

HOLY CROSS CROSSROADS

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

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

“The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:26)

What practical meaning have these words other than that must pray every day that the Holy Spirit be sent to us, just as we pray every day for our daily bread. God is willing every day to send us the Holy Spirit, but He seeks from us that we pray every day for Him to be sent to us. For as with bread, there is sometimes an abundance and sometimes a dearth, so it is with regard to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to us and leaves us according to our works

THE 2023 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS GUIDE

It's a great tradition, and it's back again in full strength and in person: 37 days of Greek Festivals in the Pittsburgh region, so plan well and you can eat Greek all summer! Post this schedule on your refrigerator and share copies with others. We look forward to seeing you!

LOCATION

DATES

- St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland) May 7-13
- All Saints (Canonsburg) June 5-9
- Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon) June 13-16
- Kimisis Tis Theotokou (Aliquippa) June 15-17
- Holy Dormition (Oakmont) June 23-25
- Holy Trinity (Ambridge) July 18-22
- St. Spyridon (Monessen) July 21
- Presentation of Christ/Ypapanti (East Pgh.) July 27-29
- St. George (New Castle) August 26-27
- Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh/North Hills) August 31-September 3

SEE BELOW FOR FESTIVAL HOURS & HOST PARISH WEB SITES. CHECK FOR UPDATES.

THE 2023 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS: ALL THE DETAILS

Don't cook tonight...go Greek! Please pass copies on to your friends! Greek food is always enjoyed best with good company!

Parish	Dates	Address	Phone	Website	Hours
Saint Nicholas	May 7-13	419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh (Oakland)	412-682-3866	www.StNicksPgh.org	Sun: 12p-8p; Mon-Thu: 11a-8p; Fri: 11a-9p, Sat: 1p-9p
All Saints	June 5-9	601 West McMurray Road Canonsburg	724-745-5205	www.AllSaintsCbg.org	Mon-Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Cross	June 13-16	123 Gileson Road Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)	412-833-3355	www.HolyCrossPgh.org	Tue-Thu: 11a-8p Fri: 11a-9p
Kimisis Tis Theotokou	June 15-17	2111 Davidson Street Aliquippa	724-375-5341	www.Theotokou.org	Thu-Sat: 11a-8p
Holy Dormition	June 23-25	12 Washington Avenue Oakmont	412-828-4144	www.DormitionPgh.org	Fri-Sun: 12p-11p Dinner until 9pm
Holy Trinity (Ambridge)	July 18-22	2930 Beaver Road Ambridge	724-266-5336	www.htgoc.org	Tue-Sat: 11a-10p
Saint Spyridon	July 21	1207 Grand Boulevard Monessen	724-684-5411	stspyridon.pa.goarch.org	Fri: 11a-9p
Ypapanti (Presentation of Christ)	July 27-29	1672 Electric Avenue East Pittsburgh	412-824-9188	www.ypapanti.net	Thu-Sat: 11a-9p
Saint George	August 26-27	315 W. Englewood Avenue New Castle	724-654-8521	www.stgeorgenewcastle.org	Sat-Sun: 11a-7p
Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh)	August 31- September 3	985 Providence Boulevard Pittsburgh (across from Passavant Hospital)	412-366-8700	www.HolyTrinityPgh.org	Thu-Sun: 11a-9p

Thank you for enjoying our great Greek food and visiting our churches. Want to also help these communities feed, minister to and provide health care for the hungry and needy of the Hill District and the Pittsburgh area? Support the Neighbor Resilience Project by visiting neighborhoodresilience.org, a philanthropic ministry united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions for poverty-and-trauma-affected communities in the Pittsburgh area.

This free guide is provided as a public service of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Pittsburgh). Online at HolyTrinityPgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 23 Issue 6/7

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

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.	Michael N. Zervos	(412) 833-6843
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 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 Mourtacos
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.



and our patience. The Church has ordained that the first morning service to begin with the invocation of the Holy Spirit – “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who is everywhere present and filling all things. Come and abide in us. Cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls O Good One.” Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot even make use of our food in a way that will lead to our salvation.

“The Holy Spirit will teach you all things.” That is, every day and every night, according to the situation in which we find ourselves, the Holy Spirit will instruct us, advise us, and direct us in how we must think, speak, and do. We ask God for the Holy Spirit and He will Himself bring all that we need in a given moment. When He has descended upon us, we will know what God wants us to do and will be capable of all that is needful.

“The Holy Spirit will bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you.” Jesus said this to His disciples and now to us, we do not fear that we will forget what Jesus taught to us. We (hopefully) refer to His words every day! The Holy Spirit will gather us together as Church and together, for now thousands of years, the truth of the Christian Faith has been expressed and declared throughout the world. In every generation, we call upon the Holy Spirit to guide and help us articulate the truth of the Christian Faith in all its fulness, in all circumstances, and in all the challenges that we face.

We pray that the Holy Spirit may come upon all of us, not according to our merit, but rather according to the mercy and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (St. Nikolai Velimirovic, ***Prologue*** Vol. II, pg. 192)

The transition from the Paschal season and the proclamation of the Lord’s Resurrection now enters a new expression in the life of the Church. The Lord’s Resurrection is at the foundation of our Christian Faith and we continue to carry that joy and hope in the shaping of our vision as we live out our life here in this (fallen) world. The Ascension of our Lord (celebrated May 25th this year) in His resurrected body united to the Godhead is critical to our understanding of the high level to which each one of us is called, as the saints of the Church. Our humanity has been sanctified by Christ’s incarnation and now deified by His return to the Godhead.

The Holy Spirit is now called upon to make present and bring Christ, together with the Father, to all who call upon Him in faith and in love. This Grace is capable of not only sanctifying each one of us but transforming our lives in a manner that goes beyond human reason. Forgiveness, unity in faith, and all the “fruits of the Holy Spirit” (love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control -Gal.5:22) are evidence that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us. The presence of these virtues are signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We see these virtues in the lives of the saints. They literally transform our existence.

St. John Chrysostom writes, “For there was found a tax collector, and he was transformed into an evangelist (St. Matthew). There was found a persecutor, and he was changed into an apostle (Saul – St. Paul). There was found a robber, and he was led to Paradise (the wise thief crucified next to Christ). There was found a prostitute, and she was made equal to virgins (St. Mary of Egypt). There were found wise men (Magi from the East), and they were taught the Gospels. Evil fled away, and gentleness took its place. Slavery was put away, and freedom came in its stead. All debts were forgiven, and the grace of God was conferred. There, Heaven became earth; and from repeating this again and again I will not cease.”

The fulfillment of Christ’s mission is found in each and everyone of us. Christ will have died in vain if we are not touched and transformed by this reality. When we open our hearts to the will of God, the impossible becomes possible. We, the sinners, become sanctified by the grace of God. Our desire, struggles (physical and spiritual), prayers, efforts are not unnoticed by God. The Lord reminds us that through our patience we possess our souls. (Lk.21:19)

The gifts that come from the Holy Spirit are infinite. They have one source, the Holy Spirit, yet adorn each person so that they may humbly love, help, and lift-up one another. Just as Sunday is a celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection, we are renewed in the Holy Spirit at every Divine Liturgy, when we ask the Father to “send down Your Holy Spirit upon us an upon these gifts here presented.” As the disciples received the Holy Spirit in the upper room in Jerusalem, we also ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us and “change the direction of our will”, open our hearts and minds,

and receive us, unworthy as we are, as members of His precious Body.

On the Feast of Pentecost (this year, June 3rd, 4th, & 5th), we pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to be renewed in each of us. The tongues of fire are a reminder of the purifying and sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit. To be “on fire” for God is a very real experience. The lives of the saints testify that there is nothing more important than our relationship with God. Only through the grace and mercy of God are we able to be sanctified and fulfill the calling that our Lord puts upon each of us. May we all be renewed through the descent of the Holy Spirit! A blessed Feast!!!

To all of our graduates and their families, CONGRATULATIONS!!! The Lord has blessed you with knowledge and academic success. May you use these gifts wisely and for the glory of His Name! Your family of Holy Cross is proud of your accomplishments.

As our summer camps ramp up and the Vacation Church School takes place (July 24-28th), please send your children and grandchildren to participate in these programs. They will deeply influence the life of your child/grandchild. Please volunteer and help make these experiences memorable for you, your family, and all those who participate. Thank you!

With love and prayers in Christ,
Fr. Michael

June 11th ~ The Holy Apostle Barnabas

One of the Seventy, he was born in Cyprus, of wealthy parents of the tribe of Levi, and studied with Gamaliel together with Saul. He was first named Joseph, but the apostles called him Barnabas, the Son of Consolation, because he had a rare gift for comforting men's souls. After Saul's conversion, Barnabas was the first to welcome him among the apostles. After that, with Paul and Mark, he preached the Gospel in Antioch and other places. All accounts agree that he was the first to preach the Gospel of Christ in Rome and in Milan. He



suffered at the hands of the Jews on the island of Cyprus and buried by Mark at the western gate of the city of Salamis, holding a copy of the Gospel of Matthew which he had transcribed with his own hand. His grave remained unknown for centuries, but when many people had been healed of sickness in that place, it became known as the 'place of healing'. In the time of the Emperor Zeno, the Apostle appeared three times, on three successive nights, to the Archbishop Anthemius of Cyprus, and revealed the location of his grave. This revelation by the Apostle took place just at the time when Peter, the Patriarch of Antioch, was seeking to bring the Cypriot Church under his jurisdiction. After the revelation and the finding of the miraculous relics of the holy Apostle Barnabas, it was established that the Cypriot Church had an apostolic foundation, and thus the autocephaly (self- governance) of the Church of Cyprus was established.

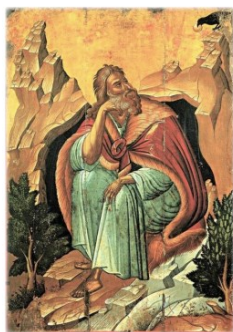
A true friend prays to God for his friend. A true friend cares about the salvation of his friend's soul. To draw a friend back from false ways and set him on the true path – that is a precious friendship. The saints of God are a person's greatest friends.

Two young men, Baranabas and Saul (later Paul), were friends and went together to Gamaliel's school (the leading Jewish scholar of that time). When Barnabas became a Christian, he persistently and with tears prayed to God that he would enlighten his friend Saul's understanding and turn his heart, that he too might become a Christian. Barnabas often spoke to Saul about Christ the Lord, but Saul mocked him and thought him misguided. Saul aggressively persecuted those who followed Christ. The gracious Lord did not leave Barnabas' prayers unfulfilled. Jesus appeared to Saul (Acts 9:1-18) and turned him from the false way and set him on the way of truth. The converted Saul, now Paul, fell at the feet of his friend and cried, "O Barnabas, teacher of the truth, now I am convinced of the truth of what you said to me about Christ!" Barnabas wept for joy and embraced his friend. The friend saved his friend's soul by his fervent prayers. If Barnabas had succeeded in making his friend Paul the Emperor of Rome, he would have done less than he in fact did by bringing him to the truth of Christ by his prayers. (Nikolai Velimirovic, *Prologue* Vol. II, pgs. 299-300)

FEAST DAYS IN SAXONBURG AT THE MONASTERY

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

Held on Saturdays because of weekday construction



Prophet Elias Feast Day

July 14th - Friday

5:00 pm: Vespers, Orthros

July 15th - Saturday

9:00 am: Hours, Divine Liturgy

Memorial Commemoration Come and Honor the Memory of Gerontissa Taxiarchia

July 29th - Saturday

9:00 am: Hours, Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service



Nativity of the Theotokos Feast Day

September 8th - Friday

5:00 pm: Vespers, Orthros

September 9th - Saturday

9:00 am: Hours, Divine Liturgy

Spend a day at the Monastery with your family and friends!

Enjoy our pastries, frappes and a variety of 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 and men to wear long pants.



Come and see the construction progress of the new Monastery!

Please RSVP so that the Monastery has adequate hospitality:

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

Browse our Online Gift Shop and place preliminary orders at our web site:

www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

We thank you for your love and support

121 St. Elias Lane

Saxonburg, PA 16056



Baking
With
a
TWIST!



FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER PARKING



Volunteers are kindly requested to park their vehicles at the designated parking area that will be located near the trash bins outside the community center, specifically at the far end of the lot. To ensure efficient utilization of the available space, a parking attendant will be provided to assist in managing both the lot

and the adjacent grassy area. Paula Teris will be overseeing the parking operations and may politely request vehicle keys to facilitate the stacking of cars. In order to optimize public parking capacity, we kindly ask that you refrain from parking in any other spaces apart from the designated area. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

GOLDEN CLUB AT NATIONALITY ROOMS AT UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH





HOLY CROSS GREEK FESTIVAL

MAIN FOOD LINE Chairpersons and Contact Information

OPENING 11AM and CLOSING, 8PM Tuesday-Thursday, June 13-15

OPENING 11AM and CLOSING, 9PM Friday, June 16

Much help is needed at Main Food lines. Lunch: 10:45AM-3:45PM. One line is open 2-3:45PM if you wish to volunteer at a lighter attended shift. Dinner food line: 3:45-8PM & 3:45-9PM on Friday. Please contact a chairperson below to donate your time. If you cannot commit to a full shift, please let the chairperson know what times are convenient for you. *Anytime is appreciated!*

Tuesday, June 13, Lunch-Elaine Sofis, H 412 344-7046, C412 327-0717 or esofis@comcast.net

Tuesday, June 13, Dinner-Elaine Sofis, Info above

Wednesday, June 14, Lunch-Cynthia Kostelnik, C, 412 722-9512 or cakostelnik@yahoo.com

Wednesday, June 14, Dinner-Joan Zacharias, C 412 996-1674 or joanandjohnz@gmail.com

Thursday, June 15, Lunch-Elaine Sofis, Info above

Thursday, June 15, Dinner-Elaine Sofis, Info above

Friday, June 16, Lunch - Elaine Sofis, Info above

Friday, June 16, Dinner- Elaine Sofis, Info above

Food Line runners are needed for lunch and dinner hours. Please contact Elaine Sofis of availability. esofis@comcast.net
Home 412 344-7046, Cell 412 327-7017
Please volunteer. Your time is valued and truly appreciated!

Elaine Sofis, Main Food Line Chairperson



PREP ROOM: salads, tzatziki sauce and dolmathes from 9:30am to closing on June 13 - 16. Who wants to join me? Please email, call or text me, (include your name!) times you would be available to help.

Sadiestang@hotmail.com 412-915-2335

I can promise you lots of fun, fellowship and pounds of feta!

Sadie Stang, Prep Room Chair

HOLY CROSS GREEK FESTIVAL

PASTITSIO CREW



ST. PHOTIOS AWARD, HONORING
BECKY GIDAS AND BOB KIRSCHNER





Sermon – Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

Christ is Risen! Christianity, time and again turns our worldly minded thinking on its head and demonstrates that even things we thought we understood still lack a certain important perspective. And so it is with those whom the Church has set aside to celebrate on this, the second Sunday after Pascha, for they are all united by a common virtue, even though their demonstration of it might not fit with our typical understanding. For they all show great courage, and the examination of that particular virtue forms the core of our topic today.

When we commonly think of courage, we imagine soldiers in battle, or individuals standing up to oppressors without regard to their own safety. This does not seem to apply to the group of women who by their actions gave the name to this Sunday. And yet there is no way we would deny that the Myrrhbearing women who went to the tomb three days after the Crucifixion of Jesus possessed great courage. Knowing the outcome as we do, it is hard to project the sense of danger and risk on these brave women that they surely felt. For the one they went to anoint had just been publicly executed in the most humiliating manner known at that time. To publicly demonstrate support for a disgraced man in whom many had placed hopes to be the political redeemer of Israel's enslavement to Rome was at the very least socially suicidal. The religious leaders of the day had not only condemned him, but made it abundantly clear that anyone associated with him would be ostracized from the community. The men closest to him, those who became the Apostles, were in hiding, afraid to show themselves for this very reason. The mob who had called for his crucifixion was still present in the city. Besides all of this, a retainer of Roman soldiers, the most feared and deadly warriors in their world, were standing guard at the tomb. And yet these women, aware of all of these things, still went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. What you may not have considered is that to do this, they would have to touch the dead body, which would make them ritually unclean, and the rites of purification would have made it impossible for them to deny where they had been. And we can't forget that to roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb would have necessitated the involvement of men of Israel, who might have seen fit to report them to the authorities, or the Roman guard, who certainly would have done so, since they reported to them. So there is no way they could have done this thing secretly, and yet knowing the danger, they still went. If that isn't courage, then nothing is. They embody the same commitment to carry out their task in the face of danger that all brave soldiers carry, the same disregard for their own safety that a war

hero exemplifies. And like the truly brave soldier, it was done without fanfare or pretense. They carried out their duty, disregarding the consequences, even though they were acutely aware of them.

Along with them, we also on this day remember Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, who preceded the women by three days by asking for the body of Jesus from Pilate, anointing it with spices, wrapping it in a shroud, and placing it in Joseph's own new tomb. Both of these men were respected members of the council, and yet that would not have protected them; indeed, it might have put them more at risk, since the authorities could hardly have tolerated two of their own in open defiance of their condemnation of Jesus. In this case, the scripture backs up our claim of courage for it uses that very word to describe Joseph when he decided to ask Pilate for the body. And yet in contrast to our typical notions of courage when facing an unrighteous authority, we see no spirit of defiance in either of these men. Their bravery is a quiet one, again like soldiers carrying out their duty in the face of, and yet in disregard of the danger.

And lest we forget, today is also the day where the epistle is read concerning the institution of the Holy Order of the Diaconate. But even though the actual institution of the Diaconate did not exemplify great courage, one of them, Stephen, became the first martyr for Christ. And his confession before those who rose and stoned him is a great example of courage. And yet even though his attitude was certainly defiant, yet also his courage allowed him to ask Jesus to forgive his killers, clearly demonstrating neither fear nor hatred in his soul.

And what of us, my brothers and sisters? Time does not serve to talk of the other martyrs, or of the brave fathers who fought heresy, or of the courage of the ascetics who pushed the limits of their bodies in the pursuit of the call to divine perfection. But it does behoove us to talk of why we still need to find courage within ourselves in our day to day lives. It may be the quiet courage of the Myrrhbearers, or the non-defiant courage of Joseph and Nicodemus, or the forgiving courage of Stephen, but we still need to search for it within ourselves. We may not face the same dangers as they did, but we still may face rejection and ridicule from those outside of our community of faith for our beliefs and practices. If that be the case, remember those whom we commemorate this day, and how they set for us an example of courage without irascibility, of bravery without rancor. For the true courage to face our accusers comes not from a sense of self-righteousness, but from a steadfast trust in God who stands with us. Christ is Risen! To Him belongs all glory, now and forever. Amen.

~Deacon Frank Dickos

Sacraments

Baptisms: April 29 ~ **Alexander Nicholas**, son of Jordan and Laura (nee Kalista) Nicholas. Godparent is Eleni Miranda.

Funerals

April 27 ~ **Stanley (Stylianos) Socrates Perinis**, age 93 Beloved father of Anastasia M. Perinis; proud "Pa Pou" of Elani, Maria and Marcella Forbes and Athena Kampanis; brother of the late Michael (survived by Sandra) Perinis; uncle of George, Chuck and Anthony Perinis; survived by nieces and nephews.



May 16 ~ **Xanthi G. Doas**, age 91, is survived by her son, Dennis (Michelle) Doas, of Pittsburgh, PA; her son, Peter (Joanie) Doas, of Fort Worth, TX; her granddaughter, Jorja Doas, of Fort Worth, TX; her brother, Rev. Fr. William (Pres. Mary) Zotis, of Venetia, PA; and along with a loving extended family. Xanthi was predeceased by her brother, John Zotis and her sister, Alexo Doas, both of Greece. She was predeceased by her loving husband, George, in 2008.



May 30 ~ **Irene Kermes Kelly**, age 96 Beloved wife of the late Steve Kelly; devoted daughter of the late John and Katherine Kermes; beloved sister of James (Bettina) Kermes. Preceded in death by her siblings, Constantine Kermes, Ann Argyros Doulgeris, and Helen Meraklis. Devoted aunt to her nieces and nephews.



May 11 ~ **Dan Dudek**, age 79 (Funeral at Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church, Ypapanti) Survived by Anna, his loving wife of 52 years; his sons, Daniel (Carolyn), Anthony (Kendra), and Michael (Maria); and his eight grandchildren, Sophia, Alena, and Daniel, Simeon, Novena, and Everleigh, Dante and Dimitri.



†**Rev. Fr. Sarantos Serviou** passed away peacefully on Friday April 28, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 10, 1939, in the village of Pagondas, Samos, Greece to Emmanuel and Theofano Serviou. Father's family immigrated to America post war looking for a better life, and his family settled in New Brunswick, NJ which is where his love of chanting blossomed and where he met his beautiful Presvytera Nancy, who he married in 1964. When Father was young, he dreamed of going to Hollywood to become an actor - driven by the 6'4" height, striking Greek looks, and beautiful head of hair. His mother said no, and that led him to the Holy Cross Seminary in Boston. This would be his true calling. His love for liturgics and Byzantine chanting forged an unforgettable career as an Orthodox priest. Father had an amazing voice that gave him the opportunity to chant for many Archbishops and Patriarchs over the years. In fact, he had such an incredible voice that if you were singing next to him off-key or off the beat he would let you know. Assignments in Duluth, MN and Waukegan, IL started his career, however he missed his family and asked to be assigned to a parish closer to home. In August 1978, Father moved his family to Pittsburgh to become the priest at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Oakland. Here is where he would truly find his home. He became the face of the food festival, working in the food lines, singing with the band, and just socializing with all of the patrons. It was his favorite week of the year. He loved being involved in his communities where he took on many youth programs, was the Orthodox chaplain for the VA hospital in North Chicago, started a weekly radio sermonette program *The Voice of Orthodoxy* for the elderly and shut-ins, and even returned to school and received his Masters in Religious Education from Loyola University, among many other activities too numerous to list. Father also worked tirelessly with UPMC and patients and families from Greece and Cyprus who needed help with communicating with doctors or just comfort during difficult times. Father Serviou had a unique talent of somehow meeting celebrities, and ending up in the background of many, many photos. Father loved to travel to his beloved homeland of Greece, as well as Jerusalem, where he took yearly tours so that he could share the mystical beauty of Christ's life, and bring to life many of the teachings of the Orthodox church. In August 2009, he would memorably retire from St. Nicholas to devote his time to his ailing Presvytera. He also wanted to be with his grandchildren, attending almost every sporting event they were playing in. He was an athlete himself playing basketball and soccer in his younger days, and enjoyed re-living those moments watching the kids play. Father was an incredible cook, and enjoyed family dinners and grilling, making sure each of us knew which ancestor made each dish - and when they ate it. Musically talented, Father played the guitar and loved singing - writing an original song for his late Presvytera as well as a song for his best friends. He had friends and koumbari in multiple church communities which highlighted his gregarious personality. He absolutely loved being around people. Father Serviou is survived by his three daughters, Fanya, Lisa (John), and Demetra. He also leaves behind two heartbroken grandchildren Thanna (Dylan) and Johnnie - who were his world. Having three daughters, Father was beyond happy to have his grandson Johnnie serve alongside him in the altar - taking him to services with him until recently. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews in both America and Greece. Words cannot express the huge hole he leaves within his family, as well as the community, but we know he is reunited in paradise with his beloved Presvytera Nancy, who predeceased him in 2021, his parents, his brother Demetrios (2003), sister-in-law Evangelia Serviou (2001) and relatives and koumbari who have been waiting to sing and laugh with him again. We love you dad.



✙ 2023 Orthodox Christian ✙ Vacation Church School at Holy Cross

Bring your children to learn God's word at VCS!

VCS is dedicated to teaching our young children about Orthodox Christianity in a fun and exciting atmosphere. It is an extension of the Sunday School experience that can greatly enhance a child's sense of belonging to the church, while providing our children with an opportunity to make lifelong friends in the church community.

Activities include daily skits illustrating lesson, brief classroom instruction, religious music lessons, hands-on crafts relating to lesson, recreation time, snack & social time.

This year's theme is:

MIRACLES



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

**Monday, July 24, children should arrive at 8:30 am*

Welcoming all children age 3 years through entering 6th grade
High School students, parents, interested adults needed to volunteer.

Nominal registration fee of

\$20 per student is due by June 30th

\$30 if received by July 15th

\$40 if received after July 15th

Please register early so we can prepare nametags, snacks & crafts!

Make checks payable to Holy Cross VCS and send to:

123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

Should you need financial assistance, please contact

Fr. Michael Kallaur (Holy Cross) at (412) 833-3355

Orthodox Christian Vacation Church School at Holy Cross

2023 Registration Form ~ Please print.

Child's First & Last Name	Age on July 30	Grade Entering Fall 2023	Allergy information (Food, Medicine, Other)

Parent's Name(s):

Home Phone:

Address:

Church Parish you belong to:

Mother's Cell Phone:

Father's Cell Phone:

Email address:

Emergency information, OTHER THAN parents

1st Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____

2nd Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____

Parental Consent: _____

I give my child(ren) listed above permission to participate in the Vacation Church School held July 24-28, 2023. I understand that my child(ren) will be responsible for obeying the rules and regulations of VCS as enforced by the directors, teachers, and staff. I hereby release Holy Cross church, its VCS teachers and staff from liability for the safety and/or conduct of my child(ren). I also give permission for emergency medical care to be administered to my child(ren) if necessary.

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____

For administrative use:

Date Received _____ Amt Rec'd/Check# _____ Amt Rec'd/Cash _____


Last time I was up here, I spoke a bit about John's Gospel, which we hear a great deal from in this Paschal season. As I said before, what makes John's Gospel special is the emphasis upon the divinity of Christ. As such, one notable feature of this Gospel is what we call the seven signs or seven miracles of Christ, which are seven very special wonders which Christ works throughout the Gospel, bolstering the thesis which is introduced at the very beginning of the John's Gospel, the thesis that Christ is no mere man, but rather, he is the immortal Logos or Word of God, co-eternal with the Father before all the ages.

The miracle we hear about today is the healing of a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. It is a long time to be suffering in his affliction, and we can imagine that being mired in such a position would be enough to drive anyone to the point of hopeless. But what I think about today is how that number, thirty-eight years, closely aligns with the thirty-eight years which Israel wandered in the wilderness after Moses received the commandments on Mount Sinai, as is chronicled in the first five books of the Old Testament.

This is significant. The story of the Old Testament is a story of fallen humanity, perpetually caught in the same cycles of sin and rebellion against God. Certainly, throughout the thirty-years after Mount Sinai, we hear about the repentance of Israel, but just as certainly, their repentance fades away and they return to their sins and their idolatry. In other words, they are stuck! Figuratively, they are stuck in their sin, and literally, they are stuck in the wilderness! Just as the man by the sheep pool is stuck in his paralysis for thirty-eight years.

Of course, we know what the answer to this spiritual paralysis is. It is Christ! Just as He heals the sick, he heals the ailments of our soul, and just as He raised Lazarus from the dead, even those among us who feel so far gone that we would say we feel "dead inside," even to such as these, Christ gives our souls new life. This paralytic's whole being was dramatically and suddenly renewed by Christ. Christ came to him and allowed him to enter into the presence of God Himself, to taste of the Kingdom of Heaven, just as Joshua parted the waters of the Jordan so that Israel might enter into the promised land. So today, in this Paschal season, remind yourself, that even if you feel stuck in sin, stuck in despair, Christ is inviting us all, to take up our bed of sin and suffering and paralysis of the soul, and to no longer remain stuck in these sins. Today Christ is inviting us to walk, to walk in the Spirit, and walk into the light which the darkness cannot overcome.

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL SUMMARY YTD Jan—Apr 2023

	Jan-April YTD Budget	Jan-April YTD Actual	Var
Stewardship	\$217,800	\$198,407	(\$19,393)
Other Revenue	\$26,697	\$62,116	\$35,419
Total Revenue	\$244,497	\$260,523	\$16,026
Wages and Benefits	\$59,910	\$55,072	(\$4,838)
Utilities	\$40,920	\$52,212	\$11,292
Church Expenses	\$95,182	\$164,026	\$68,844
Community Center Expenses	\$75,953	\$82,083	\$6,130
Total Expenses	\$339,292	\$419,448	\$80,156
Total Income	(\$94,795)	(\$158,925)	(\$64,130)

Based on the information provided, here is a summary of the financial situation:

1. *Revenue*: The church is ahead of the budget by \$16,026. Although auto pledges fell behind by \$40,000, regular pledges & donations exceeded expectations, contributing an additional \$24,000 & \$20,000, respectively. These windfalls helped surpass the budgeted revenue.

2. *Wages and Benefits*: The expenses in this category are \$4,838 ahead of the budget. Although medical insurance costs were posted after April 30th, resulting in double insurance costs for the next month, the fact that the church is not paying for a choir director or organist has helped keep the expenses in line with the budget. It is expected that the overall expenses will align with the budget in the coming months.

3. *Utilities*: There has been an overspend of \$11,292 in utilities. The budget did not account for the extent of inflation in gas and electric expenses, which also vary depending on the season. It is projected that the church will end up with a \$20,000 variance by year-end. To address this, the plan is to pay utilities in a monthly budgeted manner to have better comparisons between the budgeted and actual expenses without being skewed by seasonal fluctuations.

4. *Church Expenses*: There has been an overspend of \$76,489 in various church expenses. Repairs and Maintenance, Ecclesiastical Supplies, Candles, and Goya expenses have exceeded the budget by approximately \$15,000. The Archdiocese stewardship payment made in March contributed to an overspend of \$53,000. However, this line item deficiency will be reduced by \$7,000 each month, ultimately balancing out to \$0 by the end of the year. Going forward, the plan is to pay the stewardship amount on a monthly basis rather than in a lump sum.

5. *Community Center Expenses*: There has been an overspend of \$6,130 in community center expenses. While approximately \$2,000 has been made up since last month, the major reason for the variance is the \$4,200 from last winter's clean-up. This expense has impacted the budget for the community center.

Overall, the total net income shows a shortfall of \$64,130. However, it is emphasized that the financial health of the church is stable. The deficiencies in the budget are expected to improve with the boost in revenue from the festival and the golf outing. These events will help offset the shortfall and contribute to the financial stability of the church.



Message from Holy Cross Landscape Beautification Committee

Things are buzzing at Holy Cross --- with the Festival in front of us, and other big projects planned by the Building Committee upcoming...and your Landscape/Beautification Committee is also very busy. We have met with our Landscape Architect (Laquatra) to start our next phase which really includes 3 areas of our Entryway and upper driveway (The 'Garden of Love', The 'Cross Garden', and the bank/hillside below our drop-off and front entry.) Our budget has been revised to \$200,000 from the Master Plan costs of over \$280,000.

Our fundraising started robustly with 'Matching Donations' (money intended to kick-start the project and incentivize donations from our parishioners and community) with \$102,000 being pledged. To-date, \$26,580 has been donated and received from our community (to be matched by the initial 20 family's pledge).

We prayerfully and respectfully ask for more of you to contribute, so that we can hopefully commence this phase in Fall of this year.

This phase of our work will make a tremendous difference to the aesthetical, and practical usage and overall appeal of our main entry, which everyone, parishioner and visitor alike, sees as they enter our Church! Please see our Master Plan for renderings and details of this part of the project. (<https://www.holycrosspgh.org/improvement-projects>)

We look forward to bringing our vision to fruition, and hope that you will wish to be a part of this historic 'renaissance'.



YAL AT PIRATE GAME



Holy Cross GUYA @ Kennywood!







Holy Cross

SUN	MON	Tue
4 PENTECOST 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy <i>No Memorials</i> 6:07pm GOYA End of Year PARTY	5 Holy Spirit Monday 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy @ Holy Trinity, North Hills	6 6:30pm Philoptochos Meeting
11 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy GRADUATE SUNDAY 🎓 GREEK SCHOOL RECOGNITION	12 6:30pm Paraclesis	13 11am-8pm <div> HOLY CROSS GREEK FESTIVAL </div>
18 🌸 Father's Day 🌸 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	19	20
<div>Camp Nazareth</div>		
25 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 	26	27
<div>Camp Nazareth</div>		
28		


June 2023

Wed	THU	FRI	Sat
	1	2 7pm ICONOGRAPHY MEETING ALL ARE WELCOME!	3 Saturday of the Souls 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 5pm Vespers
7 FAST FREE 7pm Bible Study	8	9 FAST FREE	10 5pm Vespers
14 11am-8pm	15 11am-8pm	16 11am-9pm	17 5pm Vespers
HOLY CROSS GREEK FESTIVAL			
21	22	23	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Grades 2-4			Wedding ~ NO Vespers
28	29 Sts. Peter & Paul 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	30 Holy Apostles 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	1 July
Grades 5-7			Wedding ~ NO Vespers

Holy Cross

SUN	MON	Tue
2 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 3pm YAL Pool Party BBQ @ Diamond Home 	3 <div>Camp Nazareth</div>	4 St. Andrew of Skete 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy <div>Independence Day</div> 
9 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	10 <div>Camp Nazareth</div>	11
16 Sunday of the Holy Fathers 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	17 	18
23 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	24 8:30am-Noon <div>Vacation</div>	25 9am-Noon <div>Miracles</div>
<div>30</div> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	<div>31</div> 	

July 2023

Wed	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	1 <i>Wedding~NO Vespers</i> 8
grades 7-9			
			5pm Vespers
12 St. Paisios 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	13	14	15 PROPHET ELIAS FEAST DAY OBSERVANCE IN SAXONBURG 9am Hours, Divine Liturgy
grades 10-12			
		PROPHET ELIAS FEAST DAY OBSERVANCE 5PM VESPERS, ORTHROS IN SAXONBURG	<i>Wedding~NO Vespers</i>
19	20 Elias the Prophet 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	21	22 Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy 5pm Vespers
26 9am-Noon	27 9am-Noon	28 9am-Noon	29
Church School			
of Christ			
			5pm Vespers <i>Summer Garden</i> 

High School Graduates 2023

Markella Jahn, daughter of Arne & Ponny Jahn is graduating from Upper St. Clair High School and will attend Davidson College in the fall. Markella intends to study Biology.



Isabelle Guna, daughter of John and Holly Guna, is graduating from Peters Township High School and attending Ohio University, majoring in Elementary Education.

Marina Gzikowski, daughter of Kristina Anetakis Gzikowski and Archdeacon Ryan Gzikowski, is graduating from Upper St. Clair High School and heading to the University of Pittsburgh to study Elementary Education and Applied Developmental Psychology.



Zoe Kartofilis, daughter of Rachel and Constantino Kartofilis is graduating from Oakland Catholic High School and will be attending Duquesne University engaging in the Exploratory Program.

Alexandra Kartsonas, daughter of Alex and Ria Kartsonas, is graduating from Peters Twp. High School and heading to Ohio University to study Media Arts Production and Marketing.





Andrew Krakora, son of Steve and Rebekah Krakora, is graduating from Shadyside Academy. Andrew will be pursuing hockey through a postgraduate prep year and plans to study economics in the future.

Marina Kontos, daughter of Anthony and Danna Kontos is graduating from: Mt. Lebanon High School. In the fall, Marina will be studying Journalism at University of Pittsburgh.



Jenna Liokareas, daughter of Jennifer Liokareas and Nick Liokareas, is graduating from Mt. Lebanon High School and plans to attend UPMC School of Nursing.



Kendall Liokareas, daughter of Jessica and Peter Liokareas is graduating from Upper St Clair High School and plans to attend Ole Miss in Mississippi to study Law and Psychology.



Niko Manning, son of Chris and Maria Manning, is graduating from Upper St. Clair High School and attending Bucknell University, majoring in Biochemistry.





Hanna Murphy, daughter of Michael & Samantha Murphy, is graduating from North Hills High School with high honors and planning to attend Penn State University Main Campus for Mechanical Engineering.

John Alexander (Yianni) Paleos, son of George and Maggie Paleos, is graduating from Upper St. Clair High School and will attend the University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Business.



Stephen Constantine Paliouras, son of Costa and Vasso Paliouras, is graduating from Mt. Lebanon High School and will be attending Slippery Rock University in the fall to study Geography.

Isabela Clare Sofis, daughter of Christopher & Kate Sofis, is graduating from Sacred Heart

Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco and plans to study Biology at Manhattan College.



Dimitri Suher, son of Chrisie Kalas Suher and Jeff Suher, is graduating from Upper St. Clair High School and attending University of Pittsburgh to study Sports Management.

John Takos, son of Dimitrios and Jennifer Takos, is graduating from North Catholic High School and will be furthering his hockey career playing in the North American Hockey League in Shreveport, Louisiana.



Martina Tatalias, daughter of Basil & Dina Tatalias, is graduating from Bethel Park High School and pursuing a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Slippery Rock University.



Antonia Chrysovalandou Xenikis, daughter of Melissa Xenikis Wolfe, is graduating from South Fayette High School in June and will be attending Florida Atlantic University in the fall.



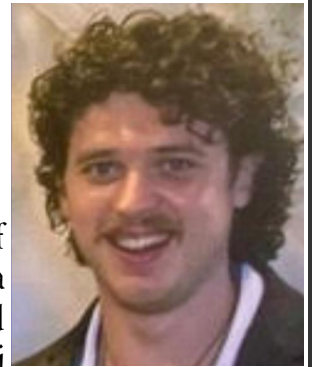
Chloe Marie Zervos, daughter of Michael and Laura Zervos, is graduating from Peters Township High School and will be attending Duquesne University Honors College in the fall to study Economics and Law.

College Graduates 2023

Julia Chakos, daughter of Peter Chakos and Jennifer Chakos, graduated from Bucknell University with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Psychology with a concentration in Support Services. Following graduation, she plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to work toward a Masters of Education in their Teacher of the Visually Impaired Program as well as working full time for the IU.



Athena Contis, daughter of Sam and Voula Contis, graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. She has accepted a position with Northwestern Mutual.



Dimitrios F. Dickos, son of Deacon Frank and Diakonisa Adrienne Dickos, graduated from University of Cincinnati

with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance.



Makarios F. Dickos, son of Deacon Frank and Diakonisa Adrienne Dickos, graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Economics, Philosophy, and Politics.

Cassie Kartsonas, daughter of Tom and Kim Kartsonas, graduated from Penn State University with a bachelors degree in Biobehavioral Health. She is furthering her education at La Roche University to receive a Master of Nursing degree.



Darrian Petrakis, son of Joannette & Steven Petrakis, graduated Cum Laude from Penn State with a BS in Aerospace Engineering and will continue at Penn State to pursue his Master's of Science in Aerospace Engineering.



Mihaela Catherine Toader, daughter of Florin Toader and Mioara Manole, is graduating from Allegheny College with a Major in Communication and a Minor in Chemistry. She plans to start medical school education at LECOM (Lake Erie College of Medicine) in Elmira, NY.

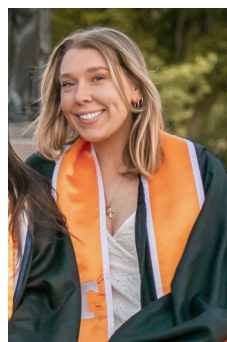
Post Graduate 2023

Anna Krakora, daughter of Steve & Rebekah Krakora, has graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Masters in Business Administration and a concentration in marketing. She will be working for a design consultant in Maine as a mechanical engineer.



Nick Kratsas, husband of Heather, and father of Stella and Sophie, earned his Masters of Science in Journalism from West Virginia University after lots of hard work, including a major thesis, all while working full-time and being a full-time dad with a global pandemic thrown in.

Yana Mitsos, daughter of Bill and Marica Mitsos, is graduating from the University of Tennessee with a Masters of Science in Social Work with certificates in Veterinary Social Work and Human Services Management. She will be working for the University of Tennessee's Center for Global Engagement as the New Student and Special Programs Coordinator.



Eastern Orthodoxy Gains New Followers in America

Ancient faith is drawing converts with no ties to its historic lands

By Francis X. Rocca [Follow](#) | Photographs by Alyssa Pointer for *The Wall Street Journal*

May 17, 2023 10:00 am ET

Michelle Jimenez was captaining an oil tanker in the Gulf of Mexico in early 2020 when she heard about a Bible-study group organized by a crew member. Though she had been baptized a Catholic in infancy, she was never raised in that or any other faith. She had experimented with New Age beliefs and Zen Buddhist meditation, but hadn't found a spiritual home. Her new encounter with Christianity eventually led her to an Eastern Orthodox liturgy.

"I just felt this overwhelming presence of God...that everything is always going to be OK no matter what," recalled Jimenez, 36 years old, of her first experience with Orthodox worship. She was baptized in the church the day before Easter in 2022, becoming part of a small but fast-growing group of Americans from diverse backgrounds who have embraced Orthodoxy in the past few years.

Eastern Orthodoxy is one of the two parts of the Christian world that emerged from the Great Schism of the 11th century, a split with the Roman Catholic Church caused principally by disagreement over the authority of the pope. Its members belong to a family of churches with historic roots in Eastern Europe, Russia and the region of the eastern Mediterranean, which traditionally look to the Patriarch of Constantinople as their spiritual leader.

The Eastern Orthodox population of the U.S. is dominated by immigrants from the church's historic lands and by their descendants. But in recent years, aided by more widely available information on the internet, the church has been attracting more attention from people with no ancestral ties to Orthodoxy, a trend that appears to have accelerated following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Alexei D. Krindatch, national coordinator of the U.S. Census of Orthodox Christian Churches, said the practicing Eastern Orthodox population in the U.S. was 675,000 in 2020, down from 816,000 a decade earlier, and most parishes lost members after the outbreak of the pandemic. But Krindatch said about 13% of Orthodox parishes have experienced a "surge in vitality" since 2020, measured not only by growth in membership but by other indicators including church attendance, financial giving, enrollment in religious education and participation in parish activities beyond worship. Prominent among the characteristics of these parishes, he said, is a higher-than-average share of converts.

Some say it is no coincidence that the pandemic, with all its social and economic disruption, ushered in newcomers drawn by the ancient faith's traditional teachings and the beauty of its worship, which prominently features the veneration of icons.

Continued →

"We've all experienced a world where the ground has shifted underneath our feet," said the Rev. Stephen Mathewes, pastor of a church in Bluff City, Tenn. "A lot of people...want something that is going to stand the test of time, no matter what happens in the world."

Many of the converts joining parishes that have grown in vitality since the pandemic are young single men, Krindatch said.



Kyle Riggs joined the Eastern Orthodox Church in 2021. PHOTO: RIVET EVENTS

Kyle Riggs, 26, a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard and former Southern Baptist in Ball Ground, Ga., who joined the Orthodox Church in 2021, said many men welcome the challenge of the church's strict regimen of prayer and fasting. Orthodox Christians are traditionally expected to limit their food intake and abstain to varying degrees from certain foods, including meat and fish, for about half the days of the year, though clergy typically advise new converts to adjust gradually to the discipline.

Converts to Orthodoxy tend to be more conservative on social and moral issues, for instance in their opposition to same-sex marriage and the ordination of women, than those who were born in the church, Krindatch said.

The Rev. Jonathan Ivanoff, pastor of a church in Shirley, N.Y., on Long Island, says that many converts have abandoned denominations that have taken a more liberal line on such matters and have come to Orthodoxy, in which liberals are still very much in the minority, as a kind of refuge.

Dr. Colette Hoilman, 29, a medical doctor and new mother in Kingsport, Tenn., who formerly attended an evangelical church, became Orthodox shortly before her marriage to a fellow convert in 2020. She said one of her Protestant friends asked her how she could join a church in which only men can be priests; she replied that it wasn't a problem for her.

"The Orthodox Church reveres women. We venerate the Mother of God more than most saints," Hoilman said.

Continued ➔



The Rev. Barnabas Powell delivers a homily at Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene Greek Orthodox Church in Cumming, Ga., on Sunday.

The influx of people without an ethnically Orthodox heritage occasionally causes tensions. The Rev. Barnabas Powell, a former Pentecostal pastor who leads a parish in Cumming, Ga., north of Atlanta, said that some Greek-American members of his congregation sought his removal because he wasn't of Greek descent, but that he managed to win them over.

The priest said that his concern now is to ensure, by offering Greek language classes and holding an annual Greek festival, that the 75% of his flock of 450 who are converts appreciate the importance of Greek culture in the history of their faith.



Jennifer McDaniel, a former Baptist, joined an Orthodox parish on Long Island.

Jennifer McDaniel, 29, a graphic designer and former Baptist in New York who became Orthodox in 2017, said she felt out of place when she attended a parish that worshiped mostly in Greek. She said she feels at home at Ivanoff's parish on Long Island, where the liturgy is in English and half of the congregation are converts, even though she is the only African-American member.

Ivanoff, who was raised in an Orthodox family of Macedonian descent, said converts have begun "to change the orientation of the church from an ethnically, inwardly minded one to a evangelistic, outwardly minded one," a move that he says is necessary if the church is going to survive in the U.S.

Converts "bring in with them, not only that enthusiasm, they bring with them a lot of knowledge about where they come from, and then they can bridge that so that the parish can engage in further outreach and try and bring the faith to others," he said.

Write to Francis X. Rocca at francis.rocca@wsj.com

Appeared in the May 18, 2023, print edition as 'Eastern Orthodoxy Shows Growth In U.S. as Parishes Gain Converts'.

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~

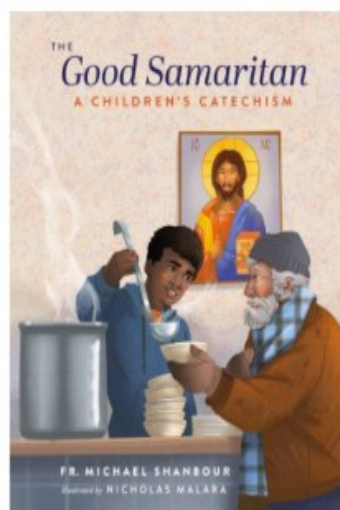
Details at www.holycrosspgh.org/summergala

Last month, Carol and Damon Halkias celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary! See if you can spot Holy Cross Parishioners Andrew Pyros and John Conomos, Fr. John Chakos (before he was Fr. John!), and past Festival Chair + James Spanos.



HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE

FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH

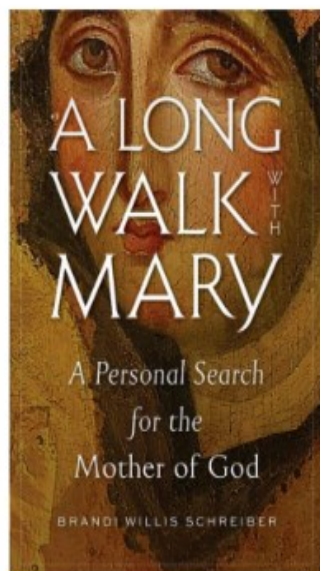


THE GOOD SAMARITAN: A CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

The Good Samaritan is a first-of-its-kind catechism written specifically for young people, ages 6-12, to communicate the unchanging truths of the Orthodox Faith in the most accessible and engaging way. Chapters can be read one at a time, as brief lessons, as bedtime story reading, or as part of a homeschooling curriculum.

A LONG WALK WITH MARY: A PERSONAL SEARCH FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD

For some of us, love of the Theotokos comes easily; but for some of us it's a slow, uncertain process. This beautifully written book describes what it's like to begin to trust her and bring her our most heartfelt needs. In this deeply personal but beautifully universal memoir, the author relates her own quest to know and love the Virgin Mary and to incorporate her as a vital participant in her spiritual life.



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

Oratorical Essay

Sergio Raftis

April 30, 2023

My question: Orthodox tradition teaches. The saints remain, spiritually active beyond their earthly life. Discuss how we ask the saints to intercede and pray for us and why.

Christos Anesti. In the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit.

In front of the icon I ask, "Holy Mother of God intercede for me". I speak to the saint with whatever is in my heart. In addition, I communicate with the Saints by chanting the Akathists & Paraklesis. The saints are alive in God. I ask for intercession in God and through God for a certain saint to intercede. The saint is the messenger. God desires us to be in communion with Him along with all those who are in communion with Him. He desires all of us to help one another on the path to salvation. He wants us to call on the saints and so that's why we go to them. They're alive and especially the ones who are more modern. Last summer, Patriarch Bartholomew "glorified" the incorrupt body of Saint Vissarion. A few years before, St. Paisios was glorified. We get to know these saints through their disciples who also play an important role as well.

Seeing their relics give us strength, comfort, and hope. There are even two saints here in the US; the incorrupt bodies of St. Herman of Alaska and Saint Maximovich of San Francisco as miraculous examples.

Two scriptures prove the prayers of the Saints are essential to our spiritual lives. Jesus says, "Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:26. "The prayer of a righteous man has great power." James 5:16. "The Saints' righteousness is unquestioned, and their prayers have influence."

The saints use all our senses to guide us. The saint that I have encountered is Saint Nektarios. I heard knocking on his tomb and was engulfed in the sweet myrrh from his relics. When I hear the hymn "O Virgin Pure" Ὁ Ἁγία Παρθένε written by St. Nektarios from the Theotokos, it elevates my spirit. I never feel alone but rather, I'm joined with the saints. If I lost something, I run to St. Phanourios for help. But, must always remember to make a cake and thank him. The Saints have interceded with countless miraculous healings of the soul and bodies. The Orthodox way of life is one body of Christ including the saints. The fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven worships together. When we ask the Saints for help, they often will rush to our aid, in God and with God.

Therefore, why do I pray to the saints? My answer to you is this:

I see Christ as the center of a circle, surrounded by the Saints. When I pray to the Saints, I know I am part of that circle, and together, holding each other, we all grow closer to Christ.

Through the prayers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us.



Bethel Park sprinter breaking records

Apr 25, 2023 Updated Apr 28, 2023

Eleanor Bailey/The Almanac

Artemis Conaboy grits out a victory in the 100-meter dash during a recent triangular meet with Peters Township and Baldwin. This spring, the Bethel Park junior has shattered both the 100 and 400-meter school records. She is on the cusp of also breaking the school mark in the 200 event.

Artemis Conaboy stretches out after winning her races during a recent track meet. The Bethel Park junior has shattered long-standing school records in the 100- and 400-meter dashes this spring. She also is on track to own the school mark in the 200 as well.



Track records continue to fall at Bethel Park High School this spring, and Artemis Conaboy is responsible for many of the time drops.

Just a junior, she shattered long-standing marks in the 100 - and 400-meter dashes, and she is closing in on standard in the 200.

“Artemis has done really well this year,” said BP track coach Scott Steranko. “Her work ethic makes her so good. She’s a great kid. Always attending practice. Always training real hard.”

A rigorous offseason prepared Conaboy. She made significant strides after a successful indoor season in the winter, where she qualified for national championships for the second year in a row, as well as after a highly competitive outdoor soccer campaign with the Lady Hawks in the fall.

Conaboy opened the 2023 spring track season by shattering the 400-meter mark at the Mt. Lebanon Invitational. She smashed the 49-year-old school record set by Janice Irwin with a blistering time of 58.15.

The record came as a surprise to Conaboy because she wasn’t planning to run that race. At the last minute, she was asked to compete.

“I just felt fast. Around 30 meters, I made my move. When I crossed the finish line, I felt good,” she said.

“I was like so excited about the record because I was working so hard in indoor and I kept getting the same consistent times. I was so frustrated because I wanted that 58. When I was told I got the record, I couldn’t believe it. I’ve been waiting the whole season for this.”

Conaboy didn’t have to wait long for faster times.

She continued her hot streak in the event, lowering her mark to 57.71 by placing third at the TSTCA Championships held at West Mifflin.

Conaboy also combined with Lauren Heh, Jenna Lang and Sadie Orie to win the gold medal in the 4x400 relay. The unit broke the school record that had

stood since 1977. A time of 3:59.11 also qualified the foursome for the New Balance Outdoor Nationals to be held in June at the University of Pennsylvania's legendary Franklin Field.

On April 12, again at Mt. Lebanon during a triangular meet, Conaboy eclipsed the school record in the 100-meter dash. She clocked a 12.48, shaving six-hundredths of a second off the previous record of 12:54 set by Melanie Denson in 1993.

At Mt. Lebanon, Conaboy came close to beating the 200 record of 25:74 set by Toni Jackson in 1977 when she ran a 25.84 time.

"The goal is to get the 200 record when weather conditions improve," Steranko said. "Artemis will have the 100, 200 and 400 records and will be the GOAT then."

Because she was consistently running 59 and 60 seconds in the 400 indoors, Steranko anticipated Conaboy would easily drop two seconds once the outdoor season started. Expectations are for her to running a high 56 or low 57 by the end of the season.

Abbie Huey from Indiana is the defending WPIAL champion. As a junior last spring, she won the 400 in 56.90. Conaboy finished fifth with a time of 60.13

"Abbie is very talented and there are some other real good girls in the 400," Steranko said. "We are hoping for Artemis to continue to get better, be top 3 in the WPIAL and then go on and run well at states. We'd like to see her qualify in other events and with the relay. We have some talented, hard-working girls in that group. They have been running a lot."

Conaboy runs a lot because she also plays soccer for the Lady Hawks, just like Heh. Orie plays on the basketball team and Lang is also a standout in cross country.

Conaboy started playing soccer around age 3 with the recreation programs in the community. She picked up track as a seventh-grade middle school student.

"When I first started playing soccer, I hated it. I told my dad, I don't like sports. I don't want to do this but he and my mom were very encouraging. They told me to believe and once I did I was okay," said the daughter of Thomas and Vickie Conaboy.

"Soccer and track help each other."

"Soccer taught me a lot about short sprints and bursts of energy. Snap and you go," she continued.

"So in track, I have that speed because I'm chasing after a ball all the time. Not only does it help my sprints but it helps my endurance because I am running a lot."

This winter, she did not play indoor soccer. Rather, she focused on track. That enabled Conaboy to experience her breakthrough this spring.

"We worked really hard. On an indoor track, there are a lot of turns. Instead of four turns outdoors, there are eight," she noted. "Those can really mess up your speeds or getting caught behind people. Outdoors, it like a whole new day. The sun. The air. And a lot more leg room. So, I can run full out," she said. Conaboy's workouts are grueling. She does plenty of 200 sprints to build strength. The repeats enable her to fight through the last 100 meters of any event.

"So I have that kick at the very end," she explained.

In May, Conaboy anticipates kicking it up a notch. She must be in her highest gear for the WPIAL Championships set May 17 at Slippery Rock University. Only the top finishers and those meeting the state qualifying standards advance to the PIAA Championships set for May 26-27 at Seth Grove Stadium on the Shippensburg University campus.

It promises to be a busy Memorial Day weekend for at least two Lady Hawks as both Conaboy and Lang have qualified for states in the past. However, this year's PIAA qualifiers fall on the day of the Bethel Park High School prom.

"It's a dilemma. We have to figure it out," Conaboy said. "Jenna and I plan to go up and run and come back home (for the prom) and then go back up again. Jenna's runs are in the morning and mine are a lunch time.

"As seniors, next year, Jenna and I plan to get on the prom committee and make sure there are no conflicts, Conaboy said.

Off the track and pitch, Conaboy is a busy lady. She maintains a 4.5 GPA in the classroom. She is vice president of the Best Buddies Club and should be president next year. She was recently inducted into the National Honor Society and is a member of Student Government and the Interact Club.

In her spare time, she is a sales associate for OFFLINE By Aerie Collection at South Hills Village Mall and belongs to the youth group at the Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon.

"I have so much going on," she admitted. "My parents say that I never sleep, but I do. You just have to make priorities."

Conaboy's primary objective next year is to earn an athletic scholarship. She is interested in track because she can compete at the Division II level but she has interest from D-III schools where she could participate in both sports. She wants to become a teacher and plans to major in education.

"I want to come back here. Teach and coach," she said. "I love Bethel Park. I honestly do. I love where I am at. I love my family, my friends. I love this community."

Steranka wouldn't mind having Conaboy on his staff.

"She's very coachable," he said. "She listens to everybody and takes it all in. Just the strides I have seen her make, how well she is doing and competing, particularly at the national level, makes me believe that she is just coming into her own.

"Artemis will do fine no matter where she goes to college. Keeping her local would be even better but we encourage them to go where they want. Since she wants to be a teacher and a coach, we would love for her to stay local and come back here."



St. Nicholas Program

for individuals with special needs of all ages and their families!

June 21 - 24, 2023 ~ Faithful with Special Needs and Family

[Camper Registration](#) | [Office of Youth Ministry \(uocyouth.org\)](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Youth Ministry
at uocyouth@aol.com.

All aspects of the program are designed to give people with disabilities an optimal experience. Our staff is a mix of professional trained and hired staff. However, our non-professional staff is required to complete specialty training for working with individuals with disabilities.

Because of the camp's rustic environment and natural setting individuals who transport themselves with the assistance of wheelchairs, crutches or walkers may need consultation for participation in the full four-day program. If the full four-day program is not an option, we are pleased to offer one-day programming. Please contact us if you are considering the one-day program during which movement about the camp is more limited and accessible to those with physical challenges. Please feel free to contact our Executive Staff with questions or concerns.

Once an application is received one of our executive or medical staff will contact you to conduct an intake assessment to ensure we can accommodate the needs of your family to the best of our ability.

Families may wish to discuss the possibility of also attending one of our other camping programs Diocesan Church School Camp or Teenage Conference. Please contact us about these possibilities.

For youth younger than seven years of age, we offer our Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me program which is also capable of accommodating families with children with disabilities.

Our consultation and program staff team:

Dr. Janet Breck - Pediatric Medical Genetic Consultant

Tracy Galla - Educational Paraprofessional in Special Education & behavioral specialist

Pani Matka Linda Oryhon - Special Education Teacher

Natalie Kapeluck Nixon - Youth Ministry Specialist and parent consultant

Kira Senedak - Educator for Winchester Thurston and co-director of Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me Program

Natalie Onufrey - Parent consultant

Pr. Melanie DiStefano - Parent consultant and Educator at Holy Trinity Orthodox School

Pani Daria Loposky - Parent consultant and Asst. Director of Camp Nazareth

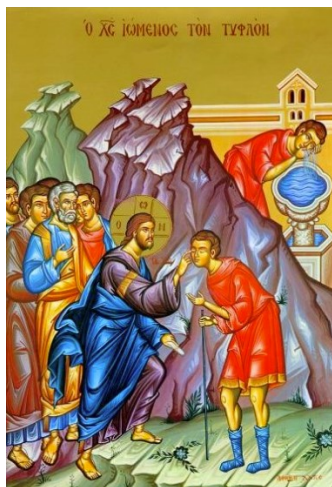


Sunday of the Blind Man ~Elias Diamond

Today's Gospel tells us of Christ's miraculous healing of a man who had been blind from birth. There is one detail given to us in this passage which I would like to focus on today, which is the question Christ's disciples first ask Him as they pass by this unfortunate soul, the question being, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" You see, it was common in the belief of the Jewish people of Christ's time to equate health and material fortune, physical matters, with virtue, just as the inverse was also held to be true – that is, if someone was ill or suffered misfortune, they must be guilty of sin, or even perhaps they suffered by inheriting the sin of their parents. Hence, this is why the disciples ask this to Christ.

Of course, what Christ does here is demolish this notion. The ways of God can never be reduced to such a simple analysis. Christ says, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him." Brothers and sisters, this is, at least in my opinion, one of the most powerful insights offered in the whole Bible, because it addresses one of the toughest questions humans have to face: "Why do bad things happen to good people?" The instinct of a surprising number of religious people, when they see someone suffering or facing misfortune, is to attribute that suffering to God's punishing of their sins. This happens especially so often in the political sphere, and so many people take some kind of perverse delight in watching the downfall of others. But, in today's Gospel, we hear Christ telling us that we cannot necessarily attribute suffering to sin, for the sole reason this man is blind is so that God's power can be made manifest through him.

All of us, at one point or another, will face our own sufferings, our own misfortune, maybe we are facing it now. And in such dark times, we can be tempted to ask ourselves, "Is God punishing me? Does God hate me?" But, you see, brothers and sister, in such times we should not think in such a way. We should instead remember these words of Christ, we should remember the power and mercy of God, and we should try to see our sufferings, not as a manifestation of God's wrath, but rather, as a chance for God's love and mercy to be shown in our own lives as a sign to the world. In other words, our obstacles are things we should treat as opportunities, opportunities to take up our Cross and follow the example of Jesus Christ Himself.





METROPOLIS Volleyball Tournament at Holy Cross



METROPOLIS Volleyball Tournament at Holy Cross



METROPOLIS Volleyball Tournament at HOLY CROSS



METROPOLIS Volleyball Tournament at HOLY CROSS



SAVE THE DATE

THE 9TH ANNUAL

**HOLY CROSS
MEMORIAL
GOLF OUTING**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

DETAILS COMING SOON





“Αἶνος τῷ ευκλεεῖ Πολυεύκτῳ”



THE BYZANTINE CHOIR OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH, ON ACCOUNT OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY (1998-2023) IS DEDICATING THE MILESTONE, A FIRST IN AMERICA, TO THE REMARKABLE FIRST PRELATE OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH, POLYEFKTOS (FINFINIS), AND THE MEMORY OF HIS BIRTHDATE 100 YEARS AGO.

THESE EVENTS ARE SPONSORED BY
THE **AMERICAN HELLENIC FOUNDATION OF WESTERN PA**,
THE **GREEK NATIONALITY ROOM COMMITTEE**, AND THE **EUROPEAN ART CENTER OF GREECE (EUARCE)**,

WE COME TOGETHER TO OFFER A TRIBUTE TO THE UNTIL NOW MOSTLY-UNKNOWN PRELATE WHOSE HUMBLE YET VISIONARY APPROACH CARVED THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AND THEN THE COMMUNITIES ENTRUSTED TO HIS CARE IN SOUTH AMERICA, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK, AND ULTIMATELY SWEDEN.

EACH OF THE EVENTS IS "VIRTUAL" AND ACCESSIBLE
BEGINNING ON THE 4TH OF JUNE, 2023 AT 8 PM.

FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND ONLINE DOCUMENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE LINK HERE:

[HTTPS://PAHELLENICFOUNDATION.ORG/POLYEFKTOS](https://pahellenicfoundation.org/polyefktos)



Save the Date

for the 2023

Philoptochos

Autumn

Food Fair

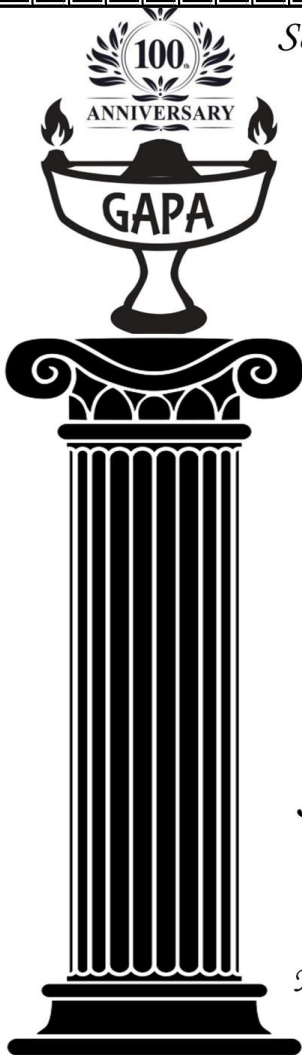
Wednesday, October 4

Thursday, October 5

from 11:30am-7pm

**Please save your books, jewelry and
handbags for the
Viayia Joan's Treasures and Market
at the Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair
on Wednesday and Thursday,
October 4 & 5.**

SAVE THE DATE
October 8, 2023
Walk For Missions
30 Year Anniversary



*Save the date and please join us as we
celebrate the*

*Greek American Progressive
Association's*

100 years

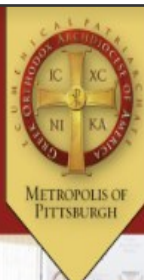
*of preserving
Culture, Religion and
Education*

with Dinner and Dancing on

Saturday December 9, 2023

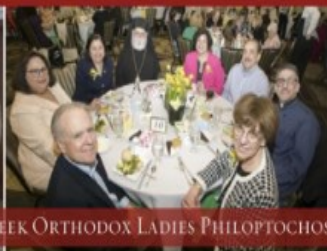
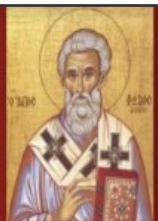
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*More information to follow and we look
forward to celebrating with you*



A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY'S DAFFODIL LUNCHEON

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, the excitement was palpable as 225 guests gathered at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, OH for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society's Daffodil Luncheon. As the largest fundraiser of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos, it raises monies vital to the Social Services Fund. This is the main source of revenue that allows Philoptochos to fulfill its mission of helping those in need within the Metropolis. The event collected over \$24,000 in sponsorships alone!

The Daffodil Luncheon is aptly named because daffodils are among the first flowers that bloom in springtime and are seen to represent rebirth and new beginnings. The symbolism was especially meaningful this year since the luncheon resumed as an in-person event following a three-year "hibernation" caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Since its inception, two thirds of the monies raised from the Daffodil Luncheon have been designated for the Social Services Fund, with the remaining one third benefiting a worthy cause selected by the hosting chapters. This year, that portion will go to the Seminarans Our Future Scholarship Fund. As Metropolis President Joyce Spanakis has stated, our seminarans are crucial to the sustainability and future growth of the Church in America.

Following a delicious Lenten meal, guests heard inspiring remarks from His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos President Joyce Spanakis, and 1st Vice President Anna Vedouras, Chair of the event. This year, the Daffodil attendees were honored to have our National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl as guest speaker.

Her words of inspiration about the work of Philoptochos came straight from the heart. In her role, she intimately knows the great philanthropic efforts of our nationwide outreach and she is passionate about sharing that knowledge with all Philoptochos members. In addition, keynote speaker Ron Carleton from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank shared with the audience how increasing hunger has impacted families in the area. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeastern Ohio, having served nearly 350,000 people in fiscal year 2022. During the pandemic in 2021, the virtual Daffodil Luncheon distributed proceeds equally among nine food banks throughout the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, including the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. There is no better way to summarize a glorious and successful afternoon but to declare that it was filled with "Philanthropy, Fellowship and Faith in Action!"

Help us honor our
2023 GOMoP Graduates!

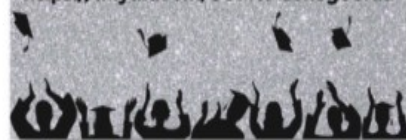
Register your graduate using
the following links by May 1, 2023.

HIGH SCHOOL

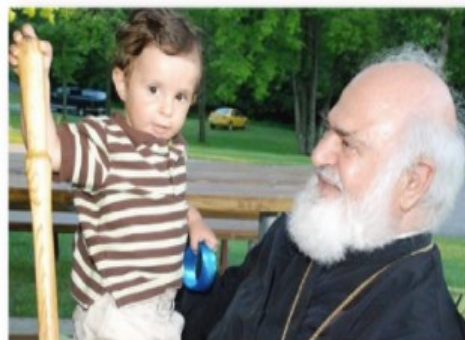
<https://tinyurl.com/GOMoPHSGrad>

ALL COLLEGE DEGREES

<https://tinyurl.com/GOMoPCollegeGrad>



HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF
METROPOLITAN MAXIMOS' ELEVATION
TO THE HOLY EPISCOPACY



June 18, 2023 marks the 45th anniversary of Metropolitan Maximos' consecration to the Episcopacy by Archbishop Iakovos, both of blessed memory. On Pentecost Sunday, June 18, 1978 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City, Metropolitan Maximos' service as a bishop began. And for the next three decades, he shepherded the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh as its first hierarch, leaving a lasting ministry for generations to come.

On this anniversary, we remember our beloved "Metro Max" and the love he had for the Church and its flock, especially, our youth and young adults. To honor that legacy, the Metropolitan Maximos Endowment for Youth and Young Adult Ministries was established to carry on Metro Max's ministry to the newest generations of Orthodox Christians. Following in the footsteps of its namesake, the Endowment provides special funding and support for new and innovative youth ministries, programs, and services to care for the life and future of the Church.

The Endowment is growing. Individual parishes, organizations such as Philoptochos chapters and GOYAs, and individual donors are among those who have already generously supported its mission. As we remember His Eminence on June 18, please consider making a contribution

to the Endowment to help carry on the important work that Metropolitan Maximos so loved. Your tax-deductible gift is graciously received either by:

Check mailed to: Metropolitan Maximos Endowment
c/o Metropolis of Pittsburgh
PO Box 645953, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5257

Or online credit or debit card donation via the Metropolis website: pittsburgh.goarch.org/en/support
Please select "Metropolitan Maximos Youth Endowment"

Thank you for your support. May Metropolitan Maximos' memory be eternal!

Summer Camp Registration is NOW OPEN on
y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/en/summercamp

We are happy to announce that 28 of our parishes are offering scholarships for campers as well as our Metropolis.

Registration will stay open until June 5th.



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



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Vacation Church School
at Holy Cross

MIRACLES

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

**Monday, July 24,
children should arrive at 8:30 am*