Holy Thursday, April 13 – Μεγάλη Πέμπτη, 13 Απριλίου:

Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.

Εσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, 9:30 π.μ.

Service of the Holy Passion of our Lord, 6:30 p.m.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 14 – ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ, 14 Απριλίου:

Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m. – Ακολουθία των Βασιλικών Ωρών, 9:00 π.μ.

Great Vespers (Descent from the Cross), 1:30 p.m. — Εσπερινός της Αποκαθήλωσης, 1:30 μ.μ.

The Lamentations Service, 7:00 p.m. – Ο Επιτάφιος Θρήνος, 7:00 μ.μ.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15 – ΜΕΓΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ, 15 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ:

Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9:30 a.m.

Εσπερινός και Θεία Λειτουργία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, 9:30 π.μ.

Vigil Service, 10:45 p.m. – Παννύχης, 10:45 μ.μ.

RESURRECTION SERVICE AND DIVINE LITURGY, 11:45 p.m.

ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ, 11:45 μ.μ.

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA, Sunday, April 16 – ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ, 16 Απριλίου

Vespers of Agape, 1:00 p.m. – Εσπερινός της Αγάπης, 1:00 μ.μ. (Volunteers are kindly invited to read
the Gospel in various languages – please see Fr. Christopher)

CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΘΗ! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΒΟΚΡΕC! ХРИСТОС А ÎNVIAT!

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 St. Mary of Egypt Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	3 Open Gym (Volleyball) 8-10 P.M.	4	5 Adult Greek School Classes 6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6 p.m. Orthodoxy 101 7:15 p.m.	6 Living Orthodoxy 11:00 a.m.	7	8 Lazarus Saturday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Church school Breakfast/ Palm Crosses 11:30 a.m.
9 Palm Sunday Orthros 8:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Bridegroom Service 7:00 p.m.	10 Holy Monday Bridegroom Service 7:00 p.m.	11 Holy Tuesday Bridegroom Service 7:00 p.m.	12 Holy Wednesday Holy Unction and Anointing 3:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday & Anointing 7:00 p.m.	13 Holy Thursday Vesperal Divine Liturgy (Last Supper) 9:30 a.m. Orthros of Holy Friday (the Crucifixion) 6:30 p.m.	14 Great & Holy Friday Royal Hours 9:00 a.m. Gt. Vespers (Descent from Cross) 1:30 p.m. Lamentations 7:00 p.m.	15 Great & Holy Saturday Vesperal Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Vigil Service 10:45 p.m. Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:45 p.m.
16 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA Orthros (cont.) & Divine Liturgy, <u>12 Midnight</u> Vespers of Agape <u>1:00 p.m.</u> Easter Egg Hunt 2:00 p.m.	17 Open Gym (Volleyball) 8-10 P.M.	18 Philoptochos Meeting 7:00 p.m. Open Gym (Basketball) 9-11 p.m.	19 Adult Greek School Classes 6:30 P.M. Orthodoxy 101 7:00 p.m.	20 Living Orthodoxy 11:00 a.m.	21 Theotokos of the Life- Giving Font Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	22 Greek Language Competition 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. St. Photios Banquet 4:00 p.m.
23 Thomas Sunday Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	24 Parish Council 7:00 p.m. Open Gym (Volleyball) 8-10 p.m.	25 Open Gym (Basketball) 9-11 p.m.	26 Adult Greek School Classes 6:30 P.M. Orthodoxy 101 7:00 p.m.	27 Living Orthodoxy 11:00 a.m.	28	29 Greek School 10:00 a.m.
30 Myrrh-bearers Sunday Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						



ECCLESIASTICAL MUSIC MINISTRY AT THE CATHEDRAL

You are cordially invited! Come and learn Byzantine chant from a world-class instructor, or join our choir and learn to sing the unique and beautiful arrangements composed by our founding choir director!

Our Cathedral is graced by two music ministries grounded in tradition that we hope you will consider participating in:

The first is rooted at the Analogion (the Chanter Bookstand). Our Analogion Ministry, blessed by the volunteer service of Dr. Nick Giannoukakis, invites and welcomes anyone with some musical ability, especially the younger generation, to join and learn the beautiful and 1200 year-old tradition of Byzantine hymnology and chant. Those who faithfully adhere to the ministry will not only have an opportunity to grow musically, but more importantly, will solidify their understanding of Greek, gain an appreciation for the structure of the services, and a better insight into our Orthodox faith and its theology through a comprehension of the hymns. With the exception of the summer months (June-August), the Ministry will focus on the Sunday Orthros and the occasional Vespers, in addition to the evening services of Lent and Holy Week. Between June and early September, the Ministry will also focus on the Holy and Divine Liturgy.

Dr. Giannoukakis, who was distinguished and tonsured as Protopsaltis by Metropolitan Maximos in 1998, and noted to be among the "who is who" of Byzantine Chanters in a historical compendium published in Greece in 1994, is also the only chanter in our Metropolis to hold a certificate and diploma in Byzantine Music from a Greek Music Conservatory. Dr. Giannoukakis, personally-trained by renowned and respected Greek chanters (Constantin Lagouros, Georgios Syrkas, Emmanuel Hatzimarkos), offers music to the highest possible standards of the Great Church of Christ

(the Ecumenical Patriarchate) and has successfully trained young and old individuals for more than 25 years. To learn more, and to consider participating, contact Dr. Giannoukakis at ngni@andrew.cmu.edu or at ngianni@pitt.edu. All educational materials are complimentary.

The second is rooted in the rich polyphonic innovations of the late Rudolph Agraphtotis who in the early 1900s, first composed the lyrical Liturgy conducted in our church to this day. Some of the choir members are among those who came together to constitute the first choir directed by Mr. Agraphtotis. Today, the choir is in the very capable hands of Mr. Steve Andrews who directs it as another of our Cathedral's volunteers. The choir can be heard during the Divine Liturgy for most of the year's Sunday services as well as at the services for Holy Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Choir invites and welcomes anyone with some musical ability, especially the younger generation, to join. To learn more, and to consider participating, contact Mr. Steve Andrews at beyondfromwithin@comcast.net.

Why not join both ministries? As it is written: "He who delights in the Lord, and walks in the Light will not stumble"
(From the Doxastikon of the Orthros of the 5th Sunday of Lent).

Please join Philoptochos on
Sunday, April 9 for our annual

PALM SUNDAY FAMILY LUNCHEON

(Immediately after church services)



\$15 adults • \$5 children under 12 (children three and under free)

Reservation deadline Sunday, April 2

For more information or to make a reservation call

Michelle Kotsagrelis at 412.680.1416

or fill out the reservation form below and mail it to

St. Nicholas Cathedral, along with your check made payable to

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Name (s) _____

Phone Number _____

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\$9 per loaf

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DIVINE LITURGY

BREAD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP FRIDAY, APRIL 7 NOON
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Thank you for your support.

All Proceeds Benefit the Ongoing Charitable Activities of Philoptochos.

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This is the official newsletter
of S.N.G.O.C, it is published
& sent monthly. This is the
APRIL 2017 Issue.

FOR INCLUSION IN
THIS NEWSLETTER
**MAY SUBMISSIONS ARE
DUE ON APRIL 15, 2017**



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