



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

March 2017
Newsletter

Father's Message

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)*

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Lenten season once again begins, I humbly greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The great Forty-day Fast (called Lent in English) is a tradition that was introduced to the Church by the monks who lived in the desert of Palestine many centuries ago. They would go out into the desert with a minimal amount of food and water, and pray and meditate alone for forty days, only coming together again on the weekend of Palm Sunday to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and Holy Week together.

This was in imitation of the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who, right after His baptism, "was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:10). After fasting for forty days and forty nights, the devil came to him and encouraged Him to use His divine powers to 1) assuage His hunger by turning stones into bread; 2) throw Himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple in order to demonstrate that the angels would break His fall; and 3) receive all the kingdoms and splendor of the world, in return for worshipping the evil one. (See Matthew 4: 1-11). Gluttony (and, by extension, all the pleasures of the flesh) can be seen as the sin in the first temptation; hubris, or overweening pride, can be understood by the second; and lust for power and riches by the third. In each case, Jesus withstood the temptation, refusing the devil and quoting verses from Deuteronomy in the Old Testament.

For our Lord, who is God incarnate, succumbing to temptation was never actually a possibility (although the devil did not realize this). For us, on the other hand, dealing with temptation is a constant struggle. Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with the good example, because He lived a life that was totally focused on and obedient to His Father in Heaven. Lest we dismiss what He did out of hand, let us remember that He promised us that we could become by grace what He was by nature: sons and daughters of the Living God!

The Holy Fathers who disappeared into the desert for forty days every year before Holy Week understood this. They did not go into the desert to be *tempted*, per se. Solitude, for them, along with the austerity of the fast, was a way to remove all the barriers and distractions of life, that come from pride and jealousy and anger and all the rest (and to which they were not immune). This, in turn, opened up for them the possibility for

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growth in grace and a renewal of their sense of closeness to God. It was as if their souls were like radio receivers which had been tampered with, so that they could no longer pull in a clear signal. In the quiet of the desert, they found that their inner sense of connection with God would be restored.

But, what about us – where to begin? Perhaps, with the following question: what is the most profound and secret yearning of your heart? In other words, who – or what – is most important to you? Many of us, perhaps, have never given much serious thought to this question. Our lives are much too busy, our entertainments far too engaging, our emails far too many, our Facebook postings far too urgent, for us to give much time to introspection. If we did make an honest examination, however, we might be surprised – or embarrassed. This is not a new problem: as Jesus put it, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* (Matt. 6:21)

Our treasure, in this context, can be understood as *that which we value above all else*. It might be something as profound as marriage and family, or our dedication to our career. And yet, our loved ones are mortal, and our jobs could be terminated at any moment. Or, it might be something trivial, such as a fanatic devotion to fashion or sports, or even deadly – as in addiction, when our drug of choice comes to rule our lives.

So, then, let us ask ourselves, what are our priorities? What do we most value most? Whom do we love – and whom despise? How – if at all – does God fit into all of this? Great Lent is the time of year that the Church sets aside for us to examine these questions, through its program of ascetic discipline (fasting and prayer), worship (extra services), self-examination (repentance and confession), and almsgiving (charity). All of these practices are spiritual tools, which help us to clear away the mess and debris, so that we can peer into our hearts, and find out what’s really in there. And if we are not happy with what we find, with God’s help we can make the necessary changes. It is our way, in the world, of accomplishing in some small way what the Fathers of old fled into the desert to do. The goal, ultimately, is to turn our lives around, to abandon the enslaving passions of sin and self-deception, so that we can enter into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

As long as we are *self*-centered, we remain in bondage; as soon as we become *Christ*-centered, we gain our freedom.

Similarly, we can love and admire the beauty of this world, or the cleverness of our children; we can dedicate time and money to our favorite political party; we can even celebrate the various victories of our hometown teams. There is no harm in this. But, there are limits. Once we make any *created* thing the most important thing in our lives – our object of ultimate concern – we are engaging in a form of idolatry, and have strayed very far from the Truth.

We hear the Parable of the Prodigal Son every year during the weeks leading up to Lent for a reason: because it reminds us that ours is a merciful God, who loves us as His children, and never ceases to forgive us when we come to Him in repentance. But sometimes we, too, find ourselves in a “far country” – that is, in a state of mind so removed from God, so alienated from the Creator and from our fellow human beings, so caught up in our own obsessions that reconciliation cannot simply happen in one moment. We must undertake a journey of “return” – to recover our peace of mind, and thereby be able to recognize the *deepest* yearning of our hearts, which is always for God Himself. Only then can we properly and without hesitation resume our rightful place in God’s house, gathered around His Table, sharing with our brothers and sisters in the Feast of the Kingdom which is the Holy Eucharist (Communion). The Great Lent, with its emphasis on prayer, fasting, confession, and reconciliation, provides us with all the provisions we will need for this holy quest.

So then, let us once again undertake the difficult journey with our Lord that leads to Calvary – keeping always in mind that the way of the Cross leads also to the liberating promise of the Empty Tomb beyond. And, may God have mercy on our souls, and bless our common endeavor.

With love in Christ, I remain,



Protopresbyter Christopher H. Bender, Dean

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

IN MEMORIAM

With great sadness, we note the passing of the following friends of the Cathedral:

Peter John Velisaris, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 29, 2017.

His funeral took place on February 2 at All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Canonsburg, PA.

Louis Lakes, who fell asleep in the Lord on February 2, 2017.

His funeral took place on February 4th at St. George Chapel of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in the North Hills.

*Our deepest condolences to their families,
and may their memory be eternal –
Αιώνια η Μνήμη Αυτών!*

FOOD FESTIVAL NEWS

With the completion of February cooking, we're more than halfway through our Food Festival cooking and baking. A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has helped!

Next up... Spanakopita: With 424 pans to be made we need all the help we can get to make this very popular item. For those of you who have been volunteering, please continue your support! If you've been unable to help, please consider volunteering for any or all of the remaining sessions. Any time you can give is greatly appreciated! Here is the remainder of the schedule:

March

Spanakopita-Saturday, Sunday after church and Mon.-Tues., March 4-7

Koulourakia-Monday, March 20

Pasta Flora-Thurs. & Fri., March 23, 24

April

Tiropita-Monday, April 3

Diples-Monday, April 24

May

Set-Up-Help Needed: Mon-Sat., May 1-6
FESTIVAL WEEK: Sunday-Saturday, May 7-13
Completed items: Sousoukakia, Kourambiethes, Baklava, Pastitsio, Moussaka, Finikia and Galatouboureko.

NEW CLASS

ORTHODOXY 101

Beginning on Wednesday evening, March 1 and continuing every week (except for Wednesday, March 8, when he will be away for the annual Metropolis Clergy Lenten Retreat) Fr. Christopher will offer a new program for anyone wishing to learn about the Orthodox faith, either for the first time, or as a form of "continuing education." The classes will begin at the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, which begins at 6 pm (approximately 7:30 p.m.). The program, which is called, "**Orthodoxy 101**," will begin with a general introduction the first week, and then proceed to discuss the origins, doctrines, and Scriptural basis for our faith, along with a short look at the long history of our Church. It will conclude on April 5.
PLEASE JOIN US! And bring a friend – or two!

ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 ST. PHOTIOS AWARD RECIPIENTS!

St. Nicholas Cathedral is blessed with many volunteers, both past and present, who have worked very hard over many years in an amazing variety of capacities to maintain, sustain, and grow our community, and we are deeply grateful for their sacrificial service. Each year, the Metropolis asks us to recognize two individuals who have distinguished themselves through their faithful and selfless efforts, to be honored at the annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Awards Banquet (to be held this year on Saturday, April 22 at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel – (see flier for more details).

This year, we will recognize Virginia Fekaris and James Machin. Both have worked hard over many years on behalf of our beloved Cathedral, giving generously of their time, talent, and treasure in service to our entire community. As was the case with our past awardees, the bestowing of this award on them is an opportunity for us to say a humble "thank you" to them and to wish them many more years in good health.

We can also pay tribute to them by our presence at the banquet on April 22, as well as by sponsoring an ad in the Program Book in their honor (the forms follow the flier). Net proceeds will benefit the Metropolitan's Benevolent Fund, which assists those in the greatest need.

I look forward to joining as many of you as possible at the Banquet, as we cheer our honorees and offer Virginia and Jim our congratulations. May our gracious and loving God grant them and us His heavenly benediction, now and always.

**With love in Christ,
Protopresbyter Christopher Bender, Dean**

SIXTY CLUB NEWS

We thank those who attended the "End of Life Decisions Program" and hope you found the information pertinent to your needs. The Sixty Club is open to suggestions for future informative programs. Please contact Chair Virginia Fekaris with your suggestions.

At this writing we have five seats left in the center section for the **Sat., April 1, 2 p.m. matinee** of **DADDY LONG LEGS**. This is a new musical based on the book by John Caird and directed by Ted Pappas. It is the story of an orphan girl whose college tuition is paid by a mysterious young benefactor on the condition that she write him letters. This exercise awakens in her an interest in literature and, of course, love.

Payment of \$31 is due by March 12.

Arthur Miller's **DEATH OF A SALESMAN** is considered a classic drama of our time. This is the Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning story of Willy Loman, the most famous traveling salesman in history who finds himself downsized by his young boss. He caves under the strain of not being able to make ends meet. This tale of aging, economics and the American Dream is more relevant than ever. We 8 tickets left for the **Saturday, May 20, 2 p.m. matinee at the O'Reilly Theater. Payment of \$33 due April 30.**

As always, we invite all ages to join us for theater productions. Please make all checks, including **2017 dues of \$10**, payable to *St. Nicholas Sixty Club*. Reservations taken by Virginia Fekaris (412-687-4804) or Fran Hanna (412-731-0790).

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).

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.

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

ATTENTION!

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, please contact Nikki Lykos (412-897-8208).

FEEDING THE HOMELESS



Philoptochos will be making and **serving dinner** at the FOCUS Shelter **Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 4 p.m.** **Also, we will be packing "backpacks" for FOCUS' Backpack Feeding Program Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 6 p.m. , VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Keeping up with Philoptochos

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MEETINGS - A Philoptochos General Meeting will be held **Monday, March 13, 2017, 7 p.m.** in the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Conference Room. After the meeting, we will be preparing the mailing for Easter Bread.

PHILOPTOCHOS' MISSION:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 13, 2017, General Meeting
Sunday, March 19, 2017, Passing a second basket to benefit Hellenic College Holy Cross
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

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!



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.

St. Nicholas Greek School - Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο

St. Nicholas Greek School celebrated the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters on Sunday, January 29, 2017. Sixth and Seventh year students wrote a response in Greek to a quote each selected from the Three Hierarchs. The students read their response after Divine Liturgy. Marianna Christou, Dimitra (Mia) Velisaris, and Vasilis Benos read their response and the written responses of Jasmina (Mina) Andrews, Alex Copetas, and Themis Balouris who were unable to be there that day. They did a wonderful job presenting and we also offer thanks to their teacher, Presv. Georgia Muksuris. The Greek School also held an Artoclasia and a memorial service was held for Paraskevi Mavrogeorgis and Vasilis Krinis (20 years) who were a part of Greek School and fell asleep in the Lord too young. This year we wanted to also remember others who in these last two decades were a large part of Greek School and helped in various ways – Angelo Tsourekis, Vickie Bellios, Helen Hampers, George Hazinas, Ismene Kefalogiannis, George Thomas. May their memory be eternal. Afterwards during coffee hour the Annual Bake Sale took place. We thank everyone who supported the Greek School Bake Sale.

St. Nicholas will host a Metropolis-wide Teacher Training Seminar presented by the Archdiocese on Sat. Feb. 25th.

As we are approaching Great Lent, students will learn about the customs and traditions of Great Lent in Greece. The older children have been preparing with Deacon Haralambos to read prayers to Panaghia and Christ for the beautiful Salutations to the Most Holy Theotokos Services.

Students are learning about the Greek War of Independence as well as preparing for presenting a program on Sunday, March 26. The Celebration of the Evangelismos and Greek Independence will take place after Divine Liturgy with a procession, doxology, shrimp luncheon with other dietary options, and program. Come and let's celebrate together and see a play on how a saint helped a village in Crete against the janissaries. For luncheon reservations, text or call Lisa Kristian at 412-600-2140 or email lisakristian@yahoo.com by March 15.

As part of our fund-raising efforts, two CDs which are chanted by the Unfading Rose Youth Choir in Greek and English are being sold by our school. They are "Hymns to the Mother of God" and "Apolytikia of the Great Feasts". These CDs are a beautiful tool for all parishioners and families who wish to hear and learn these hymns.

On April 22, many Metropolis Greek Schools will join St. Nicholas students for the 5th Annual Greek Language Festival which is comprised of a Quiz Bowl, music and drama presentations, an Art Exhibit with food and fun.



Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο γιόρτασε την Εορτή των Τριών Ιεραρχών στις 29 Ιανουαρίου. Η έκτη και έβδομη τάξη γράψανε στα Ελληνικά κείμενα για τους Τρεις Ιεράρχες. Η Μαριάννα Χρίστου, η Δήμητρα Βελισάρη, και ο Βασίλης Μπένος διάβασαν αυτά που έγραψαν καθώς επίσης και τα κείμενα της Γιασμίνας Ανδρέου, του Αλέξανδρου Κοπίτα, και του Θεμιστοκλή Μπαλούρη γιατί δεν μπορούσαν να έρθουν. Τα παιδιά έκαναν υπέροχη δουλειά και ευχαριστούμε την δασκάλα τους την πρεσβυτέρα Γεωργία Μουζούρη. Είχαμε Αρτοκλασία για το Ελληνικό Σχολείο και μνημόσυνο για την Παρασκευή Μαυρογεώργη και Βασίλη Κρίνη (20 χρόνια) μαζί με των μνημόσυνο του Ευάγγελου Τσουρέκη, Βασιλική Μπέλιου, Ελένη Χάμπερ, Γεώργιο Χαζίνα, Ισμήνη Κεφαλογιάννη, και Γεώργιο Αθανασίου. Αιώνια τους η μνήμη. Ύστερα, το σχολείο πούλησε διάφορα γλυκά. Ευχαριστούμε όλους όσους μας στήριξαν.

Στις 25 Φεβρουαρίου θα γίνει ένα επιμορφωτικό εκπαιδευτικό σεμινάριο για όλα τα Ελληνικά Σχολεία της Μητρόπολης.

Την Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή τα παιδιά μαθαίνουν τα έθιμα της Ελλάδος για την Σαρακοστή. Τα παιδιά της έκτης και έβδομης τάξης προετοιμάζονται με τον Διάκονα Χαράλαμπο για να διαβάσουν τις προσευχές για τους πανόμορφους Χαιρετισμούς της Θεοτόκου. Στις 26 Μαρτίου το Ελληνικό Σχολείο θα γιορτάσει την Εορτή του Ευαγγελισμού και της Επανάστασης της Ελλάδος. Ελάτε να γιορτάσουμε μαζί και να δείτε ένα μικρό έργο για έναν άγιο που βοήθησε τους Έλληνες στην Κρήτη απο τους γενίτσαρους. Μετά τη Δοξολογία θα έχουμε μεσημεριανό με γαρίδες και πολλά άλλα. Για να κάνετε κράτηση, τηλεφωνήστε την Βασιλεία Κρίστιαν στο νούμερο 412-600-2140 ή στείλτε email lisakristian@yahoo.com ως τις 15 Μαρτίου.

Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο πουλάει δυό CDs απο την νεανική χωρωδιά «Ροδον το Αμάραντον». Είναι «Ύμνοι της Υπεραγιάς Θεοτόκου» και «Απολυτικά των Δεσποτικών και Θεομητορικών Εορτών.»

Στις 22 Απριλίου πολλά Ελληνικά Σχολεία θα έρθουν στον Άγιο Νικόλαο να συμμετέχουν στο 5^ο Φεστιβάλ Ελληνικής Γλώσσας. Θα έχουν Παιχνίδι Γνώσεων, μουσική, θέατρο, έκθεση τέχνης, φαγητά και χαρά.

MIDNIGHT HELPERS

was hatched by ROY after seeing, first-hand, the migrant crisis in Chios, Greece.

MIDNIGHT HELPERS is a team of volunteers that is organizing donations for humanitarian aid to the migrants on the Greek island of Chios through a palletized shipping company, a food rescue group in Pittsburgh, and in cooperation with a relief team in Chios.

Being a grassroots group and staying connected with global contacts is part of how Midnight Helpers can work.

**PROJECT: TO SHIP DONATIONS FOR THE
MIGRANT LANDINGS ON GREEK ISLANDS**

SHIPMENTS ARE ONGOING

**NEW SHIPMENT DROP OFF LOCATION:
STAMOOLIS BROTHERS CO.**

2020 PENN AVE, PITTSBURGH 15222
(IN STRIP DISTRICT)

M-F: 7 AM-4 PM SAT: 7:30 AM-4 PM
TEL: (412) 471-7676

**DONATIONS TO HELP PAY FOR SHIPPING
CAN BE MADE TO:**

MIDNIGHT HELPERS

23 OLD INDIAN TRAIL COURT
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

FOR INFO, ROY: (412) 606-5927
AND ZELFA KHALIL: (412) 417-4706



INSTAGRAM: **MIDNIGHT HELPERS**



FACEBOOK: **MIDNIGHT HELPERS**



MIDNIGHT HELPERS

DONATIONS ACCEPTED:

NEED ALL SIZES:

- CLOTHES & SHOES FOR ALL AGES
(except no baby clothes)
- SWEATPANTS
(b/c they easily fit many sizes)
- WINTER COATS
- CLOTHES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN
- DIAPERS
- UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS
- PAJAMAS
- DETERGENT POWDER FOR LAUNDRY

DRIED FOOD:

ENERGY BARS, BREAKFAST CEREAL
BARS, DRIED FRUIT AND BISCUITS.
FOOD THAT CAN BE PREPARED EASILY.

NO BABY CLOTHES

(They are not needed)

**IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE PACK
IN SUITCASE WITH WHEELS.**

ROY is an nationally known metals artist and her paternal grandfather was a survivor of the Smyrna genocide in 1922. Currently her piece, "Remembrance" which memorializes Smyrna, is traveling nationally to various museums and galleries through the exhibition Imagine Peace Now.

From the Church School Desk

Church school students in grades 7-12 have the opportunity to learn more about their faith and participate in the **St. Nicholas Oratorical Festival** that will be held in **March, 2017**. For more information, please contact Chairman Eve Elsen at 412-580-9415 or eve.m.elsen@gmail.com.



Sunday, March 5, 2017, the Church School students will participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession** with their favorite icon!

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School Open House will be **Sunday, April 2, 2017**, where parents and grandparents attend Church School to see firsthand what their children are learning.

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

Yours in Christ, *Miss Michelle*

Food Festival Cooking Fun!



Nick Kleissas
successfully
attempting his
first-ever
Baklava!

What a
wonderful help
Christos
Mavrogeorgis
is!



Julia Pasquella
competing with
her daughters
Arianna & Sara
to see how many
Souzoukakia fit
on a pan!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

You are the Voice of Christ in a Changing World

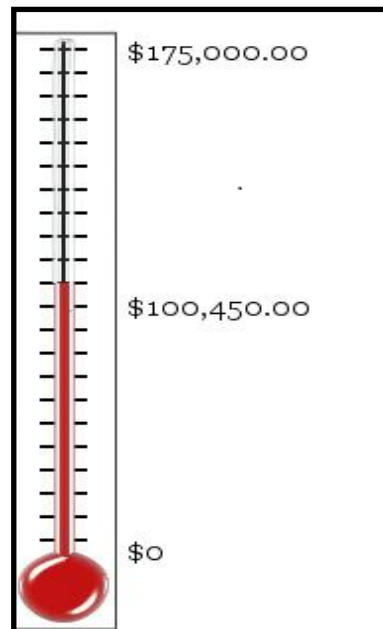
“As the Father Has Sent Me, So I Send You” - John 20:21

(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!!**



<u>2017 STEWARDSHIP</u>		02/15/2017
Total Stewards		140
Total Amount Pledged		\$100,450.00
Average Pledge		\$717.50
% Parish Participation to Date		47%
2016 Stewards (GOAL)		300
% of Total Budget to Date		57%
2016 Budget (GOAL)		\$175,000.00
Total Giving to Date		\$24,132.48
<u>As of:</u>		12/31/2016
Income: Pledges & Basket Collection and Food Festival	\$464,246.00	
Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Commitments, etc.	\$441,069.00	
	\$23,177.00	

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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} PITTSBURGH

ST PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, April 22, 2017

The Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
300 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
4:00 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres 5:15 P.M. Dinner

Dinner Reservations Form \$75.00 per adult, \$25.00 per child under 12 (Tables of 10)

Name..... Parish.....

Address.....

City/State/Zip.....

E-Mail Phone (.....).....

Number of Reservations x \$75.00ea + x \$25.00ea = \$..... total

Note: Awardees attend gratis (no charge) as guests of His Eminence

Amount enclosed.....

Please seat me with.....

Make checks payable to: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Please refer questions to Mary Doreza at 412-877-3415

Mail checks & reservation names to: Peter Clyde Papadakis
St. Photios Banquet Reservations
109 Lindberg Drive
McKeesport, PA 15132

Dinner reservations are due by April 7, 2017

For room reservations: Contact the Sheraton Hotel at (412) 261-2000
A rate of \$169.00 per night has been secured
Use the group name "Greek Orthodox"
Deadline for room reservations at this rate is April 7, 2017.

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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} PITTSBURGH

ST PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, April 22, 2017

The Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
300 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
4:00 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres 5:15 P.M. Dinner

Program Book Sponsorship Form

\$3000.00+ Grand Benefactor.....

\$1000.00--\$2,999.00 Benefactor

\$750.00--\$999.00 Patron

\$500.00--\$749.00 Sponsor

\$250.00--\$499.00 Supporter

\$100.00--\$249.00 Friend

Amount enclosed

Name as you wish it to be listed in the Program Book:

Make checks payable to: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Mail form and check to: Peter Clyde Papadakos
St. Photios Program Sponsorships
109 Lindberg Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15132

Sponsorships must be received by March 31, 2017, to be included in the book.

Donors will be listed by Contribution Level in the St. Photios Awards Banquet Program Book, which will be distributed at the Dinner on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA. *Net proceeds from this event will benefit the Metropolitan's Benevolence Fund.*

MUSIC AND ART



“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

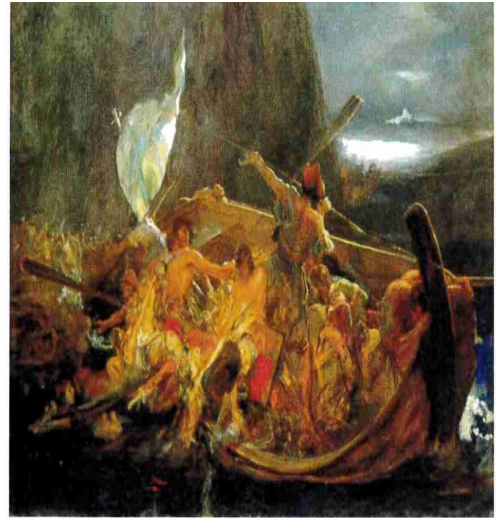
6:00 PM

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

419 South Dithridge Str.

Pittsburgh, PA, 15213

For more information, contact: asbmh@pitt.edu



GREEK NATIONALITY ROOM COMMITTEE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

ANNOUNCES

“REFUGEES AND LIBERTY IN THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE”

Lecture-Presentation

including

AN EXHIBIT OF RARE PHOTOGRAPHY

&

ARTWORK FROM THE PERIOD

COMMEMORATING 196 YEARS SINCE THE LIBERATION OF GREECE

Sunday, March 26th, 2017

5:30 PM

Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

This year's annual commemorative event, in addition to the lecture-presentation, exhibit, and artwork,
will also feature thematic poetry and dances
representative of the areas from which Greeks fled as refugees,
generously-presented by
the GRECIAN ODYSSEY DANCERS

A sampling of Greek regional olive oils, and artisanal bread, complemented by light refreshments,
will be served following the program.

For more information, contact: asbmh@pitt.edu.

M A R C H 2 0 1 7			1 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Orthodoxy 101 Class 7:30 p.m.	2 Living Orthodoxy 11:00 a.m.	3 1 st Salutations 7:00 p.m. – H.E. Metropolitan SAVAS presiding	4 3 rd Saturday of Souls Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Greek School 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
5 Sunday of Orthodoxy Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	6 Great Compline Service 7:00 p.m.	7 GOYA Volleyball 7-9 p.m.	8	9	10 2 nd Salutations 7:00 p.m.	11 St. Nick's hosts GOYA Volleyball Tournament <u>8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</u> Greek School 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Christopher away at Lenten Clergy Retreat						
12 <i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i> Sun. of St. Gregory Palamas Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. General Assembly 12:30 p.m.	13 Philoptochos <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Open Gym (Volleyball) (college/grad students & young adults) 8-10p.m.	14	15 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Orthodoxy 101 Class 7:30 p.m.	16 Living Orthodoxy 11:00 a.m.	17 3 rd Salutations 7:00 p.m.	18 Greek School 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
19 3rd Sunday Veneration of the Cross Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	20 Parish Council Meeting <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Open Gym (Volleyball) (college/grad students & young adults) 8-10 p.m.	21	22 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Orthodoxy 101 Class 7:30 p.m.	23 Living Orthodoxy 11:00 a.m.	24 Great Vespers with 4 th Section of the Akathist Hymn 7 p.m.	25 Annunciation Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Greek School <u>10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</u> GOYA Retreat <u>10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</u>
26 4th Sunday St. John Climacus Orthros 8:30 Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Greek School 25 th March Lunch & Program 12:30 p.m.	27 Great Compline Service <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Open Gym (Volleyball) (college/grad students & young adults) 8-10p.m.	28	29 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Orthodoxy 101 Class 7:30 p.m.	30 Living Orthodoxy 11:00 a.m.	31 Akathist Hymn 7:00 p.m.	

The Department of Greed Education for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Presents:

THE FIFTH ANNUAL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

On Saturday, April 22, 2017 ~ 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. At St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

GREEK					
ALPHABET					
A	alpha	α	N	nu	ν
B	beta	β	Ξ	xi	ξ
Γ	gamma	γ	Ο	omicron	ο
Δ	delta	δ	Π	pi	π
E	epsilon	ε	Ρ	rho	ρ
Z	zeta	ζ	Σ	sigma	σ
H	eta	η	T	tau	τ
Θ	theta	θ	Υ	upsilon	υ
I	iota	ι	Φ	phi	φ
K	kappa	κ	X	chi	χ
Λ	lambda	λ	Ψ	psi	ψ
M	mu	μ	Ω	omega	ω

New this year:

- Teams of three students will compete in two levels.
- You must be previously enrolled in Greek studies to be eligible.
- All material needed to study can be found online, call St. Nicholas office for exact website.
- Teams can be comprised of students for multiples churches/schools:
 - a) Intermediate level-4th, 5th, 6th grades American school.
 - b) Advanced level-6th thru 12th grades American school. **Note-6th grades have the option of teaming up in either level.**
- A large traveling trophy will be placed at winning teams church/churches and individual awards will be given too.

FLIERS are in the narthex, registration deadline is MARCH 30, 2017.

CONTACT: Maria Stamoolis, mstamoolis@verizon.net

St. Nicholas Greek School Invites You To

A Celebration of The Evangelismos & Greek Independence Day

Sunday, March 26th

Luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Program at 1 p.m.

Shrimp, Pasta, Vegetable
and Dessert

Adults \$10, Children \$5



Come and see a play about how a Saint helped a Cretan village against the Jannisaries!
POEMS! SONGS! A PLAY AND MORE!

For reservations, call or text Lisa Kristian, 412-600-2140 OR lisakristian@yahoo.com BY MARCH 15th

GOYA NEWS

GOYA had a wonderful Basketball Season!!

The Junior Boys earned two 3rd place trophies, the Girls earned two Consolation trophies and the Senior Boys earned a 1st place trophy and 2nd place trophy. At the last tournament at St. Haralambos in Canton, Ohio, the High School Seniors were honored. Our seniors are **Yianni Contis, Peter Copetas, Nicholas Hages, Victoria Mavrogeorgis and Alexa Mellis.**

We wish our seniors continued success for a bright future. We would like to thank Mr. Nick Hages for his generous donation of the boys warm up jerseys. This was a pleasant surprise for our last tournament weekend. We would like to **thank all the parents** who attended, participated & chaperoned our GOYAns at the three tournaments. **A big thank you** to all the coaches who give many hours of their time and talents to teach and prepare our GOYAns for the Metropolis basketball tournament season. Our coaches are **John Powers, Maria Krinis, Peter Leventopoulos, Jimmy Machin, Ted Hages, Nicholas Strauch and Yianni Leventopoulos.** The GOYA is now looking forward to hosting the Metropolis Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, March 11.



St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
419 S. Dithridge Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-682-3866
www.stnickspgh.org

DATED MATERIAL Please Deliver by February 28, 2017

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

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

Points of Interest Inside:

- ◇ Cooking Fun, with pictures!
 - ◇ Greek School pics
 - ◇ Cooking Schedule
- Festival Preparations, volunteers needed!
 - ◇ GOYA Basketball pics
- ◇ 5th Annual Greek Language Festival
- ◇ A Celebration of The Evangelismos & Greek Independence Day
 - ◇ St. Photios Awards Banquet info
 - ◇ Orthodoxy 101