

The Veil

*A monthly publication of Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church
Oakmont, Pennsylvania*

March 2024

Volume II, Issue 3



Holy Fathers Slain at the Monastery of St. Savas (797 A.D.)

March 20th

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

12 Washington Avenue - Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139

Church: (412) 828-4144 - www.dormitionpgh.org

Rev. Fr. Michael A. Gavrilos - Parish Priest

Janine Michael – Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Parish Council Members

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Vice President – Christina Contes

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George Doas

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George Spiridonakos

Dimitri Tsambis

Service Times

Sunday Orthros – 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Please check our calendar for other services and times

Confession: By Appointment

If you would like an article, or photos in **The Veil**, submit them electronically to Fr. Michael (fmg@dormitionpgh.org) no later than the 15th of the month.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” -James 5:14

If you or your loved one is sick, in the hospital, or need a priest, please contact Fr. Michael so that he will be able to visit them.



Fr. Michael's Message

Christ is in our Midst

On Monday, March 18th, we will begin the period in the Church that is known as Great & Holy Lent. Great Lent is a 40-day period that happens every year in the early spring time that prepares us for the most important feast, the Feast of all Feasts, Great & Holy Pascha. During Lent, we often times notice a difference within the Life of the Church.

On Sundays during Lent, we do not celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, we replace it with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great which has longer prayers that are read by the priests, and a few different hymns. We do not celebrate the Divine Liturgy Monday-Friday, instead we have the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Throughout the rest of the week, there are the Services of Great Compline, Salutations/

Akathist to the Theotokos, and The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, to name some of the services that are typically done in parishes. The cloths on the altar table as well as the vestments that the clergy wear are usually purple, black, or other dark colors. The music and hymns have a more solemn tone to them, and they do not have the feeling of being festive and happy. This is all done to prepare us to experience Christ's Passion, and ultimately His Resurrection.

One of the most, if not the most well known prayer that we have in Lent is known as the Prayer of Saint Ephraim. Every day, every service during lent, the Prayer of Saint Ephraim is said:

"O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power, and idle talk to come into me. Instead, grant me, your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, give me the power to see my own faults and not to judge my brother, for you are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen."

This prayer sums up the different themes of Lent. We are praying that God steers us away from bad things: laziness, meddling, lust for power, and idle talk. We can use Lent as an opportunity to help us gain control of our passions. We ask God to give us the beautiful gifts of prudence, humility, patience, and love. We are praying that we focus on our faults and not judge other for their shortcomings and sins. During the Lenten Period when we pray this prayer, and with all other prayers, we should not just go through the repetition of saying the prayers just to "get them done", we have to bring to our heart and soul the words that are in the prayers.

During the year we have to live our lives in a way that is well pleasing to God. During Lent, we take time to really focus on this, and to try our best to work even harder than we did before on living that Christ-Centered life. Three ways that we can help live this Christ-Centered life during Lent is focusing on Prayer, Charity, and Fasting.

During the Lenten Season we are given so many more opportunities to increase our prayer life. We do not just have Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Sunday, but we have Great Compline every Monday night, 9th Hour and Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday night and Friday morning, and on Friday night we have the Salutation Service to the Theotokos. We are on a Spiritual Journey during Lent, and just as Jesus prayed and fasted before he began and great task or undertaking in His ministry, we are called to pray more often during this time.

As Christians we believe that everyone we encounter is a living, breathing Icon of Christ, so we must treat all those around us with the respect as if they are Christ themselves. We need to take extra time and be mindful of how we can be of service and more charitable to others.

During Lent we must fast. We have this as an opportunity to challenge ourselves, to test if we are able to live and eat a more simply. We try to empty ourselves physically, so that we are able to fill ourselves even more spiritually, and better prepare ourselves to fully receive Christ.

With these three items to focus on: Prayer, Charity, and Fasting, we are given the perfect recipe of what to do during the Lenten season. What happens if we slip up a little bit? Do not get discouraged, and do not give up! Repent with a pure and genuine heart, and ask God for the strength to get back on track.

I pray you all have a fruitful and Spirit-filled Lenten Season, and that we all will be prepared to greet our Lord at His Resurrection. Kali Dynamis, Good Strength, and Kali Anastasi!

In Christ,

Fr. Michael A. Gavrilos













2024 Stewardship

Thank you for all of your pledge campaigns for the coming year!

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OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

| SUNDAYS | | THEMES / GOSPEL READING | HOW TO PARTICIPATE: |
|--|---|---|--|
| Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th |  | <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14 | Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week. |
| Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd |  | The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32 | Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week. |
| Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY |  | The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 | Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week. |
| Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY |  | Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21 | Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed. |
| 1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th |  | <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51 | Bring an icon to church for a procession. |
| 2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st |  | ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 | Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week. |
| 3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th |  | VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 | Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow! |
| 4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th |  | ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31 | Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross! |
| 5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st |  | ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 | Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week. |
| FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS |  | <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18 | Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car! |
| GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd |  | GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE | Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death. |
| FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING! |  | <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17 | Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight! |

COVER ICON – Holy Fathers Slain at the Monastery of St. Savas (797 A.D.)

March 20th

Saints John, Sergios, Patrick and others, a total of twenty Holy Fathers, were slain in the Monastery of Saint Savvas on March 20th of 797. During the eighth century the area around Jerusalem was subjected to frequent incursions of the Saracens, who are specifically called Ethiopians or "Blacks" in the *Synaxarion of Constantinople*. The Monastery of Saint Chariton was devastated and fell into ruin. Twice the Saracens tried to plunder the Lavra of Saint Savvas the Sanctified, but God's Providence protected the Monastery. The monks would have been able to escape the barbarians by going to Jerusalem, but they decided not to forsake the place where they had sought salvation for so many years.

On March 13, around sixty Saracens broke into the Monastery and demanded all the valuables. The monks told them that there was nothing in the Monastery but a meager supply of food and old clothing. Then the Saracens began to shoot arrows at the monks, and they plundered and burnt their cells. Thirteen monks were killed and many wounded.

The Saracens intended also to torch the Monastery church, but seeing a throng of people in the distance, they mistook this for an army sent from Jerusalem. The Saracens managed to get away, carrying off the little they were able to plunder. After the enemy fled, Father Thomas, an experienced physician, began to help those who remained alive.

On Great Thursday, March 20, the Saracens again descended upon the Lavra with a larger force and began to beat the monks. The survivors were driven into the church, where they were tortured in order to force them to reveal where any treasure might be hidden. The Monastery was surrounded, so no one could save himself by fleeing. The barbarians seized John, a young monk, who had cared for vagrants. They beat him fiercely, then they cut the sinews of his hands and feet and dragged him over stones by his feet, which tore the skin from the Martyr's back.

The keeper of the church vessels, Saint Sergios, hid the church vessels and attempted to flee, but he was captured and beheaded. Several of the monks nevertheless managed to hide themselves outside the Monastery in a cave, but they were spotted by a sentry on a hill, and they ordered everyone to come out. Inside the cave, Saint Patrick whispered to the brethren huddled with him, "Fear not, I will go alone and meet my death. Meanwhile, sit and pray."

The Saracens asked whether there was anyone else in the cave, and Patrick said that he was alone. They led him to the Lavra, where the captives awaited their fate. The Saracens demanded of them a ransom of 4,000 gold pieces and the sacred vessels. The monks were not able to give such a ransom. Then they led them into the Cave of Saint Savva inside the Monastery walls. They lit a fire on which they piled up dung in front of the entrance to the cave, hoping to suffocate the monks with the poisonous fumes. Eighteen men perished in the cave, among whom were Saints John and Patrick. The Saracens continued to torture those who were still alive, but got nothing out of them. Finally, they left the Monastery.

Later, on the night of Great Friday, the monks hidden in the hills returned to the Lavra, they took up the bodies of the murdered Fathers to the church and buried them there. Father Thomas again tended to the wounded fathers, at which time one died of his wounds, thus rounding the total number of slain monks to twenty.

The barbarians who plundered the Monastery were punished by God. They were stricken with a sudden illness, and they all perished. Their bodies were devoured by wild beasts.

The above account was delivered to us by Stephen of Damascus, nephew of John of Damascus. It should be noted that the slaughter of the Holy Fathers of Saint Savvas Lavra commemorated on May 16 are different from the above-mentioned Holy Fathers, having suffered in the seventh century, during the reign of Heraclius (610-641) in the year 614.

Apolytikion in the Second Tone

Blessed is the earth that drank your blood, O prizewinners of the Lord, and holy are the tabernacles that received your spirits; for in the stadium ye triumphed over the enemy, and ye proclaimed Christ with boldness. Beseech Him, we pray, since He is good, to save our souls.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

Shunning all earthly and corruptible pleasures, ye chose a life of great ascetical struggles, disdaining worldly beauty and all fleeting fame; wherefore, ye dwell joyously in the Kingdom of Heaven with the Martyrs' holy choirs and the ranks of ascetics. Hence, we revere your memory and cry: From every peril, O Fathers, deliver us.

MINISTRY UPDATES

GREEK DANCE

The Junior Grecian Stars welcome children aged five and older. The group performs roughly three times a year at church events. The food festival is the final performance of the year, where the group is given an authentic and handcrafted costume to wear. This experience allows them to gain confidence in front of large crowds as the festival serves thousands daily. It also shows the children that expressing their heritage can be educational and fun to watch!

Children are welcomed into the Grecian Stars group based on age and teacher discretion. The group performs roughly three times a year and at the festival. For the festival performance, traditional and handmade costumes are provided for the children to wear. This experience is an opportunity to get out in front of a large crowd and display the work that has been done all year! It is also a time to learn dances that are done in more social settings.

On January 7th, we had our annual Vasilopita Celebration at the Church and for those who were in attendance, I think we had a lot of fun! Both the Junior Grecian Stars and the Grecian Stars performed and had a great time.

Next, we are looking forward to our March 25th Celebration, which will take place on Sunday, March 24th. These 2 performances will get us into gear for our annual Greek Food Festival in June.

To sign your child(ren) up, please contact Alecia (724-681-1714), Lauren (724-882-2558) or Eleni (412-977-9942)

FESTIVAL UPDATE

Planning is already underway for this year's food festival on June 28-29-30, our 50th year. We need everyone's help as we are preparing more food and pastries than last year as we expect this to be our biggest and best festival ever.

The baking on Feb 3 was a huge success as many volunteers came to help. 11 batches were rolled, baked and bagged, netting almost 500 bags of 12 koulourakia each. About half of this is for the Philoptochos fundraiser and the other half is for the festival. Many thanks to all who helped

Here are the upcoming baking and food prep dates that have been established so far:

- Fri-Sat-Sun March 1-2-3: Koulourakia and Kourambiethes
- Sunday March 17: Meatballs for Souzoukakia
- Sunday April 7: Spinach #1
- Sunday April 14: Spinach #2
- Sunday May 19: Moussaka
- Sunday June 2: Pastitso #1

Sunday June 9: Pastitso #2

We still need to schedule Lamb Shank, Galatoboureko, and Karitopita (if we add this once again to the pastry menu), and all will be scheduled on weekdays.

Our first Festival Meeting is currently scheduled for March 8 but may be rescheduled to better accommodate those with schedule conflicts on March 8th, we will keep you updated and all are welcome to attend. The more ideas and input we have ensures the long-term success of our festival.

Let's all do what we can to help out as we prep for our 50th festival,

Andy & Chris
Festival Chairs

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos is an organization in our church that is considered the “helping hands”. If there is need for anyone, please feel free to reach out to us through the church office.

Presvetera Maria has initiated the Meal Train which is used to help people and families in need by providing meals for a limited time. The need can be for people that have returned home from the hospital after surgery, giving birth, rehab or unable to prepare meals due to an illness. Please contact Presvetera through Janine at the church

Philoptochos? Active? We think so! In February, we met with Reverend Abernathy to deliver the Trauma Teddys and began to collect Sox for the Sox Box that is distributed to homeless shelters. There are boxes in the hall to deposit school supplies & feminine products for teens in schools. Do you need to be a Philoptochos member to donate? No-this is a community effort.

March 1-2-3 is baking marathon!!! Join us Friday, Saturday & Sunday beginning at 9:00 a.m. to make thousands of Koulourakia for the festival. Experience is not necessary. It is fun- you can make Koulourakia and talk and laugh at the same time!!!!

Our group is not all work—February 24, the Wine Tasting event was held at Riverside. It was a sold out crowd that

had a taste of wine and appetizers and desserts!!! The chairperson was Christine Panos who was helped by Dina Tsambis & Dianna Wyrick. Cudos to the ladies!!!!

You may be saying- is there more? Of course- March 10 is the covered dish prior to the beginning of Lent. Philoptochos will provide chicken. You are more than welcome to attend and bring an appetizer, vegetable or dessert!

The annual flower basket sale will begin in March. Lookout for more information!

Now is the time to consider participating in the Fleatigue on Saturday, April 13th from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. Is it time to sell some of your treasures? Tables are \$30 each.

We hope to see you.

Sincerely,
Cathy Champagne
Philoptochos President



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

2024 GOYA *Spring* RETREAT

MARCH 8-10, 2024

BEING PREPARED ON
OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



WITH OUR
SPEAKER:
FR. CONSTANTIN
URSACHE

OF ST. JOHN THE
FORERUNNER,
YOUNGSTOWN, OH

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 22!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

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Join Us!

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON APOKRIATIKO



Hosted by St. Barbara's Philoptochos

Philoptochos will provide chicken for everyone

Each family is asked to bring a side dish

RSVP and let us know what you will bring!

Date: March 10, 2024
Time: Following Liturgy

**KINDLY RSVP BEFORE
MARCH 3RD TO:**
Joyce 412-828-4231
Maria 412-798-0917

Dormition of the Theotokos Church, Oakmont PA

ADULT EDUCATION

COME LEARN THE BASICS ABOUT THE ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN FAITH AS WE GO THROUGH THE SECOND
HALF OF THE VIDEO SERIES "A JOURNEY TO
FULLNESS" BY FR. BARNABAS POWELL



EACH WEEK A LENTEN POTLUCK WILL TAKE
PLACE FOLLOWING PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 20TH

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3RD

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10TH

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17TH

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24TH

| March 2024 | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | 1 9:00 a.m. Philoptochos Baking Marathon | 2 10:00 a.m. Baptism GOYA Volleyball Tournament <i>at St. Nicholas</i> <i>Cathedral,</i> <i>Pittsburgh</i> 9:00 a.m. Philoptochos Baking Marathon |
| 3 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Philoptochos Baking Marathon | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 8 GOYA Fall Retreat <i>at Camp Nazareth</i> | 9 8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Memorials (Saturday of Souls) GOYA Fall Retreat |
| 10 Judgment Sunday (Meatfare) Philoptochos Covered Dish GOYA Fall Retreat | 11 | 12 Planning Meeting for 2025 GOYA Basketball Tournament | 13 | 14 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 15 6:30 p.m. Festival Meeting | 16 3:00 p.m. Baptism 5:30 p.m. Wedding |
| 17 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese fare) Philoptochos Meeting Festival Prep <i>(meatballs)</i> 5:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers | 18 6:00 p.m. Great Compline | 19 | 20 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck | 21 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 22 8:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. 1st Salutation to the Theotokos | 23 |
| 24 Sunday of Orthodoxy | 25 T.B.D. Orthros & Divine Liturgy <i>(Annunciation)</i> | 26 | 27 | 28 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 29 6:00 p.m. 2nd Salutation to the Theotokos | 30 |
| 31 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas | | | | | | |

| April 2024 | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 6:00 p.m. Great Compline | 2 | 3 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck | 4 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 5 8:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. 3rd Salutation to the Theotokos Young Adult Retreat <i>at Camp Nazareth</i> | 6 Young Adult Retreat |
| 7 Sunday of the Holy Cross Festival Prep (<i>spinach</i>) | 8 6:00 p.m. Great Compline | 9 | 10 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck | 11 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 12 6:00 p.m. 4th Salutation to the Theotokos | 13 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Fleatique |
| 14 Sunday of St. John Climacus Festival Prep (<i>spinach</i>) | 15 6:00 p.m. Great Compline | 16 | 17 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck | 18 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 19 6:00 p.m. Akathist to the Theotokos | 20 12:00 p.m. Baptism |
| 21 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Philoptochos Meeting | 22 6:00 p.m. Great Compline | 23 | 24 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck | 25 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School | 26 6:00 p.m. Small Compline / Canon of St. Lazarus | 27 8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy (<i>Saturday of Lazarus</i>) |
| 28 Palm Sunday 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service | 29 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service | 30 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service | 1 3:00 p.m. Holy Unction 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service | 2 8:30 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Service of the 12 Passion Gospels | 3 8:30 a.m. Royal Hours 6:00 p.m. Vespers of the Un-nailing 6:00 p.m. Lamentations at the Tomb | 4 8:30 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:00 p.m. Paschal Vigil |

Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 24th, 2024

Everyone is invited to bring their favorite Icon from their home and participate in the Procession of the Holy Icons outside (weather permitting) following Holy Communion.



Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church - Oakmont, PA

CELEBRATE ORTHODOXY!



THE ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD OF GREATER PITTSBURGH INVITES YOU TO THE PITTSBURGH AREA

GREAT VESPERS OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND PAN-ORTHODOX SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Celebrant and Homilist: His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland
Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America
Featuring the Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh

Great Vespers will be followed by fellowship and Lenten refreshments.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024



We're Back! **FLEATIQUE**

Calling all vendors!

Calling all shoppers!!

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

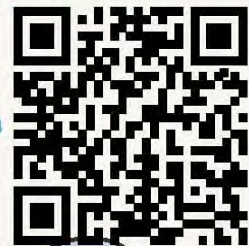
Vendor cost \$30.00 per table Payment due by 3-29-24

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to **pay online!**

Questions?

Call Maria: 412-828-7549

Call Jean: 412-243-1262



St. Barbara Philoptochos Wine Tasting

Thank you to all who helped make
this event a great success!



NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT *and* ST. MOSES THE BLACK ORTHODOX CHURCH



**St. Barbara
Philoptochos
and
Fr. Michael**

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2024
members of our St. Barbara
Philoptochos and Fr. Michael
went to Neighborhood Resilience
Project & St. Moses the Black
Orthodox Church to drop off all of
the donated Teddy Bears and
Stuffed Animals to help aid their
Trauma Response Teams.

**Thank you to everyone
who donated!**

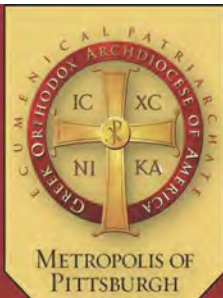


The GOYA basketball season has come to a close.

After a hard fought match against
St. Nicholas Cathedral, the girls finished in
second place. Overall this year we had one first
place and two second place finishes.

Congratulations on a wonderful year!





VOLUME 7 NO. II ISSUE: 62

MARCH 2024

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



Central Region
Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Alliquipa, PA



Northwest Region
Holy Trinity, Canton, OH



The Metropolis clergy came together at their respective regional parishes to celebrate the Feast of St. Photios the Great, Patron of the Metropolis on February 6th.



Southwest Region
St. James, Belpre, OH



East Region
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA

New Metropolis Center Construction Update

Given the winter months and the heavy rainfall, our geotechnical engineers felt that the work that was done in November to provide an improved base in the elevator pit had to be revisited as the replacement clay had been water saturated for so long and compromised. After much testing of additional clay found on the site, and the dry weather we enjoyed all last week, the clay base was removed and replaced with flowable fill concrete and dry/compactible clay with footers poured. We're all done with that with a total incremental cost of \$36,000 to the project. In the meantime, scaffolding was erected and encased with plastic over the two-story stairwell so that masons could work in that area. At the same time, footers and piers were completed for the first floor and much work was done to continue building the foundation walls on the first floor and basement which will continue, weather permitting. To learn more about, donate or pledge for the New Metropolis Center campaign please visit: pittsburgh.goarch.org/metropolis-center Thank you!

Archon Nick Lekas - New Metropolis Center Project Manager



**Donate/
Pledge
Today!**



Metropolis Regional Lenten Mini Retreats

Open to all HOPE and JOY Kids (K-6th Grade)

Northwest Region: April 6, 2024 from 11 am - 4 pm

New Date

Location: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral
3352 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Contact: Ted Cherpas at tcherpas@stsconstantine.com

Registration Link: <http://tinyurl.com/MiniLentCLE>

Central Region: March 16, 2024 from 12 pm - 4 pm

Location: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Contact: Elias Diamond at ediamondhpcgh@gmail.com

Registration Link: <http://tinyurl.com/MiniLentCentral>

Eastern Region: March 30, 2024 from 10 am - 2:00 pm

Location: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1607 W. Union Blvd, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Contact: Isaac Lampart at ilampart@stnicholas.org

Registration Link: www.stnicholas.org/miniretreat

Southwestern Region: April 13, 2024 from 10 am - 1 pm

Location: St. John Greek Orthodox Church
3512 MacCorkle Ave. Charleston, WV 25304

Contact: Alyssa Kyritsis at akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org

Registration Link: <http://tinyurl.com/MiniLentSW>

Participants will enjoy learning about the Triodion Period leading up to Lent. Lessons include crafts, service projects and more! Lunch will be provided.

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Camp Presents...



CAMP SUNDAY

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Calling all of those who have been part of our Camping Ministry! It is our goal to share Christ's love through this life-changing ministry of Camp by the people who love it the most... YOU! Join us to spread the word within your own parish!



Further Information: y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summercamp

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



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

MAY 18 2024 • 4:00 PM

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
PITTSBURGH-CRANBERRY**

910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

ONLINE RESERVATION & SPONSORSHIP:
pittsburgh.goarch.org/st-photios-awards-banquet
\$95/adult, \$25/child (under 12)

Reservation & Sponsorship

Deadline: April 28

No Refunds available after May 4

or mail reservations/sponsorships to:

St. Photios Awards Banquet

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

5201 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Please make checks payable to:

'Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh'

Banquet Co-Chairpersons:

Archdeacon Ryan:

412 621 5529

rgzikowski@pittsburgh.goarch.org

Marianne Stearns:

412 600 2159

mstearns@nauticom.net



**10th ST.
PHOTIOS
AWARDS
BANQUET**

**St. Photios
Awards Banquet
Nominations
Due:
MARCH 31**

**NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE METROPOLITAN'S BENEVOLENCE FUND**

pittsburgh.goarch.org | 412 621 5529

contact: jhenry@pittsburgh.goarch.org

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Summer Camp 2024

Week 1: June 16 - 22

2nd - 4th Grade

Week 2: June 23 - 29

5th - 7th Grade

Week 3: June 30 - July 6

7th - 9th Grade

Week 4: July 7 - 13

10th - 12th Grade

Registration will open March 25, 2024!

More Information:

y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summercamp



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

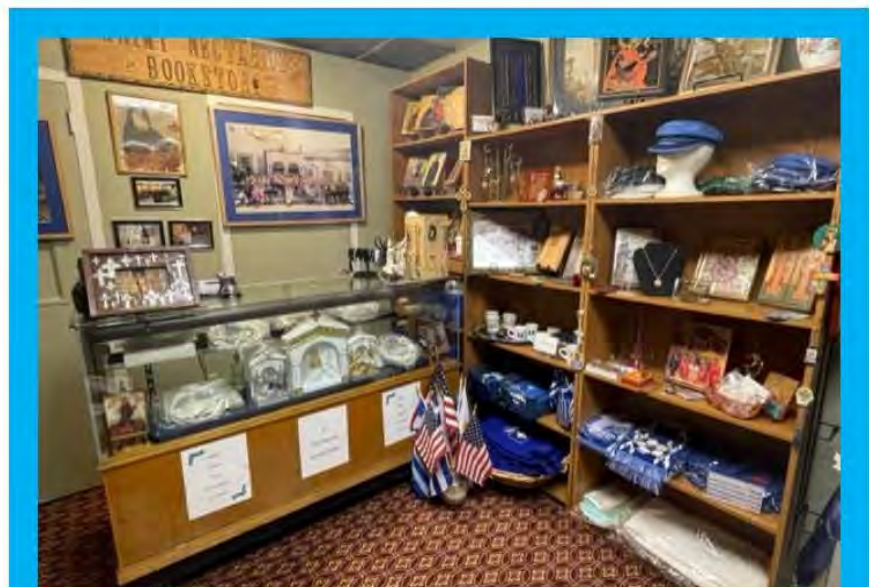
info@pittsburgh.goarch.org



St. Nectarios Bookstore

Welcome to the bookstore. As we enter the new year, come visit the bookstore. We have many items from different countries; Greece, Ukraine, Russia, and many monasteries, including our own, *Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Monastery*.

Contact us for hours at 412.828.4144



Dormition of the Theotokos
Greek Orthodox Church
12 Washington Avenue
Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139

