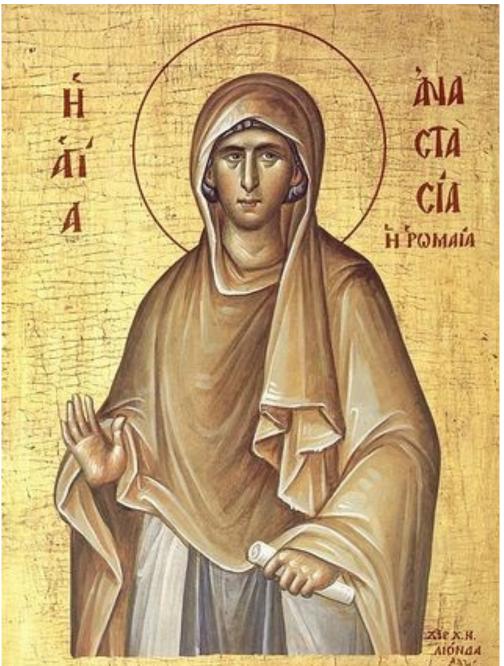




A monthly publication of Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church Oakmont, Pennsylvania

<u>October 2024</u>

<u>Volume II, Issue 10</u>



Holy Virgin Martyr Anastasia the Roman October 29th

<u>Dormition of the Theotokos</u> Greek Ørthodox 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

<u>President</u> – Christos Ioannou <u>Vice President</u> – Christina Contes <u>Secretary</u> – Dr. Michael Contes <u>Treasurer</u> – Chris Aivaliotis George Doas Ted Ioannou John Kamarados, esq. Zoe Lardas Bryan Romell 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 <u>**The Veil**</u>, 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.

2024 Stewardship Thank you for all of your pledge campaigns for the coming year!

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<u>COVER ICON – Holy Virgin Martyr Anastasia the Roman</u> October 29th

The Venerable Martyr Anastasia the Roman was born in Rome of well-born parents and left an orphan at the age of three. As an orphan, she was taken into a women's monastery near Rome, where the abbess was one Sophia, a nun of a high level of perfection. She raised Anastasia in fervent faith, in the fear of God and obedience. After seventeen years, Anastasia was known to the Christians as a great ascetic and to the pagans as a rare beauty.

The persecution against Christians by the emperor Decius (249-251)* began around that time. The pagan administrator of the city, Probus, heard of her and sent soldiers to bring Anastasia to him. The good Abbess Sophia counselled Anastasia for two hours on how to keep the faith, how to resist flattering delusion and how to endure torture. Anastasia said to her: "My heart is ready to suffer for Christ; my soul is ready to die for my beloved Jesus." Blessed by her abbess to suffer for Christ, the young martyr Anastasia humbly came out to meet the armed soldiers.

Brought before the governor Probus, Anastasia openly proclaimed her faith in Christ the Lord. Probus asked for her name. She replied: "My name is Anastasia ["Resurrection"], because the Lord resurrected me, so that I could shame you today, and your father the devil." On seeing her youth and beauty, Probus first attempted flattery to make her deny Christ and dissuade her from the faith, "Why waste your youth, deprived of pleasure? What is there to gain by enduring tortures and death for the Crucified One? Worship our gods, marry a handsome husband, and live in glory and honor." The holy maiden steadfastly replied, "My spouse, my riches, my life and my happiness are my Lord Jesus Christ, and you will not turn me away from Him by your deceit! I am ready to die for my Lord, not once but - oh, if it were only possible! - a thousand times."

Probus then subjected Anastasia to fierce tortures. The holy Martyr bravely endured them, glorifying and praising the Lord. First she was struck in the face, then they stripped her naked, to humiliate her. She cried out to the judge: "This disrobing isn't shameful at all for me, because it's a brilliant, most fitting adornment. I've been stripped of the old person and have donned the new, in righteousness and truth. I'm now ready to suffer this death you hope to terrify me with. I want it so much. Even if you cut up my members, rip out my tongue, my nails and my teeth, you'll be granting me an even greater blessing. I devote my whole being to my Creator and Savior. I desire that He be glorified in all my members. I'll present them to him as jewels, with the adornment of faith."

The governor then ordered that four posts be driven into the ground, on which they stretched out the Martyr and tied her, face-down. Underneath, they lit a fire with oil, pitch and brimstone, as well as other inflammable materials, by which her breasts, stomach and internal organs were burned. From above, the heartless torturers beat her back with sticks. She suffered and was thus tortured for a good long time and her spine and all her back were cut to pieces from the beating. On her front, the flesh, the veins and her blood were all thoroughly burned and she underwent such pain and agony that it was frightening to hear her. Only with her prayers, which were like dew, was she able to moderate the fierceness of the heat, because she remembered God's former miracles, such as the Babylonian furnace.

When the brutal and inhuman beast saw that the Martyr was not cowed by these tortures, he ordered her to be tied to a wheel. No sooner said than done, and, when the wheel was turned by some mechanical device, all the Saint's bones were shattered, her tendons and joints stretched, her body was pulled out of its natural, harmonious shape and she became a pitiful sight.

When the tyrant saw that the Saint was able to withstand this dreadful torture, he determined to defeat her immense resilience with other tortures. So he had all her teeth and nails pulled out and her breasts cut off. Again, the Saint thanked the Lord that she had become a sharer and participant in His sufferings. At the same time, she cursed the tyrant's gods, calling them forces of darkness, demons and perdition for the soul.

The judge could not bear to hear such words and, because the light was so hateful to his feeble eyes, he ordered that her tongue be torn out from the root. Yet again, the Saint was not cowed by this punishment; she merely asked for a little time in which to glorify the Lord with her organs of speech. Having finished her prayer, she told the executioner to set about his work, which he did, cutting off her tongue. She fainted from the pain and a Christian called Cyril gave her a little water to drink. When Probus heard this, he was so enraged that he ordered his head to be cut off.

An Angel of God appeared to Anastasia and upheld her. The people, seeing the inhuman and disgusting treatment of the Saint, became indignant, and the ruler was compelled to end the tortures. She was finally beheaded with the sword outside the city. The body of the Saint was thrown out beyond the city to be eaten by wild animals, but the Lord did not permit her holy relics to be dishonored. At the command of a holy Angel, Abbess Sophia went to find Anastasia's mutilated body, and with the help of two Christians buried it in the earth.

In this manner, Saint Anastasia received the crown of martyrdom. Her feast day is celebrated on October 29th.** Her shinbone with skin on it as well as her right hand are kept today at Gregoriou Monastery in Mount Athos.

CONSECRATION WEEKEND

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2024 6:00 p.m. GREAT VESPERS LICHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2024 8:00 A.M. CONSECRATION ORTHROS 9:00 A.M. CONSECRATION DIVINE LITURGY LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW-RSVP REQUIRED

ARCHRISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA PRESIDING

For More information Visit: DormitionPch.org/consecration

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - 12 WASHING AVENUE - OAKMONT, PA

Please Join Us For The

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

Centennial Celebration



5:30 p.m. Cocktails

6:30 p.m. Dinner Followed by Dancing

Grand Ballroom 12 Washington Avenue Oakmont, Pennsylvania

> Tickets \$100 Semi Formal Attire

Please RSVP by October 15, 2024

Order tickets here or scan the QR Code below



Dance Only at 9:30 p.m., \$25 at Door

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

October 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 6:00 p.m. Consecration Vespers	5 8:00 a.m. Consecration Orthros & Divine Liturgy
6 3rd Sunday of Luke	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council Half Pan Sale Prep (Moussaka)	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 6th Sunday of Luke Philoptochos Meeting Half Pan Sale Prep (Spinach)	21	22	23 Philoptochos - Beverley's Birthday	24	25	26 Gyro Fest 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.
27 7th Sunday of Luke Parish Council Nominations for 2025-2027 Open Gyro Fest 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5th Sunday of Luke					Holy Archangels Orthros & Divine Liturgy	2:00 p.m. Wedding
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8th Sunday of Luke Last day for Parish Council Nominations for 2025-2027		Father Michael	away at Metropol	is Clergy Retreat		
Philoptochos Assembles Hy- giene Kits						
17	18	19	20		22	23
9th Sunday of Luke Philoptochos Meeting				Theotokos in the Temple Orthros & Divine Liturgy Half Pan Sale Pick-Up 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	at Camp Nazareth	GOYA Fall Retreat at Camp Nazareth Half Pan Sale Pick-Up 11:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.
24	25	26	27		29	30
13th Sunday of Luke General Assembly GOYA Fall Retreat at Camp Nazareth	Half Pan Sale Pick-Up 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.			Thanksgiving Day (offices closed	offices closed	4:30 p.m. Baptism

MINISTRY LIPDATES

PARISH COUNCIL

As we enter the month of October, we are blessed as a community to celebrate 2 monumental events in the life of our parish, the Consecration & the Centennial Celebration. We look forward to celebrating both of these events with our parish family!

The Parish Council would like to announce that we will not be holding our usual Thanksgiving Luncheon this year. Although it's always a cherish tradition, the luncheon would fall too close to our Centennial Celebration taking place on November 2nd, 2024.

The Parish Council will host coffee hour on November 10th, 2024, in honor of Thanksgiving and we look forward to resuming our holiday luncheon next year as we move into our next 100 years as a parish together.

Christos J. Ioannou Parish Council President

Рнігортосноз

Welcome to cool sweater weather and colorful falling leaves. Saint Barbara's has begun their fall activities

October 17. The members of Philoptochos will be going to Nativity of the

Theotokos monastery in Saxonburg. If you are interested in going, please contact Elaine Spirianakos by October 10th.

October 23 we also will be going To Beverly's Birthday. This has become an annual tradition for our members. Beverly's birthday arranges and has birthday parties for homeless children & those in need who have never had a birthday party. We supply products for the birthdays & filled diaper bags for new moms. Please contact Judy Contes if you are interested in attending.

Christmas the is just around corner!!! On October 20 there will be a table in the hall to participate in our annual Christmas card fundraiser that is sent from the board, St Barbara's Philoptochos and Father Michael & Presbytera Maria. The cost of the card is \$15. These cards are then sent to the parishioners. The last day to participate in this fundraiser will be November 17.

To learn about our mission & activities, please join us at a meeting. &/or speak to one of our members.

Sincerely, Cathy Champagne *Philoptochos President*

FESTIVAL

Once again this Fall, we are hosting a frozen Half Pan Sale and a Gyrofest. We are in the process of prepping half pans to have them available for sale during the Gyrofest, and the remainder will be sold on-line as we have the past 4 years. So far, we have prepared 145 half pans of Pastitso for sale.

Upcoming prep dates in preparation for the Half Pan Sale are as follows:

- Sunday Oct 13 Moussaka
- Sunday Oct 20 Spinach
- Thursday Oct 24 daytime Baklava packing

Thursday Oct 24 evening - Gyro Kits and Grape Leaves

Any and all are welcome to join us as we prepare these items for the Fall Fundraising events.

The Gyrofest is scheduled for Sat/Sun Oct 26/27. We will be offering Gyros, Fries, Spankopita, Grape Leaves, Baklava, and various soft drinks & adult beverages. Customers can also purchase frozen half pans of Spanakopita, Pastitso, Moussaka and Gyro Kits. Tables and chairs will be set up in the Outdoor Event Center for those patrons who wish to enjoy their food while watching football on the TV. We are asking for volunteers to help prepare and serve the food items to our patrons.

Please email us at:

<u>foodfestival@dormitionpgh.org</u> if you are available to help us on any of the half-pan prep days or for the GyroFest.

Looking forward to another successful Half Pan Sale and GyroFest.

Andy & Chris

GIANT EAGLE GIFTCARDS

Remember to purchase Giant Eagle Gift cards *from the church* to purchase groceries or other Retailer Gift cards as gifts or to purchase gifts.

Support the church by purchasing *our* Giant Eagle Cards. They are always available. Check or cash, only.

Please see Zoe Lardas or contact her zoe@nikocontracting.com (h. 412.681.1951 *no texts*) to arrange for a purchase.



GYRDFSST October 26 & 27, 12pm-6pm

Enjoy dinner & beverages watching football in our Outdoor Event Center or take your food to go!

Gyro on a Pita
Fries
Steak Fry cut potatoes deep fried to a golden brown Spanakopita (2 pieces)
Spanakopita (2 pieces)
Grape Leaves (8 pieces)
Traditional Baklava (4 pieces) & Apricot Baklava (3 pieces)
Soft Drinks & Adult Beveragesvarious prices
Frozen Half Pans:
Spanakopita (16 servings)
Pastitso (12-16 servings)
Moussaka (12-16 servings)
Gyro Party Kit (10 gyros)
EMAIL US AT: FOODFESTIVAL@DORMITIONPGH.ORG WITH QUESTIONS

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church - 12 Washington Ave - Oakmont, PA 15139



DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

12 Washington Avenue · Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139 Telephone: (412) 828-4144 · www.dormitionpgh.org

Reverend Father Michael A. Gavrilos, Parish Priest

Wednesday, October 25th, 2024 Saint James, Brother of our Lord

Parish Council Elections (2025-2027 Term)

The Parish Council consists of eleven (11) elected lay members serving a 3-year term. The following seven (7) names are current members of the Parish Council:

2024-2026 Term:Chris Aivaliotis, Christina Contes, Christos Ioannou, Dimitri Tsambis2023-2025 Term:George Doas, Ted Ioannou, Bryan Romell

The following four members completed their 3-year term: <u>Dr. Michael Contes</u>, <u>John Kamarados, esq.</u>, <u>Zoe Lardas</u> &, <u>George</u> <u>Spiridonakos</u>. They are eligible for the parish council if nominated to serve the 2025-2027 term.

There are four (4) spots that are available to serve on the Parish Council for the 2025-2027 Term. The following is a timeline of how nominating will take place, when the Parish Council Seminar(s) will take place for all continuing and nominated members, and when elections take place (*if needed*).

Parish Council Nominations

Nomination forms and box will be in the Narthex of the Church. Nominations will be open from <u>Sunday</u>, <u>October</u> <u>27th-Sunday</u>, <u>November 10th</u>. Please fill out your nomination form on one of the (3) Sundays or stop by Church during the week to fill out a nomination form. Only in-person nominations will be accepted.

Parish Council Seminar

All current and nominated Parish Council Members are required to attend one of the Parish Council Seminars listed below:

- Thursday, October 17th, 2024 during the first part of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting
- Sunday, October 27th, 2024 during coffee hour
- Sunday, November 17th, 2024 during coffee hour

Elections & Parish General Assembly

On the last day of nominations on November 10th, if four (4) or less names have been submitted, then the slate of those four (4) names are presented to the General Assembly and no vote is necessary. If five (5) or more names are submitted, then a vote will take place via traditional paper votes during the General Assembly on Sunday, November 24th, 2024 following Divine Liturgy.

Affirmation of Office

This will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday January 5th, 2025. Following the Affirmation of Office, a short meeting will take place with the eleven (11) elected Parish Council members to vote for the executive board.

In Christ,

Christos Ioannou Parish Council Rev. Fr. Michael A. Gavrilos Parish Priest

GREEK TO GO

2024 Frozen Half Pan Sale

LOETTTOLOTTIA	il i an oalo	
Order now and pick-up later	r for the holidays!	
Spanakopita (16 servings)		\$35
Spinach and cheese mixture baked into a filo dough cru	ust, baking instructions included	ł
Pastitso (12-16 servings)		\$40
Layers of pasta & ground beef topped with béchamels	auce, baking instructions includ	ed
Moussaka (12-16 servings)		\$40
Layers of potato, eggplant & gr beef topped with béch		
Gyro Party Kit (10 gyros)		\$50
2½lb fully cooked gyro meat & 10-pack pita bread, heat	ting instructions included	
16oz tzatziki sauce (tzatziki sauce is refrigerated and		
Traditional Baklava (4 pieces)		\$10
Filo pastry filled with chopped walnuts and sweetened	8 û	n.):
Apricot Baklava (3 pieces)		\$10
Filo pastry rolled with an apricot filling		1
Pistachio Baklava (2 pieces)		\$7
Filo pastry filled with chopped pistachios and sweeten	ed with syrup	
Show up on any date		
and pick-up your order:	CLICK HERE	
Thursday, November 21, 4pm-6pm	TO ORDER	
Saturday November 23, 11am-1pm	ANIN DAV	

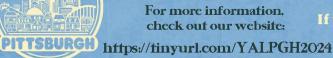
Saturday, November 23, 11am-1pm Monday, November 25, 4pm-6pm Saturday, December 14, 11am-1pm Monday, December 16, 4pm-6pm Thursday, December 19, 4pm-6pm AND PAY

RESERVE NOW WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

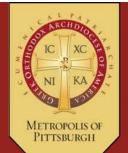
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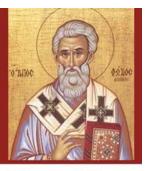
Join us in the beautiful city of Pittsburgh for a weekend packed with opportunities to grow your faith and make new connections with around 300 Orthodox young adults ages 18-35! See why so many from across the country love our conference!



If you would like to support the conference, you can do so by scanning this qr code. We greatly appreciate your generosity!



OCTOBER 2024 A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX **METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH**



GOMoPalooza 2024!

Band of Fathers

VOLUME 8 NO. 6 ISSUE: 69

St. Demetrios, Warren, OH August 17, 2024



Our inaugural GOMoPalooza Arts & Musical Festival at St. Demetrios Community Center, Warren, Ohio on Saturday August 17th was a beautiful day, celebrating the talent and artistry of all ages of the Metropolis! We had an amazing mix of music all day by solo performers, bands, acoustic singers and we were even blessed to enjoy the debut of our very own 'Band of Fathers"! Circus performers and fire-eaters added to the festival atmosphere. There was also an art exhibit featuring arts & crafts by the Metropolis faithful as well as lots of children's activities, food trucks, refreshments and much more ... Thanks to all that participated, volunteered, sponsored and/or attended the festival! We are eternally grateful for your support. We can't wait to do it again next year! Watch this space for the date.



I





2024 Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Junior Division Essay

When reading the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), we learn about the various stages of repentance. What are they? How do they relate to the reversal of the son's journey away from the father? What does the father's reaction upon seeing his son teach us about our relationship to our Father in Heaven?

Junior Division Essay Winner: "The Meaning of the Parable of the Prodigal Son" by Claire Gaitanis Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA

The parable of the Prodigal Son is a well-known parable throughout the church. It's meant to teach us about forgiveness and repentance, but can also symbolize other things as well. The characters in the parable symbolize things that can help our understanding of the parable and what it's meant to tell us.

The Son in the parable represents us while the Father in the parable represents God. In the parable, the son asks for his share of his father's money. The father gives it to him, and the son leaves to go to a faraway country. There the son wastes his inheritance and ends up with no money. There was soon a famine in the country he is in, and since he has nothing left, he has to get a job feeding pigs. This is meant to symbolize us sinning.

The son starts to think about what happened. Then the son realizes what he has done, and prepares to return home. On his way back, he prepares a speech, hoping to be taken in as a servant. When he gets home, he is greeted by his father. Before he can say his speech, his father cuts him off and prepares a feast for his son. This is a picture of God forgiving us when we sin.

The Older Son, or the Brother, hears music and dancing, so he asks one of the servants what was happening. The servant tells him that his brother returned and they are going to celebrate. He gets angry, refuses to go inside, and goes to his father to ask why his younger brother gets a feast even though he disobeyed their father. He says that he has been with their father the whole time, obeying him, and yet he hasn't gotten a feast. The father says that they have to celebratesince the son has come home. His father says, "But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32).

Please consider donating to the Metropolis Scholarship Fund so that we may continue to offer scholarships to our talented youth. Visit https://onrealm.org/GreekOrthodoxMe/give/oratorical Donations can also be mailed directly to the Metropolis to the attention of Alyssa Kyritsis. Please write "Oratorical Scholarship" in the memo line of your check.

Your New Metropolis Center Construction Progress - Sept 2024 Please support the campaign: https://onrealm.org/GreekOrthodoxMe/give/NMC









PLEASE SUPPORT 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



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



