

**GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR EVERYTHING**

As we enter November, 2017, the month when our nation celebrates the day which has been put aside for "giving thanks," it would perhaps be appropriate to spend a little time considering what this means for us as Orthodox Christians, and for how we live our lives.

For many centuries, Orthodox Christians have honored St. John Chrysostom as one of our greatest saints. We cherish his memory. But, it was not always so. John was critical of the hypocrisies of the wealthy and powerful, and was no respecter of persons. In fact, he made some pretty powerful enemies during his brief time as Patriarch of Constantinople. Among them was the emperor's wife, Eudoxia. Twice, he was sent into exile, where he suffered greatly. Finally, during a forced march even farther into the wilderness in 407, he collapsed and died. If he had been angry or embittered with his fate, we would certainly understand. But, that was not the case. On the contrary, he was heard to say as he died, "Glory to God for all things."

Sixteen hundred years later and thousands of miles away, another Orthodox clergyman, a priest named Protopresbyter Gregory Petrov (now recognized as a Hieromartyr), also died for his faith, this time in 1940 in the harsh conditions of a Soviet concentration camp. Among his effects was found a beautiful composition, an "Akathist of Thanksgiving," which had been central to Fr. Gregory's prayer life, and had helped him survive amidst terrible persecution and suffering. It had been composed by a contemporary, Metropolitan Tryphon Turkestanov, who used St. John Chrysostom's last words as the title: *Glory to God for All Things*.

This modern hymn of praise and thanksgiving, which has been composed according to the pattern of one of our most ancient hymn forms, the *Kontakion* (similar to the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos we chant during Great Lent), is truly an inspired and inspiring masterpiece of Orthodox hymnography. It also has much to teach us about what it means to be thankful to God with every thought, every act, during every hour of the day. It begins by acknowledging God's power, and then it introduces the theme of the entire hymn, by offering Him thanks for all the ways He blesses us:

*Incorruptible Lord, your right hand controls the whole course of human life, according to the decrees of your Providence for our salvation. We give you thanks for all your blessings, known and unknown: for our earthly life and your mercies towards us as we sing: Glory to you, O God, from age to age!*

In the course of the Akathist, God is repeatedly praised for the beauty and majesty of Creation, and for the tender and intimate gifts of family and friendship. For example:

*You brought me into this life as into an enchanted paradise. We have seen the sky, like a deep blue cup ringing with birds in the azure heights. We have listened to the soothing murmur of the forest and the sweet-sounding music of the waters. We have tasted fragrant fruit of fine flavor and sweet-scented honey. How pleasant is our stay with you on earth: it is a joy to be your guest. Glory to you for the trouble you take for me at all times, Glory for the people your Providence gave me to meet, Glory to you for the love of my dear ones, the faithfulness of friends, Glory to you for the gentleness of the animals which serve me, Glory to you for the light-filled moments of life, Glory to you for the radiant joy in my heart, Glory to you for the joy of living, moving and seeing, Glory to you, O God, from age to age.*

(Continued on pg. 2)

St.  
Nicholas  
Greek  
Orthodox  
Cathedral

NOVEMBER  
2017  
Newsletter

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Metropolitan Tryphon addresses many aspects of living, and how we can see them as a gift, a blessing. For instance, service to others, and care for those who are corrupt or deranged:

*When you inspire me to serve my neighbor, and make humility shine in my soul, one of your deep-piercing rays of light falls into my heart: it then becomes glowing, like iron in the furnace. I have seen your Face, mysterious and elusive. No one can put together what has crumbled into dust, but you can heal men whose conscience has become twisted; you give the soul its former beauty, which long ago it had lost without a hope of change. With you, nothing is hopeless. You are Love. You are the creator and the redeemer of all things. We praise you with this song: Alleluia!*

He also addresses the centrality and importance of worship, and especially, the Holy Eucharist:

*Blessed is he who will share your mystical supper in your kingdom; but even here on earth you have granted me this blessedness. How many times, with your divine hand, you offered me your Body and your Blood; while I, a great sinner, received these sacred Gifts and felt your ineffable and supernatural love.*

He finishes as he began, by thanking God for blessing us in so many ways, and then he prays that we may be deemed worthy of such bountiful love, and of life everlasting in God's presence:

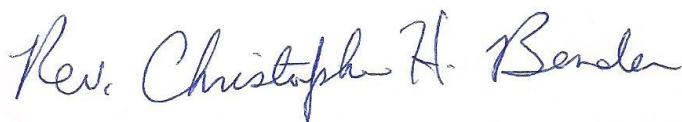
*Life-giving and most merciful Trinity, receive our thanksgiving for all your kindnesses; make us worthy of your blessings, so that, when we have brought a profit from the talents you have entrusted to us, we may enter into the eternal joy of our Lord, singing the triumphal hymn: Alleluia!*

When we consider that this hymn was first made known to the world when it was discovered in the pocket of an Orthodox priest who perished in seemingly hopeless conditions in a Soviet concentration camp, and that it had been composed by another Orthodox cleric under the communist yoke in his last year of life, we can only marvel. Our own problems, as serious as they might be, pale by comparison. They took seriously the words of the Apostle Paul, we counseled the Christians at Ephesus to "Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We make it a point to give thanks to God on one day of the year. But, every day is Thanksgiving Day for us as Christ's disciples! St. Gregory Petrov, by his death, has opened up to us a door to eternal life, a life of love and gratitude towards God for all His blessings, even in the most dire circumstances. Following his example, we, too, can become "champions of gratitude," by making the Akathist of Thanksgiving a part of our daily prayer routine! A number of translations can easily be found online by searching for "Akathist of Thanksgiving" or "Glory to God for All Things." I made use of the translation that can be found on our own Archdiocese's website, goarch.org

There is so much to be thankful for, in this, God's glorious world, our home – today, and every day! Glory to God indeed, for all things!

**Rev. Father Christopher Bender, Dean**



## *SIXTY CLUB NEWS*

What a fun meeting we had on October 1st! Everyone seemed to participate in picking out so many activities for 2018, that we'll have difficulty fitting them all into one year. We found everything from a wine and cheese venture, an Amish home lunch, the Hershberger Bakery and the new Amish Country Theater near Dover, OH (a two-hour musical and comedy variety show), and a very enticing Chautauqua Belle Steamboat cruise.

Of course, we are, foremost, theater fans. We talked about revisiting the Mountain Playhouse in nearby Jennerstown for a fun breather shortly after the Festival.

Our very popular Public Theater at the O'Reilly has an extraordinary menu for 2018. Among some very interesting shows they are presenting a spoof on Shakespeare: REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY which steals several of the Bard's most famous characters and lines and combines them into a hilarious comedy—recommended by those who have seen it.

Also at the O'Reilly there was so much enthusiasm for **A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM**, directed by Ted Pappas (remember this is his last year) that we decided to reserve 15 tickets for the **2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, February 17 at \$33. Make reservations through Virginia Fekaris 412-687-4804 or Alice Flocos 412-731-4282.** Payment will tentatively be due January 28. These seats are in the first eight rows from the stage.

There is room in the calendar for speakers on topics of interest. For example: we had a very well received discussion on end-of-life legal decisions, but we did not discuss the actual health options and the Church's teachings on these decisions. **Please offer suggestions.**

Watch the Sunday bulletins and monthly NEWSLETTERS for up-to-date information on all future events.

*~HAPPY THANKSGIVING~*

### *Keeping up with Philoptochos*

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

*Philoptochos is continuously working to promote the charitable, benevolent and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Church. Your time and talent are needed so that we can continue to help those in need. If you have questions about what we do or are interested in getting involved with Philoptochos, please contact Nikki Lykos or any board member.*

#### **General Meeting on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Please join us at our next general meeting. We welcome new members and new ideas!

**Update to Parish Directory** – Philoptochos is working on an update to the Parish Director, so please return the forms with your updated information as soon as possible to ensure your information is accurately updated.

**Sponsors Needed for Parish Directory** – In order to offset the cost of printing the new directory, Philoptochos is offering parishioners the opportunity to sponsor, purchase or renew an ad in the directory. Thank you for your support!

**Vasilopita Baking on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Volunteers are needed as we embark on a long day of mixing, weighing, rolling, baking and wrapping Vasilopita for one of our biggest fundraisers. Please consider giving a few hours of your time – we will be working from the early morning through the evening. Please contact Alisa Mathews (412-719-5038) with any questions.

**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 (#3288) through your employers United Way contribution. Questions: contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).



## INSPIRED BY FAITH—Driven By Purpose

Together, we have achieved great things. Your compassion and generosity are critical as we continue to strengthen communities worldwide, build vital infrastructures like wells and schools, and respond to emergencies and natural disasters. Thank you for your support over the years. Join us in celebrating the impact of IOCC across the globe and in looking forward to our next 25 years of service!

### IOCC at 25: A Timeline

- 1992** IOCC formed in response to collapse of Soviet Union, opened Moscow office
- 1993** Began providing humanitarian assistance during breakup of former Yugoslavia
- 1994** Started food and education programs for newly formed Republic of Georgia
- 1997** Began humanitarian work in West Bank and Jerusalem
- 1999** Provided humanitarian assistance to victims of Kosovo conflict
- 1999** Started food and education programs for newly formed Republic of Georgia
- 2003** Delivered humanitarian assistance to Iraqi war victims
- 2005** Assisted survivors of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami

How did it all begin? IOCC started with the idea that Orthodox Christians of all jurisdictions and all ethnicities could come together to answer Christ's call to serve those in need. And a particularly great need inspired American Orthodox Christians to take action in the early 1990s. In response to the crisis, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) was formed by the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), the predecessor to the modern-day Assembly, along with lay leaders Mr. Charles R. Ajalat, Mr. Andrew A. Athens, and Mr. John G. Rangos Sr. In addition, the faithful support of honorary board members Mr. George M. Marcus and the late Dr. George J. Farha, ensured IOCC's growth and continued service over the last 25 years. Their vision answered a call by members of the Orthodox Christian community here in the United States to respond to the great humanitarian needs arising in the wake of the Soviet Union's dissolution, including the revolutions in Eastern Europe and socioeconomic upheaval. The newly formed IOCC was American Orthodoxy's answer to this growing need and, over time, to many other needs as well. The organization's first initiative was two airlifts in February 1992: US military cargo planes flew from Pittsburgh to Moscow carrying \$4.8 million of food items and essential medical supplies. This US military cargo plane, loaded with IOCC food and medical supplies, prepares to depart from Pittsburgh to Moscow. It was collaboration across jurisdictions and a central pan-Orthodox spirit that would continue to drive IOCC's identity and success in the coming years. From that first initiative, IOCC went on to open a field office in Moscow and today has 11 field offices around the world. Through your support, IOCC has gradually expanded to reach over 60 countries with life-saving assistance, distributing more than \$600 million in humanitarian relief. As we move into the next 25 years and beyond, IOCC continues to represent the unity of the Church not only in the United States but also around the world, and through your generosity it continues to answer Christ's call to serve the least of our brethren.



## **JOY, HOPE and LITTLE ANGELS**

**We enjoyed  
a sunny  
afternoon  
at Simmons  
Farm on  
Saturday,  
October 14<sup>th</sup>.  
The kids (and  
their parents)**



**were too busy picking pumpkins  
and enjoying the fun fall activities  
on the farm to pause for a group  
picture, but 16 kids and 15 adults  
attended! It was a lovely  
afternoon, and we hope to make  
it an annual fall outing!**



**GOYA THANKS YOU...**  
**FOR HELPING US HELP OTHERS IN GREAT NEED**



The GOYA offers our most sincere thanks to our St. Nicholas Church family for your very generous donations for the Walk for Missions on October 8th. **Thanks to you, we raised \$1,490 (One thousand four hundred ninety dollars) for the Orthodox Clergy } Brotherhood's fund drive for the needy children and adults served by the Orthodox Mission in Guatemala.**

Thank you for making it possible to supply additional medical, dental and spiritual support to these people in great need. Your donations will be used to fund the critical work of Fr. John Chakos and Presbyteria Sandy, and their team.

GOYA would like to extend a special thank you to Pam Bertos who led GOYAns, JOY, College Students, Young Adults and Parents on a vigorous and fun filled 4.35 mile walk through the beautiful paths of Schenely Park.

We also thank the Hages Family for donating the post walk luncheon refreshments to all. GOYA has mailed out individual letters acknowledging your specific generosity for your records. If you have not yet received a thank you letter and, donated to the Walk for Missions through the GOYA,

please contact Diane Strauch. Once again, GOYA thanks you, our St. Nicholas Church family, for your continued support which makes all we do possible.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! **GOYA THANKS YOU!** THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



***SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS***  
**WITH THE 2017 ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CARD**

*Save money on your Christmas cards and help our beloved Cathedral at the same time!*

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your list of names to read (*please print*): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Kindly return this form, along with your check, and mail to:  
 St. Nicholas Cathedral, 419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**All names MUST be submitted NO LATER than November 26, 2017!!**





# A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ISSUE 6 — NOVEMBER 2017

## BLESSING OF ANIMALS IN NORTH ROYALTON—FEAST OF ST. MAMMAS

On Saturday, September 2nd, St. Paul GOC of North Royalton, OH offered the 2nd Annual St. Mammas Pet Blessing. (St. Mammas feast fell on the actual day of the blessing this year.) He was a child saint who was orphaned because his parents were killed for their faith. St. Mammas was protected and cared by wild animals. Thus, he is looked upon as a protector of all animals. Fr. Costas Keares offered petitions for the wellbeing of all the parishioners and friends who gathered for this event. He also sprinkled each pet with Holy Water, asking God's protection upon each animal. The event was well attended and everyone was appreciative.



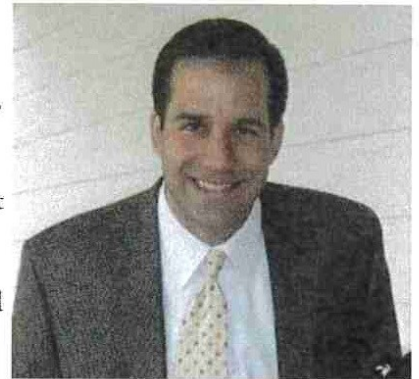
## PARISH RETREAT "THRIVING IN OUR LIVES" PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 1-2

St. Demetrios GOC of Rocky River, OH invites the faithful to join them for their retreat, "Thriving in our Lives," on December 1-2 at the Church. The featured speaker is Dr. Philip Mamalakis, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

From the invitation:

"God created us to thrive, as human beings, in intimate relationships with Him and others. However, it is hard to live in peace with one another in the home, in the family, and in the community."

The sessions will focus on thriving in parenting, in the home, in relationships, and in marriage.



Free-will donations will be accepted for the retreat, which includes lunch on Saturday. For more information, or to reserve your spot, contact the parish office at 440-331-2246 ext. 2, or email [presvytera@aol.com](mailto:presvytera@aol.com).



## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS METROPOLITAN SAVAS?

November 5—St. Nicholas Cathedral, Bethlehem, PA

November 11-12—Metropolis Folk Dance Festival,  
Campbell, OH

November 13-15—OCMC Board Meetings

November 26-30—Meeting of the Holy and Sacred Synod  
of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Constantinople

## 2017 ASSEMBLY DOCUMENTS & NEWS

Important 2017 Metropolis Assembly Documents, including the other resolutions of the Assembly, have been posted on the Metropolis website

For more information, visit:

<http://pittsburgh.goarch.org/2017-assembly>



## SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including His Eminence's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



## MONUMENT BLESSED AND DEDICATED



*Left: The parishioners of Holy Trinity GO Cathedral in Camp Hill gather in the courtyard after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy to bless and dedicate the Rock Monument (right) donated by the AHEPA chapter in honor of John Prokop and Freda Prokop Vladyka.*



On Sunday, September 24, the Holy Trinity Cathedral community in Camp Hill honored the memory of community benefactors and siblings John Prokop and Freda Prokop Vladyka. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy a memorial service was offered, and then the community proceeded outside for the dedication of a monument in their honor.

The "Rock-Monument" was offered by the Camp Hill AHEPA chapter to recognize their great donation to Holy Trinity and AHEPA. John and Freda gave over \$1.3 million to the parish and chapter (to be split evenly between the two) in thanksgiving to both organizations and to support the continued education of the generations in the tenets of the Orthodox Christian faith and the Greek culture.



*Attendees join in the singing of the National Anthem at the 2017 Metropolis Assembly hosted by Annunciation GO Cathedral, Columbus, OH.*

*Photo by Diana Synadinos; used with permission.*

## NEWEST METROPOLIS ARCHONS—HARRY ATHANASIOU AND PETER TSUDIS

Each year, the Metropolis is invited to nominate two men to be recognized as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in acknowledgment of their dedicated service to their parish, Metropolis, Archdiocese, and the Patriarchate in various ways. This year, the Metropolis has nominated Mr. Harry Athanasiou and Mr. Peter Tsudis, both of Pittsburgh. The Archon Investiture ceremony took place on Sunday, October 22 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity following the Divine Liturgy.

Each candidate must be nominated by two current Archons and must receive the recommendations of the Regional Commander (Archon Peter Papadakos), their respective parish priests, and must be blessed by Metropolitan Savas before they can be considered by the Patriarchate for the honor. Other Archons invested during the tenure of His Eminence include: Michael Kusturiss Jr & Philip Yamalis (2012), John Kalucis & Nicholas Lekas (2013), Angelo Coutris & Michael Psaros (2014), Nicholas Terezis & Adam Tzagournis (2015), and Nicholas Latousakis (2016).

### THE MISSION OF THE ARCHONS

For more information about the mission and work of the Archons, visit their website: <http://www.archons.org>



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 - 412-621-5529 (Main) - 412-621-8543 (Youth) - 412-621-1522 (Fax)  
<http://pittsburgh.goarch.org> - [info@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:info@pittsburgh.goarch.org)

**His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch**

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

Pres. Eileen Sedor, Receptionist

Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar

Rhea Ballas, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Maria Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture

Stacey Stathulis, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator





## **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](mailto:ngni@andrew.cmu.edu) or at [ngianni@pitt.edu](mailto:ngianni@pitt.edu). All educational materials are complimentary.

The second is rooted in the rich polyphonic innovations of the late Rudolph Agraphiotis 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. Agraphiotis. 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](mailto: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).

### **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)

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

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.**

Re-dedicate yourself to God by participating in the Divine Liturgy each Sunday and offer your  
**TIME, Talent and treasure.**

### **HELP US REACH/EXCEED OUR GOAL!!**

	<b><u>2017 STEWARDSHIP</u></b>		<b>10/20/2017</b>
	<b>Total Stewards</b>		<b>209</b>
	<b>Total Amount Pledged</b>		<b>\$137,285.00</b>
	<b>Average Pledge</b>		<b>\$656.87</b>
	<b>% Parish Participation to Date</b>		<b>70%</b>
	<b>2017 Stewards (GOAL)</b>		<b>300</b>
	<b>% of Total Budget to Date</b>		<b>78%</b>
	<b>2016 Budget (GOAL)</b>		<b>\$175,000.00</b>
		<b>Giving to Date:</b>	<b>\$40,933.98</b>
	<b><u>AS OF 9/30/2017</u></b>		
	<b>Income: Pledges &amp; Basket Collection and Food Festival</b>	<b>\$346,283.00</b>	
	<b>Expenses: Salaries, Utilities, Maint., Commitments, etc.</b>	<b>\$311,949.00:</b>	<b>\$34,334.00</b>

## From the Church school Desk

Sunday, November 5, 2017, will be **Godparent/Special Friend Sunday**. Godparents/Special Friends will worship during the Divine Liturgy, receive Holy Communion together and attend Church School to see what their Godchild/Special Friend learns there (and make cards to send to children at Children's Hospital for Make a Difference Day). Afterwards many will attend Coffee Hour sponsored by Philoptochos. It will be the start of a wonderful day together!



This year, Church School, will again have a Bake Sale at the **St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**, as well as, sponsor a Balloon artist.

The Church School children will present their **Christmas Pageant** under the direction of Jenny DeMatteo, Kelly Gary and Aimee Walker on Sunday, December 17, 2017. Please refer to the enclosed practice schedule for further details.

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School is preparing for their Holiday Outreach Project:** We are looking for hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. for **FOCUS' Project Bundle-up** to decorate our tree. Thanks in advance for your warm winter accessories and teaching the children the gift of giving.

**New this year, "What I did not learn in Sunday School" Adult Education Class!** In October, Deacon Robert Lykos started special classes after the Divine Liturgy on various topics for the adults of our beloved parish. The next classes will be Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> & November 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

Yours in Christ, *Miss Michelle*

### St. Nicholas Philoptochos\*

Let Philoptochos help you with your holiday entertaining.

# Holiday Spanakopita Rolls

Place your order now for Greek holiday appetizers.

Our delicious spinach and feta rolls are made with the freshest ingredients and wrapped in delicate phyllo.

Unbaked and frozen for freshness, simply score to desired number of pieces,  
pop them into the oven following our simple baking instructions on the wrapper  
and you're ready to go.

**\$9 each**

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 13, 2017**

Complete the order form below and mail  
along WITH A CHECK, made payable to:  
St. Nicholas Philoptochos/Holiday Appetizers  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral 419  
S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

#### PICK UP DATES:

Friday, November 17 — Noon to 5 p.m.  
Sunday, November 19 — Noon to 1 p.m.

#### ORDER FORM

(Please print clearly & include your phone number)

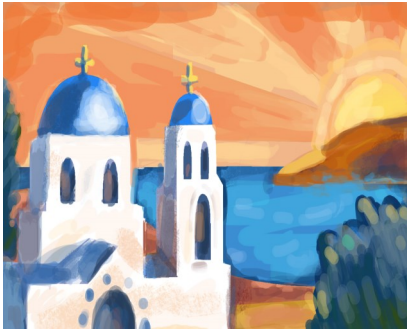
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my order on: **Friday, Nov. 17** ☐ **Noon to 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, Nov. 19** ☐ **Noon - 1 p.m.**

Number of Spanakopita Rolls \_\_\_\_\_ x \$9 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_



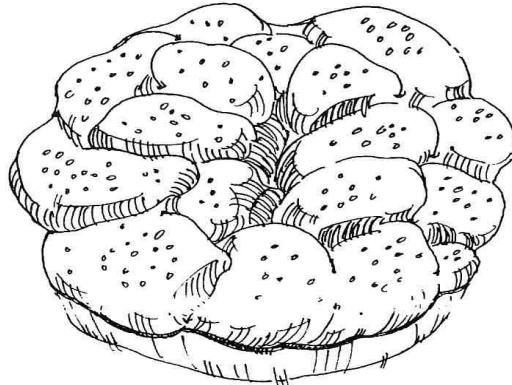
# *St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral*

## *Godparent Sunday & Church School Open House*

### **Sunday, November 5, 2017**

Join your Godchild for Church Worship,  
Holy Communion, & Church School!

Start the New Year Out by Helping Philoptochos Help Others



## *New Year's Bread*

St. Nicholas Cathedral Philoptochos is taking orders for delicious Greek New Year's Bread  
Each loaf contains the traditional New Year's coin.

***\$9 per loaf***

Bread will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 10 during the St. Nicholas Bazaar.  
For additional information contact Nikki Lykos at 412-897-8208

### **ORDER FORM**

Complete the information below and mail along WITH A CHECK, made payable to:  
St. Nicholas Philoptochos/New Year's Bread, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 S. Dithridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Loaves \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ with Sesame Seeds \_\_\_\_\_ without Sesame Seeds

*Thank you for your support.*

**All proceeds benefit the ongoing charitable activities of our Philoptochos**





Philoptochos is collecting placement bags for children going to a foster care home. Bags can be dropped off in the plastic bin near the church office by **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** and will be donated to the Foster Love Project, which supports local kids in foster care. Please donate only complete bags!

### Infant/Toddler Bags (ages 0-2)

Required items:

- Diaper bag or large tote bag (must zipper)
- Footed PJs
- Pack of onesies
- Small blanket
- Small stuffed animal
- Baby board book
- Baby soap (in Ziploc)/washcloth
- Socks

Optional items: pacifier, lotion, teether, wipes, diapers, bottle

### Kids Bags

Required items:

- Large backpack or duffel bag
- 2 pairs of PJ's (1 winter, 1 summer)
- Pack of socks
- Small blanket
- Stuffed animal
- Book
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste (fluoride free for under 5)
- Bath poof & body wash(in Ziploc)

Optional items:  
lotion, wide-toothed comb, pack of underwear, night light, coloring book, hat/mittens

### Teen Bags

Required items:

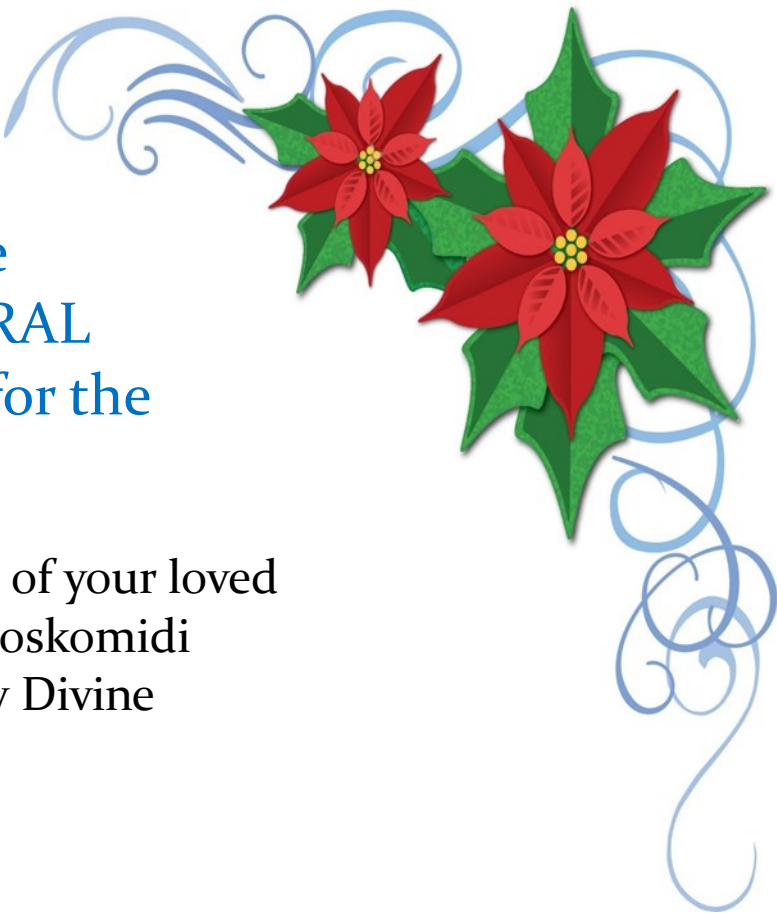
- Duffel bag or large zippered tote
- PJ's (shorts/t-shirts/sweatpants)
- Pack of socks
- Blanket
- Small pillow
- Book
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Bath poof & body wash(in Ziploc)
- Deodorant

Optional items: wide-toothed comb, journal, feminine products (no razors please), lotion, hat/gloves

**For information about the Foster Love Project, visit [www.fosterloveproject.org](http://www.fosterloveproject.org)**

**Any questions? Contact Nikki Lykos 412-897-8208 or [nvlykos@gmail.com](mailto:nvlykos@gmail.com)**

***Christ is Born!***  
***Glorify Him!***



PLEASE HELP US decorate  
OUR BELOVED CATHEDRAL  
with beautiful poinsettias for the  
Nativity Season.

If you wish, please list the names of your loved  
ones to be remembered in the Proskomidi  
(*Preparation of the Gifts*) at every Divine  
Liturgy through Christmas.

*For the Health of:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory Of:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested donation:**

\$20 OR MORE, payable to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral (memo: Poinsettias)

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR ORDERS IN NO LATER THAN December 15, 2017.**

Place in the Sunday offering tray or mail it to: 419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213



# PARISH MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE

**Choir**



**Garden Club**



**G.O.Y.A.**



**Food Festival**



**Luncheon**





# PARISH MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE

*Philoptochos*



*Parish Council*



*Our Cake*



*Church School & Greek School*



*Luncheon*



## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **FUNERALS**

*Our deepest condolences  
to the families of:*

**KATHERINE C. KEFALOS**, who fell  
asleep in the Lord on September 30,  
2017. Her funeral was on October 6.  
*and*

**NICHOLAS A. BELDECOS**, who fell  
asleep in the Lord on October 9, 2017.  
His funeral was on October 17.

***May God grant  
them Eternal Rest!***

## **ATTN: FAMILIES**

**DID YOU KNOW** about the **RESOURCES** available  
at the **GOARCH.org Website?**

The Center for Family Care, a ministry of the  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese nurtures and  
empowers families, helping them navigate the joys  
and challenges of life. The ministry focuses on  
equipping families to apply the teachings and  
practices of the Orthodox faith into every  
dimension of their lives. The Ancient Faith  
PODCAST will feature interviews, reflections,  
book reviews and narratives that will encourage  
dialogue and strengthen families.

### **UPCOMING PODCASTS:**

- Family Prayer Time
- Teenage Depression
- St. Porphyrios—On the upbringing of Children
- Forgiveness in Marriage
- Parenting Styles-Power or Humility?
- A Child's Development Stages
- Gerontology and Hospice Care

### **Go here:**

<https://www.goarch.org/-/orthodox-family-faith>  
To see all that is available to you!

**Please Notice This**



## **IMPORTANT:**

### **NOTICE FOR ALL ORGANIZATIONS OF ST. NICHOLAS**

To organize and prioritize the daily  
needs of St. Nicholas Cathedral, our  
maintenance staff has adopted a  
task-list system, prepared with their  
input, which allots time for routine,

seasonal and unexpected needs of our facilities. Employees are  
required to submit a check list of tasks accomplished daily to the  
Office Manager who, in turn, confirms the work has been completed.

**Any additional task that may be required of the maintenance  
staff must be scheduled through the Office Manager.**

**EXAMPLES INCLUDE:** running errands, emptying deliveries,  
setting up tables and chairs, taking something to storage, etc.

**The OM is responsible for all scheduling of help,  
including extra personnel needed for church functions.**

**All organizations are asked to adhere to this policy.**

We have established a proven labor pool that must be  
respected and used efficiently. **THANK YOU!**

You can find  
copies of the  
newsletter  
for the

**Greek  
Orthodox  
Metropolis  
Of Pittsburgh**

on the Candle  
stands in the  
narthex when  
they are  
issued!



# The Greek Grille

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Come, enjoy our outdoor party! **OPA!**

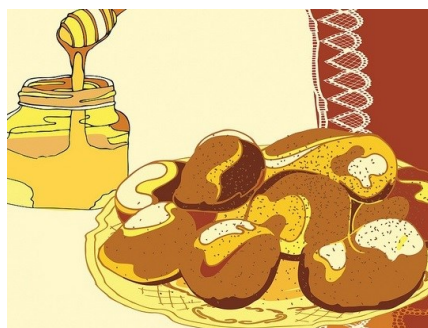
+++++

Delicious gyros, chicken & pork souvlaki,  
salad, loukoumades & more!

+++++

**JOIN US November 13-17, 2017**

**Monday-Friday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.**



The Greek Nationality Room Committee  
of the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms Program &  
The American-Hellenic Foundation of Western PA present

## ***50 Years Maria Callas: A Musical Tribute***

**Featuring Soprano Ms. Alexandra Loutsion**

**Friday, November 3rd, 2017—6:30 p.m.**

*The Recital Auditorium*

*7th Floor Alumni Hall, University of Pittsburgh*

*4227 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15260*

*~A refreshing apéritif reception together with a photo,  
video & art tribute to Callas will precede the Main Program~*

To buy tickets, or to R.S.V.P.,  
contact by email [info@pahellenicfoundation.org](mailto:info@pahellenicfoundation.org) or call 412. 624. 6150  
Adults: \$50, Students (with valid ID): \$20 (tickets also available at the event)

***All proceeds and donations will support University Student Research Scholarships  
for study at universities in Greece and Cyprus***

**A VOYAGE THROUGH THE LIFE AND THE ART OF THE GREAT DIVA THROUGH PRESENTATION  
AND MASTERFUL PERFORMANCES  
OF SONGS AND SOME OF CALLAS' ICONIC ARIAS IN THEIR FULL FORM**

*Fifty years after her passing, Maria Callas remains a towering and historic Diva of opera. With her vivid interpretations, Callas succeeded brilliantly at living for her art. Soprano Aprile Millo once said, "Listening to Callas is like reading Shakespeare: You're always going to be knocked senseless by some incredible insight into humanity."*







*St. Nicholas*

# *Cathedral Ball*

*Featuring "Ta Filarakia"*

*Saturday, November 25th*

*6 p.m. Cocktail Hour*

*7 p.m. Dinner*

*9 p.m. Dance*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Dinner and Dance \$60*

*Children under Twelve \$15*

*Dance after 9 p.m. \$25*

## *Dinner Choices:*

*Filet Mignon Medallions*

*Crab cakes*

*Vegetable Stuffed Portobello Mushroom Cap*

*R.S.V.P. by Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> (Tables of 8 or 10)*

*To St. Nicholas: 412-682-3866 or [church@stnickspgh.org](mailto:church@stnickspgh.org)*



Dear Reverend Fathers, Youth Directors, GOYA Advisors, GOYA Officers and GOYAns,

Christ is in our midst! On behalf of Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh and the Metropolis Youth Commission, we are writing to you today for your support for all those who have been suffered hardship due to recent disasters. IOCC\*, the official humanitarian agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, is collaborating with local Orthodox churches, ecumenical partners and others to provide relief where it is needed most. IOCC is working with Church World Service (CWS), the American Red Cross and other partners to understand and respond to immediate needs and relief gaps.

Mr. Dan Christopulos, IOCC US Country Representative and Incident Commander for Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief, will be our keynote speaker for the GOYA Fall Retreat, November 17-19, 2017. Mr. Christopulos will speak on the theme, "The Liturgy outside the Liturgy." **As a part of this retreat, we are calling on every GOYA Chapter in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh to make a unified relief effort to resupply IOCC and its partner, Church World Service, with hygiene kits.**

**What is needed for the hygiene kits?**

1. One hand towel, One washcloth, One comb, One nail clipper, one bar of soap (bath size), One toothbrush (NO TOOTHPASTE), Six Band-Aids
2. Secure kits in a box and download the IOCC Emergency Kits Coupon to fill out and include on the outside of each one.
3. It will cost about \$2-\$3 per kit to cover the cost of shipping to the warehouse.

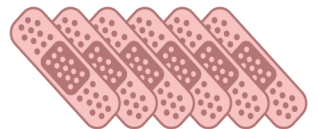
Please plan a **GOYA fundraising campaign** that involves your parish to collect hygiene items listed & monetary donations between now and November 1. We will pool all of our resources at the GOYA Fall Retreat and assemble the kits as a part of the retreat program. Please submit a single check from your parish for any monetary donations collected, made out and postmarked to the **Metropolis of Pittsburgh – Attention: KITS** by November 1. (100% of all donations will go directly toward the kits & mailing.) Thanks in advance for encouraging your GOYAn's & your parish to participate in this worthy project.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Andrew Lentz, Metropolis GOYA Committee Chair Rhea Ballas, Metropolis Youth Dir.; Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

Monetary donations: Metropolis of Pittsburgh – **Attention: KITS**, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
Please confirm receipt of your GOYA's donation, by emailing [youth@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:youth@pittsburgh.goarch.org).

## Health Kit Checklist

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



Place all items inside a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure and pack all into a box. Pack all assembled kits in a box.

Use the address below for each box and mail to:

**IOCC / CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

Brethren Service Center Annex

601 Main St.

P.O. Box 188

New Windsor, MD 21776-0188



# NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Adult Greek Sch. 6:30 p.m. (Beg.) 8 p.m. (Adv.)  GOYA Girls Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Greek School 10 a.m.
			Fr. Christopher away at National Clergy Retreat			
<b>5</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	<b>6</b>  GOYA Boys Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>7</b>  Open Gym/College- Graduate/ Young Adult Basketball 8:30 p.m.	<b>8</b> <b>Synaxis of Archangels</b> Orthros 9 a.m. <u>Divine Lit., 10 a.m.</u> <b>Holy Unction</b> 6:30 p.m. <u>Refreshments follow</u> Adult Greek School 6:30 p.m. (Beg.) 8 p.m. (Adv.) GOYA Girls Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>9</b>  <b>St. Nektarios the Wonderworker</b> Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Lit. 10 a.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Greek School 10 a.m.
					Hall Rental: Contra Dance & Song Society of PGH-DANCE FESTIVAL	
<b>12</b> <b>Eighth Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	<b>13</b> <b>St. John Chrysostom</b> Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Lit. 10 a.m.  Philoptochos Gen. Mtg. 6 p.m.  GOYA Boys B'ball 7 p.m.	<b>14</b>  Open Gym/College- Graduate/ Young Adult Basketball 8:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> <b>Nativity Fast begins</b>  Adult Greek Sch. 6:30 p.m. (Beg.) 8 p.m. (Adv.)  GOYA Girls Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>16</b>  Living Orthodoxy 11 a.m.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Greek School 10 a.m.
Contra Dance & Song Society of PGH-DANCE FESTIVAL		<b>GREEK GRILLE</b> <b>11 a.m. - 8 p.m.</b>				
<b>19</b> <b>Ninth Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	<b>20</b>  Parish Council Meeting 7 p.m.  GOYA Boys Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>21</b>  <b>Entrance of the Theotokos</b> Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Open Gym/College- Graduate/ Young Adult Basketball 8:30 p.m.	<b>22</b>  Adult Greek School 6:30 p.m. (Beg.) 8 p.m. (Adv.)  GOYA Girls Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>23</b>  <b>HAPPY            THANKSGIVING!</b> (Office Closed)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>NO Greek School</b>  CATHEDRAL BALL: Social Hour 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Dance only 9 p.m.
<b>26</b> <b>Thirteenth Sunday of Luke</b>  Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	<b>27</b>  GOYA Boys Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>28</b>  Open Gym/College- Graduate/ Young Adult Basketball 8:30 p.m.	<b>29</b>  Adult Greek School 6:30 p.m. (Beg.) 8 p.m. (Adv.)  GOYA Girls Basketball 7 p.m.	<b>30</b>  Living Orthodoxy 11 a.m.		<b>LEGEND:</b> Green-cathedral Red-events Blue-metropolis

St. Nicholas Greek  
Orthodox Cathedral  
419 S. Dithridge Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-682-3866  
[www.stnickspgh.org](http://www.stnickspgh.org)

DATED MATERIAL Please Deliver by November 1, 2017

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

TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR  
INCLUSION IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER:  
**DECEMBER  
SUBMISSIONS  
DUE NOV. 15, 2017**



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