

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

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

“Indeed, O Lord, the mountain that had been dark with smoke today becomes honorable and holy because You stood on it; the mystery hidden from the beginning of the world becomes manifest in Your Transfiguration before Peter, James, and John, who fell with their faces to the ground, unable as they were to bear the light of Your countenance and the splendor of Your clothing. A further marvel was the vision of Moses and Elias conversing with You on Your future and the voice of the Father bearing witness and saying: ‘This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him.’ He is the One who will convey great mercy to the world.” (Transfiguration Vespers – Lord I call verses)

The two great feasts that conclude the liturgical year are upon us. The Feast of the Lord’s Transfiguration (this year on a Sunday, August 6th) and the Falling Asleep (Dormition) of the Holy Theotokos (this year on a Tuesday, August 15th). Both feasts bring to mind the Lord’s great love and mercy for all of us! God came in the flesh, in the person of the Jesus of Nazareth, to transfigure and save us and redeem His creation. It is through the revelation of Jesus (the Christ, as the Son of God, Light of Light, True God of True God, that we confess Him as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who has saved us! We know this to be true by the witness of His own res-



Vacation Bible School 2023

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 23 Issue 8

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.	Michael N. Zervos	(412) 833-6843
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

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.

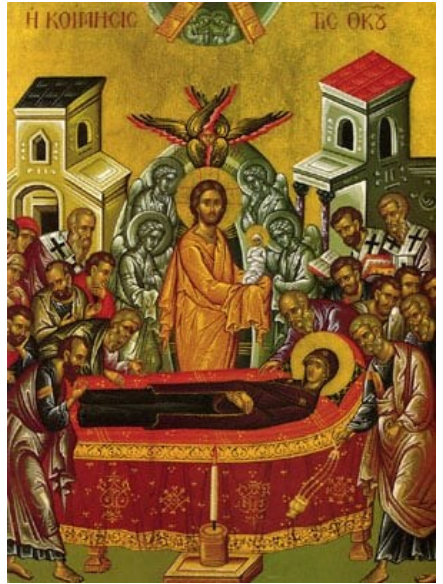


Funeral/Memorial information: Use of the Community Center is available for parishioner funeral lunches at no charge. Parishioners may contact any caterer they choose to purchase and prepare their **Makaria** (Mercy Meal). For **Kollyva**, you may bring your own or contact Denise Melis directly (412)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



urrection and then of His beloved Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary who when she died, did not remain in the tomb, but rather was received into the Heavenly Mansions spiritually and bodily. The power of the Resurrected Christ touches all of us to the extent that we desire to enter into communion with Him. If we “commit ourselves and one another, and our whole lives unto Christ our God”, we will experience what “Eye has not seen, not ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (I Cor. 2:9)

As we enter the final month of the summer and experience all the blessings of nature, the warmth and harvest it has produced, we rejoice in God’s divine providence for all of us. We know that our God has made all things according to His purposes and according to His divine plan. May we take a moment to enjoy these blessings and experience the wonder of God’s creation. May we simplify our lives and our needs, so that we will not contribute to the unnecessary destruction of our environment and appreciate all the beauty of His creation. Wishing you a blessed conclusion to the summer and a renewed joy and strength to begin a new Church and academic year. Kali The-nami !



With love and prayers,
Fr. Michael

From the Writings of St. Paisios of Mt. Athos (+1994)

With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man

“Everything that God made is a wonder in itself. The human body for example resembles a factory. God has arranged everything, the heart, the liver, the lungs and so on with great wisdom. Think of the wisdom with which such plants are made! During the German occupation (WWII), we used to plant about five irrigated acres of melons. Once, I cut off the big leaves that lie near the roots, thinking that it would be good to clean them out. But those big leaves underneath serve like filters – they are the plant’s kidneys – and absorb the plant’s bitterness. When the melon ripened, the bitterness was so bad that our tongue was stinging for hours.”

“You see a tiny bird travelling to Africa and returning to find its old nest without the use of a compass! And people when using maps and signs get lost! The birds fly high in the sky, above the sea, and it would be impossible to mark these areas. Some small birds climb on the storks, like airplanes, to travel to their destinations. During their journey over the sea, they occasionally stop on the islands and they find to rest. One time I observed a flock of birds travelling and four or five became tired and were no longer able to fly. They broke from the flock to rest a bit and then took off again. What impressed me was the four or five birds were not left alone, but another fifteen or so broke off with them and waited for them and kept them company.”

“Everything God created is beautiful! Wherever you turn your head, you will encounter God’s wisdom. In the old days, everything was natural and beautiful. You see, when the rooster crows it is not because it is telling the weather. It just sits on one leg and when leg becomes numb, it crows! But it knows how many hours have lapsed. It switches legs and when the one it is standing on becomes numb, it crows again. You know it does that at fixed intervals, 12, 3, 6 o’clock in the morning. It does not have a clock or battery and it certainly does not need winding.”

“Anything that you see or hear in this world, you should use it to reach up to Heaven; let it transport you there. Climb up step by

step, from the creatures all the way to the Creator. The Americans went to the moon at they placed a sign up there that says, 'The heavens declare the glory of God the firmament proclaims His handi-work (Ps. 19). The Russians went too, but Gagarin (Yuri Gagarin, first Soviet cosmonaut to successfully orbit the earth, 1961) said that he did not find God. How could he possibly find Him, since he went with his feet upward not with hands raised up? (Yuri Gagarin did not believe in God therefore his gesture was not one of prayer as raised hands would have implied.)

Some people say, 'Nature created the Universe.' The entire universe? Now, an old machine breaks down and a whole group of technicians and workmen gather together to repair it. They put their heads together and they try again and again until it is fixed. God moves the entire globe without electricity and the battery never runs down and the engine never quits. The earth turns with such a speed that man does not even notice. Isn't this amazing! If the earth were turning slower, man would be tumbling all over the place. Can you imagine that the sea contains so much water and moves with such a great speed without spilling it. Do you realize that the stars with their huge mass move with vertiginous (whirling) speeds and yet do not touch one another and always keep the same distance?

Man invents the airplane and immediately becomes puffed up with pride."

"Civilization is a good thing but in order to be beneficial, the soul must also be 'civilized.' Otherwise we are in for total disaster. St. Cosmas Aitolos (1714-1779) stated that, 'Evil will come from those who are educated and do not fear God.' Despite the fact that science has advanced so much and made tremendous progress, when it tries to help people it often ends up harming them, unintentionally. God allows man to do whatever he wants, but when we do not listen to Him, we end up in disaster. The very things we create can destroy us.

What have we achieved in this century with our civilization? We have driven people mad and polluted the atmosphere and the environment. When the wheel leaves its axis, it spins aimlessly out of control. Similarly, when people stray from God's harmony, they are tormented. IN the past, people suffered from wars; today they suffer from civilization. The war made them leave the cities and go to the villages where they lived off a small field. Now they will abandon the cities on account of civilization, because they can longer live in them. In the past wars brought about death, now it is civilization that brings about diseases and death.

Patience, patience, patience...

"The current situation does not help people to become patient. In the past, life was peaceful and people were peaceful and had the ENDURANCE to be patient. Today, haste has invaded the world and everyone has become impatient. People knew they could eat tomatoes (in season) at the end of June, for example, and they were not concerned about it. They would wait until August for the watermelon to ripen. They knew in what season the melon, fruits, and vegetables would be ready for harvest. Today they will import tomatoes from Egypt earlier rather than wait and eat an orange. We prefer to have everything available at the moment and not wait for the proper time. When people in Crete realized this, they started building hot-houses in order to grow the tomatoes year round and faster. They work themselves to death to build hothouses, to grow all kinds of foods and make them available throughout the year, so that no one will have to wait. Everything on demand.

Let us say that this is not bad. But it gets worse, they push further. The tomatoes are green in the evening and in the morning they have turned into plumb red tomatoes! I scolded an officer of the state once regarding the matter. Having hothouses is one thing, using hormones to ripen fruits and vegetables is another. People who are hormone sensitive will be harmed.

Animals have suffered as well. Chickens, cattle, sheep are all affected. They make hormones to make a forty day old animal appear six months old. Can anyone who eats this meat benefit from it? They give hormones to cows to produce more milk than the farmers can distribute to market. As a result the prices fall and the producers cannot make ends meet. They end up throwing away the excess milk and we drink milk with hormones. Whereas if we left everything the way God made it, all would be fine and people would have good milk to drink without hormones. Notice how the hormones make everything tasteless. Tasteless people, tasteless things, everything is tasteless. Even life has no taste.

Young people lost their zest for life. You ask them, 'What will give you peace?' Nothing, they reply. Such vigorous young men and nothing pleases them. What has happened to us? We believe we will correct God with our inventions. We turn night into day, so that the hens will lay eggs. Have you seen these eggs? If God had made the moon shine like the sun, people would have gone mad. God created the night so that we may take some rest, and look at us!

We have lost our peace of mind. Hothouses, hormones in produce and animals have made us impatient. Even our transportation is always trying to get us from one place to another faster and faster. How impatient we get with one another on the roads. All of this impatience is leading us to the madhouse!"

HOLY CROSS FEAST DAY LUNCHEON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14



Please join us for a complimentary Philoptochos sponsored fasting Feast Day Luncheon after Divine Liturgy on September 14. We kindly ask Holy Cross members, if possible, to donate a fasting dessert or fruit to share with others. Please bring your desserts to the prep room prior or during liturgy on September 14. Set up for the luncheon begins at 9:30am, serving about 11:30am and clean up about 12:45pm. Any of your time is appreciated! Thank you for your dessert donations! Please contact Elaine Sofis, esofis@comcast.net, H 344-7046 or C 412 327-7017 if you are able to help with set-up, serving, clean-up or all three. ~Elaine Sofis, Co-chair with Domenica Gulli, meranteboys@comcast.net

Vacation
Church School

"Miracles"

Multiplying
fish and loaves



SAVE THE DATE

THE 9TH ANNUAL
Holy Cross

**Greek Orthodox Church
Memorial
Golf Outing**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

DETAILS COMING SOON





Message from Holy Cross Landscape Beautification Committee

Your Landscape and Beautification Committee is still working throughout the Summer and Fall! We hope you are reading this and have already purchased tickets for the SUMMER GARDEN GALA -- to be held on Saturday, July 29th!

As this article goes online BEFORE the Gala, *you can still purchase tickets for the Event! Dinner and Dance \$125 per person; Dance only \$40.* (As this is our current focus in raising funds for the next phases of the Beautification of the Entrance and front areas of our Church, we hope you can attend, or donate!)

The Event features Live music by Panagiri, a silent auction with lovely prizes and a 'Champagne and Sabika' drink! Also centerpieces created by Eva Elderkin will be available. We hope that you can be part of this effort to enhance the circle drop off area and entryway to Holy Cross--with planned modifications to the Garden of Love, a walkway to the entrance area and Cross Garden for safer and better access to our front portico, along with improvements to the driveway area coming into the upper main parking lot.

Take a moment to look at the details of our planning, and please consider how you can be a part of these much needed improvements!





Summer Garden Gala

Saturday, July 29, 2023

BENEFITTING HOLY CROSS LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION

5:30PM Cocktails & Silent Auction

6:30PM Strolling Buffet & Festivities

9:00PM Dance featuring Panigiri Orchestra
~ Black Tie Optional ~

HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY CENTER
123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Tickets and donation information available at
www.holycrosspgh.org/summergala

or call Laura Zervos at 412-287-5679 or Rebekah Krakora at 412-728-4842



Summer Garden Gala

GREEK DANCE

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Starting at 9:00 p.m.

Live music with the Panigiri Orchestra
Mezze Platter included with Dance Ticket
Bar drinks and additional mezze available for purchase

Purchase tickets at
www.holycrosspgh.org/summergala
in advance or at the door





St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

LIGHT FROM THE CHURCH ON THE HILL

A Lecture Series in Honor & Memory of Our Beloved Met. Theodosius

MOTHER OF LIFE:

NOURISHING THE BODY & SOUL DURING THE DORMITION FAST

The typical summer change in routine can cause us to lose our spiritual focus. But for the first two weeks in August, the Church gives us a beautiful gift: the Dormition Fast! Here lies an opportunity to reorient ourselves toward Christ and His mother, the Mother of Life.

In this one hour talk, we will discuss ways to enrich this life—by nourishing the body through balanced and nutritious fasting meals, and nourishing the soul by inviting the Virgin Mary into our efforts. By keeping the Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition, we prepare to live in imitation of the one chosen to give birth to our Lord, the Giver of Life.



Krista Fedorchak, MS, RD

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

6:00 PM: Vespers & Refreshments

7:10 PM: Lecture

Krista Fedorchak, MS, RD, is an Orthodox Christian, wife, and registered dietitian offering Christian-faith-based insights into caring for body and soul. She completed her studies in nutritional science at Cornell University. Informed by a non-diet eating approach and rooted in the wisdom of the Orthodox faith, Krista helps her clients to accomplish their health goals through sustainable lifestyle changes. Catch her on the Ancient Faith Radio Podcast "Food Freedom through Christ" or on Instagram @theorthodoxdietitian.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
601 Boove Ave. Canonsburg, PA
frunner.org | frjohnkotalik@gmail.com

ST. PHOTIOS AWARD,
HONORING
BECKY GIDAS AND BOB KIRSCHNER



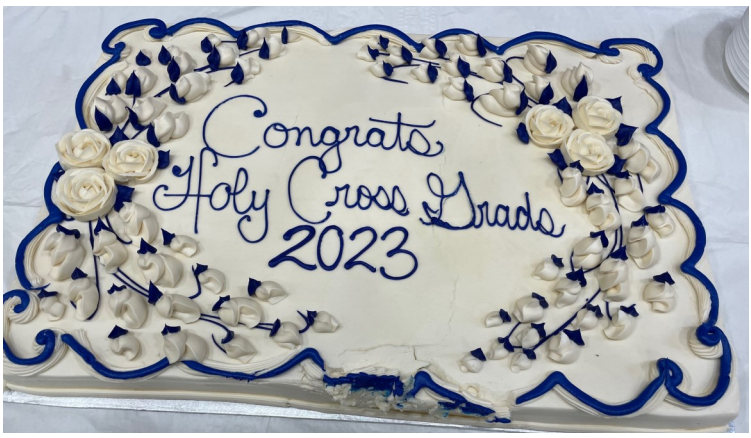
Graduate Sunday—High School



Graduate Sunday—College



Graduate Sunday
College/ Post Grad



Sacraments

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

Adult Baptism June 30 ~ **Sharon “Kalliopi” Zanakis-Pajak**.
Godparent is Emmanuel Anthou.

Chrismation:

Samuel “Demetrios” Bartlett. Sponsor is Presvytera Andrea Milinkovic.

Marriages:

June 24 ~ Stephanie Slater and Benjamin Ward. Koumbaro is George Slater.
July 1 ~ Sophia Lugares and Stephen Gragan. Koumbaro is Nicholas Tripodes.
Jul 15 ~ Nicolas Mitrakos and Hannah Snyder. Koumbaro is Michael Mitrakos.

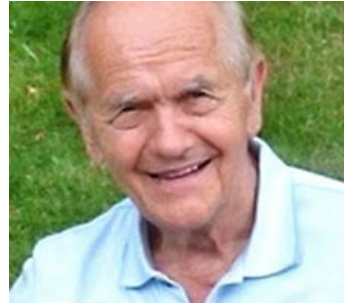
Funerals May 30 - **Daniel G. Florent**, age 91, preceded in death by his childhood love – his late wife of 68 years, Helen Meraklis Florent, by his Greek immigrant parents Constantine & Sophia Gandis Florent, and sister Toula Florent Stavros. Surviving are children Gus(Barb) Florent, Sophia (George) Omiros and Harry (Kathy) Florent, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law, and numerous other nieces, nephews and cousins.



May 31~**Frank Keremes**, age 57, is survived by his mother Demetria and his father James; siblings: Esther, Stephanie, John and Nick. He also leaves behind his children Adrienne, Selena and 3 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Tomasina.



July 8~**George Michael James**. age 94 beloved husband to the late Lee James (Kristakis). Loving father of Kathryn Dickson (Bruce)(Deceased Kevin), Christine Guthrie (Mike), Constance Dyer (Ben), George James (Lisa), and the late Michael James (Lisa). He was an attentive and active grandfather and proud great-grandfather to many. He was preceded in death by his dear brother, the late Harry (Elaine) James.



Manuel J. “Mike” Xenakis, age 76. Loving husband of the late Veronica, Ronnie Xenakis. Son of the late James & Mollie Xenakis. Devoted father to Alexia Xenakis and Demetri (Brittany) Xenakis. Proud papou of Emmanuel and Eleos Xenakis. Loving brother of Markos(Cindy) Xenakis, Tina (Simeon) Koutoufaris, and **Ronnie(Dean) Stambolis**. Mike was a wonderful uncle to his late nephew, Markos J. Xenakis. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

†Fr. Polycarp Daniel C. Rameas

August 21, 1944 ~ June 7, 2023 (age 78)

The Very Reverend Archimandrite Polycarp (Daniel) Rameas passed peacefully on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, surrounded by his family. Father was the son of the late Charles Rameas, and the late Bessie Rameas Favo. He is survived by his sisters, Hope Georgilas (Bill), Elaine Spiridonakos (the late George), Joy Lang (the late Mark), beloved nephews and nieces, George Spiridonakos (Susan), Mark Lang (Jennifer), David Lang (Jill), Naki Angelou (Chris), Barbara Chilton (Mike), Tina Gilcher (Chris), great nephews and nieces, Michael, Sophia, Jack, Avery, Sydney, Delaney, Jacob, Jenna, Bria, Lina, and Konstantine, and beloved aunt and uncle, Anna and Spyros Rozos in Ikaria, Greece; loving cousins, Pete Rameas, Bill Chrissis, Patty Vasilatos, Diane Norcross RN, Chuck Chrissis, and many beloved extended family members, friends, and parishioners near and far. Father touched many people all over the world.



Upon his graduation from High School, Father's life-long commitment to serve the Church was made, and he attended the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts, as well as the University of Athens, Greece, successfully training to become a Greek Orthodox Priest. Father has also earned degrees from Duquesne University of Pittsburgh and Christ the Savior Orthodox Seminary, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, rounding out his education background.

Below is a history of Father's years of service to our Lord:

Ordinations and offikia:

Heirothesia to the Sub-diaconate at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, PA, on December 26, 1965

Tonsured a monk at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, PA, on January 2, 1966 (for the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Uniontown, PA)

Ordained to the Diaconate at the Chapel of the Diocese on August 22, 1968 (ordained by Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos)

Ordained to the Presbyterate at Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, Erie, PA, on August 25, 1968 (ordained by Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos) with the Reverend Theofanis Nacopoulos, presiding as priest
Elevated to "Pneumatikos" (Spiritual Father) at Holy Trinity / St. John the Theologian, Jackson, MS, on September 30, 1973

Elevated to Archimandrite at Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, Oakmont, PA, on June 19, 1983

Parishes served:

St. Basil Church in Watertown, NY, beginning September 1, 1968

St. John the Theologian Church in Wheeling, WV, beginning September 1, 1970

Served in Oinousses, Chios, Greece, in 1970

Holy Trinity / St. John the Theologian Church in Jackson, MS, beginning October 1, 1971

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church in Oakmont, PA, beginning October 1, 1975

Other notes:

While in Watertown, NY, he also worked as an interpreter at the custom offices between the USA and Canada.

Served as Past President of the Orthodox Clergy Association of Greater Pittsburgh.

The following is a personal reflection from a seminarian classmate, Father Eugene Pappas:

“Danny was his name when first we met. The vocational journey would eventually be realized in the fall of 1965, when he and others were tonsured into monastic orders at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh, PA, by Bishop Theodosios. He would take, among others, residence in the Holy Transfiguration Monastery of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. His given religious name was to be Polycarpus (he who bears the many fruits of the Holy Spirit). The new Abbot was Father Anthony, the priest, assisted by Father Eugene, the deacon, with three others, Father Sabbas, Father Constantine, and a visitor. Monk Polycarpus’ duties, among other chores, was to bake the prosphora, artoklasies, and other breads used for holy days. Never was he happier, nor more accomplished, than when in the monastery kitchen tending to the ovens. The fragrance of the baking breads equaled the fragrance of his gentle spirit, most holy. Father Polycarpus’ prayer life was stellar and a prime example to those in the monastic brotherhood. If we sinned, it was because we envied by love his perseverance and fortitude in prayer life. He was an example of extreme humility (akratapinosis).”

It has been said that, as a young boy, when he couldn’t be found – he was at church.

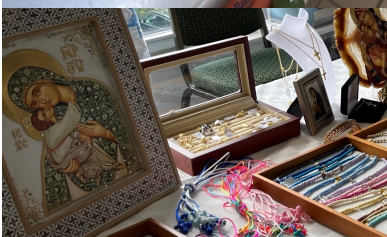
Matt 25:23. His Lord said unto him, “Well done, good and faithful servant thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

Festival Photos









HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH

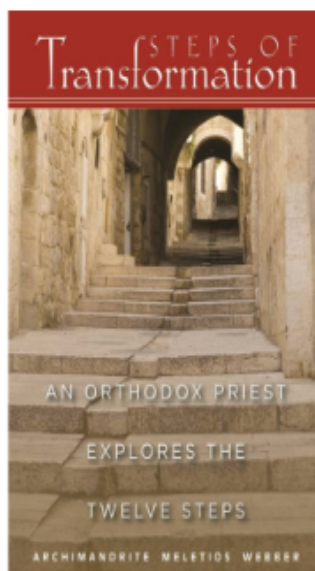


O IS FOR ORTHODOX

In this beautiful alphabet book parents and little ones will be introduced to 26 words related to the Orthodox Faith as they learn their ABCs together. With thick, die-cut shapes for every letter, children will have an interactive way to learn a little about the holy Orthodox faith, as well as develop a tactile appreciation for the alphabet. This treasure of a book makes a wonderful baby shower or baptismal gift.

STEPS OF TRANSFORMATION: AN ORTHODOX PRIEST EXPLORES THE TWELVE STEPS

An Orthodox priest with a doctorate in counseling, Fr. Meletios Webber helps us to understand addiction and explores ways to overcome it. In correlating the Twelve Steps with basic Orthodox theology, he identifies the implication of the Twelve Steps for Orthodox, and for all Christians. Using examples from the life of the Orthodox Church, Fr. Meletios shows how the Steps can be a valuable resource for our own spiritual journey.



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

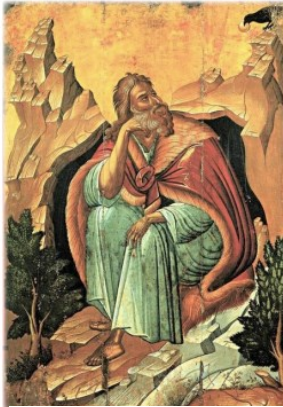
GREEK SCHOOL RECOGNITION



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*

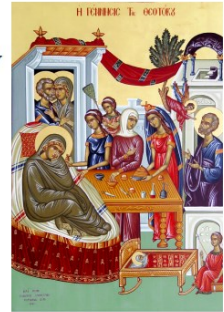
Held on Saturdays because of weekday construction



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

**Philoptochos
Honors
Pam Lagios
for
70 years of service..**



...and Swearing in of Philoptochos Officers

HOLY CROSS AT CAMP NAZARETH WEEK 4



Holy Cross

SUN	MON	Tue
		<p><i>1</i></p> <p>6pm* Paraclestis *earlier start, see after p. 12</p> <p>DORMITION FAST</p>
<p><i>6 Transfiguration</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>DORMITION FAST</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>6:30pm Paraclestis</p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>6:30pm Paraclestis</p>
<p><i>13</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>DORMITION FAST</p>	<p><i>14</i> 7pm Vespers@ Oakmont or Aliquippa</p>	<p><i>15 Dormition of the Theotokos</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy at Holy Cross</p>
<p><i>20</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p>
<p><i>27</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29 Beheading of St. John The Baptist</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>

August 2023

Wed	THU	FRI	SAT
2 6:30pm Paracletis	3 6:30pm Paracletis	4 6:30pm Paracletis	5 <i>5pm Vespers here or @Transfiguration in Ellwood City 6pm Vigil</i>
9 <i>St. Herman of Alaska</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy at Holy Cross 6:30pm Paracletis	10 6:30pm Paracletis	11 6:30pm Paracletis	12 <i>5pm Vespers</i>
16	17	18	19 <i>5pm Vespers</i>
23	24	25	26 <i>5pm Vespers</i>
30	31		

Occasionally, we come across a passage in Scripture that seems to make sense on the surface but upon closer reflection causes confusion. Today's Gospel offers us one such example, and so for this morning's reflection let's take some time to look at this excerpt in greater depth, to not only clear up any confusion it might have caused, but also to see how it fits into the context of the scripture surrounding it, as well as how it applies to us.

The passage in question is at the beginning of this morning's reading: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

This seems to register at first, for many have spoken of the eye as a window into the soul. Even today, if someone says, "you could see it in his eyes," we would acknowledge that such a thing were possible. Yet, what does He mean when He speaks of the eye being "sound?" And then there's that last part about the light in us being darkness, what's that all about? And so a passage that seems to make sense at first, now doesn't seem quite so clear. The good news is that our first impressions aren't that far off, so the general message is intact, but it will take a bit of study before we can be sure.

Let's start with context. This morning's reading is from the sixth chapter of Matthew. Chapters five to seven constitute what is known as the Sermon on the Mount, so we're right smack in the middle of it. We've just finished instructions on how to pray, including the Lord's Prayer, and how to fast. Immediately before today's passage the Lord talks about laying up treasure in heaven, and where your heart is there your treasure will be also. It is just after this that the comments about the eye being the lamp of the soul are made. And then following that we hear the rest of today's Gospel; namely that you cannot serve both God and mammon, and not to be anxious about your needs, but to trust God and seek His kingdom. What's important about this is that before and after the verses we're examining, Jesus has the same theme. He's talking about focusing on heavenly things, not on earthly ones. And then there's this eye stuff, which seemed like a side thought, a diversion from the theme. It might be tempting to consider that this was an editorial mistake, and that this digression doesn't actually belong here, and might have been spliced in at a later date, but that would be without merit. None of the source texts or fragments of this part of Matthew have this passage omitted, there are only some minor differences in word order.

But when examining the Greek, we do see something interesting. The same word, “sound,” is used for two different words in the original. In the first case, when the eye is sound, the word $\pi\lambda\omicron\varsigma$ is used. The sense of this word is no different than in modern Greek, it means simple; literally, “not-folded.” It could be used in a derogatory sense, as in “simple minded,” but most often the connotation is positive, as in “pure”, “honest”, or “uncomplicated”. Contrast this with the word used in the passage for its opposite, $\pi\omicron\nu\eta\rho\varsigma$. This is the word for “evil,” “tricky,” or “cunning,” and is often used to refer to the devil; in fact, Jesus uses it in the Lord’s Prayer earlier in this same chapter, when he says “but deliver us from evil.” Interestingly, there is a better contrast in its Latin relative duplex, literally “two-folded,” because from here we get the word “duplicitous,” carrying the same connotation of deceit and cunning as $\pi\omicron\nu\eta\rho\varsigma$.

So the eye is a window into either a soul which is unfolded and honest, or folded in half and deceitful; it is either uncomplicated and pure, or complicated and cunning. This means Jesus isn't talking about the health of the eye itself, but rather the attitude of the soul that the eye reveals. The eye still is a window into the soul. And we, like his audience back then, can see the difference between an honest eye and a cunning one. A pure soul lets the light within it shine, while a crafty one hides its light with deceit. The first has its heart in heaven, the other on the earth; the first seeks the kingdom of God, the second does not. And now, instead of a disjoint excerpt that seems out of place, we have a continuity of thought throughout the passage. Jesus’ message is not a stream of consciousness, but a coherent train of thought.

And what of us, my brothers and sisters? Are we folded up between the priorities of earthly life and those of heavenly life? Has this blocked the light within us from shining, or is it bouncing around in a complicated and duplicitous soul, unable to escape and shine before our fellow man? Where is our heart? Is it in heaven, or is it troubled by the cares of this life? Is it simple and pure, or is it divided and confused? Indeed, there is much in our souls that distracts us from the Kingdom. We are anxious about all the obligations of life. And it can be seen in our eyes. So let us resolve to unfold ourselves, to resolve the conflicts within us and become focused once again. Let the light which God himself placed in you not be blocked by the darkness of earthly attachments and allegiances, but instead shine through eyes that first and foremost demonstrate that we are seeking the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness. To Him be all glory, now and forever. Amen.

~Deacon Frank Dickos

JUNIOR GREEK DANCERS



SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Walk for Missions Coffee Hour

HOT SAUCE CONTEST

Guatemala

On Fire for the Faith!

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Walk For Missions

30th Year

Anniversary Walk



GOYA Seniors

HOLY CROSS SENIORS
Maroon, Dimitri, Yianni, Stephen, Niko,
Jenna, Hanna, Zoe, Chlo, Alexandra



40 day blessing of Eleftheria,
daughter of Nick and Katerina Skezas



Chrismation of Samuel Bartlett
Sponsor is Presvytera Andrea Milinkovic



Chrismation of
Martin Brent White,
husband of JoAnn Sofis,
Timothy Sofis
was the Sponsor
at Annunciation
Greek Orthodox Church in
Winston-Salem, NC

There is so much in the life of the Prophet Elijah which bears mentioning, though I'm a bit biased. In the time of Christ, Elijah was recognized as one of the greatest figures of the Old Testament, the perfect archetype of a prophet, a man of God who was so close to the Lord that, rather than dying an earthly death, he was taken up into heaven upon a chariot of fire, giving us a preview of the immortality found in Christ. Indeed, much has been written about Elijah and the valuable lessons we can derive from his life. And since we get to celebrate him every year on the 20th of July, I figure, for this year, I'd just like to focus on one story in particular, because I think we can learn a lot from it.



So, the Prophet Elijah denounced the wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of the Kingdom of Israel, who had defied the commandments of God, and chased after false gods, and because of this, Elijah fled into the wilderness for safety, after the King and Queen called for his death. He fled through the wilderness, for so long that, exhausted and hungry, at one point, he called out to God for his death. But God sent an angel to minister unto him, Elijah found the strength to go on, and eventually, he arrived at a cave upon a mountain, and there he rested and slept.

And as he slept, the Word of the Lord came to him, and called him out of his sleep in the cave, out onto the side of the mountain. And the Bible says:

And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, *but the LORD was not in the wind*; and after the wind an earthquake, *but the LORD was not in the earthquake*; and after the earthquake a fire, *but the LORD was not in the fire...*

Elijah sees, feels, and hears the power of God through the wind, earthquake, and the fire, but all of these things, as the passage says, they were not God. They are among the most powerful forces that nature knows. We know this ourselves. Hurricanes, tor-

nadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis that flood cities, wildfires that fill the air with ash. We experience all these things still. And yet Elijah stands still by them, in awe of God's power, but also unafraid. Yet there is a fourth thing that Elijah experiences. The scripture says of it, that, after the wind, earthquake and fire, that after the fire there was:

a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

Elijah does not turn away and cover his face from the wind, the quake, or the fire, no it's the still small voice that he turns away from, because that still small is voice is where Elijah truly meets God. All the first three manifestations that are spoken of first, for all of them, the scripture says that all of them were not God. But it never says it of the fourth. And Elijah turns away and covers his face, just as when God was revealed to Moses on another mountain and Moses also covered his face.

It is in those small, still moments that we are closest to God. We often look to God for flashy displays to prove to us our faith, and yet, as Christ Himself would later say, it is a wicked and adulterous generation that seeks after signs or miracle. But as Saint Paisios, among others, reminds us, the true miracle is repentance. The truest miracles are the fruits of the spirit, which are far more silent and subtle, yet more powerful than all the hurricanes, and floods, and earthquakes, and fires combined. Those fruits are love, peace, forgiveness, repentance, and the subduing of the passions which lets us step, in this life, briefly outside of ourselves into the true presence of God.

And so, today, I pray that we all try to seek God, not in the great, flashy things, but in the still, small voice, in the silence that is so hard to come by. We may find that in the hymns of the liturgy, in the repetition of the Jesus prayer, or even upon a walk upon a mountain, just as Elijah did, in the wilderness, upon God's creation. While miracles and wonders may entrance us, the true wonder is if we have a change of heart, a change of heart which lets us hear that still small voice deep inside of us, which is the lifeline to God we all have, buried in our hearts.

~Elias Diamond



GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW
METROPOLIS CENTER IN
WASHINGTON, PA
JULY 18, 2023





30th ANNIVERSARY OF MISSION WALKS

Father John Chakos

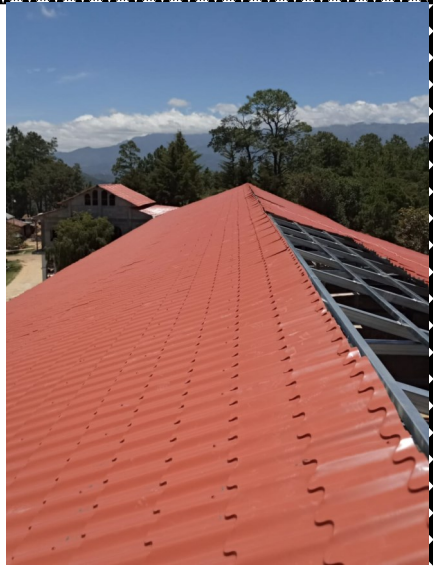
OCMC Mission Specialist and Field Representative for Guatemala.

Over the past 30 years our parish, under the sponsorship of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh, has participated in the Walk for Missions. Through this outreach, we have been blessed to support some historic developments in spreading the Good News in many parts of the world. Ours was the first parish to sponsor 5 young men from Indonesia at the Holy Cross Seminary, four of whom are now serving as missionaries in their native land. We also sent and sponsored OCMC mission teams and missionaries to Africa, Upper Galilee, Project Mexico, Russia, Albania, India and more recently to Guatemala. With the help of funds from these walks, medical clinics, churches, fish ponds, seminaries and schools have been constructed. Even our Philoptochos, for over a decade, sent teams to the Hogar Rafael Orphanage to support the work of the nuns there.

Now in our 30th year, we have begun a major project in the Highlands of Guatemala- a Seminary/Mission Center that will train catechists and seminarians to serve their own people in 130 villages throughout Guatemala and Southern Mexico. This project has the blessing of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Athenagoras of Mexico and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, representing all the canonical bishops of America.



God willing, and with your support, we hope to consecrate the new building in January. This will be the spiritual, educational and administrative center of the Orthodox Church for all of Guatemala, mainly serving the needs of the Mayan people. The two story building will feature dormitories, classrooms, a lecture hall, kitchen, administrative offices and a cafeteria. Hundreds of volunteers from all the villages donate their labor, and we provide the materials needed for construction. This facility, once completed, will be a light on the hill for thousands of people who seek to embrace our faith.



In fulfillment of Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations, our Walk for Missions, true to its 30 year tradition, will direct all funds towards this project. We encourage you to join us on October 8th, either as walkers or sponsors for the 5 K walk in South Park.

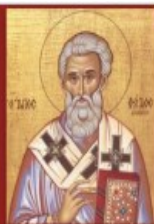
Memories of past walks....2012





A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



NEW METROPOLIS CENTER UPDATE: WE ARE BREAKING GROUND!

Archon Nick Lekas

With our astounding fundraising success at the end of last year (God's Grace), as of the beginning of 2023, we began the search

in the Greater Pittsburgh area, seeking recommendations for general contractors from a network of primary and secondary sources. The goal was to develop hard bids from no less than three general contractors that: 1) were proven capable of the size of this project, 2) were available to build this spring/summer and 3) showed heart for this beautiful endeavor. General contractors came and went and finally by the end of March we received five signed bids ranging from \$10M-\$12M.

In January, we transferred our prayers from asking for help with funding, and instead for assistance with finding good people to carry this project forward into the construction phase. Our prayers led us to a Greek Orthodox family-owned, second-generation general contractor from Pittsburgh whose offices are minutes away from the site. Learning that they are heavily invested in their parish community, (Holy Cross, Pittsburgh), and after repeated interviews among all the general contractors who submitted bids, we found that Liokareas Construction from Bethel Park, PA was not only a great fit but showed the heart for our faith-based project that no one else could. With recent archdiocesan approval of the project, we are awarding the contract to brothers Peter and Nick Liokareas, and expect to break ground this summer!



John Liokareas with his son Peter



With this in mind, let us live with no regrets as we enter this new stage of the campaign for the New Metropolitan Center.

Visit: www.pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge or scan the QR code to pledge/donate and learn more.

Thank you all for your support and prayers. Archon Nick Lekas





2023 CLERGY-LAITY

Assembly

Save
The
Date



Sts. Helen & Constantine Greek Orthodox Church,
1001 E Wyomissing Blvd, Reading, PA 19611-1763

SEPT | 28-30 | 2023

pittsburgh.goarch.org/clergy-laity

For more info contact: Louise Henry 412 621 5529 | lhenry@pittsburgh.goarch.org



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



**NEW
DATE!**

So that we can make GOMoPalooza the best experience that we can, we're going to postpone the event until next summer.

See you then!



**Postponed
until
Summer
2024**

**Fun for All
the Family!**

**2 Music
Stages**

Karaoke

**Art & Craft
Exhibits**

**Food &
Beverages**

**Children's
Activities**

All Proceeds go to the
Metropolis Youth & Young
Adult Ministries

The Open Hearts Foundation, co-founded by award winning actress and philanthropist, Jane Seymour, presented the Open Hearts Award to **Vasso E. Zotis Paliouras, Lending Hearts' Founder and Executive Director**, at their 2023 Celebratory Gala in May! This is in recognition of Vasso's own story of triumph over adversity and her dedication to truly help others in need through the work of Lending Hearts.



**VASSO PALIOURAS
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LENDING HEARTS**

Inspired by Jane Seymour's mother's philosophy to turn adversity into an opportunity to help others, this award honors individuals who have risen above their own life challenges to truly help and reach out to others in need. Inspired by Vasso's own struggle supporting her teenage sister who was battling stage 4 Hodgkin's disease, Lending Hearts' vision is to bring hope and strength to everyone impacted by cancer.

During the evening, Vasso will share her moving story and how establishing Lending Hearts has impacted countless other children and young adults with cancer.

Since 2020, the Open Hearts Foundation has provided Lending Hearts with three matching grants supporting their Integrative Oncology Wellness Program for children and young adults living with cancer as well as monthly lunches, mental and behavioral health services, and art therapy at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Each of these grants were matched by the generosity of their donors and allowed them to double their impact and services.

"Vasso, congratulations on receiving this most prestigious Open Hearts Award. I can truly say that your passion, energy, and dedication never cease to amaze me. You have favorably impacted so many children and adolescents affected with cancer, as well as their loved ones. The phenomenal growth in our programs as well as the increasing number of patients and families served is a testament to your leadership and commitment. You give so much of yourself to benefit others. You embody what it means to 'lend and open your heart.'"

Dr. Stanley M. Marks, MD, Chairman UPMC Hillman Cancer Center & Founding Lending Hearts Board Member

“Saturday night’s Open Hearts Foundation Celebratory Gala was a remarkable night.

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would one day be sitting next to the oncologist who was responsible for the research and FDA approval of the drug that saved my sister’s {*Constance Zotis, current Parish Council President*} life. Interestingly enough, her



subset of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma was an extremely rare one and the only Hodgkin’s subset that is successfully treated by

this drug. It was the greatest honor to meet Dr Lawrence Piro and so many of the remarkable guests and Open Hearts board members who attended this very special event.

I am forever grateful!”





Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians trying to practice their faith in prison? Or that there are non-Orthodox prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the fullness of Orthodoxy?

Who Will Minister to Them?

Session 1: The Rev Fr. Stephen Powley and The Very Rev. Fr. John Kowalczyk, OCPM Co-Directors of Training and Spiritual Care

Session 2: Nicholas Petrogeorge, OCPM Executive Director and **Mark Santana**, OCPM Church Programs Director

Event Sponsored by
St. George Men's Ministry



Saturday, August 26, 2023

Session 1: 10:00-11:00 AM

Session 2: 12:30-2:30 PM

(Light Lunch provided)

**St. George Antiochian
Orthodox Christian Church
3400 Dawson St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213**



**REGISTER
HERE**

or online at
tinyurl.com/ocpmevent2023

WWW.THEOCPM.ORG



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**THE SAINT CONSTANTINE
SCHOOL
PITTSBURGH**



How to Receive the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and support The Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh

- Donors give directly to the Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund (CPSF), a special purpose entity partnering with The Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh.
- CPSF is allocated EITC tax credits from Pennsylvania and gives them to their donors.
- Donors receive PA income tax credits equal to 90% of the donation. For example, if you donate \$3,500 (which is the minimum donation amount), you get a PA income tax credit equal to \$3,150. If you donate \$10,000 you get a PA income tax credit equal to \$9,000. The remainder counts as a charitable gift deduction for federal income taxes.
- *EITC donations are donations that you would otherwise owe to the state government.*
- When you donate to CPSF, you need to earmark your donation for The Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh. CPSF will then distribute the money to The Saint Constantine School of Pennsylvania to distribute as need-based tuition scholarships.
- Because EITC tax credits are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis, it is important to commit to donating. You commit by completing a *joinder*. This commits you to donating your pledged amount. CPSF asks for two-year commitment.
- Joinders for past donors are available in mid-May and joinders for new donors are available in early July. Joinders should be completed as quickly as possible to ensure that donors can reserve their tax credits.
- After you complete the joinder, CPSF will send you a letter requesting the donation. Donations to CPSF are due by mid-October.
- If you pay quarterly estimated tax payments, you can use the credit in lieu of making payments. If you are a regular employee that files a tax return, you get the credit back when you receive your PA income tax refund.
- To be eligible to receive the credit, you need to have PA income tax liability of at least \$3,500. This means that you need a household income of approximately \$115,000.
- In addition, you need to be self-employed or work for a for-profit business. If you are not self-employed or work for a for-profit, you must own at least one share of a stock in a company that does business in Pennsylvania.
- Businesses can also participate to reduce their Pennsylvania income tax liability.
- For more information, please visit CPSF's website at <https://www.pennsylvaniaeitc.org>.
- To receive a joinder to support The Saint Constantine School, or if you have questions, please email pittsburgh@saintconstantine.org.

**TRANSFORM YOUR TAX DOLLARS INTO
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Individuals who pay Pennsylvania income tax or businesses that pay Pennsylvania's corporate income tax may be eligible to participate in the PA EITC which allows donors to get a 90% tax credit against your PA tax liability.

SAMPLE TAX CREDIT CALCULATION	Personal Contribution	\$3,500
	Tax Credit (90%)	\$3,150
	Net Cost to Donor	\$350

100% of your EITC gift goes directly to fund
The Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh scholarships!

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

FAMILY CAMP

**REGISTRATION
OPENING
IN JUNE!**

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN

LOVE

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023

Open to families of all sizes and ages!

Join us for a beautiful weekend at Camp Nazareth where your relationship with Christ and one another will grow and flourish.



**ADULT TRACK KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
FR. ALEXANDER GOUSSETIS**



**YOUTH TRACK KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
ANASTASIOS PHYRILLAS**

QUESTIONS? FR. JOE DISTEFANO - FRJDISTEFANO@YAHOO.COM



UKRAINE RELIEF

Dinner & Prayer Service

Sunday, September 24, 2023 | Service 4:00 PM • Dinner 5:00 PM

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
419 South Dithridge St. • Pittsburgh (Oakland) 15213

LED BY OUR BELOVED HIERARCHS

Metropolitan SAVAS, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Archbishop DANIEL, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, Orthodox Church in America
Metropolitan GREGORY of Nyssa, Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church of the USA
Bishop THOMAS, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Bishop IRINEJ, Serbian Orthodox Church in North & South America

Tickets \$50 • RSVP By September 19, 2023 • Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Ukraine Crisis Response

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Grand Benefactor \$10,000 • Benefactor \$5,000 • Humanitarian \$2,500 • Patron \$500 • Friend \$250
Contact Marianne Carmack for Ad Book at marianne.carmack@gmail.com

Register online at ioccc.org/pittsburgh

- Or contact Zelfa 412-417-4706/zkhalil1@live.com, Vera 412-833-0839, or Mary Ann 724-263-5605.
- Make checks payable to IOCC with "Ukraine Relief" in memo. Mail to IOCC c/o Nick Terezis, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215.
- Tickets held at door, not mailed. Tables for groups of 8 only. For info or to volunteer call Zelfa 412-417-4706.



**Please save the dates for the Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair
Wednesday, October 4 & Thursday, October 5, 11:30am-7pm**

* Cooking dates are Wednesday, September 6, 10am, Tuesday, September 12, 10am, Wednesday, September 20, 10am, Wednesday, September 27, 10am. Cooking items will be determined and emails will be sent.

* Please save your jewelry, books and handbags(purses) for the Yiayia Joan's Treasures and Market. Please bring your items to the community center beginning September 17.

* Set up for the fair will occur on Sunday, October 1 after coffee hour, Monday, October 2 & Tuesday, October 3 at 10am-2pm. ALL ages and genders are welcome to volunteer and help!

* Philoptochos relies on your homemade goodies as part of our bake sale. Please contact Dena Yamalis, chairperson, dyamal@comcast.net or cell 412 589-2646 to let her know what pastries you are able to donate and to volunteer your time in selling the pastries.

* Please contact Sadie Stang, chairperson of the prep room, Sadiestang@hotmail.com or cell 412 915- 2335 to help prepare salads and cup tzatziki sauce anytime from 10am-7pm during the fair.

* Please contact Elaine Sofis, esofis@comcast.net, H 412 344-7046, 412 327-7017 to help at the food lines. Lunch shift is 11:15-3pm, Dinner shift is 3-7pm. ANY of your time is appreciated!

* Clean up of the Autumn Food Fair begins immediately at the conclusion of the fair at 7pm on October 5 and continues at 10am on Friday, October 6 in the prep room and community Center. Your help is needed and appreciated!

This is the Philoptochos main fundraiser of the year!

Thank you for supporting Holy Cross Philoptochos with your time and talents!

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



PHILOPTOCHOS AUTUMN FOOD FAIR

and

YiaYia Joan's Treasures & Market

at

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Community Center

123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon

(across from the Galleria)

Wednesday, October 4 &

Thursday, October 5, 2023

11:30 am – 7:00 pm

Featuring GREEK favorites including Moussaka, Tiropita, Spanakopita, Pastitsio, Gyros,
Chicken Rolls, rice pudding, soups and much more!

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

Inside seating...so come rain or shine! Elevator available!!

NO PHONE OR ONLINE ORDERING

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

Cash or Credit Cards accepted.





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 189/2023

**Archebiscopal Encyclical on the Day of
Commemoration of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus**

July 23, 2023

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

*“Upon the rivers of Babylon there we sat down and marched in the memorial of Zion.”
(Psalm 136, v. 1)*

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Forty-nine years have passed since the sad summer of 1974, when on July 20, armed Turkish soldiers — with the tolerance of the great powers and Greece’s weakness, due to military dictatorship — invaded the most beautiful island of Hellenism, our beloved Cyprus. Memories of persecution and uprooting from ancestral homes remain alive today. Many Cypriots of Kyrenia, Ammochostos and other bloodied areas recount with great sorrow the uprooting, rapes, pillaging and destruction that took place, and they rightly demand justice and liberation of their homeland, so that the island may be reunited under the flag of the Republic of Cyprus and the European Union.

We are like the Jews of the aforementioned psalm, because we weep and ache when remembering this gross injustice and invasion; when recalling the beautiful beaches of Ammochostos and Kyrenia; when worshiping the monasteries of Saint George and Saint Andrew the Apostle in Karpasia, of Saint Barnabas in Salamis and Saint Spyridon in Tremetousia; when awakening the vivid memories of celebrations and festivals, of weddings and songs, in the long-suffering villages of the occupied regions, and of the peaceful coexistence of Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

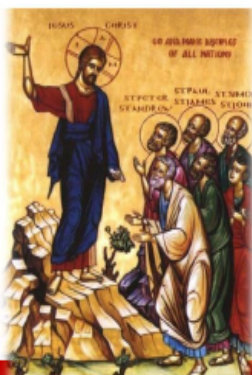
However, despite the fact that almost half a century has passed, and despite the fact that the Turkish government seems to be unyielding to the appeals and resolutions of the United Nations, we continue to believe that the pressure exerted by the Greek and Cypriot governments, the philhellenic senators and representatives in Congress and the Senate, the Greek Cypriot organizations everywhere, and all of you Orthodox Christians — together with the earnest prayers that we offer today, Sunday, July 23, in a memorial service for the fallen heroes of the Cypriot struggle in all the parishes of our Sacred Archdiocese — I am confident can bring about the desired result of a strong, united and free Cyprus!

Your fervent supplicant before the God of righteousness,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

"FULFILLING JESUS'S GREAT COMMISSION"

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19



"30th" Annual
WALK FOR MISSIONS
At South Park
Sponsored By The
Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood

WALK/RUN FOR MISSIONS - October 8, 2023 REGISTRATION FORM

2023 WALK Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Mission.

***WALKER WITH HIGHEST COLLECTED FUNDS at walk WILL RECEIVE FLEET FEET SHOES CERTIF ***

NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	CHURCH	\$ PLEDGED	\$ COLLECTED

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Raise pledges. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HOLY CROSS MISSION FUND
 - Register at WALK: 1:00 October 8 at South Park ETHELBERT PAVILLION (CORRIGAN DR TO MAPLE SPRINGS DR)
 - Bring your pledge forms and collected money to WALK.
 - REGISTRATION 1:00, SUPER HOLY OIL BLESSING, GAMES AND PRIZES @ 1:30, WALK BEGINS @ 2:00.
 - Complimentary Refreshments before the Walk and Lunch after the Walk .
 - FREE T-Shirt for children 8 years and under who raise \$25 or others who raise \$100 or more.
 - Mail balances by Oct 30 to: Walk For Missions, C/O Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION: faith.Williard@pittsburghmoves.com, 412-251-3207, or ediamondhcph@gmail.com

LAST YEAR OUR SPONSORS RAISED OVER \$8,000 THAT HELPED THE OVERALL NEEDS AT THE GUATEMALAN MISSION, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MATCH THAT AMOUNT THIS YEAR. Please visit:

<https://www.thewordfromguatemala.com/2018/04/29/with-the-faith-of-angels-a-church-is-built/>

I hereby waive/release any rights and claims for injury/damage that may occur to me during my participation in the Walk.

Signature _____

Parent/Legal Guardian (if under 18) _____

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

- 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.

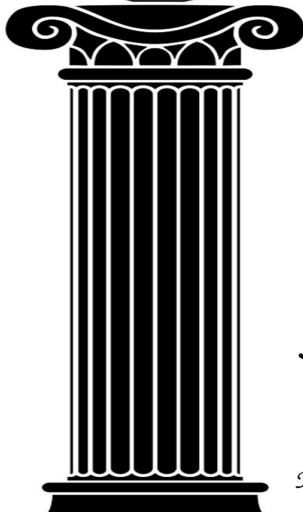
THE 2023 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS: ALL THE DETAILS

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

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.sigeorgenewcastle.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.



*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

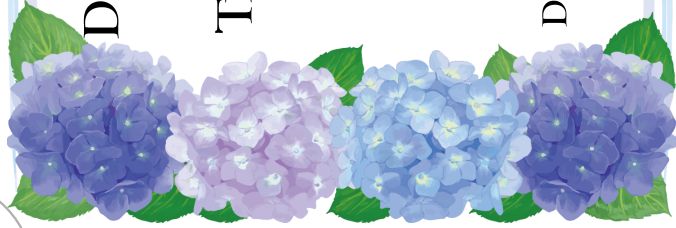
Saturday December 9, 2023

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

More information to follow and we look

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

RETURN Service Requested



**DORMITION
OF THE
THEOTOKOS**

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 15
8:30AM
ORTHROS
9:30AM
DIVINE LITURGY**

**Non-Profit
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