



HOLY CROSS CROSSROADS

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

**Christ is Risen ! Χριστος Ανεστη !
Truly the Lord is Risen ! Αληθως Ανεστη !**

We enter into Pascha with the glorious invitation, “Come receive the Light... (Δευτε Λαβετε Φως) that knows no end or diminishment, and glorify Jesus Christ, who is risen from the dead!” Christ is our Life and our Light ! The Resurrected Christ brings life and light to all of us and to the whole of creation. St. John the Evangelist bears witness to this in his Gospel. He witnessed both the death (crucifixion) and the first disciple to reach the empty tomb and believe in His resurrection! The Only Begotten Son of the Father and Word of God through whom all things were created. Jesus took on our humanity, was made flesh and dwelt among us and became our re-creator. Through His glorious Passion and Resurrection, He

Continued pg. 4 →

April 2023

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

Holy Week 2023– Schedule of Services

Lazarus Saturday – April 8

8:30 am – Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Followed by Palm Cross Making, Confessions, Church Cleaning

5:00 pm – Vespers of Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday – April 9

8:15 am – Orthros and Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm – Orthros of Great Monday (First Bridegroom Service)

Great and Holy Monday – April 10

9:00 am – Presanctified Liturgy

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Tuesday (Second Bridegroom Service)

Great and Holy Tuesday – April 11

9:00 am – Presanctified Liturgy

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Wednesday (Third Bridegroom Service)

Great and Holy Wednesday – April 12

9:00 am – Presanctified Liturgy

3:00 pm – Sacrament of Holy Unction (Ιερόν Εὐχέλαιον)

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Thursday (with second anointing)

Great and Holy Thursday – April 13

9:00 am – Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (The Institution of the Eucharist)

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Friday (Service of the Passion and Twelve Gospels)

10:00 pm – Vigil by the Cross, and GOYA making sandwiches for the homeless

Great and Holy Friday – April 14

9:00 am – Royal Hours

3:00 pm – Vespers (Taking down from the Cross/Ἀποκαθήλωσις)

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Saturday (With Praises at the Tomb of Christ (Εγκώμια), and Procession of the Epitaphios)

Great and Holy Saturday – April 15

9:00 am – Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (“First Resurrection”)

10:00 pm – Midnight Office and Canon of Great Saturday

10:30 pm – Receive the Light/Procession, Paschal Orthros/Divine Liturgy
AGAPE MEAL

Great and Holy Pascha – April 16

12:00 Noon – *Agape* Vespers (Reading of the Gospel in various languages)

We fervently request the entire Holy Cross parish family to share fully in the fasting, prayer, and liturgical observance of Holy Week and in the celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection on Pascha night.

No other parish activities will take place during Holy Week.

Please keep this schedule of services posted for easy reference.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 23 Issue 4

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, Presiding Priest

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

***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.

Organizations & Committees

Church School	Elias Diamond	(412) 833-3355
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
	Dina Hartlep	(412) 720-9383
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-Melainis	(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

Parish Council 2023

Constance Zotis, President
 Jordan Nicholas, Vice President
 Nicholas Tripodes, Treasurer
 Jim Mustakas, Financial Secretary
 Rachel Kartofilis, Secretary
 Nick Ambeliotis
 Christopher Chaney
 Mark Hummel
 Frank Kalogeris
 George Liadis
 Tom Mourtaeos
 Christine Picard
 Dean Stambolis
 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). 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.



gave us the ability, the possibility to not only to regain our lost “broken image/ ancient beauty”, but the possibility to become children of God and inheritors of His Kingdom.

Through the sacraments of the Church and the receiving of Holy Communion - the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord, we become partakers of His fullness and recipients of His inexhaustible grace.

The Gospel of St. John that we read on Pascha night is as follows (John 1:1-17).

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not the Light but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own home, and His own people did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ 16 And of His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ”

St. John the Evangelist mentions the important role of St. John the Baptist. The Forerunner was called upon to prepare the people for the Light, for Christ. The baptism of repentance precedes the baptism of death and resurrection in Christ! St. John the Baptist did not witness the Resurrection of Christ but was sent through a martyric death to preach and prepare the souls in Hades for the coming of the Light! Christ the Resurrection of all who desire to be with Him.

We gather on Pascha night to affirm the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in so doing, we also affirm our own resurrection as children of God, who although not yet made perfect, we continue to struggle towards that union with God. On Pascha we affirm the destruction of the authority of death over our lives and the sadness that overcomes us in death and the victory of real life in the unsetting light of Christ in His kingdom. Death itself is changed forever, we refer no longer to corruption but to falling asleep of the faithful who already experience a foretaste of that eternal life and will arise with all of us at the close of the age.

St. Maximus, Bishop of Turin (+467 A.D.) writes concerning the Resurrection of our Lord:

“The light of Christ is an endless day that knows no night. Christ is this day, says the Apostle; such is the meaning of his words, ‘Night is almost over; day is at hand.’ He tells us that night is almost over, not that it is about to fall. By this we are meant to understand that the coming of Christ’s light puts Satan’s darkness to flight, leaving no place for any shadow of sin. His everlasting radiance dispels the dark clouds of the past and checks the hidden growth of vice. The Son is that Day to whom the Day, which is the Father, communicates the mystery of His Divinity. He is the Day who says through the mouth of King Solomon, ‘I have caused an unfailing light to rise in Heaven.’ And as in

Continued pg. 4 →

Heaven no night can follow day, so no sin can overshadow the justice of Christ. The celestial day is perpetually bright and shining with brilliant light; clouds can never darken its skies. In the same way, the light of Christ is eternally glowing with luminous radiance and can never be extinguished by the darkness of sin. This is why John the Evangelist says, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to overpower it.'

And so, my brothers (and sisters), each of us ought surely to rejoice on this Holy Day. Let no one, conscious of his sinfulness, withdraw from our common celebration, nor let anyone be kept away from our public prayer by burden of his guilt. Sinner he may indeed be, but he must not despair of pardon this day which is so highly privileged; for if a thief could receive the grace of Paradise, how could a Christian be refused forgiveness?"

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we prepare for this holiest time of year, let set aside all earthly cares and be attentive to the glorious services of Holy Week that lead us from the tomb of Lazarus to the empty tomb of our Savior. The Lord is jealous of all of us and wants all us to be present and receive His great love, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. May we respond to the Lord's invitation! A blessed journey to Pascha!

Καλη Ανασταση!

A blessed Resurrection!

Fr. Michael

Once upon a time, there was a young fish swimming along in the ocean, minding his business, when an older fish swam by him. The older fish said, “Good morning! Water’s nice today, isn’t it?” To which the younger fish said, “What is water?” There are things like this for us as well, things we are so immersed in, that we barely notice them. Light is one of those things – light is everywhere, light is the very thing that allows us to see, as pure light is broken into the spectrum of colors we perceive. I bring this up of course, because there is a spiritual meaning to light as well. Christ said that He is the Light of the World, and just as we cannot perceive physical things correctly without light, so too we cannot perceive things of the spirit correctly without Christ.



The Saints of our Church are those who share in that light of Christ, in the way that the moon gives off light because it is reflecting that of the Sun. Today we remember one such Saint, referred to by today’s hymnology as a “light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, it’s confirmation, ideal of monks and invincible champion of theology,” that is, Saint Gregory Palamas. Saint Gregory was notable for articulating the mystical aspect of Orthodox prayer. His theology resounded with the notion that through prayer, contemplation, and asceticism, those Christians who sought God could experience the uncreated light of God’s energies, which have been present in the cosmos since God’s creation of the Universe. While there were those who challenged this notion in his time, Saint Gregory’s theology is now understood as a cornerstone of the Orthodox faith.

This is a beautiful and powerful truth. Just like the young fish cannot perceive the water around him, because he is so immersed in it, so too we often fail to perceive the Light of God which infuses all of creation, because our eyes have not become accustomed to see it. But Saint Gregory reminds us, we are not alienated from that Light; no, in fact, we, as human beings made in the image of God, are called to share in that Light, to experience that eternal Sun which radiates in every corner of the Kingdom of God. But, at the same time, this is a challenge to us, for our minds have been darkened by acclimation to things of this world and by the scars of sin. A lightbulb covered with dirt and grime cannot show its light, just as there can be no illumination without purification preceding it.

We have Saint Gregory as signpost on our journey towards Pascha on this second Sunday of Lent. We are reminded of the fact that prayer is part of the process of purification, and that through prayer, we can draw closer to the light of God. Today is a good Sunday to reaffirm our practice of the Jesus prayer. It is a prayer we can do anywhere, anytime, and which brings peace to the heart and mind, as we say, “Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.” A monk I met once told me we with a smile that, “If you say this prayer enough, you become a saint!” Which may have been a slight oversimplification, but nonetheless, it is a good reminder in this Lenten season that we all can become saints, if we choose to seek the Light, the True Light of Jesus Christ.

~Elias Diamond

OUR DUTIES FOR HOLY AND GREAT WEEK

By Metropolitan Augoustinos Kantiotes of Florina

This very day is clothed with the bright robes of the first-fruits of the Lord's passion.

Come, then, all feast lovers, let us welcome it with songs.

(Kathisma, Holy Monday)

We have arrived, my beloved, at the saving Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, at Holy and Great Week. This week is called Great, because in its 168 hours, from today until the night of the Resurrection, we give honor to great events, unique and world historic, which shocked the earth, the heavens, and that which is below the earth. This is why this week is called Great, and it is why it should not pass us by like all the others.

And I put forward the question: What are the duties of a Christian for Holy and Great Week? I am not addressing unbelievers, atheists or chiliasts; I am addressing believers who want to celebrate properly. What therefore are our duties during this week?

The first duty, my brethren, is to thank our Lord Jesus Christ from the bottom of our hearts. Of course, our whole life must be a thank you, a "Glory be to Thee, O Lord", for His small and great benefactions, the visible and the invisible, for all the good things, material and spiritual, that His grace abides in; the sun, air, water, flowers, beaches, all over the place. We should also thank Him for our parents and siblings, our spouse and children, for times and seasons, for what is blessed and necessary. An ungrateful person is worse than an animal. You have a dog, you throw him a piece of bread, and he wags his tail and says thank you. People also must be grateful to God. To thank Him for everything, but above all for the sacrifice of His Son, for His revered Passion. We would also like to thank Him for something else; for His longsuffering in so many of our crimes and blasphemies, for which the earth should open up to swallow us and the sea to swell to drown us, and yet it tolerates us. That is why on Great Friday the Church says, "Glory to Thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to Thee."

So one of our duties is to thank God. The other is to follow the sacred services. The services of Great Week are not like the others; they differ in many ways. The hymns are sweeter than honey, those inspired poems, such as the lamentations at the tomb, these exist in no other religion in the world. These hymns alone, which neither the Franks or the Protestants or anyone else possess, are enough to prove that our Church

is not of this earth, but of heaven, inspired by God. Who did these? Where were they written? In schools and universities? They were done in caves by holy ascetics, as their tears fell to the ground and blossomed. They were not simply written with the mind and due to their education, but they were the blood of their hearts, of healthy feelings, an expression of life, of holy experiences, truths, which only those who truly love Christ can have. One must be unconscious so as not to be moved.

Our third duty is to fast. This week is a week of fasting, strict fasting. Don't listen to the materialists and the impious. We keep the fasts of our holy Church, and especially this fast, as a tradition of the apostles and fathers of Orthodoxy. When we talk about fasting, we do not simply mean the fasting of the stomach to remember the vinegar of the cross, but with the fasting of the stomach our mouths must also fast from bad-mouthing, our tongue from obscenity, our eyes from filthy spectacles. During these days in Byzantine times the emperors would sign a decree: Great Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Pascha Sunday the hippodromes and all the theaters were closed. The Church is in mourning. If we were a Christian nation, centers of corruption would have to be closed from Great Monday, for mourning to be established for the One who was raised up for us on the cross.

But we have another duty. It is the duty of Confession and Divine Communion. I will not expand on this, but will only say that during these holy days, and especially on the night of the Resurrection, we are called to stay in church till the end with our Resurrection candle. Whoever hears "Christ is Risen" and then leaves, it would be preferable if they had just stayed home. That which takes place, where the churches empty after "Christ is Risen", is a desecration, a contempt for Christ. Let us remain therefore until the end and prepare to receive Divine Communion. This week is especially a week for Divine Communion. What is Divine Communion? The Body and Blood of our Christ, fire from heaven. I ask, what are you? Are you straw? If so, then do not approach the holy things, otherwise you will burn. Are you gold? If you are gold, then gold is not threatened by the fire; the more it approaches the fire the more it is cleansed. So if you are a Christian, and remain unrepentant, the fire will burn you, just like it burned Judas who communed unworthily. But if you have gone through the furnace of sacred Confession, then approach; Divine Communion will be for you a medicine of immortality.

During Holy and Great Week we also have a sacred duty to our brethren who are suffering and are in need. It is a week of love and mercy. Give a fine meal to someone who is hungry, a new piece of clothing - not old and used - to someone who doesn't have any, help a widow and an orphan, give some medicine to someone who needs it, visit someone who is sick, give a consoling word to someone that is sad, do whatever a heart of love thinks it can.

Continued pg. 10 →

What I have said is nothing. There is something else which is more difficult. If you do everything we have said so far, and don't do this last thing, then you are not a Christian. What is it? I know Christians who are people of prayer, whose ears are drawn to sacred words, who fast strictly, who confess and commune, but few are the Christians who have - what? "Let us forgive all things with the Resurrection" (Doxastikon of the Praises, Pascha Sunday). Great Week is a week of forgiveness. Who, my brethren, in this life has no dislikes, coldness, contradictions, who does not have an enemy? During these holy days let us look up towards the Crucified One. No one was wronged or hurt like our Christ. While the nails ripped into His flesh, at the same time the curses and anathemas of the Pharisees ripped into His heart, yet He prayed on the cross, saying: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34). Let us forgive one another therefore during these holy days; brides and mothers-in-law, brothers and sisters, friends with friends, children with parents, all without exception. Let us expand our hearts, let us feel the love of our Christ within us. How can we celebrate without love?

My brethren! Holy and Great Week equals a hand open to mercy, eyes with tears of repentance, feet that hasten to church, hearts reconciled, full of worship towards the Crucified One. Do we perform these duties? Do you know who we are like? We are like a beggar who every day has fifteen cents thrown at him, but one day a certain king passes by him and says, "Open your pockets!" and begins to count 1, 2, 3,... 5,... 10,... 100,... 168 gold coins that dazzle his eyes. And he, instead of taking this treasure to use it, he goes to the river and throws the gold coins in the water. Isn't this insanity? These hours therefore that the Church gives us are a treasure. Every hour - every bell ring, every beat, every second - is an important hour.

Let us take advantage of these holy days. Let us not allow them to escape from us like the rest of our lives. Do we know if we will live to celebrate another Great Week? Perhaps this Great Week is the last of our lives? How many people did we have with us last year? Where are they now? We are leaving, the train is whistling, only once do we go through life with this skin.

I pray this Holy and Great Week is an important milestone in our lives. May the Lord give us this week holy thoughts, holy feelings, heroic decisions, sanctification of the soul. May we seal Holy Week with the words, "Remember me, Lord, when thou cometh into Thy kingdom" (Lk. 23:42).

Source: (This homily was recorded live from the Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior in Moschato, Athens on April 10, 1960. Translation by John Sanidopoulos.)

HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH

THE *Red Eggs*



by Constance Camarinos Winkler
ILLUSTRATED BY Tabbatha M. Price

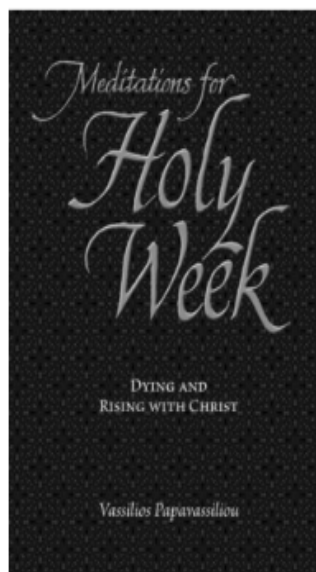
THE RED EGGS

Many Orthodox Christians all over the world dye and bless red eggs at Pascha. Follow Yia Yia's lead as she relives Christ's final days and celebrates His joy-filled resurrection using red eggs. May it inspire you to begin a new family tradition of your own. Written by Constance Camarinos Winkler and dedicated in memory of her parents Tasso & Mary Camarinos who were members of our own Holy Cross parish.

MEDITATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK:

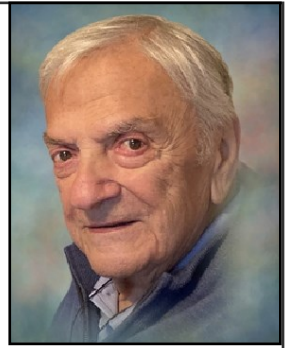
DYING AND RISING WITH CHRIST

Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou brings his liturgical and devotional insights and warm, accessible style to bear on the services of Holy Week, helping the reader enter fully into this most rich and intense period of the Christian year and the heart of the Orthodox Christian Faith. A helpful and inspirational guide to be read each day of Holy Week.



Our Holy Cross Orthodox Bookstore is located in the carpeted area of the Community Center. Please be sure to stop by any Sunday following Divine Liturgy. We offer a great selection of Orthodox Greeting Cards and Books for all ages. For additional information, please contact Mary Portellos at 724-941-8699 or maryportellos@comcast.net

†**George Aspiotes** passed away peacefully in his sleep after a 10 day birthday celebration for his 96th birthday. Preceded in death by his loving wife and high school sweetheart, Ruth (Descaunets) aka "the silver fox"; his daughter, Kathy (Aspiotes) Pfanstiel; and his sister, Mary Kalogeras. He is survived by his son, Nick (Nancy); daughter, Cindy (Scott) Heddaeus; and son-in-law, James Pfanstiel. He was Papou to eight grandchildren, George (Lynn), Nicholas (Ashley) and Christine (Kevin) Schwartz. Bill (Khani) Heddaeus, Greg (Katie Ann) and Matt (Natalie), Trina Greer and Christopher (Tina) Pfanstiel. He was Papou George to 13 great-grandchildren which have added so much joy along with his many cousins and nephews who have filled his life with love.



George took pride in serving his country as a World War II veteran marching in General Patton's funeral and attending the Nuremberg trials. **He also took pride in serving God and his beloved Holy Cross Greek Orthodox church as a founding member and first president.** He was very proud of his Greek heritage.

George grew up in the hill district of Pittsburgh. He played basketball, football, track and gymnastics graduating from Fifth Avenue High School in 1945. As captain of the football team he married the captain of the cheer-leading squad Ruth in 1950. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in mechanical engineering in 1949 on the GI bill as his academic scholarship was delayed by the draft.

Living the American dream he made a better life for his family. He started the Almega Painting Company in 1965 which continues into the third generation of the family. Nothing gave him more pleasure than his family, a good bridge hand, a "craps" game and a good cigar.

Reunited with his loved ones who have passed before him he will be telling some great stories and dancing to Moonlight Serenade once again with mom. Rest in peace Dad, Papou, Papou George....We love you...We will miss you...

←Holy Friday 2022



George was incredibly proud when his grandson Chris Pfansteil → followed in his footsteps and became Parish Council President.



Dear family members, friends and parishioners of Holy Cross,

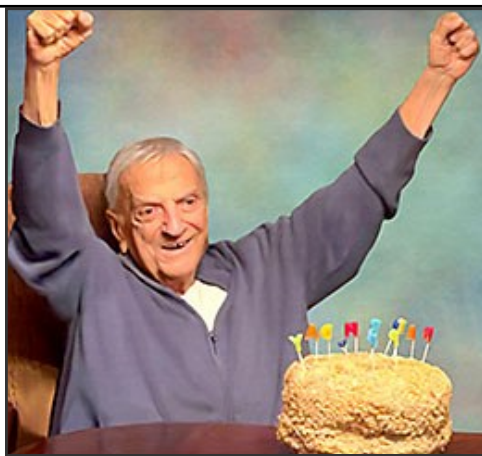
The last of the early church fathers of Holy Cross has now gone to meet his reward. As our first parish council president and founding member, we note the passing of an era in our beloved community.

With his colorful way of speaking, and great enthusiasm, he would regale us with the early trials and triumphs of planting our parish, despite the opposition of the hierarchy and a sister parish.

But move we had to in order to meet the cultural, educational and spiritual needs of an emerging, young and dynamic congregation. We stand on the shoulders of these men and women who struggled to lay the foundation of a vibrant Greek Orthodox community in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. George, in particular, his passionate advocacy of Holy Cross unabated, also made sure that our parish community center would be finished in a cost effective manner. His daily visits and engineering skill, a bane to the contractors, but a blessing for the parish, ensured the success of the project. As a person of deep faith, formed in him by his immigrant parents, he gave all of us a great legacy, not only to admire, but to build upon. To his family and the larger family of Holy Cross, I offer my deepest sympathies on his loss, but not without hope in the Resurrection. May his good deeds follow him into the heavenly realms. May his memory be eternal!

~Fr. John Chakos

Among all these distinctions, George was the **only person left** who had been at **every** Food Festival at Holy Cross. Up until recent years, he could be found in the kitchen with an apron on, keeping up with young men a fraction of his age. He will truly be missed. **Shown here with another deeply missed "Festival Legend" †Popi Hagelios.*



Cheesefare Sunday

We have arrived. Not at our destination of course, that is Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, which we celebrate this year on April 16th. But today we finish the pre-Lenten period, and tomorrow we begin the Great Fast, our journey to Pascha. It's as though we've arrived at the airport, gone through security and are now waiting at the gate for the boarding call. But just as we may double check the gate to make sure we are not getting on the wrong plane, it merits us this morning to consider the journey ahead of us for the next seven weeks, to make sure we are indeed on our way to Pascha.

We begin by looking inward, for although Lent takes place in the context our everyday lives, it's really an introspective journey. We may be thinking of all the extra services, or the rigors of fasting, but the true purpose of all these external things is to draw our attention to our inner selves, to examine where it is we may be going astray, and to help us re-orient our focus if need be. In this way, Lent is life in miniature, for the purpose of our lives is to forge our souls, orienting them by choice towards God and not towards the many distractions of life. Thomas Jefferson may have said the pursuit of happiness is our inalienable right, but our manifest destiny is instead the pursuit of holiness. This is impossible to understand if you deny the existence of anything but the observable universe, which is why society in general does not seek it. There is no meaning, even if it is beneficial to a society if its constituents are virtuous. Yet even if that point is conceded, there is debate as to what constitutes virtue, and which of these are truly helpful for a well functioning society. Yet our calling is not to understand virtue, at least not directly, but to seek after God, who will teach us these things in turn. Much is made in education of using "age appropriate materials." God wants us to understand these things, but the reality is that we are not yet ready. Spiritually we are still adolescents, for we think we know more than we actually do, like the Pharisee from the gospel three weeks ago; instead, the humility of the Publican calling out to God is our proper focus.

This pursuit of holiness, this turning towards God also reveals to us the multitude of things that our souls find alluring. And each of us is different. Some are attracted to fame, others to wealth, some to food, others leisure. Some find meaning in gender identity or sexual orientation, others just want to be better off than their neighbors. Some obsess over fast cars, others over physical fitness. There are more of these than we could possibly elucidate in a Sunday morning homily, yet they all have this in common: they are distractions. They are things we pursue

instead of God. And the more we chase after them, the more they become our Gods. They become the things which define our lives. They become the things which define us. We condition our souls to pursue them. They occupy our thoughts. We find that they become what we desire above all things. They give our lives meaning. And ultimately we find they have become our obsession. Our inward Lenten journey gives us the chance to see what it is that defines our lives, and if we find that it is not God, we still have a chance to turn back. Like the Prodigal, we can see that we have spent the resources of our lives in pursuit of nothing of actual worth, and seeing that we have become spiritually destitute, we come to our senses and return to our Heavenly Father.

We may find this to be easier said than done. For if our pursuit of those things that make us happy have become our obsessions, they are not so easily cast aside. Like Jacob Marley, we forge the chains in our lives which anchor our souls to this world; or worse, drag our souls down. Like weighing the heart against the feather of Maat, we find that our souls are too heavy to ascend to God. People judge God for sending souls to Hell, but the reality is that we are judging ourselves. It is our choice and our accountability to pursue the things in life which gave us pleasure, or meaning. We condition our souls now. Why would we expect that to change after we die? In a sense we are declaring what our heaven will be, the heaven that we truly want, only to find out that if it is not God Himself, it is ultimately hollow and false. If it is a life lived for ourselves, we like the goats in the parable of the Last Judgement will find ourselves surprised that we had forged souls shackled by the obsessions of our own making. If it is a life lived for others, we like the sheep will be surprised that we had forged souls liberated by our love for our neighbor. And our Lenten Journey gives us the opportunity to break the chains that bind us, and truly liberate our souls.

My brothers and sisters, Great Lent begins tomorrow, or if you follow it liturgically, at the Vespers of Forgiveness this evening. But lent is a yearly reminder in miniature of our journey through life. For the true journey of our lives is to constantly head towards God, and not to be distracted by all the other things that we find ourselves worshipping instead. For those things are ultimately false and instead of liberating our souls, imprison them instead, weighing them down and preventing them from ascending to the One who has called us from the beginning to rise up and join Him in His everlasting kingdom. To Him be all glory, now and forever. Amen.

~Deacon Frank Dickos



SAVE THE DATE FOR FESTIVAL!

TUESDAY, JUNE 13 THROUGH FRIDAY JUNE 16

AD BOOK FORM P. 52

Save the dates!!!

2023 Orthodox Christian
Vacation Church School

at Holy Cross

Monday, July 24 thru Friday, July 28 from 9am ~ Noon

Welcoming all children age 3 years and up

High School students, parents, interested adults needed to volunteer.

MIRACLES



SAVE THE DATE

October 8, 2023

Walk For Missions
30 Year Anniversary



SUNDAY
OF THE
HOLY CROSS



FILIA MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING, FEBRUARY 21
AT PRIMANTI'S





THREE MONTHS UNTIL OUR FESTIVAL AND COUNTING

It seems like we just finished last year's festival and here it comes again. We set a "High Bar" last year and with all your help and support we are planning to exceed last year's record-breaking event. Our success will hinge on proper preparation. And that groundwork starts now.

This is what we will need to prepare in the next two months.

Spanakopita	4066	Galaktoboureko	1410
Tiropita	1801	Koulourakia	606 doz
Lamb Shanks	865	Katiafi	1305
Pastitsio	2234	Baklava	5755
Moussaka	1734	Finikia	2235
Lamb Chops	1124	Kourambiethes	2305
Souzoukakia	2028	Karidopita	1326

Date	Item	Chairperson	Phone Number
April 3 rd -5 th	Tiropitas	Ronnie Stambolis	412 638-5711
April 18 th -19 th	Souzoukakia	John Hoenig	412 478-7941
April 24 th -26 th	Spanakopita	Katina Galie	412 951-8383
May 2 nd -4 th	Lamb Shanks	John Hoenig	412 478-7941
May 8 th -11 th	Pastitsio	Rita Manganas	813 390-5948
May 14 th -17 th	Syrup (evenings)	Nick Kooknas	412 343-7710
May 13 th & 20 th	Koulourakia	Stephen Yamalis	412 401-4615
May 23 rd -25 th	Kourambiethes	Tom Mourtacos	435 588-0562

Angela will be chairing the preparation of the Baklava, Finikia and Karidopita.

The prep dates TBD

I still need chairs for:

Galaktoboureko	Moussaka
Dining Area and Trays	Saganaki
Fries and Calamari	Day After Breakdown

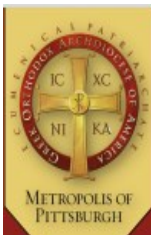
Let's have some new chairpersons join the rest of us so that the Festival doesn't fall on the shoulders of the same parishioners. Emails will be sent out the week before each item being prepared so that we can have enough volunteers to complete each preparation.

Thanks in advance
Demetrios

"MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK"

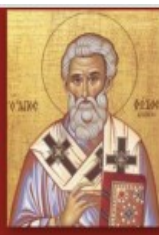
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE HEADS

Entertainment	Jim Mustakas
Taverna	Elena Jones
Cashiers	Denise Sokos
Kitchen	John Popovich
Salads	Sadie Stang
Spanakopita	Katina Galie/Tim Mourtacos
Tiropitas	Ronnie Stambolis/Tom Mourtacos
Baked Goods	Dena Yamalis
Lamb Shanks	John Hoenig
Decorations	Eva Elderkin
Parking	Bill Poutous
Ad Book	Phil Yamalis **SEE PAGE 52 for form**
Marketing	Jim Mustakas
Baklava/Finikia	Angela Athanas
Kourambiethes	Tom Mourtacos
Galaktoboureko	NEED
Trays	NEED
Saganaki	NEED
Social Media / Graphics	Rachel Gogos/Stephen Yamalis
Marketplace	Joan Davin /Maria Diamant
Pastitsio	Rita Manganas
Moussaka	NEED
Souvlaki/Lamb Chops	Dimitri Takos
Souzoukakia	John Hoenig
Gyros	Kathy Pyros
Loukoumades	Niko Kouknas
Serving Lines	Elaine Sofis
Drive Thru	Elias/Domenica
Festival set-up/Logistics	John K/Jim Mustakas
Clean-up	NEED
Dancing <i>Georgia</i>	Georgia Athans
Koulourakia	Stephen Y (Baking with a Twist)
Karidopita	Angela Athanas
Coffee Station	Georgia Athans
Cash / Counting	Dean Stambolis/Nick Diamant
Fries/Calamari	NEED



A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH




**SAT
APRIL 1
11 am**

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
PHILOPTOCHOS

**2023 DAFFODIL
LUNCHEON**

DONATE/SPONSOR:
PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG/PHILOPTOCHOS

SHERATON SUITES AKRON
CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH
7897 FRONT STREET CUYAHOGA FALLS,
OHIO 44321-5811




His Eminence Metropolitan Savas cordially invites you to celebrate the dedicated volunteers of our Holy and God-protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh at the

**2023 Metropolis of Pittsburgh
St. Photios Awards Banquet**

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

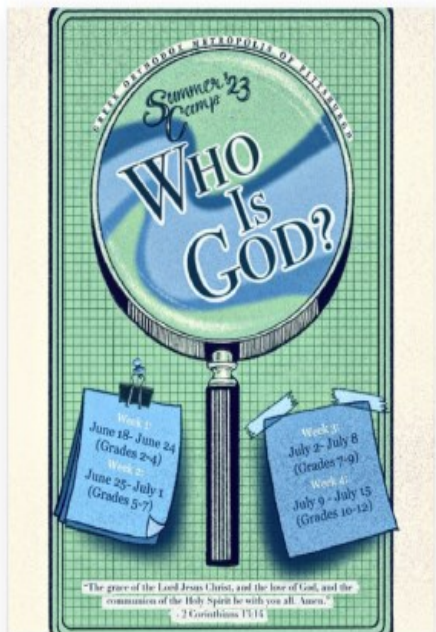
DoubleTree by Hilton
Pittsburgh Cranberry, Mars, PA
Hors d'oeuvres - 4:00 pm
Dinner & Awards - 5:00 pm

Reservations: \$95/adult, \$25/child (under 12)
Reservation & Sponsorship Deadline: April 1, 2023
No Refunds available after April 17, 2023

Visit: pittsburgh.goarch.org/st-photios-awards-banquet
or call: 412 621 3529




SUMMER CAMP '23
REGISTRATION OPENS: APRIL 4!
y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summecamp



**Summer '23
Who Is God?**

Week 1: June 18 - June 24 (Grades 2-4)
Week 2: June 25 - July 1 (Grades 5-7)
Week 3: July 2 - July 8 (Grades 7-9)
Week 4: July 9 - July 15 (Grades 10-12)

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."
- 2 Corinthians 13:14

METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCHOS HELPS RESIDENTS OF EAST PALESTINE, OHIO

On February 3rd, a train with 38 cars carrying hazardous materials derailed, caught fire and sent clouds of chemicals into the air and into the nearby waterways, including the Ohio River. Residents of the small town of East Palestine, Ohio, which is located about 20 miles south of Youngstown and 40 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, had to evacuate their homes, leave behind personal belongings and drink only bottled water.

The Metropolis Philoptochos Board voted to send \$1,000 from our Emergency Fund to an organization known as The Brightside Project in East Palestine that is providing support to families. As always, when Philoptochos sees suffering, we respond with assistance.

Joyce Spanakis
Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos President

To learn more, visit: brightsideprojectohio.org



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

2023 ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, April 29, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry

910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

4:00 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres

5:00 P.M. Dinner

DINNER RESERVATIONS FORM

\$95.00 per adult

\$25.00 per child under 12

(Tables of 10)

Note: Parking is free at the hotel.

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

Address..... Phone (.....).....

City/State/Zip..... **** No refunds after April 17, 2023. ****

E-Mail **Reservations Due by April 1, 2023.**

Number of Reservations x \$95.00ea + x \$25.00ea = \$...... total

NOTE: Awardees attend gratis (no charge) as guests of His Eminence. Do not pay for awardees.

Amount enclosed.....

Names of those included in this Reservation (write additional names on back of this page):

If including Awardees with your table, please list their names below, but do not include payment for awardees.

1. 6.

2. 7.

3. 8.

4. 9.

5. 10.

Mail checks, reservation names, sponsorship forms, & donations to:
St. Photios Awards Banquet
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh
5201 Ellsworth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Make checks payable to:
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Please refer questions to:
Marianne Stearns
412-600-2159
mstearns@nauticom.net

Program Book Sponsorship Form

- \$3000+ Grand Benefactor
- \$1000-\$2,999 Benefactor
- \$750-\$999 Patron
- \$500-\$749 Sponsor
- \$250-\$499 Supporter
- \$100-\$249 Friend
- \$50 Helper

Amount Enclosed:
.....
Check #
.....

Sponsor Address:

Name as you wish it to be listed:

Must be received by April 1, 2023, to be included in the book.

Donors will be listed by Contribution Level in the St. Photios Awards Banquet Program Book, which will be distributed at the Dinner on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Mars, PA.

Net proceeds from this event will benefit the Metropolitan's Benevolence Fund.

ST. PHOTIOS AWARD 2023: BECKY GIDAS



Becky (Keriakedes) Gidas was born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa and came to Pittsburgh when she married Peter Gidas at St. Nicholas Cathedral in 1950. Just a few years later they were among the first members of the new Holy Cross Church community in South Hills.

Becky has been a faithful member of Holy Cross for almost 70 years.

She has sung in the Choir for over 50 years and she is still singing alto from the pew where she sits every Sunday. Becky has used her gifts of organization and leadership by Chairing many fundraising projects including Food Festivals, Garage Sales, Fashion Shows, Dinner Dances and most recently the “Adopt a Chair” drive to purchase 350 new chairs for the community center. She conceived of and chaired 2 House Tours (even though she had never been to one) and was bold enough to knock on the door of a complete stranger who owned a beautiful home in Mt. Lebanon and asked them to offer their home. Her explanation for her boldness was always the same, “I am not asking for myself, I am asking for the Church!”

Most importantly, Becky has faithfully worshipped at Holy Cross and been active in all spiritual aspects of her Church, her true home.

ST. PHOTIOS AWARD 2023: BOB KIRSCHNER

Bob and his family moved to Mt. Lebanon from Lancaster, PA in 1984 and have been active members of Holy Cross Church since. For over 20 years Bob served as Sunday School Director and was a member of the Building Committee during the design and construction of the parish Community Center. He also co-chaired the Food Fair for 2 years. Recently, Bob served on Parish Council for 3 years and is the current chairman of the Outreach Committee.



Bob's passion is helping underserved communities both locally and internationally. As a past volunteer with Operation Safety Net, Bob provided medical care as an EMT at homeless camps throughout the Pittsburgh area. Bob volunteered with Surgicorps International setting up operating rooms in remote villages in Nepal, Bhutan, Brazil, Tanzania, and Guatemala.

In 2014, Bob became project director of the Father Andres Clinic in the Mayan village of Aguacate, Guatemala. As project director, Bob made numerous trips to Aguacate to oversee the design and construction of the clinic and the procurement and installation of medical equipment. Regular mission trips to the completed clinic continue with medical volunteers from many Orthodox Parishes. While no longer traveling internationally, Bob continues to support the Clinic through sales of his hand made pottery.

A message from Holy Cross Beautification/Landscaping Committee:

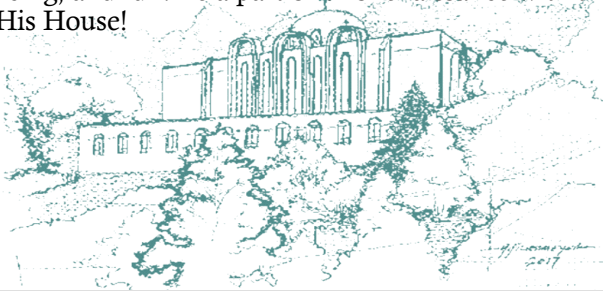
Your Landscaping/Beautification Committee is getting excited with the arrival of Spring! We look forward to the wildflower and native plantings blooming in this coming season at the lower slope and driveway entrance to our Church!

We have begun the process of obtaining bids for our next phases--which include the Entryway, the Cross Garden, the Garden of Love, and the large slope beneath that area.

Through the Committee's efforts and the generosity of over 20 families who love the vision presented in the 'Master Plan' (viewable at <https://www.holycrosspgh.org/improvement-project>), the 'Matching side' of our donations has been raised/committed. (\$102,000) As of this writing, just over \$20,000 has come in from our general parishioners. We thank them and are asking for more families and individuals to donate. Any size donation is welcome, and will be matched, dollar for dollar. We hope to raise \$200,000 to pay for this next phase, with work commencing in September of this year!

Please make checks payable to Holy Cross, with the memorandum 'Landscape/Beautification Project' in the Memo. You may also donate through the Holy Cross website at the link.

We also are excited to announce our **Summer Garden Gala** on Saturday, July 29th (save the date!). We are planning an exceptional evening with great food, live music, dancing, and fun! Be a part of this renaissance with those who love the beauty of His House!



Save the Date

Summer Garden Gala

BENEFITTING
HOLY CROSS LANDSCAPE
BEAUTIFICATION


Saturday, July 29, 2023
Holy Cross Community Center

Join us for an evening of
Cocktails, Strolling Buffet,
Greek Band, Dancing, and
much more.

~Blacktie Optional~

Details at www.holycrosspgh.org/summergala

Holy Cross Financial Summary

	Jan-Feb	Jan-Feb	Variance
	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	
Stewardship	\$110,220	\$92,098	-\$18,122
Other Revenue	\$11,440	\$16,492	\$5,052
Building Fund Revenue	\$27,555	\$10,365	-\$17,190
Total Revenue	\$149,215	\$118,955	-\$30,260
Priest Wages/Benefits	\$34,071	\$37,516	\$3,445
Other Wages / Benefits	\$30,318	\$27,085	-\$3,233
Utilities	\$20,708	\$31,901	\$11,193
Church Expenses	\$38,968	\$47,338	\$8,370
Community Center Expenses	\$32,649	\$41,541	\$8,892
Total Expenses	\$156,714	\$185,381	\$28,667
Total Income	-\$7,499	-\$66,426	-\$58,927

REVENUE \$30,260 shortfall: Stewardship and the Building Fund revenue is below budget by \$35,312. "Other Revenue" is over budget by \$5,052, primarily from a Greek School donation of \$3500 and candle donations from Sunday of Goya Tournament.

PRIEST AND OTHER WAGES: Increased Medical Insurance costs are balanced by the absence of a paid Choir Director and Organist

UTILITIES OVERSPENT by \$11,193: Gas and Water are \$11,000 over budget. \$7,000 is from Utilities not paid in 2022. \$4000 was due to underestimating the inflation in utility costs.

CHURCH EXPENSES overspent by \$8370: GOYA expenses \$10,590 and Candle purchases \$3,793 are primarily why our church expenses are over budget. These should balance out as we go further into the months ahead. We underspent our budget on Maintenance Contracts and Professional Fees, thus balancing off some of the \$14,000 in GOYA and Candles.

COMMUNITY CENTER EXPENSES overspent by \$8892: Gas, overspent by \$6,334, and Landscaping overspent by \$5,419 are the outlier expenses in this category. Again, utilities are running higher than expected; landscaping was expense carried over from 2022.

TOTAL NET INCOME \$58,927 shortfall: \$30,000 of that shortfall would have been remedied with Donations and Stewardship payments. As you can see, it is of utmost importance to keep up with our pledges.

We were budgeted to have a \$7,500 shortfall in the first two months of this year. Any budgeted shortfalls will be eliminated with the Festival and Golf Outing revenues which are not accounted for in this summary.

Running our Church and Community Center cost us almost \$80,000 a month. Today our finances are healthy, but these shortfalls eat into our General Fund and then our reserves if we are not diligent in the management of our finances.

Thanks for all your contributions and feel free to contact me with any questions ...

Demetrios Mustakas, Financial Secretary

Sunday of the Holy Cross

As you no doubt have heard many times, the Third Sunday of Lent, dedicated to the Holy Cross, marks the midpoint of the Great Fast in preparation for Holy Week and ultimately Pascha. That makes it an ideal time to reflect on the journey thus far and if need be, make some adjustments. And in order to do that we reflect on the Cross itself and what it says about the Life in Christ. This is an important point, because many people, both Christian and non-Christian, contemporary and historical, have difficulty getting past the Cross. It is a stumbling block for many, and a road block for others, and today we will look at why this is so, and how to move ahead.

There is no denying the Cross' importance in Christianity. It is the symbol par excellence of our faith. We see it in every Church, no matter the tradition. We wear it around our necks. And indeed, many people, Christian or not, see it as a call to self imposed suffering. In a world and especially a country who believes the Pursuit of Happiness is an inalienable right, this is an impossible and even unhealthy call. How can we find our true fulfillment if we repress our desires? How can suffering bring us happiness? And why do we see so much hypocrisy among those who preach this restraint? It seems we have progressed beyond this. But for those who criticize Christianity, this is a discussion that predates the time of Christ, and in fact was not a religious question but instead a philosophical one. It is actually the debate of Stoicism vs Epicureanism. Stoics argued that the practice of virtue was the only way to live a happy and fulfilling life, while the Epicureans claimed that a life without fear or pain was the more appropriate means to that end. So the Epicurean way was to avoid suffering, while the Stoic way was to endure and overcome it. That contrast is remarkably similar to what we see today. Modern culture has embraced Epicurus as the preferred means of self fulfillment. It is much more in line with the Pursuit of Happiness. People want to enjoy life not endure it. Self denial, and thus Stoics are out of fashion, not just Christians or other faith systems that advocate restraint. And any objection to the lack of restraint is labeled as shaming or intolerance. There is no room in this view for the Cross. It is a stumbling block to those seeking happiness through self fulfillment.

Now it should come as no surprise that Christianity sided more with the Stoics than with the Epicureans, especially when considering the ascetic/monastic movement starting in the fourth century. But the monks went even further. While they agreed that the practice of virtue was the mark of a fulfilling life, they further argued that the first step in realizing this was combating the passions. By understanding that man's

call was to divinity, they might have argued that without victory even over our natural instincts and inclinations, instead of becoming like God, we would more resemble the ancient gods of Greece: petty, vain, lustful, and obsessed with power. It is insufficient to recognize or even cultivate our positive attributes as a kind of virtue. Any of these are rendered meaningless if we remain enslaved to any vice. Put in modern terms, a plane is not deemed flight worthy if it fails a single pre-flight check, not if it excels in all the in-flight amenities. And the Cross excels as an example here, for it is exactly what the Lord meant when he said, "whoever would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." But if we stop there, the Cross itself becomes an impediment, for if we fixate on the struggle and the suffering, whether it is Jesus's suffering as expiation for our sins, or our own suffering struggling against the passions, we miss the greater message; namely, that "through the Cross, joy has come into all the world." It may be that we struggle all our lives, but that is not the goal. If we do that, there is no joy in our lives, only denial and frustration. The Cross, instead of a landmark on the way to our intended destination becomes a road block preventing us from moving forward.

For we must never forget that the cross, as important and crucial as it may be, is not the end. It is the means to an end, and the end is the Resurrection. It is a road that all who embrace Christianity must all take, but it is a road that leads to joy. And just as the Cross leads to the Resurrection, so too do our ascetic labors lead to the inexplicable joy of a purified soul. This understanding allows us to transform suffering from something to be avoided into something we embrace, not because we enjoy the fear or pain, but because we see it leading to something greater: the peace which passes all understanding.

My brothers and sisters, the world and especially America, is more rooted in epicurean sensibility than it is in stoic. But Orthodoxy takes an even more difficult view. We look for weaknesses not strengths, recognizing that through indulgence we become like the Greek gods, while through abstinence we become like our God. Through the cross we unite the worldly with the other worldly. We crucify our passions in order to become an abode for virtues. We acknowledge that is an Orthodox Christian perspective and we shouldn't expect others to understand it. Yet the cross is part of the journey, not the final destination. We are called to embrace suffering, yes, but not to stay there; instead, we see the Way of the Cross as a necessary step on the journey not only to our Lord's Resurrection, but to ours as well. To Him be all glory, now and forever. Amen.

~Deacon Frank Dickos

Holy Cross

SUN	MON	Tue
<p>Reminder to make and bring Pascha eggs dyed RED for the Anastasi Service!</p>		
<p>2 <i>St. Mary of Egypt</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>3 Drop off Circle of Angels cookies/candy </p> <p>Making Tiropita for Festival ... details coming in weekly bulletins</p> <p>6:30pm Great Compline</p>	<p>4 10:30am Circle of Angels assembling baskets </p>
<p>9 <i>Palm Sunday</i>  8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p><i>No Memorials</i></p> <p>5pm Bridegroom Service</p>	<p>10 <i>Holy Monday</i> 9am Presanctified Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Bridegroom Service</p>	<p>11 <i>Holy Tuesday</i> 9am Presanctified Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Bridegroom Service</p>
<p>16 PASCHA   Noon Agape Vespers</p>	<p>17 BRIGHT MONDAY Office closed</p>	<p>18 BRIGHT TUESDAY Sts. Irene, Raphael & Nicholas roam Divine Liturgy @Dormition in Oakmont</p> <p>Making Souzoukakia ...</p> <p>9am Golden Club Outing (see p. 24)</p>
<p>23 <i>Thomas Sunday / St. George</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <hr/> <p>30 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Making Spanakopita for Festival ...</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm <i>Sts. Mary & Martha</i></p>

April 2023

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>29 <i>March</i></p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 6pm Presanctified Liturgy</p>	<p>30 10am Pascha bread making</p> <p>7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>31 9am Presanctified Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Akathist Hymn</p>	<p>1 <i>April</i></p> <p>10am~2pm Pre-Marriage Seminar 11am IOCC Health Kits Assembly 5pm <i>Vespers</i></p>
<p>5</p> <p>and via email</p> <p>4:15PM GREEK SCHOOL 6pm Presanctified Liturgy</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am Presanctified Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm <i>Palm Cross prep</i></p>	<p>8 <i>Lazarus Saturday</i></p> <p>8:30 am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy ~Palm Cross Making ~Confessions ~Church Cleaning ~Acolyte Preparation for Holy Week 5pm <i>Great Vespers</i></p>
<p>12 <i>Holy Wednesday</i> 9am Presanctified Liturgy</p> <p>3pm Holy Unction</p> <p>6:30pm Orthros of Holy Thursday w/ second anointing</p>	<p>13 <i>Holy Thursday</i> 9am Vespereal Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Passion of Our Lord/Reading of 12 Gospels 10pm-6am Vigil by the Cross & Sandwiches for the Homeless</p>	<p>14 <i>Holy Friday</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9am Royal Hours</p> <p>3pm Vespers/Taking down from the Cross</p> <p>6:15pm Trisagion by tomb 6:30pm Praises/Orthros of Holy Saturday</p>	<p>15 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 9am Vespereal Liturgy (First Resurrection)</p> <p>10pm Nocturnes 10:30pm Receive the Light 11pm Orthros /Liturgy of the Resurrection AGAPE MEAL</p>
<p>19 BRIGHT WEDNESDAY <i>No fasting</i></p> <p>... details coming</p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL (No Bible Study)</p>	<p>20 BRIGHT THURSDAY</p>	<p>21 BRIGHT FRIDAY <i>No fasting</i> <i>Theotokos of the Life Giving Spring</i> 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Div Liturgy</p> <p>12:30pm FIRST STEPS @ Botanical Garden</p>	<p>22 BRIGHT SATURDAY</p> <p>5pm <i>Vespers</i></p>
<p>26</p> <p>... details coming</p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET</p>

Circle of Angels for Pascha Outreach requests koulourakia, paximadia, cookies and candy. We will be assembling the baskets on Tuesday, April 4th at 10:30am in community center kitchen. Please take your items to Nena in the church office by April 3rd.

**Thank you for your generosity,
Carol, Christine and Dina**



Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc.

National Philoptochos Approved \$50,000 in Emergency Funding in Response to the Devastating Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

For Immediate Release: February 9, 2023

New York, NY – On February 8, 2023, the Executive Board of the National Philoptochos Society unanimously approved an emergency disbursement of \$50,000 to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Earthquake Relief Fund. These funds come from the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund, which enables the Philoptochos Society to immediately respond to those in need in times of national or international crisis. Fund disbursement will be directed to those impacted by the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Turkey and Syria with over 20,000 lives lost and hundreds of thousands left homeless.

This donation would not have been possible without the support of the 437 Philoptochos chapters across the nation who contribute annually to the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund. In addition, the Philoptochos Society is launching a fundraising campaign through its chapters to further benefit the earthquake victims, the *Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief Fund*.

Please keep the victims, their families and loved ones in your prayers and please be as generous as possible. Donations can be made online: <https://ppay.co/-N5VYeUg5JI>. Checks may also be sent to the **National Philoptochos Society**, 126 East 37th Street, New York, NY 10016 in the memo stating, "**Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief Fund.**"

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

**Thank you for your
participation**

**2023 Daffodil Luncheon
on Saturday, April 1, 2023, 11:00am
at the
Sheraton Suites Akron
Cuyahoga Falls
1989 Front Street
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221**

Your Hosts:

Annunciation, Akron
Annunciation, Cleveland
Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cleveland Heights
St. Demetrios, Rocky River
St. Demetrios, Warren
St. Haralambos, Canton
St. Nicholas, Lorain
St. Paul, North Royalton

Proceeds to benefit the:

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Social Services and
Seminarians Our Future Scholarship Fund

Speaker:

Eleni Constantinides,
Metropolis of New Jersey President
Social Services Liaison between National and the New
Jersey Metropolis

For information or questions, please contact:

Anna Vedouras
216-235-2798
annavedouras@gmail.com

**Please fill out the reservation/sponsorship form
enclosed and mail with payment to arrive before
March 15, 2023.**

Reservations are not confirmed until payment is
received. Payments can be via PayPal or Check.
Reservations/Sponsorships can also be made online.

Checks should be made payable to:

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society.
Please send reservation/sponsorship form and
payment to: Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies
Philoptochos Society c/o Eleni Gugliotta, 3792 Cascade
Oaks Trail, Richfield, OH 44286.



Reservation Link and QR Code:
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?
hosted_button_id=4VKZJPB5SQXZG](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=4VKZJPB5SQXZG)

Sponsorship Link and QR Code:
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?
hosted_button_id=E47EWR33JV2J](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E47EWR33JV2J)



Reservation/Sponsorship Form

*Reservations/Donations are not limited to
Philoptochos members

_____ I/We will attend the 2023 Daffodil Luncheon. Please
reserve ___ tickets at \$65 each. Total amount enclosed
\$ _____

or

_____ I/We will not attend, but please accept the donation of
\$ _____ paid by check, online, or QR code. Your sponsorship
will be listed in the luncheon program.

Sponsorship levels:

- Friend up to \$99
- Bronze \$100 - \$249
- Silver \$250 - \$499
- Gold \$500 - \$999
- Platinum \$1,000 - \$1,499
- Titanium \$1,500 and over

Parish Name and Chapter Number:

Person making the reservation:

(Name, Phone #, and Email)

**Please list the names of the attendees who wish to be seated
together (maximum of 8 per table) and circle their choice of
meal.**

1.	Fish or Vegan
2.	Fish or Vegan
3.	Fish or Vegan
4.	Fish or Vegan
5.	Fish or Vegan
6.	Fish or Vegan
7.	Fish or Vegan
8.	Fish or Vegan

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PROCESSION







Saints Mary & Martha Women's Fellowship

**Please note that some of the venues
have changed.**

The Akathist Hymn

April 25, 2023

Canon

Speaker: Fr. George Callas
At the home of Adrienne Dickos
1840 Kent Road
Upper St Clair 15241
Text to RSVP 412-400-4290

May 23, 2023

Aspile

Speaker: Elias Diamond
At the home of Joanna Ferencz
1028 Francis Road
Castle Shannon 15234
Text to RSVP 724-953-1091

**Remember, all meetings run
from 7pm-9pm.**





COOK BOOK

The Holy Cross 50th Anniversary Edition of our Greek Cookbook, \$20 each, cash or check payable to Holy Cross Philoptochos, is available throughout the year at coffee hours on Sundays or at the home of Elaine Sofis. Please contact Elaine at coffee hour or Home 412 344-7046 or email esofis@comcast.net for a copy. These cookbooks make fantastic Mother's Day, Anniversary, Birthday, Bridal shower and Housewarming gifts! Some of our most cherished and now departed Holy Cross members have recipes listed in the cookbook!



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 2nd	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 9th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 14th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 16th NO FASTING!	 BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Thank you to ALL who volunteered to make our delicious Pascha bread on March 30. Pascha Bread, \$10 a loaf, plain or with sesame seeds, will be sold on Sunday, April 2, and if available, April 9 after Divine Liturgy in the narthex and community center. Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Philoptochos. Thank you for supporting Holy Cross Philoptochos in this fundraising endeavor. Elaine Sofis and Domenica Gulli, Co-Chairs

HOLY CROSS FOOD FESTIVAL

JUNE 13-16 11AM-8PM, FRIDAY, TILL 9PM.

Please contact Elaine Sofis esofis@comcast.net or H 412 344-7046 if you are interested in chairing a lunch or dinner food line or working on the food line. More details in the May Cross Roads!



ORTHODOXNOTES

"TRUE FASTING LIES IS
REJECTING EVIL,
HOLDING ONE'S
TONGUE, SUPPRESSING
ONE'S HATRED, AND
BANISHING ONE'S
LUST, EVIL WORDS,
LYING, AND BETRAYAL
OF VOWS.

(St. Basil the Great)

F. K. 2011





METROPOLIS CLERGY LENTEN RETREAT

CUTIES AT
COFFEE HOUR
LEARNING
TO DANCE!
OPA!



USC students recognized for art, writing

Nine Upper St. Clair High School artists and writers have earned recognition for 17 entries in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Competition. Awards include two gold keys, seven silver keys and eight honorable mentions.

Two portraits created by Marianna Paradise, a junior, received the program's highest honor – the gold key. Her work – in the Digital Art and Drawing & Illustration categories – now advances to the national level competition.

National Awards will be announced March 22 at artandwriting.org. A selection of works by national medalists will be included in the National Exhibition in New York City.

The following artwork and writing entries from Upper St. Clair High School students earned regional recognition:

In the art competition winners were: **Paradise, gold keys for Digital Art, "June" as well as Drawing & Illustration, "Patricia"**; silver key for Drawing & Illustration, "Mari"; Julia Campagna, a ninth-grader, honorable mention for Sculpture, "Intertwined"; Natalie Campagna, a junior, honorable mentions in Fashion for "Fairytale," "Peaches and Jeans" and "Yin Yang Crystal Crochet."

In the writing competition, award recipients included: Aahna Sinha, junior, silver key for Poetry, "Sandalwood"; sophomore Frankie Dubreil, silver key for Short Story, "existential crisis: a brief study of panic attacks and the unseen"; **senior Markella Jahn, silver key for Poetry, "biscuits"**; junior Luke McDonough, silver key for Dramatic Script, "Prospero," and honorable mentions for Dramatic Script, "Nikolas & Albert" and Poetry, "If I Were Lucky"; sophomore Nikhita Thakuria, silver keys for



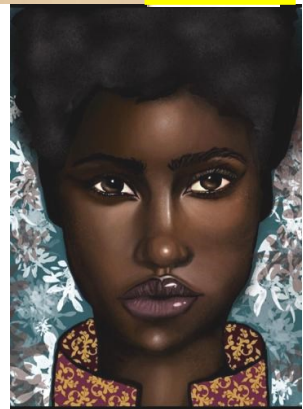
At LEFT: This work called "Patricia," by Marianna Paradise, won a gold key during the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. Paradise is a junior at Upper St. Clair High School. BELOW: This work, dubbed "June" by Marianna Paradise, received a gold key for digital art during the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. Paradise is a junior at Upper St. Clair High School.

Short Story, "The Colors" and Poetry, "On Listening to Your Teacher Take Attendance" and junior Jenny Wang, honorable mention for Poetry, "Beyond a Story."

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, open to students in grades 7–12, recognize student achievement in the visual and literary arts in 28 categories, including editorial cartoon, poetry, digital art, fashion, photography, sculpture, short story, poetry and more.

All works are evaluated through blind adjudication first on a regional level by more than 100 regional Affiliate Partners – school districts, museums, colleges and universities, libraries, and other educational organizations. At the regional level, works earn honorable mention, silver or gold key distinction. Gold work advances to the national level; at this level works can earn gold, silver with distinction, and silver portfolio, as well as gold and silver medal. At each level of judging, all works are reviewed based on the same criteria that have represented the program since its founding in 1923: originality, skill, and personal voice or vision.

An exhibition and awards ceremony for the Pittsburgh Region 2023 Scholastic Art Award winners and honorable mention recipients was held Feb. 25 at the College of Fine Arts & Kresge Theater at Carnegie Mellon University. Writing award winners were recognized at the Pittsburgh Region Scholastic Writing Awards Feb. 25 in Point Park University's Lawrence Hall.



Fr. John Chakos led a U.S. medical team to the village medical clinic in Guatemala. In their 5-day outreach, the doctors treated over 300 patients. At the conclusion of the medical team, Fr. John, along with Fr. Evangelos, visited remote Orthodox communities to celebrate Liturgies, baptizing and chrismating dozens of people. In this photo, they are being welcomed to one of the villages.



They were greeted on the road by the Church members with fireworks, flower petals and songs of joy.

They then went to another village to perform the Liturgy, 20 Chrismations and 6 baptisms. The faithful greeted them with fireworks, flower petals and joyful songs. All this was after an early morning Liturgy at the cathedral parish in Aguacate. The next day, they went to Mexico to visit some remote mountain parishes. The faith of the people is amazing and they greet us them such warmth.



Fresh Start Café opens along West Pike Street in Canonsburg this month. The nonprofit coffee shop will serve as a local gathering place; the board and volunteers will offer outreach, life skills building, community and more.



All paths lead to Fresh Start Café

Wander Canonsburg's downtown long enough and you may find yourself inside a calm, modern café, where the conversation is as warm as the coffee, the company as delightful as the pastries.

The place is Fresh Start Café, a nonprofit coffee shop and community gathering space years in the making, where every person has a seat at the table.

"It's just a warm, cozy place, which is what Father (George Livanos) wanted," said John Dziak, board president of Fresh Start, who was instrumental in bringing the café to fruition. "The idea comes from what they have in Greece. The coffeehouse in Greece is called a kafeneio. In a lot of Greek towns, it's right near the church, middle of town, and everybody goes there: the priest, the mayor, rich, poor, doesn't matter. Young, old. It's a place, it's just a cool place to go."

Fresh Start is the place to go that nearly wasn't.

In 2019, the late Rev. George Livanos – who for 32 years led parishioners of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in McMurray, offering support, eliciting laughs and bestowing wisdom – made known his desire to start a nonprofit that would offer excellent java and pastries with a side of community outreach.

"There was a group, the Greater Canonsburg-Houston Ministerial Association, who had kind of gotten together. I think in the beginning, it was all of the things that we're talking about now, being a place for people to come and hang out, connect, get a cup of coffee and a smile, but maybe more than that, too," said Kassiani Callos, Livanos' eldest daughter, of Mt. Lebanon.

"There was also this idea that there are people who need second chances. I remember Papa saying there are people who are struggling with addiction, who might be ex-cons, people who need second chances. They're wel-



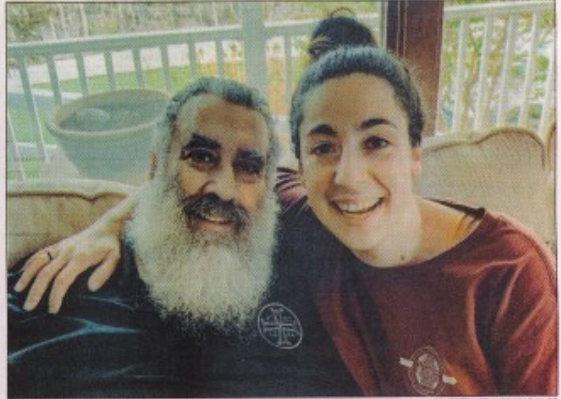
COURTESY OF JOHN DZIAK

The Fresh Start Café board poses for a selfie in the newly renovated space, which opens to the public this month. From left are board treasurer Don Coleman; board member and building owner Andrew Andronas; vice president Lisa Scarmazzi; construction supervisor Paul Scarmazzi; secretary Tula Dziak; café manager Sonia Koupiaris, and president John Dziak.



KATHERINE WAINFELD/OBSERVER-REPORTER

The late Rev. George Livanos dreamed of a space in which everyone has a seat at the table, and his vision has been realized at Fresh Start Café in Canonsburg, where the beloved community figure smiles over every gathering from his place on the decorative shelf.



COURTESY OF KASSIANI CALLOS

Kassiani Callos, right, treasures moments big and small with her father, the late Fr. George Livanos, left, including a pre-COVID trip to Greece for her sister's wedding. Callos will serve her line of specialty pastries, Gluten Free by Kassiani, at Fresh Start Café.

come to come in. Maybe this is an opportunity to work. Maybe this is just an opportunity to talk to somebody. I thought that sounded great.”

Paperwork was filed and a building secured, but the project did not progress any further.

“We (my wife, Tula Dziak, and I) were visiting with him and he’s like, ‘It’s not going to happen. I have nobody to get it over the line,’” Dziak recalled. “We had lost the space. There was no money.”

The project stalled and, shortly after the pandemic began, Livanos was diagnosed with mesothelioma. He passed in July 2021.

Continued pg. 42 →

Dziak mourned the loss of his spiritual leader and friend, and his thoughts returned to Livanos' unfinished work.

"I'd been thinking about it, and praying about it, and then out of the blue, Andrew (Andronas) calls me. He didn't even know I was thinking about it. He says, 'I have a little building in town. What do you think about a coffee shop?'" Dziak said. "I couldn't even believe he said that."

While Dziak considered the proposal, Andronas' wife went shopping on Facebook Marketplace, where she purchased a desk.

"Turns out the desk belonged to the gentleman that donated the property that the church sits on today," Dziak said. "(Andronas) took the desk home. He pulled the drawer out and a couple business cards fell on the floor. One of them was Father George's."

All signs pointed to Fresh Start Café. Dziak formed a board, founded the nonprofit Fresh Start Café, and the group got to work building a coffee shop.

Canonsburg's director of economic development, Lisa Scarmazzi, and her husband, Paul Scarmazzi, both serve on the Fresh Start board; Lisa lent her decorative skills to the coffee shop's interior, and Paul helped with the contract work. Livanos' son Seraphim Livanos completed the tile work, and son-in-law, the Rev. George Callos, said a blessing over the building.

Fresh Start Café will serve Crazy Horse Coffee, Johnny Waffles (a Dziak special, made locally famous at Printscape Arena) and baked goods by Don's Bake Shop and Gluten Free by Kassiani – founded just before the pandemic hit by Callos, whose delightful, lovingly-made pastries are sold in Mt. Lebanon-area cafés, including Mediterra, and at local farmers markets.

Callos said 25% of Gluten Free by Kassiani sales at the café will be donated back to Fresh Start.

"I want to feed people. I am passionate about 'baking people happy,'" said Callos, smiling as she quoted her business' tagline. "I love the idea that the café is going to have local stuff. Your purchase is having a direct impact on a mission, or on a community."

It's her father's larger-than-life-ness, his willingness to always go the extra mile to comfort, counsel, connect, that inspired Callos and others to do the same at Fresh Start.

"Papa had a big personality and that commanding presence," said Callos. "He's a leader, but he also was really good at trying to put people into positions of leadership. He didn't want the project to be about him. After he passed, things started to happen. It's like he needed to help from the other side."

Livanos is the spirit of Fresh Start Café, and those whose lives he touched carry on the mission.

"We're going to do tutoring here. We're going to do parent mentoring, so teaching parents how to do homework with their kids. Just mentoring in general, whether it be adults or children," said Dziak. "I want to teach

young people how to run a business: how to buy, how to sell, how to engage customers, but, more importantly, how to reach out. We're going to have live acoustic music here from time to time, because where do young people go to hear live music? They can't go to bars, but you can come in here, get your latte, get on the WiFi, hang out. There's just a number of just folks that just want to come and hang out and meet friends and catch up."

All coffee shop proceeds benefit Fresh Start Café's mission to serve the community. Outreach is grassroots, said Dziak.

"We had a family in the area around the holidays, mother had stage four cancer and four kids. The young daughter, she was working a couple part-time jobs to help. My employees at Printscape raised money ... and Fresh Start matched it, so we were able to give a nice donation to that family," Dziak said. "That's what we're going to do, is help local student-youth families with whatever they might need."

Sitting inside Fresh Start Café, where coffee gurgled cheerfully and music played softly over the speaker system on a recent, sunny weekday, feels like being home, Dziak said. He and those involved can and can't believe the soft launch is days away—March 11—with the grand opening soon to follow.

Seeing how many people have rallied for this cause reminded both Dziak and Callos of a story the late Father George was known for telling and re-telling.

"There was a story about an elder monk and a young monk," said Dziak, who considered Livanos a friend and faith leader. "The elder monk says to the young monk, 'I want you to go down to the well and get water for the sisters.' The young monk goes down and he gets water. By the time he gets back, half the water's gone. He realizes there's a crack in the pot."

The young monk continues hauling water back and forth, the story goes, until one day he tells the older monk the job will never be finished because the task is simply impossible.

"The elder monk says, 'Turn around,'" Dziak continued, "'look at the path you made. Look at the flowers.' It's the path. That was dear to his heart. This place is about the path. It's about planting flowers along the way and helping people on their path."

Follow the path online at <https://www.freshstartcafe.org/> for more information, including ways to get involved.



Golden Club Lenten Potluck with Guest Speaker from Pitt Nationality Rooms





↑↑ On Tuesday, April 18th, **Golden Club** will travel to Latrobe to tour the Lincoln Highway Experience Museum which holds many interesting artifacts including a 1937 Packard car, restored tourist cabin and a Serro's Diner from the 1930's that will serve visitors a cup of coffee and slice of pie. This light-hearted museum celebrates the road now known as Route 30.

Our first stop will be brunch at the French Express Cafe. Museum admission is \$10. Please pay cash or check payable to **GOLDEN CLUB OF HOLY CROSS** on the day of the trip.

Space is limited on the van so please reserve early by calling Rene 412.559-1721 or Cynthia 412.722.9512.



Youth Health Kit Drive and Assembly *Youth Volunteers and Monetary Donations Needed!*

April 1, 2023 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

123 Gilkeson Rd. (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228

All Orthodox Youth Groups are asked to participate.
Students, please bring your volunteer forms for school credit.

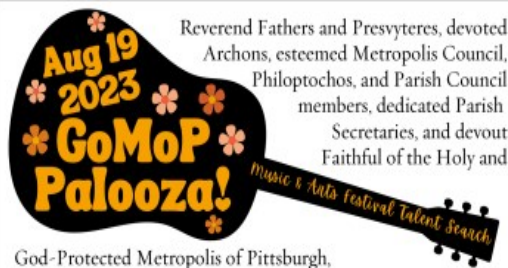
**Our goal is to assemble several thousand health kits.
Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies.**

To donate, please make checks payable to "Holy Cross AGAPE Fund"
with "IOCC Health Kit Project" in the memo, and mail to
Nick Terezis, c/o IOCC, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Please contact Ava Terezis at 614.569.2414
or AvaT.Orthodox@gmail.com
to coordinate your youth group attendance.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



Reverend Fathers and Presvyteres, devoted Archons, esteemed Metropolitan Council, Philoptochos, and Parish Council members, dedicated Parish Secretaries, and devout Faithful of the Holy and

God-Protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh,

It has been His Eminence Metropolitan Savas' dream for years to host an annual music and arts festival, showcasing the many talents of the people of our Pittsburgh Metropolis.

That dream will finally become a reality this year with our first ever GOMoP Palooza Music and Arts Festival! This will be an event for the whole family, held on Saturday, August 19th at Angel's Acres Farm in Eighty Four, PA.

"GOMoP" stands for "Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh," and all the art displayed, and music performed will be offered by our very own GOMoP people, of all ages.

We also have a very real need to raise funds for our Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and this event will hopefully become an annual fundraiser to support the various youth and young adult ministries of our metropolis. All proceeds will be used to impact the spiritual formation of our young people.

The festival will feature music performances on two different stages, a byzantine choir performance, arts and crafts exhibits, delicious food and beverages, a large swimming pool, a pond, and a beautiful countryside to enjoy.

At this time, we are seeking talent to showcase and ask that if you or someone in your family/parish family have musical or artistic talent, to please share your/their contact information with our committee so that we may invite them to perform or display their art or craft. Please submit via email the name, particular talent, and contact phone number or email address to:

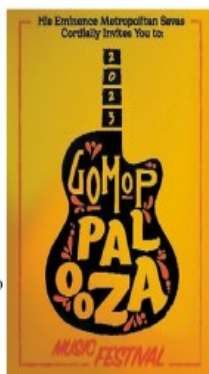
Fr. Joe DiStefano at: frjdistefano@yahoo.com. Please feel free to contact Fr. Joe with any questions you may have.

Wishing You All a Blessed Lenten Journey!

Fr. Joseph Z. DiStefano

GOMoP Palooza Festival Committee Chairman

724-304-1230 * frjdistefano@yahoo.com



GREEK EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The 8th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh's Greek Language Festival with Quiz Bowl will take place on Saturday, April 22 at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh. Entertainment by students at various schools, an art exhibit, crafts, fun, and food. In addition, there will also be a Quiz Bowl on the Greek Revolution and Burning of Smyrna. Everyone is welcome.

The Department of Greek Education has its Annual Greek Language Story Contest to document the life of an elderly immigrant with Greek or Cypriot roots.

Deadline to register is April 7, with submission by April 18, 2023.

Contact Maria Stamoolis at: mstamoolis@verizon.net



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:

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

412-621-5529 (Main) 412-465-0460 (Camp) 412-621-8543 (Youth)

pittsburgh.goarch.org info@pittsburgh.goarch.org

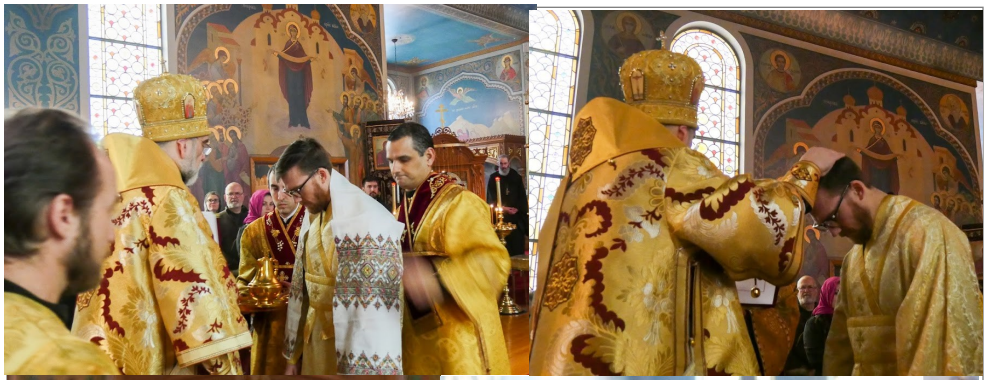




GREGORY FEDORCHAK, HUSBAND OF KRISTA (GALIE) FEDORCHAK, WAS ORDAINED TO THE HOLY DIACONATE BY ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL AT ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY ON JANUARY 21, 2023. AXIOS!

[Ordination 01-21-23 - Google Photos](#)





The Department of Greek Education
for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

The Annual Greek Language Story Contest



Do you know of someone in your family or community with a fascinating story to tell?

Interview and write the life story of an elderly immigrant with Greek or Cypriot roots living (either) independently or dependently, such as in a nursing home, assisted living, etc.; or interview the child or spouse of an elderly or deceased immigrant and tell their life story.

1 Tell of their life before and after coming to the U.S.

- where they traveled from and why they left
- who they traveled with and how they traveled
- who they prayed to for strength and any miracles
- how old they were when they arrived to the U.S.
- what challenges they faced
- what did they do here in the U.S.

2 Provide pictures

- of them, their family
- of places where they lived abroad, and in the U.S.
- of their favorite places and pastimes, both abroad and in the U.S.

3 Provide samples of

- their favorite Greek songs, hymns, poems, etc.

You are not limited to only the above questions, nor are all of the above imperative

Type this in Greek and in English in a Word document. Provide a copy for the person you interviewed and send a copy to:

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Department of Greek Education,
5201 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, also email a copy with the pictures
separately not in the word document to mstamoolis@verizon.net

Student interviewers are from 4th - 12th grade. Awards given to students who display thoroughness and hard work.

**Deadline to register is April 7, 2023. Deadline for submission is April 18, 2023.
For information e-mail Maria Stamoolis, mstamoolis@verizon.net.**

The Department of Greek Education for
the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 22, 2023
St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA
11am - 3pm

1. Quiz Bowl on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna

Teams of three (3) students will compete in two levels. Eligible contestants are those currently or previously enrolled in Greek Language Studies. All the material needed to study for the Quiz Bowl is available to download at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/3yx04h3bdll5c2ifyk4m/h?dl=0&rlkey=d45th09aivd712t40ynqvo6c2> Each team creates its own name. A large trophy cup will be placed at the winning team's church. Individual awards will also be given.

- a. Intermediate Level: 4th, 5th, 6th grade American School
- b. Advanced Level: 6th - 12th grade American School (note that 6th grade students have the option of teaming up in either level)

2. For students who are **musically talented** we encourage you to perform either solo or with others an original Greek song or Greek instrumental selection or a selection from an existing Greek composer on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna. This is open for all grades, K - 12th grade American School.

3. For students **who love to act** we encourage you to perform an original Greek skit or one from an existing writer on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna. This is open for all grades, K - 12th grade American School.

4. For students **who love art** we encourage you to submit your artwork for the Art Exhibit with the title in Greek on Greek Revolution of 1821 and Burning of Smyrna. This is open for all grades, K - 12th grade American School.

In addition, there will also be various booths, food, and fun for all.

Registration forms available at the Metropolis website, facebook, and
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/3yx04h3bdll5c2ifyk4m/h?dl=0&rlkey=d45th09aivd712t40ynqvo6c2>

Registration deadline is April 7, 2023

Questions contact Maria Stamoolis: mstamoolis@verizon.net



**Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
51st Annual Food Festival**



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon will be hosting its 51st Annual Food Festival on June 13-16, 2023. We thank you for your past support and encourage you to participate in making this year's Food Festival Ad Book a success. We plan on hosting thousands of guests at this year's festival to share our culture and our faith! Your generous donation will help support this endeavor, allow you to promote your business or cause, as well as support the mission of Holy Cross!

Please indicate the level of sponsorship and complete the requested information below. You may include camera ready art and ad copy by attaching with your remittance. The deadline for placing an advertisement or personal message in the Food Festival Ad Book is **Friday, May 19, 2023**.

Other sponsorship opportunities are available! Should you have any questions, please contact:

Philip Yamalis (412) 606-0092 - pyamalis@comcast.net

-or-

Chronis Manolis (412) 612-8129 - chronismanolis87@gmail.com

Sponsorship Application Form – Holy Cross Annual Food Festival

Name:		Amount:	
Address:		E-Mail:	
City:	State:	Zip:	
Contact Person:		Phone:	

**Application deadline: May 19, 2023
Payment must accompany application for placement**

Page Size	Actual Size	Location	Cost	Mark with an X
2 Full Pages Color Centerfold	11 x 8-1/2"	Centerfold (Includes Sponsorship)	\$ 3000	
2 Full Pages Color Adjacent	11 x 8-1/2"	Adjacent 2 pages (Includes Sponsorship)	\$ 2500	
Full page - Color	5-1/2 x 8-1/2"	Back cover (Includes Sponsorship)	\$ 2500	
Full page - Color	5-1/2 x 8-1/2"	Inside back cover (Includes Sponsorship)	\$ 1800	
Full page - Color	5-1/2 x 8-1/2"	Inside front cover (Includes Sponsorship)	\$ 1800	
Full page - Color	5-1/2 x 8-1/2"	(Includes Video Ad)	\$ 1200	
Full page - Black & White	5-1/2 x 8-1/2"		\$ 800	
Half page - Black & White	5-1/2 x 4-1/4"		\$ 425	
Quarter page - Black & White	5-1/2 x 2"		\$ 225	
Patron	One line listing		\$ 50	
Donation				

Please make check payable to: Holy Cross Church Food Festival.

Mail to: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church,

ATTN: Food Festival Ad Book

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

PLEASE JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING



CRETAN ASSOCIATION

PITTSBURGH, PA

Saturday, May 20th

Hilton Garden Inn - Southpointe
1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA

Dinner Tickets

Adults - \$60

Children (under 12) - \$20

Dance Only - \$25

Cocktails	6pm - 7 pm
Dinner	7 pm - 8:30 pm
Presentation	8:30pm-9:30pm
Dance	9:30pm - 2am



Use QR code to purchase tickets online by May 10, 2023
or contact: Helene Semanderes at (724)986-7424

Faith Williard at (412)251-3207

Musicians from Crete

George Mathioudakis (lyra)

George Hatzidakis (laouto)

joining them from NJ Antonis Marmatakis (laouto)

2023 Holy Week Donations

Anyone wishing to donate one or more of the following Holy Week items still available in loving memory of, for the health of, or in honor of a loved one, please contact the church office at 412.833.3355:

- * Palms for Palm Sunday \$150
- * Seven candles, olive oil, flour & Qtips for Great & Holy Wednesday \$150
- * Roses for distribution at the 3pm Good Friday Service \$200
- * Communion Wine Bottle \$35
Case \$200

Order an Easter Lily to beautify our church for Pascha.

Circle ONE per plant:

In Honor of OR For the health of OR In memory of

From

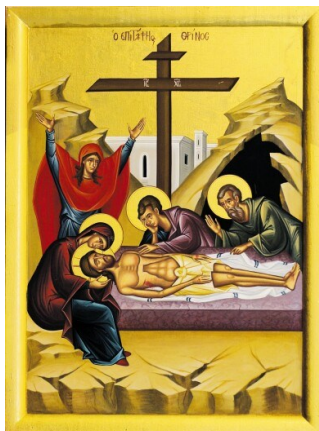
\$20 per plant

Please return to church office by Friday, April 7.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DECEASED

Good Friday Evening

For the repose of the servants of God



Please list first names only of your beloved deceased, and bring, fax or mail to the church office prior to Good Friday.

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
123 GILKESON ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15228

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ΠΑΣΧΑ

ΑΠΡΙΛ 16, 2023

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
See Page 2



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2412
Pittsburgh, PA