

HOLY CROSS



Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

Christ is in our midst! He is and shall always be!

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance." (Is. 61:1-2, Luke 4:16-21)

Another year of God's grace is upon us. The beginning of the Church year calls us to give thanks for having completed another cycle of salvation history in the life of our Holy Orthodox Church. Each year we are called to new challenges that test our faith and summon us to prayer for ourselves, our nation, and our world. The ongoing conflicts in the world, suspicions of terrorist plots, and violence in our own neighborhoods; the list goes on and on and we could easily become indifferent and despairing.

With Christ and His proclamation of salvation our fears

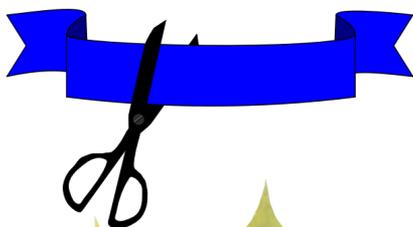
Continued pg. 4 →

September 2022

Join us for a Celebration!

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

for our new sign



followed by

Feast Day Luncheon

Sunday, September 25

*Ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:30am
following Divine Liturgy*

Luncheon to follow in the Community Center

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 22 Issue 9

Under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh

The mission of Holy Cross is to keep and proclaim, pure and undefiled, the Orthodox Christian faith and traditions in conformity with the doctrine, canons, worship, discipline and customs of the Church.

Fr. Michael Kallaur, Economos

Fr. Daniel Korba, Presbyter

Dn. Frank Dickos, Deacon

Elias Diamond, Pastoral Assistant

Nena Jovonovich, Secretary

Website: holycrosspgh.org

Office (412) 833-3355 FAX (412) 833-3357

Community Center Phone:(412) 854-6001

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Organizations & Committees

Church School		Elias Diamond
Philoptochos Pres.	Thea Manos	(412) 600-8640
Phil. Membership	Adrienne Dickos	(412) 833-4980
Circle of Angels	Carol Halkias	(412) 276-5002
	Christine Peters	(724) 693-9290
Garden of Love	Stacie Metrose	(412) 833-5164
	Didra Kirschner	(412) 561-2892
Greek School	Dena Yamalis	(412) 343-8355
Junior Dance	Kristina Gzikowski	(412) 257-5015
Senior Dance	Georgia Yamalis	(412) 728-2259
Choir		
First Steps	Sophia Alfaras	(412) 251-3209
JOY	Elias Diamond	(412)413-7427
Young Adults	Elias Diamond	(412)413-7427
GOYA	Denise Melis	(412) 341-9264
Golden Club	Cynthia Kostelnik	(412) 833-9423
	Rene Koett	(412) 831-3142
Bookstore	Mary Portellos	(724) 941-8699
House Committee	Konrad Mayr	(412) 877-7780
Building Comm.	John Conomos	(412) 831-7997
Sts. Mary & Martha	Adrienne Dickos	(412) 833-4980
Interior Design Committee	Janet Conomos	(412) 831-7997

***Services:**

Sundays:	8:15am Orthros
	9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Mondays:	6:30pm Paraclesis
Wednesdays:	7 pm Bible Study and via Zoom
Weekdays:	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Saturdays:	Vespers 5pm

**See monthly calendar for all services.*

Parish Council 2022

Dean Stambolis,

President

Jordan Nicholas,

Vice President

Nicholas Tripodes,

Treasurer

Nicholas Chakos,

Financial Secretary

Constance Zotis,

Secretary

Christopher Chaney

Mark Hummel

Frank Kalogeris

Rachel Kartofilis

Bob Kirschner

Deno Pappas

Christine Picard

Bill Poutous

Donna Staub

Annie Urso

Funeral/Memorial information: Use of the Community Center is available for parishioner funeral lunches at no charge. Parishioners may contact any caterer they choose to purchase and prepare their **Makaria** (Mercy Meal). Contact the church office for suggestions if you need a referral. For **Kollyva**, you may bring your own or contact Denise Melis directly (412) 341-9264.

Coffee Hour fellowship is an extension of our Divine Liturgy! Please gather with family, koumbari or friends to sponsor/prepare one Sunday. See the calendar on website for open dates, and call the church office to confirm.





are conquered and our hopes are lifted. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2) We have just encountered the divine majesty of our Lord's Glory on the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration on Mount Tabor and we have experienced the solemn death and glorious resurrection of the Theotokos on the Feast of the Holy Dormition. These

two feasts propel us forward into the new year with a renewed sense of God's love for each of us. We are called to the heights of glory and are able to enter into communion with God if we so desire. We also recognize, even in death, our Lord is with us, receiving us into His Heavenly Kingdom.

Where do we encounter our Lord? In His Holy Church, in our hearts - uplifted in prayer, in our neighbor, in His creation, in the Holy Scriptures; God calls out to each of us. Let us embrace the time that the Lord has given us. Let us use our talents and gifts wisely. Let us recommit ourselves and one another and our whole lives to Christ our God.

There is much to be accomplished in this 69th year at our beloved Holy Cross. But these efforts will amount to little if we do not seek to renew ourselves through the sacraments of Holy Confession, prayer, fasting, and the receiving of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

I would like to conclude with a story from St. Simeon the Stylite, commemorated September 1st, the first day of the new Church year (From the Prologue of Ochrid). When he was a young man he had a dream where he prayed to God to show him the path to salvation. He was digging a trench as a foundation and stopped digging to rest. A voice was heard, "Dig deeper!" He began to dig again until exhausted. The voice came again, "Dig deeper!" He began again to dig with even more intensity. Finally, the voice said, "Stop that is enough, now you must build, but you will not get anywhere without effort."

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us make an effort to serve the Lord and His Holy Church with a renewed sense of purpose and desire.

With love and prayers in Christ,
Fr. Michael

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2

***"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker!"
Ps. 94:1,2,6***

Why do we go to Church? Why make an effort to attend the services and stand for long periods of time? Certainly there are more entertaining ways to spend a Sunday morning. What is it about our worship particularly that gives one a reason to "go to Church?" We have been given an incredible legacy of beautiful services that celebrate the sanctification of time. Each year we journey through the cycle of the Church year in order to enter in to the reality of the events commemorated. The Greek word

Continued pg. 6 →

for symbol means just that – “to bring together.” We remember these events in the present. There is a technical word in the Greek for this “remembrance” – anamnesis. This word denotes much more than recalling an event from the past, it is a remembrance that brings the event into the present. It is a participation in the event in the present. Many of the hymns for each feast and service begin with the word “Today...” This is the sanctification of the present day in order for us to participate in the reality of what we are commemorating. This is seen in our Divine Liturgy where we thank God for the “cross, the tomb, the resurrection on the third day, the ascension into heaven, and His second and glorious coming.” We are “remembering” events from the past and the future at the same time. This sanctification can only happen in its fulness in the life of the Church – the gathered community with the priest around the altar upon which the Gospel, which is Christ, is present. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann states, “We can only worship in time, yet it is worship that ultimately not only reveals the meaning of time, but truly ‘renews’ time itself. There is no worship without the participation of the body, without words and silence, light and darkness, movement and stillness – yet it is in and through worship that all these essential expressions of man in his relation to the world are given their ultimate ‘term’ of reference, revealed in their highest and deepest meaning.” Our worship is our real participation in the future Kingdom. We begin every Divine Liturgy with the words. “Blessed is the Kingdom...” It is in and through our leitourgia, our liturgical work, that we enter into and experience this world as encounter, an encounter with Christ in the midst of “our time.”

The secularism in our culture works against this idea of all of creation as epiphany. Secularism is the denial of worship. Symbols are reduced to a means of communicating relevant ideas in order to convince or sell something to someone. Symbols become mere illustrations rather than something that

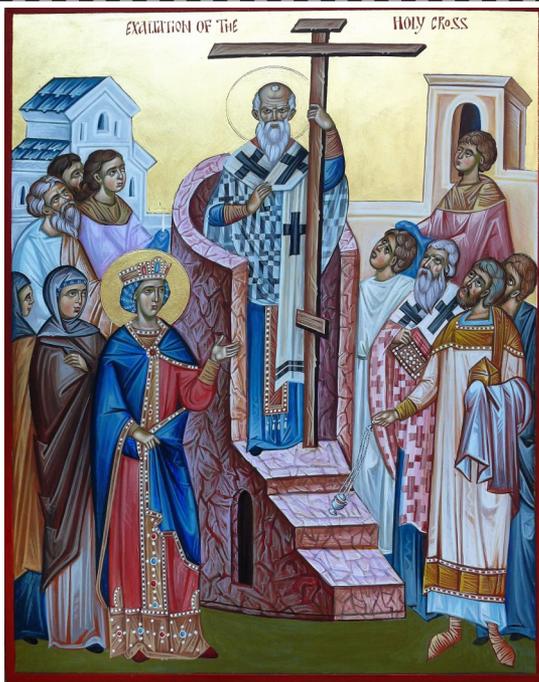
“makes present” a reality. There is a strong preoccupation with “relevant” worship and “relevant” churches. This has led to an implosion of worship. Worship has become so individual centered and consumer driven. One goes to Church in order to “get something out of it for myself.” All of worship is to be grounded in the Incarnation of our Lord. He who became matter for our sakes, now invites us to participate in Him through matter. All of creation becomes an epiphany, a manifestation of God to us. Worship is epiphany, it is our tangible experience of the love and mercy of God. Again Fr. Schmemmann says, “Being an epiphany of God, worship is thus the epiphany of the world; being communion with God, it is the only true communion with the world; being knowledge of God, it is the ultimate fulfillment of all human knowledge.” This is why we place such a strong emphasis on our liturgical worship and try to do everything with a spirit of excellence. This is how our worship is “relevant.” It reveals to us who God is, and we participate in Him through matter. Now the world becomes transparent, enabling us to see a glimpse of the Glory of God, rather than opaque, reduced to colorful rites and ceremonies at best, or worldly entertainment at worst.

It is vital for us to catch a vision for this, so that we may know why it is we come to Church. It is not to understand God deeper, or to feel better about ourselves. Church is not an aesthetic experience, or a psychological boost. We don’t come to Church to “get” anything. We come in order to participate in the joy of the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom is “made present” in our worship. “The Liturgy, we may say, is something that happens to us,” says Fr. Schmemmann. It is our entrance into the Kingdom, our participation in the eternal worship around God’s throne in the heavens. May God help us to “see” our worship as a participation in the future kingdom surrounded by angels and archangels who unceasingly praise and glorify Him.

Article by Fr. Christopher Foley (August 2009)

**CHURCH SCHOOL
BEGINS
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11**

SEE YOU THERE!!!



HOLY CROSS FEAST DAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Please join us for a Philoptochos sponsored complimentary fasting Feast Day Luncheon after Divine Liturgy on September 14. We kindly ask Holy Cross members, if possible, to donate a fasting dessert or fruit to share with others. Please bring your desserts to the prep room prior or during the liturgy on September 14. Set-up for the luncheon begins at 9:30am, serving about 11:30am and clean-up about 12:45pm. Any of your time is appreciated. Thank you for your dessert donations! Please contact Elaine Sofis, esofis@comcast.net or Home, 412 344-7046 if you are able to help with set-up, serving, clean - up or ALL three.

Elaine Sofis, Co-chair of Holy Cross Feast Day Luncheon with Domenica Merante, meranteboys@comcast.net

AUTUMN FOOD FAIR COOKING

Thursday, September 15 at 10am until Finished with the preparations of 600 chicken rolls.

Thursday, September 22 at 10am until Finished as 2,000 koulourakia are prepared and packaged. Please help for a few hours or for the entire production. Your help is needed and appreciated!

Contact Elaine Sofis, esofis@comcast.net H 412 344-7046 Co-chair of the Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair with Domenica Merante

The Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair is quickly approaching on Wednesday, October 5 and Thursday, October 6, 11:30am-7:30pm

- Set-up will occur on Sunday, October 2 after coffee hour, Monday, October 3 & Tuesday, October 4 at 10am. ALL ages, boys & girls, teens, men & women, are welcome to volunteer and help!
- Please save your jewelry, books and designer handbags for the Yiayia Joan's Treasures and Market. Please bring your items to the community center beginning September 18.
- Philoptochos relies on your homemade goodies as part of our bake sale. Dena Yamalis, dyamalis@comcast.net or cell 412 589-2646 is chairing the pastries this year. Please let her know what you are able to donate, and contact Dena to volunteer your time in selling the pastries on October 5&6.
- Elaine Sofis, esofis@comcast.net is chairing the food line volunteers on October 5&6. Lunch shift is 11:15-3:30pm and Dinner shift is 3:30-7:30pm. Please contact Elaine to donate a few hours or and an entire shift.
- Please contact Adrienne Dickos, akdickos@verizon.net or cell 412 400-4290 to volunteer in the prep room to prepare salads and cup tzatziki sauce on October 5&6 anytime from 10am-7pm.
- Cleanup of the Autumn Food Fair will begin immediately at the conclusion of the fair on Thursday, October 6 at 7:30pm and continue on Friday, October 7 at 10am in the prep room and community center.

This is the Philoptochos main fundraiser of the year! Most of our philanthropic endeavors are achieved thru this fair. Thank you for supporting Holy Cross Philoptochos with your time and talents.

Contact Elaine Sofis, esofis@comcast.net with questions, Co-chair of the Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair with Domenica Merante, meranteboys@comcast.net



**PHILOPTOCHOS
AUTUMN FOOD FAIR**

and

YiaYia Joan's Treasures & Market

at

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Community Center

123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon

(across from the Galleria)

**Wednesday, October 5 &
Thursday, October 6, 2022**

11:30 am – 7:30 pm

Featuring GREEK favorites including
Moussaka, Tiropita, Spanakopita, Pastitsio,
Rice Pudding, Soups and much more!

Bake Sale featuring delicious Greek pastries, pies,
cakes, cookies and a variety of breads.

Inside seating...so come rain or shine!

Elevator available!!

NO PHONE OR ONLINE ORDERING

All proceeds benefit the philanthropic efforts of the
Holy Cross Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Cash or Credit Cards accepted.





*"He said to them:
"Go into the world and
proclaim the gospel
to every creature."*

– Mark 16:15

Walk for Missions 2022

Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh

Sponsored

WALK FOR MISSIONS

will benefit current mission work in Guatemala

Sunday, October 9

Registration Noon – Walk Begins at 1 PM

South Park Children's Playground Shelter

Located at the intersection of

Corrigan Drive and Brownsville Road

South Park Township, PA 15129

Funds raised will support the ongoing efforts to grow the Church in Guatemala. Money will go towards building a new seminary, training future clergy, and healing the sick through the work done at our medical clinic.



Once again thank you for your support with the
Neighborhood Resilience Project.

We put smiles on many faces. Unfortunately moving forward, I will be unable to drop clothing and food off at NRP on a regular basis. I am looking for some volunteers to take over this mission. I will still hold a food drive and organize the Christmas angels if we don't have volunteers by then. Over the years I have been amazed with the generosity of the Holy Cross parishioners and the gratefulness of the people on the receiving end.

I have been blessed to meet so many kind people along the way.

Thank you again
for all you do,

Kathy Pyros

*Dozens of backpacks donate by
Holy Cross parishioners brought
BIG smiles to many!!!*



2022

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL





VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



Holy Cross

SUN

MON

Tue

Coffee Hours are back!
Please call the church office to volunteer to sponsor and host one with friends or family!



4
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

Epm Wedding

5 *Labor Day*
Office Closed

6

11 *Sunday before Holy Cross*
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

Church School begins

12

6:30pm Paraclesis

13

7pm Feast Day Vespers
*followed by refreshments
in Community Center*

18 *Sunday after Holy Cross*
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

4pm GOYA Kickoff

19

6:30pm Paraclesis

20

9am Golden Club

25
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

*Feast Day Luncheon
& Ribbon Cutting*

26 *Apostle and Evangelist
John the Theologian*
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

6:30pm Paraclesis

27

September 2022

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<i>1 Ecclesiastical New Year</i>	2	3 NO Vespers/ <i>Wedding</i>
7	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy @Holy Cross	9 5pm Vespers/ Orthros in Saxonburg, PA	10 Nativity of the Theotokos <i>(observed)</i> 9am Divine Liturgy in Saxonburg 5pm Vespers @Holy Cross
14 EXALTATION OF THE CROSS 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy <i>Feast Day Luncheon</i>	15 <i>10am Autumn Festival</i> <i>Cooking: Chicken Rolls</i>	16	17 St. Sophia & 3 Daughters 3:30pm JOY Kickoff @Tripodes home 5pm Vespers
21 Leave-taking of the Holy Cross BEGINNING OF 4:15PM GREEK SCHOOL 7pm Bible Study	22 <i>10am Autumn Festival</i> <i>Baking: Koulourakia</i>	23 Conception of St. John the Forerunner 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 6:30PM YAL @ PNC PARK PIRATE GAME	24 Metropolis Clergy-Laity, Philoptochos and Youth Worker Assembly @Holy Trinity, N. Hills 5pm Vespers
28 4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 7pm Bible Study	29	30	1 October Protection of Theotokos 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy NO Vespers/ <i>Wedding</i>

HOLY CROSS GREEK SCHOOL

Registration on Wednesday, September 21st at 4:15pm

Holy Cross Greek School will begin its new academic year on Wednesday, September 21st at 4:15 pm.

Greek School meets every Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. There will be classes for beginners in the Conversational Class and our traditional First thru Sixth Grades. The adult class meets on Wednesdays from 5-6:30pm. Registration and first class is also on Wednesday, September 21 beginning at 5pm.

Bring your children to learn our language and enjoy a wonderful fellowship.

On Wednesday, September 21 there will be a beginning of the year blessing (*Agiasmos*), class assignment and book distribution. For further information you may call Dena Yamalis at (412) 343-8355.

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE *An Update from your Holy Cross Landscaping Committee*

The Committee has put out for bids the contract for Phase 1, which includes the lower portion of our property—around the (new) sign and the two large bank areas around the driveway coming up to the Church.

As of now we have had several meetings with the Contractor of choice (lowest bid, but also impressive in his demeanor, and willingness to meet and work with us!) That contractor is Koenig Landscaping, for phase one— our entry road and sign beautification. As you remember this portion was fully approved and funded by the January General Assembly. The work is to commence on Sept 19th through Mid October. This work will not impede the Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair.

We expect to offer more details in our Fundraising campaign for Phases 2 & 3 later in the Fall. We are very excited about the overall plan, especially now that the new sign is in place and our 'curb appeal' will be vastly improved!

Also a contract has been negotiated and entered into for maintenance of weeds with several scheduled sprayings and garden work, around the property to keep a modicum of appearance while we 'move to improve'! Happy Fall!

FIRST STEPS OF CHRIST

Wednesday mornings (bimonthly)
Contact Sophia Alfaras-Melainis (412) 251-3209 for details

JOY KICKOFF

September 17 @ 3:30pm JOY Kickoff @ Tripodes home
RSVP Elias Diamond 724413.7427 (See p. 37 for details)

GOYA KICKOFF

Sunday, September 18 @ 4:04pm
@ Holy Cross Community Center
Contact Denise Melis 412.341.9264 for details

YAL KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 23 @ PNC PARK PIRATE GAME (SEE PG. 42)
CONTACT ELIAS DIAMOND 7244137427

GOLDEN CLUB NEWS

Please join us on **Tuesday, September 20** for a trip to Hartwood Acres Mansion. It was built in 1929 and modeled after estates from the Cotswald section of England. The mansion and grounds feature craftsmanship and artisanship that is just not seen anymore.

Following the tour and gift shop browsing, we will continue on to a nearby restaurant for lunch. It's important to note that there are a few staircases on the mansion tour.

Please arrive at the church by 9:00 a.m. We will depart by van at 9:15 a.m. Deadline for reservations is September 10th. **SPACE IS LIMITED!**

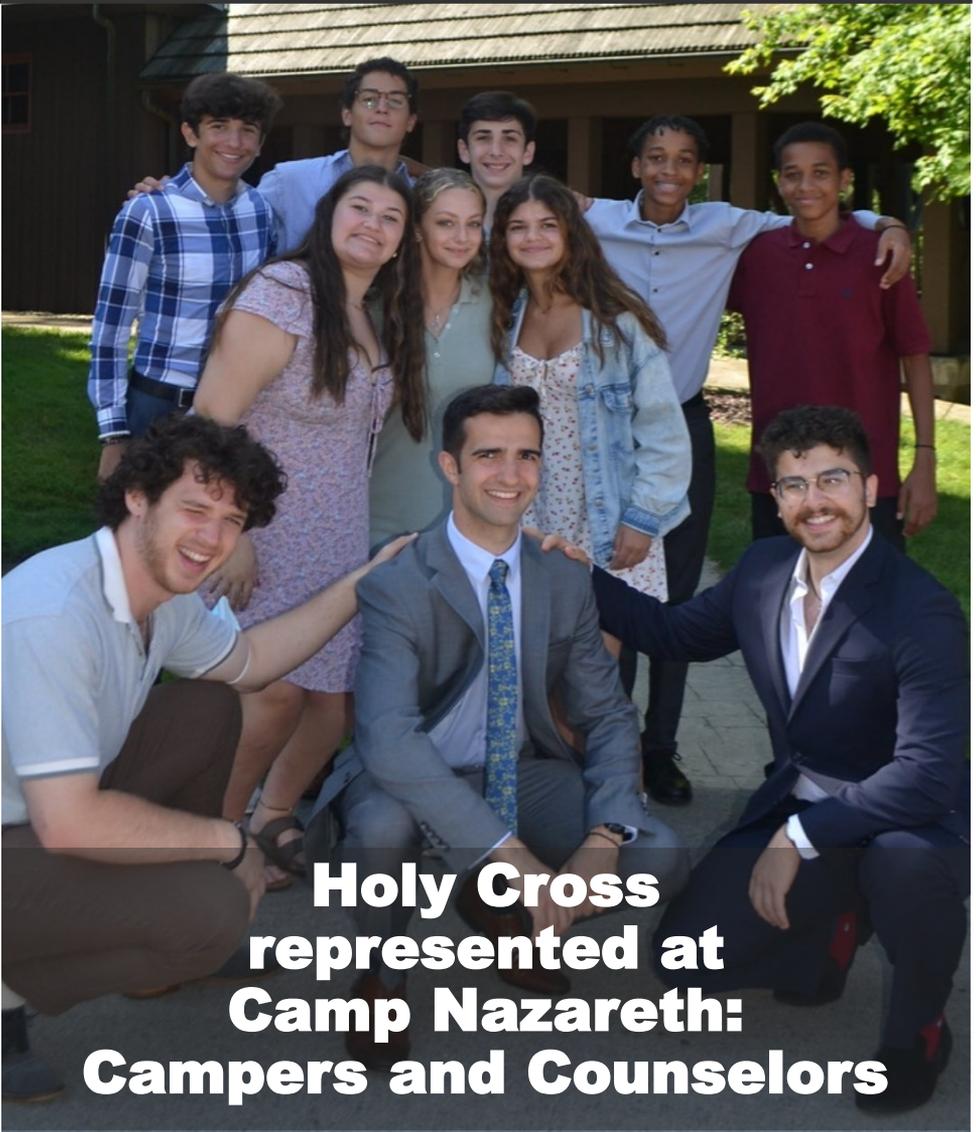
RSVP to Rene (412) 559-1721 or Cynthia (41) 722-9512

Special Workshop Series for Juniors and Seniors in High School

We will be offering a 12-week workshop for juniors and seniors in high school to help students better understand who they are—from strengths to values, to vision and mission. As Socrates said, *Know Thyself* which is the inspiration of this program. We will use the self-discovery curriculum from MyPath101.com and combine it with theological teachings and practical application. This is a hands-on workshop—experiential learning, guest speakers, and more!

This special series will begin in late September. Participants will be surveyed around the best day/time so we can determine the schedule.

This workshop will be facilitated by Elias Diamond, Bryan Elderkin, Rachel Kartofilis, and Sophia Milinkovic. Please reach out to Rachel if interested (rgogos@gmail.com)



New IT Service, Switch and Wi-Fi Access Units Implemented

The Parish Council awarded a full-service IT contract earlier this year to FrostByte, LLC to review our current systems, equipment and devices and to provide updates, documentation and support to our administrative staff. FrostByte's analysis showed that our current IT switch for our network was much dated and no longer supported by the original provider, a system-wide firewall was absent and WiFi access was either weak or missing in places. FrostByte just completed the implementation of a new switch, firewall protection and more powerful WiFi access units that are as much as five times stronger throughout the church and community center. Additional access units were installed in the Philoptochos Room and GOYA office. UPS, battery back-up units with surge protection, essential for the severe storms we have

been experiencing, were either added or replaced. Access units were placed below the ceiling tile to improve sensitivity and to improve observation that they are functioning properly. Furthermore, FrostByte can now monitor and troubleshoot system issues remotely. IT Team members for this initiative included, Fr. Michael Kallaur, Nena Jovonovich, Nick Kratsas, Sterg and Frank Kalogeris, Nick Chakos, Konrad Mayr, and Bill Poutous.



Community Center Décor Update
We've finally replaced the old stained carpeting with new in July, just in the nick of time for a wedding and summer vacation school. Carpeting was selected by our Design Committee, of Eva Elderkin, Janet Conomos and Tessie Kucherawy, in conjunction with the donated services of Babb and Mack Design.

We are approaching two celebrations that seem on the surface to be completely unrelated. This Wednesday we celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and five days after that comes Independence Day. One a religious holiday, the other secular. And yet they carry similarities which are worth exploring. They are both milestones in the emergence of a new order, one the beginning of a new faith, the other the beginning of a new political system. But more importantly they both have much to say in response to a question that preceded them both; moreover, a question that still concerns us today; namely, what does it mean to live a good life?

It is intriguing that religion and politics, two subjects that are famously avoided in polite conversation because they are so polarizing, find common ground on what is traditionally a philosophical discussion. Yet an understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of what constitutes a good life is precisely what leads to a realization of why there is so much friction between religion and society, as well as between conservative and liberal political views.

As is often the case with philosophy, and especially in a community rooted in things Hellenic, we find ourselves in Ancient Greece. There was much discussion about the good life, which they called εὐδαιμονία. All of the “big three”, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle discussed it extensively. But we see there is an underlying basic dispute as to what that entailed. Some felt it consisted of honor and pleasure, while others insisted that its basis was virtue. We see the former most clearly in the theory of Epicurus, which was hedonistic, and the latter in the teachings of the Stoics, particularly Zeno, Cleanthes and Chrysippus, which were more ascetic. One sought happiness through indulgence, the other through discipline. Epicurean thought sees moral virtue as a means to happiness, while Stoic thought sees virtue and happiness as inseparable.

It should be obvious by now that Christianity, especially as witnessed by the monastics, sides with the Stoics. The good life consists in pursuit of virtue. It went even further by stating that seeking happiness in the Epicurean manner actually was doomed to failure, because the soul would not achieve virtue but rather become enslaved to the happiness it was seeking, known as the passions. Yet much of the Enlightenment leaned more towards the Epicureans, as witnessed by the Declaration of Independence and its claim that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Christians would take issue mostly with the last phrase, claiming instead that the real unalienable rights are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Holiness.

And it may very well be that much of the polarization in today's society is in the disagreement between the pursuit of Happiness versus Holiness. Much like the Epicureans and the Stoics, virtue is either secondary or essential to the good life. Some modern philosophies reject the notion of virtue entirely, or constrain it to be merely relative. This is in clear contrast to the Christian understanding that the only life worth living is to struggle against the passions and labor to acquire the virtues. It is a life of delayed rather than instant gratification. It is also a life that is less concerned with one's own happiness and more concerned with the happiness of others. It is the Way of the Cross, a life of self-sacrifice in the service of others.

So how then do we live in a society whose focus seems antithetical to ours? We must learn from Peter and Paul. They had open disagreements and disputes, mostly about the importance of the outreach to the Gentiles, and it is not recorded that they ever came to an agreement on their differences. But the icon of their feast shows them exchanging the kiss of peace, affirming their love and respect for one another. And we must be the same way. As the motto of this country states, "E Pluribus Unum," out of many, one. And the only way to truly be one is to love and respect one another, especially when we disagree. It actually makes us stronger, and bears witness to the world that we are still a great nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

Brothers and sisters, most of us are blessed with good lives, regardless of whether you use the Epicurean or Stoic notion of *ευδαιμονία*. But as Orthodox, we must never lose sight of the dangers of a comfortable life. The passions are an ever present danger to our souls, drawing us away from a virtuous life, and towards a life of self-indulgence and neglect of the suffering of our fellow man. But we are also threatened by a spirit of intolerance, stoked by a society more interested in cancelling those who are not like minded. We must not despise those who are caught up in their own pursuit of happiness, remembering that our Lord dined with tax collectors and harlots as well as leaders of synagogues. But rather in a spirit of love and respect, and in imitation of Peter and Paul be willing to put aside our differences and greet each other with a kiss of peace. It may not in and of itself resolve the differences between us, but it will begin to break down the walls of enmity we have been building and instead allow us to build consensus on how to solve the challenges of our times for the benefit of the many instead of the few. For this is Jesus's wish for us all, that we become one, even as He and the Father are one. E Pluribus Unum. In this regard, our country and our faith agree. Our goal is to unite, not divide. And in doing so we show that we are truly God's children. To Him be all glory now and forever. Amen.

~Deacon Frank Dickos

Fr. John travels to Patriarchate: We had a wonderful meeting with the Patriarch, who expressed his pleasure over the mission work in Guatemala. He was genuinely interested in supporting the mission and seems ready to appoint a Mayan bishop with our recommendation. Fr. Evangelos was deeply moved and humbled by this meeting. We hope to learn soon what the outcome of the Synod's deliberations will be. We felt very blessed to have this audience with His All Holiness.

*Patriarch
blesses us
with gift of
Holy Myrrh
prepared for
Holy Chrism.*



*Fr. Evangelos
(from Guatemala)
and Fr. John Chakos
in front of St. Sophia.*

*Patriarch
receives gift
of Guatemalan
flag, which like
Greece was free
in 1821.*



*Patriarch
receives
gift from
Guatemala.*



*Gift from
Guatemala
brought by
Fr. Evangelos
elicits a
smile from
Bartholomew.*



*Gerontissa Theophano and the Sisters warmly welcome you to the
Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery's Summer Feast Days*

All 3 will be held on Saturdays this year because of weekday construction activities

Nativity of the Theotokos Feast Day

September 9th - Friday

5:00 pm: Vespers, Orthros

September 10th Saturday

9:00 am: Hours, Divine Liturgy



Spent peaceful days at the
Monastery with your
family & friends!

Enjoy our home-made pastries,
frappes & items made by the
Sisters, available for purchase.

*Visitors should be modestly
dressed for all visits
to the Monastery.
Women are asked to wear long
skirts & men to wear long pants.*

*Come see our progress!
Become a part of
building a Holy Monastery in America!*

*Donate to build for the Glory of God
& the intercessions of
His Holy Mother, The Theotokos.*



Chapel concrete slab poured

Please RSVP so that the Monastery has adequate hospitality:

Email us: info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org OR Call us: (724) 352 - 3999

Visit our web site & browse our Online Gift Shop & place preliminary orders at our web site:

www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

We thank you for your love and support, the Sisters of the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery
121 St. Elias Lane - Saxonburg, PA 16056

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

presents the 8th annual

MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022

South Hills Country Club
4305 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236



PRICING

\$190/golfer or \$760/foursome*:

Includes entry fee, green fee,
lunch, and dinner

Dinner only, \$70/person

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

Skills prizes:

Mens/Seniors/Women

First place team prizes:

Men/Women/Seniors/Mixed

ORDER OF EVENTS

10:30 AM: Registration

11 AM: Sit-down lunch

12:30 PM: Shotgun start

5-6 PM: Cocktail reception
(cash bar)

6 PM: Dinner/silent auction

Driving range open all day

UNDERWRITER OPPORTUNITIES

\$500: Beverage, skill prize,
driving range, putting green,
printing, website, or
live auction underwriter

\$750: Dessert underwriter

\$800: Golf gift bag underwriter

\$1,000: Lunch underwriter

\$1,250: Co-dinner underwriter

\$1,500: Golf cart underwriter

\$2,500: Dinner underwriter

For more information, please contact:

Nick Gagianas, 724-312-1100 or Manny Politis, 412-759-4659

PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

To pay & register by mail,
mail this form with payment to:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
Att. Golf Outing
123 Gilkeson Road,
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Make checks payable to:
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
Please mark "Golf Outing"
in the memo line

Golfer name/s:

Phone:

Email:

To register and pay online,
please visit:

www.holycrosspgh.org

Follow the link near the
bottom of the page labeled
"8th Annual Golf Outing"

**In case of inclement weather or
unforeseen circumstances, golfers will be
provided a pass for a future tee time.*

This time of year, August 1 through 15, is often called the **Summer Pascha**. What does that mean? What it means is that from August 1 through 15 the Church is in a fast period, a mini-Lent of sorts, and within this period of time there are two major feast days of the Church: there is the Transfiguration, which happens on August 6th, which is the commemoration of Christ's radiant revealing to His disciples on Mount Tabor, a moment described in the gospels where He truly shows to humankind (via the disciples) the fact that He, Jesus Christ, truly was and is God. But the 15th of August (i.e. tomorrow) is another great feast, the commemoration of the *Kimesis* or Falling Asleep of Mary, the Mother of God, the Panagia, the All-Holy, the Theotokos, the one that gave birth to God Himself. She was not raised in the body as Christ was during *the* Pascha, but her death also gave witness, through the multiplicity of miracles that surround it, to the fact, that even though humanity, through our own sin, has taken on the burden of death, despite this, we can hope through the faithful adherence to Jesus Christ which the Mother of God showed, that we might share in the beauty found in the overcoming of death which her own death showed.

During this time of the year, August 1-15th, as I mentioned, every weeknight, here at this Church and at many other Orthodox Churches we pray a service called *Paraklesis*. *Paraklesis* is a Greek word which can have many connotations in the English language – supplication, intercession, comfort are all words which English speakers might associate with this Greek word, which involves calling upon the Mother of God to speak to God in favor on our account, to ask her for comfort from all the turmoil we face in this life. And what's so interesting about this service, *Paraklesis*, is that on the one hand, it's very musical, with the melodies it uses to carry these prayerful words being very catchy, and on the surface, the music itself sounds so happy and upbeat. But what is jarring is when you take the words on their own. This is just one example I thought was telling. One section of the music which makes up so much of the service contains the words: "I lie now on a bed of infirmities, and there is no healing at all for my body except for you, who has brought forth the Savior, God the healer of all our infirmities. Of your goodness I pray to you: from corruption of sicknesses raise me." The whole service is of a similar tone – it acknowledges the struggle against sickness, both of body and of spirit which we all face, while also looking with hope towards the Theotokos, our Champion General, who is always there to aid us against the adversities of life which we face.

Of course, the reason which we chant this beautiful service nearly every night this time of year is to point us towards the Feast of the Dormition, the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, Falling Asleep in the Lord, which we celebrate this evening through tomorrow morning. That feast for us is that, even though the Mother of God passed away from this life, her passing was peaceful, without shame or suffering – in fact, it was beautiful, revealing heavenly mysteries to all those who attended. For most of us, who are here in the midst of this life, contending with our own sufferings and infirmities, who are very much human and thus given over to the fragility of this life,

(continued →)

JOY KICKOFF!!!

Saturday, September 17
@3:30 PM



JOY is a group devoted to fellowship and faith for young Orthodox Christians, First to Sixth Grade.

***Our Kickoff Event will be at the Tripodes house:
1796 Sapphire Court, Pittsburgh PA 15241***

***Join us for food, fellowship, and, of course,
water sliding and bouncy castle!***

for most of us like this, when we look towards the Heavenly mysteries of Jesus Christ, who proved Himself as God by being victorious over death, we, who stand so far off from the invincible might of God, might feel ourselves incapable of ever crossing that bridge towards the never-ending Kingdom of God.

However, the gospel reading today remind us that with God, all things are possible, even seemingly impossible things. Christ came walking towards His disciples upon water and He did not sink in that water. It is a seemingly impossible thing to walk on water, just as it is a seemingly impossible thing to walk over that bridge that divides us who live from the never-ending life which can be found in Christ. And yet, with God, all things are possible, and God can lift us up and let us also walk upon the water, so to speak, just as He allowed Peter to do. He can allow us too, to cross over towards that blessed life which is to come, just as He allowed His own Mother to do, just as we will celebrate tonight and tomorrow. So, in this blessed fore festal period, let us celebrate as well, as we remember the fact that with God, even the most impossible things are possible.

~Elias Diamond

DORMITION VESPERS IN OAKMONT



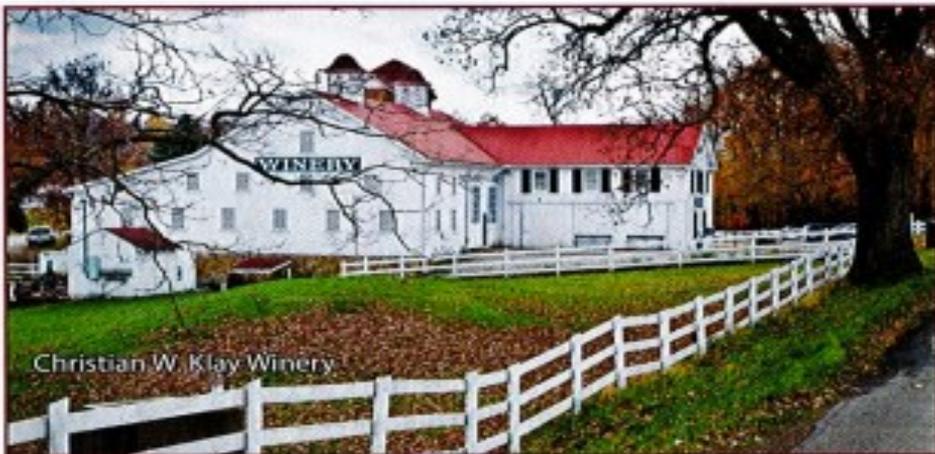
DORMITION DIVINE LITURGY AT HOLY CROSS



New Covers donated by the Spanos Family in memory of Jim (Demetrios) and Regina



Holy Cross parishioners are no strangers to being highlighted in Mt. Lebanon Magazine! In the summer 2022 issue, Tia (Vassilaros) and Christian Klay's family winery (mother Sharon) is featured (below), as well as Simone Koutoufaris' new restaurant endeavor (right page).



CHRISTIAN W. KLAY WINERY, Chalk Hill

Sharon Klay is a watercolorist and developed a passion for winemaking while living in New York City. After she and her husband, John, moved to Pittsburgh, she conducted a three-year search to find the perfect spot in Chalk Hill for a vineyard and researched 100 grape varieties that would grow in the area. She was advised by a neighbor that grapes would not do well, and she should "plant potatoes instead." But Klay was resolute in her vision and cleverly planted the vines above the frost line. They now grow 45 varieties on 18 acres, establishing the first commercial winery in Fayette County! Though it would be much easier to just import grapes from other areas, the winery uses its own grapes for all the wines, which are blended on-site. The area is a wonderful escape, with tours and interesting events such as "Wine & Dine in the Woods" and murder mystery dinner theaters. Lavender Mist is a bestseller, a sparkling, semi-sweet white infused with culinary lavender. For a great red, try Norton, a dry offering made from grapes of the same name, and a subtle bit of oak. For more information, visit christianklaywinery.com.

Simone Koutoufaris, Owner and Chef, Simone's

Simone's
665 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon;
412.254.2999, simonesmtlebanon.com

On the Menu:

Enjoy the Breakfast menu all day, which includes savory dishes such as Eggs Benedict with two poached eggs and a choice of ham or sausage topped with hollandaise sauce on farm bread and served with fresh-cut home fries or grits. Sweet dishes, such as the Two Stacks of Pancakes, come with a choice of filling including chocolate chipper, bananas or blueberries. Omelets are served with fresh-cut home fries or grits and a choice of toast, and range from Veggie or Cheese to a Meat Lovers featuring bacon, sausage, ham, cheddar and Monterey Jack cheese. Sammies (sandwiches), burritos, oatmeal and yogurt round out the breakfast fare. Brunch is served every day and includes a Greek Benedict with poached eggs, gyro meat, onion, and feta cheese topped with tzatziki sauce on farm bread with grits or home fries; Steak 'n Eggs with an 8-oz. NY strip steak and two eggs your way with grits, home fries or toast; and a Salmon Scramble on a bed of egg, spinach, pepper, goat cheese and dill aioli—to name just a few options. The Lunch menu is packed with Beefy Burgers, such as the AM Burger with bacon, fried egg, goat cheese, spinach and onion, and Hand-

helds like the Cock-a-Doodle-Do chicken breast sandwich topped with Brie cheese, arugula and onion served on a gourmet roll. Salads are also on deck, including Simone's Favorite Salad with greens, chicken breast, goat cheese, candied pecans, tomato, onion and fresh fruit. Bring along your favorite champagne and Simone's will supply freshly squeezed orange juice for a glass of mouthwatering mimosa.



What led you to open Simone's?

I owned a gyro kiosk in Oakland called Opa Gyros for 10 years and I kept thinking I wanted to open a breakfast place. I could never find the right place or a good location. Then one day this place became available in Mt. Lebanon and I thought my restaurant would fit right in. I always believed breakfast is the most important part of your day—and everybody is happy after they eat breakfast. Plus, my parents owned restaurants when I was younger (a Greek place in Shadyside called Ikaros Restaurant and a diner on Route 51). My father would work all day. And, although I loved the industry, I didn't want it to consume my life, so opening a restaurant that only serves breakfast and lunch allows me to be done with my day around 3 p.m. After I opened the restaurant in February 2019, I was working through [the COVID-19 pandemic]. We had to shut down and it was difficult to be a new restaurant and know



Simone Koutoufaris, Owner and Chef of Simone's in Mt. Lebanon.

for takeout. I knew if I kept pushing myself it would work out. We made it through to three years, but two of those years took a lot to get here.

What has influenced your cooking the most?

I really enjoyed being able to go to all kinds of special events just to come up with new ideas for food. There are many things that influence me. I can go on vacation and find something I never thought of before and love it. Come back and try out different ingredients to see what would work best in the kitchen even if some ideas may be unconventional.

What kitchen tool can't you live without?

Everything in the kitchen is important, it's hard to narrow it down—it's like a symphony. You need all the instruments to make the sound you want to hear for it all to come together. So all of the utensils and people in the kitchen are important.

What's your best advice for a novice?

To have patience. There is never ever a point to get upset; just stay calm and everything falls into place as it was meant to be.

What's your favorite quick meal to prepare at home?

Lemon chicken with olive oil, fresh lemons, salt-and-pepper and potatoes. It takes 10-minutes to prepare, then put in the oven for about 35-to-45-minutes. It's tasty, quick and easy!

What's your favorite go-to ingredient?

Onions and garlic are always good in anything. But you can give me any kind of cheese and I love it. I would give up bread before I give up cheese.

What's the next big food or dining trend?

I don't really follow trends too much. But, you can't ever go wrong with a good breakfast. ■

—Reese Randall



A breakfast spread at Simone's

HOLY
CROSS
YAL



PIRATES
GAME

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT AT PNC PARK

September 23, 2022

6:35 PM

Tickets are \$20 per person and include \$5 of Loaded Value that can be used on concessions or merchandise throughout the ballpark!



VS



Purchase Tickets at tinyurl.com/PNCGreekNight

Metropolis of Pittsburgh FAMILY CAMP *Weekend*

Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA

SEP. 16-18 2022

Save the Date!

REGISTRATION BEGINS JULY 1ST



Healthy Fun for Everyone

All Ages / Families with Small Children
Activities / Games / Bonfire / Hiking



Family Lodging

Families can stay together in clean, air-
conditioned cabins with bathrooms.



Worship & Learning

Keynote discussion: "One Another" /
Break-out Groups / Chapel Services /
Confessions Offered



*Limited
Space
Available!*



Keynote Speaker: Alex Corkos
Marriage & Family Therapist, MA, LMFT



Ukrainian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service

Sunday, September 25, 2022 | Service 4:00 PM • Dinner 5:00 PM

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

419 South Dithridge St. • Pittsburgh (Oakland) 15213

LED BY OUR BELOVED HIERARCHS

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Metropolitan GREGORY of Nyssa, Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church of the USA

Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, Orthodox Church in America

Archbishop DANIEL, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Bishop THOMAS, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Bishop IRINEJ, Serbian Orthodox Church in North & South America

.....
Tickets \$50 • RSVP By September 20, 2022 • Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Ukraine Crisis Response

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Register online at ioccc.org/pittsburgh

Or contact Zelfa 412-417-4706/zkhalil1@live.com,

Vera 412-833-0839, or Mary Ann 724-263-5605.

Make checks payable to IOCC with "Ukraine Relief" in memo.

Mail to IOCC c/o Nick Terezis, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215.

Tickets held at door, not mailed. Tables for groups of 8 only.

For info or to volunteer call Zelfa 412-417-4706.





A GOOD WORD — Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

VOLUME 6 No. 2 (ISSUE 47) — JUNE 2022



SAVE-THE-DATES!



Between Pascha and the start of the Ecclesiastical New Year, there are graduations (Sunday School, Greek School) festivals, Pentecost as well as summer saints and feasts to celebrate, vacation Bible school, and more. In short, our parishes are busy even as school is out and the pace of life slows for vacation and time with family and friends. Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- Sep 16-18: Inaugural Metropolis Family Camp, Camp Nazareth, PA
- Sep 24: Clergy-Laity & Philoptochos Assembly
- Sep 25: New Metropolis Center kickoff event
- Oct. 7-9: Metropolis YAL Conference
- Nov 4-6: The Folk Dance Festival (FDF) at Annunciation GOC in Columbus, OH

And, as a final reminder, the submission deadline for the Metropolis newsletter is the 15th of each month. This communication tries to be forward-looking in its content, giving preference to upcoming news and events versus that which has already occurred.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Save-the-Dates!
- 2022 St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
- 2022 Metropolis Assembly Notice

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held May 7 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Camp Hill, PA. Five speakers in each division – Junior and Senior – spoke on topics such as fasting from technology, their relationship to God, responding to God's call and the Orthodox Christian approach to war and violence. The speakers were:

Kristina Chroneos – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill (Senior Alternate)

Theophany Goudas Ksenyak – Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Cleveland Heights

Gabriella Mathiellis – St. Demetrios, Rocky River

Kalliope Moissis – Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Cleveland Heights

George Papoutsis – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill (Senior Finalist)

Christopher Ramaley – Holy Trinity, Ambridge (Junior Alternate)

Evynnian Raudenbush – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill

Kalliopi Shay – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill

Mia Velisar – St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh

Loukas White – Sts. Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Heights (Junior Finalist)

Through the generosity of the Metropolis Philoptochos, scholarships of \$500 were given in memory of Gregory Anstine to the top two speakers in both divisions. Anstine tragically lost his life this year on Feb. 4 when he fell while hiking near his college. He was active in the parish in York, PA, participating in the Oratorical Festival at all levels – representing our Metropolis at the 2018 National Festival.

During the Awards Presentation, Greg's uncle, Chris Giovanis spoke about Greg's accomplishments and his

(Continued on page 2)

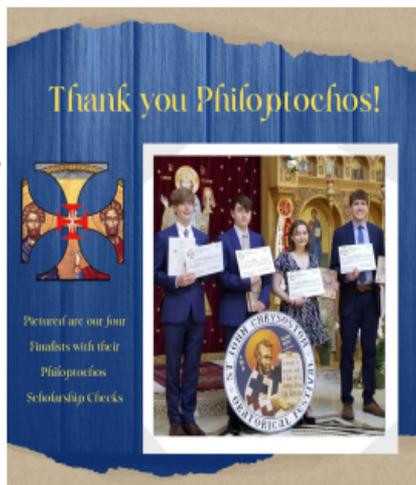
(Continued from page 1)

commitment to his faith. Greg's parents and grandparents were in attendance and his sister Stephanie presented the scholarships. Thanks to the Metropolis Philoptochos for supporting this ministry and enabling us to honor Greg's life.

George Papoutsis and Loukas White will represent our Metropolis at the 38th National Oratorical Festival hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas, TX.

Their speeches will be live streamed on June 4. Special thanks to the parishes who encouraged participation in this Oratorical Festival this year:

Anunciation, Cleveland
Anunciation Cathedral, Columbus
Anunciation Lancaster
Holy Trinity, Ambridge
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill
St. Demetrios, Rocky River
St. Nicholas, Bethlehem
St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh
Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Cleveland Heights
Sts. Constantine & Helen, Reading



2022 METROPOLIS CLERGY-LAITY, PHILOPTOCHOS, AND YOUTH WORKER ASSEMBLY

Saturday, September 24, 2022
8:00am—5:00pm

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA

Key agenda items:

- His Eminence's Keynote Address
- Presentation on Stewardship & Outreach
- 2023 Metropolis Budget
- 2021 Metropolis Audit Report
- Updates on New Metropolis Center project
- Proposed new Metropolis Endowment

Each parish is able to send:

- 4 voting delegates to the Clergy-Laity: Priest, PC President (or another PC member in their place), and 2 elected Lay delegates
- 3 voting delegates to the Philoptochos Assembly: Chapter President (or another board member in her place), and 2 elected chapter delegates
- As many youth workers as are interested in attending
- As many non-voting observers as are interested in attending

Registration will open mid-August.

SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES: It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas's Archpastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry, and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 - <http://pittsburgh.goarch.org> - info@pittsburgh.goarch.org
412-621-5529 (Main) - 412-465-0460 (Camp) - 412-621-8543 (Youth) - 412-621-1522 (Fax)



A GOOD WORD — Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

VOLUME 6 No. 3 (ISSUE 48) — AUGUST 2022



NEW METROPOLIS CENTER KICKOFF DINNER-DANCE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
HILTON GARDEN INN SOUTHPOINTE



4:00PM COCKTAILS 5:00PM DINNER
\$100/PERSON

SOCIAL HOUR DINNER
PRESENTATIONS & TESTIMONIALS
GREEK DANCE WITH THE FILARAKIA

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:
PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG/KICKOFF
AFTER AUGUST 5

IN THIS ISSUE...

- New Metropolis Center Kickoff Dinner-Dance
- Summer Camp 2022 Wrap-Up: Where To?

SUMMER CAMP 2022: WHERE TO?

By Marina Papafil, Camping Ministries Coordinator



We are thankful for another wonderful season of Our Metropolis Summer Camp at Camp Nazareth! This year's theme was Where To? "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8

Progressing off of last year's theme and where we left off with our campers, we focused on the journey back to the Father's house, the Church. Our curriculum team integrated the Psalms of ascent into various parts of the week as we took our daily themes from these Psalms and framed different aspects of them during our journey:

- **Monday - The Acknowledgment** of the need to leave;
- **Tuesday - The Mapping out and Embarking** on our first steps;
- **Wednesday - The Persistence or Perseverance** to continue as we fatigue due to the journey's length;
- **Thursday - The Encounter** as we arrive at our destination (focusing on our elation of completing the journey and the joy as we experience the Father's House);
- **Friday - The Departure** back to the world. Being

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

in the world (but not of the world), we return to our daily lives, but still carry with us the experience of the Father's house. We make more in our daily lives the joyful reality of the Church.



We were joined by some dynamic Clergy, seminarians, and our Y2AM Director Alyssa Kyritsis this summer, who all helped deliver these important messages to our campers.



Overall we had 340 campers this summer! While our total count was down from 2019, we enjoyed a great increase of campers from the last two years. We especially enjoyed having our JOY campers back with us on-site, after having hosted two summers of online camp with them. We maintained our grade breakdown for each week and continue to see the benefits of that model. We were able to carry out a specialized evening program for our 10th-12th graders Week 4, that touched different elements of the curriculum and spoke to challenges they are facing now, as well as in the next stage of their lives.

Week 3, our 7th-9th graders was our biggest week of Camp with 130 campers in total. We were also blessed with 44 young adults who made up our dedicated cabin and administrative staff, along with 24 support staff and Clergy.

Our campers were happy to be back to an (almost) normal program, and we loved having them! Our days were filled with faith, while attending church and Orthodox Life sessions, fun, with various activities, games, clinics and Olympics, and community, as friendships were formed and bonds were strengthened.



Our campers continue to amaze us with their knowledge and thirst for our faith. It is a pleasure to have them with us each summer and watch them grow in their Orthodox faith!

SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES: It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas's Archpastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry, and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



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**Feast Day
Celebration
and New Sign
Ribbon Cutting**



Sunday, September 25

