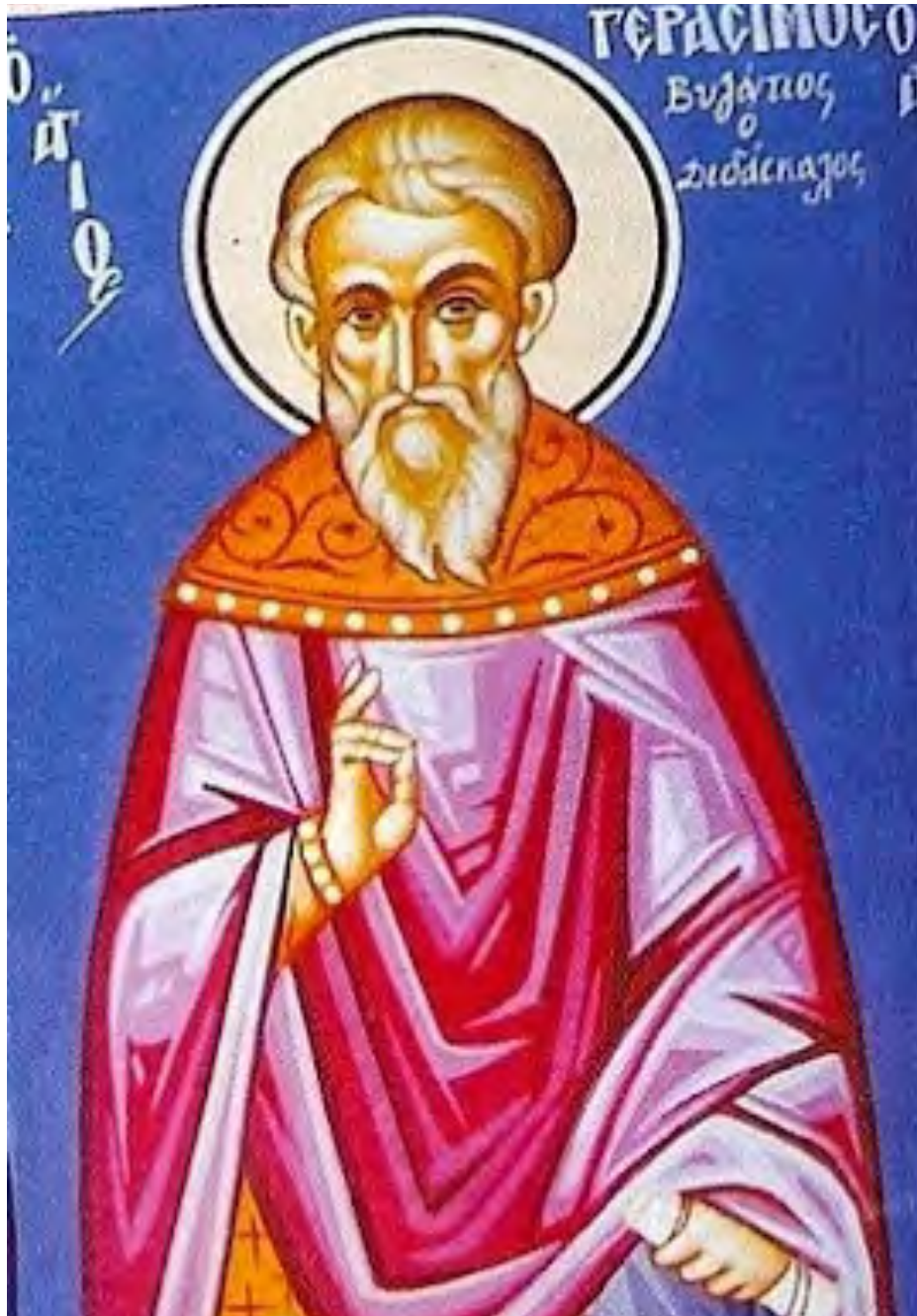


# THE VEIL

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

April 2024

Volume II, Issue 4



Saint Gerasimos of Byzantium (+1770)

April 7

# DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

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## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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12 Washington Avenue - Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139

Church: (412) 828-4144 - [www.dormitionpgh.org](http://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

President – Christos Ioannou

Vice President – Christina Contes

Secretary – Dr. Michael Contes

Treasurer – 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 The Veil, submit them electronically to Fr. Michael ([fmg@dormitionpgh.org](mailto: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

This year on March 18<sup>th</sup>, we started our journey through the period known as Great and Holy Lent. We are enduring the fasting, the additional Church Services throughout the weeks, we have become more tired, and because of that, we might have even put off tasks that we needed to finish. At the end of April, at the end of our Lenten Journey, we are met with another one week fast known as Holy Week. The event, or rather events, that bridge the gap between Great and Holy Lent and Holy Week, is the two-day celebration of the Raising of Lazarus from the tomb, and Palm Sunday.

Jesus, like any good Jew at the time, was on his way to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Right outside of Jerusalem in the city of Bethany, Jesus sees His friends Mary & Martha, who he knows along with their brother Lazarus from previous trips to this area. When Jesus met Mary & Martha in their city, they were distraught and mourning their brother who had passed away. Lazarus had been dead for four days. Lazarus was dead to the point where his body had started to rot, and no one wanted to open the tomb because they knew it would stink. This is the important part of the story, he raises Lazarus from the point of death where his body had started to decompose. He made sure that Lazarus was dead long enough so that everyone would believe in the power of Jesus Christ. With every instance of raising someone from the dead, Jesus is making his point Louder and Louder and Louder, This is what I have come to do for you, I have come to destroy everyone's enemy, I have come to destroy death, THIS IS WHAT I AM HERE FOR.

Of course, word gets around of this raising of Lazarus from the dead, and it spreads like wildfire. On Palm Sunday, we see such excitement in the crowd of people gathering together to greet Him, holding palms and waving them, proclaiming: HOSANA IN THE HIGHEST! HOSANA IN THE HIGHEST! All of these people knew what happened with the raising of Lazarus from the dead, and they think this man, Jesus Christ, is a man of such power, this man is the King! This is the one that is going to reverse the fortunes of the Jewish people. This is the one who will help us chase out the oppressors. This is the one to bring back the glory days when Israel was the great kingdom of David and Solomon. This is the one, this is the person that we were waiting for.

What happens next is the important part, this man, Jesus Christ, turns out to not be that kind of earthly Messiah that the Jews thought he was, and it disappoints them. They are unable to see beyond His humanity to who He truly is. They turn on Him, and by the end of the week, they have done the worst they can do, they kill Him. And yet He comes back, He demonstrates that He is the Resurrection, He is the Life! Good will prevail, the end of the story is life, this all has a happy ending! All you have to do is follow Him.

This glorious two-day period is a preview of what is going to happen this Holy Week, and every Holy Week that is celebrated in our lives. This is Jesus telling us, "This is what I can do and this is what I will do."

On Saturday evening as we gather in Church, we hear the gospel of the Resurrection of Christ, and after chanting "Christ is Risen" we hear the Resurrection homily of St. John Chrysostom. The main theme of this homily is: all are welcome! It doesn't matter what you did this Great Lent. It doesn't matter whether or not you came to the Church. It doesn't even matter whether or not you fasted...all are welcome! We know what we are *supposed* to do and how we are *supposed* to prepare for Lent & Pascha. We all celebrate the resurrection of Christ. This is our salvation, and we know *where* we are *supposed* to celebrate.

It is my hope and prayer that we come together to shout in unison, "Death, where is your sting? Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen! Death is Abolished! The joy of the Resurrection is universal and spreads throughout the world! Join us with your family, your friends, and even your non-Orthodox friends and family to celebrate together. Let us come and see the empty tomb of Christ to proclaim that Christ is Risen!

In Anticipation of our Risen Lord, I remain,

Fr. Michael A. Gavrilos












# 2024 Stewardship

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

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aber	Alecia Denillo	Nicholas Kokales	Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Papanikolaou
Mr. & Mrs. Aristotle Aivaliotis	Mrs. Rosalyn DeNillo	Mrs. Maria Kopsahilis	Mr. & Mrs. Pantelis Papazekos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Aivaliotis	Ms. Alecia Denillo	Mr. & Mrs. John Kratsas	Georgia Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Aivaliotis	Joyce Diacopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kratsas	Mr. & Mrs. Ian Piper
Ms. Michelle Aivaliotis	Mr. Michael Domian & Andrea Contes-Domian	Dr. & Dr. Paul Kukunas	Michael Raich & Mary Calaboyias-Raich
Mrs. Maria Alexander	Peter Dorovenis	Dr. & Mrs. Steve Kukunas	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rodites
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Apperson	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dupaly	James Kukunas	Mr. & Dr. Bryan Romell
Mr. & Mrs. James Arthur	Mr. & Mrs. James Eiler	Dr. & Mrs. James Kyros	Mr. Lucas Sadlowski
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Ariadne Beldocos	Mr. & Mrs. John Facaros	Ms. Nia Lafferty	Mr. & Mrs. A. Dane Skroupa
Jayne Bertovich	Mr. & Mrs. Grace Facaros	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Lardas	Mr. & Mrs. George Spiridonakos
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Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Callas	Mr. & Mrs. Stefanos Fouskas	Diane Lingeris	Mr. & Mrs. Kellan Thompson
Sophie Caplanes	Rev. Fr. & Mrs. Michael A. Gavrilos	Diane Lingeris	Jon & Stefanie Todd
Clint & Kathleen Champagne	Denise Gemellas	Ms. Catherine Lobaugh	John Tsambis
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	Diane Karnavas	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Nemeth	
	Andron Kavouras	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Paese	
	Ms. Joanne Kehris	Despina Paleos	

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 25th</b>	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> 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 <b>MARCH 3rd</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> 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 <b>MARCH 10th</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> 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 <b>MARCH 17th</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <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 <b>MARCH 24th</b>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> 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 <b>MARCH 31st</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> 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 <b>APRIL 7th</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <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 <b>APRIL 14th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> 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 <b>APRIL 21st</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> 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! <b>APRIL 28th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> 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 <b>MAY 3rd</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <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! <b>MAY 5th</b> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> 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 – Saint Gerasimos of Byzantium (+1770)

April 7th

Our Venerable Father Gerasimos, the Teacher, was born in Constantinople in the district of Ypsomathia (Samatya) to a pious family. Little is known of his early life. He had a reputation as a wise and educated man who was well regarded by the educated whom he consorted with.

When he traveled to the island of Patmos he became a disciple of St. Makarios Kalogeras, the Teacher of the Nation, at the famous seminary of Patmos which he founded. He became the rector of the seminary after the blessed repose of St. Makarios.

Having distanced himself from the cares of the world he received the monastic tonsure at the Royal and Patriarchal Monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Patmos, where he was later ordained deacon and priest. He lived a venerable life and was regarded as an excellent teacher and luminary to the students of the seminary.

When he fell ill from a calculus, he left for Smyrna for treatment. When this failed, he traveled to Crete where he reposed in 1770 and was buried in the Holy Trinity Monastery of Chania, which is otherwise known as the Tsangarolon Monastery.

When the monks from his monastery in Patmos learned of his repose, they traveled by boat to Crete where they asked that his holy relics be returned to his monastery. The monks of Holy Trinity Monastery refused this request, because they believed it was sent to them by God, however during a vigil, the holy right hand of the Saint was miraculously cut off while the Cherubic Hymn was being chanted, and so this treasured relic was returned to Patmos where it remains to this day and is a source of many healings for those who venerate it with faith.

The grace-flowing relic of St. Gerasimos was kept under the Holy Altar of the main church of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity Tsangarolon in Chania together with the relic of St. Akakios who reposed in this monastery, until 1821 when the Ottoman Turks set fire to the monastery, destroying this source and treasury of grace. Today his skull is still there, while the right arm of the Saint can be found at the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Patmos.

### **Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone**

In the world you persevered in asceticism, and your words shined with wisdom, having arrived at the utmost of passionlessness, you appeared as the sun in its crossing O blessed one, shining on all who honor you O divinely-minded one. Show them to be shearers of heavenly joy, Venerable Father Gerasimos.

### **Kontakion in the Fourth Tone**

Today the divine memory of Gerasimos, we celebrate with songs, crying out O faithful: Christ our only God, at the entreaties of Your Saint take pity on us.

# MINISTRY UPDATES

## FESTIVAL UPDATE

We are now into full swing prepping for this year's festival on June 28-29-30, our 50th year. So far we have prepared:

- 17,000 Koulourakia (plus another 3200 for the Philoptochos fundraiser)
- 4,600 Kourambiethes
- 3,300 Meatballs for Souzoukakia

Final prep dates before Easter are April 14 and 21, we'll be preparing a total of 300 pans of spinach. Consider bringing a change of clothes to church or use one of our aprons and help us out by assembling some pans.

Post-Easter prep dates include:

- Sunday May 19: Moussaka
- Sunday June 2: Pastitso #1
- Sunday June 9: Pastitso #2
- TBD Lamb Shank (2 weekdays in May)
- TBD Galatoubourekos (2 weekdays in May)
- TBD Karitopita (1 weekday in May, if we add this to the pastry menu)

We held our first Festival Meeting in March, some of the specifics discussed were:

- Once again use the pre-pack model for Food Line and Pastries
- Consider adding Salads only if separate outside crew can be secured
- Keep selling Gyros inside and outside, prepare one way with lettuce & tomatoes with tzatziki on the side
- Consider preparing Karithopita, we do get some requests and we always sold out in the past
- Consider bringing back Ice Cream, high sales in the past, low impact on operations
- Continue to sell Greek Beer and Hard Seltzer for another year and re-evaluate for next year
- Promote the Festival as "Credit Cards or Exact Change"

To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year: include thank-you message on all promotions and signage, prepare scrolling video with pictures/videos of past festivals, consider extra entertainment early afternoon Sat/Sun

Let's all do what we can to help out as we prep for our 50th festival,  
Andy & Chris  
Festival Chairs

## 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)

## PHILOPTOCHOS

The members of St. Barbara's Philoptochos were busy these past three months. Socks were donated to several homeless shelters in the area, school supplies and health products were given to area schools. Since these are ongoing projects - donations are welcome throughout the year.

A successful Covered Dish was held in March....it was a great tasty turnout. the selection of food was wonderful...better than any restaurant buffet!!!!..

Spring cleaning? Your "junk" may be someone else's treasure. Consider donating to The Fleatique to be held on Saturday, April 13th in the church hall. All the tables have been sold; so we welcome you to attend. Come to spend your change. The hours are from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

April will be the start of our annual Flower Spring sale. This year, the selection has increased -- not only are there hanging baskets, but flats, herbs and a few vegetables, like cherry tomatoes. Payment and orders need to be submitted by April 26, 2024. The items will be available for pick-up at the church on May 11th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please view our website to order.

Lent is an active time for all members. We will be participating in the Weekend of Service by making soup to deliver to our shut-ins. If you

know of someone who would benefit from this, please contact Judi Contis at 724-335-2429. In addition, Philoptochos will be cleaning the church on Wednesday, April 24 at 9:30 in preparation of Easter. All are welcome to help -- more hands, less time!

The members of St. Barbara's Philoptochos want to thank everyone for their generosity and support throughout the year. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Sincerely,

Cathy Champagne  
Philoptochos President







# *We're Back!* **FLEATIQUE**

Calling all vendors!

Calling all shoppers!!

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

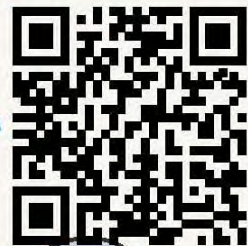
Vendor cost \$30.00 per table Payment due by 3-29-24

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

Questions?

Call Maria: 412-828-7549

Call Jean: 412-243-1262



# YPAPANTI'S ANNUAL FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

## OUR SCHEDULE:

- 10:00 AM – WELCOME & PRESENTATION BY BASIL GERWING
- 12:00 PM – LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT - HYGIENE KIT ASSEMBLY
- 12:30 PM – LENTEN COVERED DISH LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP
- 1:30 PM – CLOSING PRAYER

## OUR THEME:

**“The Diversity Between Western Sacred Art and Byzantine Iconography”**



## ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKER:

Robert Basil Gerwing Iconographer, was born in 1952, and for as long as he can remember he has been enamored with Sacred Art. For over fifty years he has supplied Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches and individuals with icons. At the age of 18 he entered an Orthodox monastery in Grass Lake, Michigan where he studied under the tutelage of monks working in the style of Photios Kontoglou. He has painted numerous churches around the United States, including our own Ypapanti parish. Many of these were complete interiors replete with icons placed within all liturgical spaces. Additionally, the Studio has executed several large-scale exterior mosaics as well as a multitude of panel icons. Robert has also taught at the University of Pittsburgh and, for the past fifteen years, has been an adjunct professor at Chatham University where he offers courses in Architectural History.



**FEEL FREE TO COME FOR ANY PORTION OF THE EVENT - ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!**

# 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

NOW TAKING ORDERS!

# FLOWER & PLANT FUNDRAISER

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SMALL POTS \* VEGETABLES \* HERBS



ORDER  
ONLINE  
BEFORE  
APRIL 26TH

PICK UP ON  
MAY 11TH  
10:00AM to  
1:00PM

QUESTIONS OR TO PAY  
BY CHECK PLEASE  
CONTACT:  
CATHY  
412-968-6503

Scan to  
order  
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DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK CHURCH  
12 WASHINGTON AVE. OAKMONT PA

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck	<b>4</b> 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School	<b>5</b> 8:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy  6:00 p.m. 3rd Salutation to the Theotokos	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Sunday of the                      Holy Cross</b>  Festival Prep <i>(spinach)</i>	<b>8</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck	<b>11</b> 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School	<b>12</b> 6:00 p.m. 4th Salutation to the Theotokos	<b>13</b> 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Fleatique
<b>14</b> <b>Sunday of St.                      John Climacus</b>  Festival Prep <i>(spinach)</i>	<b>15</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck	<b>18</b> 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School  6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:00 p.m. Akathist to the Theotokos	<b>20</b> 12:00 p.m. Baptism
<b>21</b> <b>Sunday of St.                      Mary of Egypt</b>  Philoptochos Meeting  Festival Prep <i>(spinach)</i>	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Adult Education / Potluck	<b>25</b> 5:30-7:00 p.m. Children's Greek School	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy ( <i>Saturday                      of Lazarus</i> )
<b>28</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 11:00 a.m. Myrrh Bearing Women Rehersal  6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<b>29</b> 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<b>30</b> 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service				

# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>3:00 p.m.</b> Holy Unction  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Bridegroom Service	<b>2</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Vespereal Divine Liturgy  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Service of the 12 Passion Gospels	<b>3</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Royal Hours  <b>3:00 p.m.</b> Decent from the Cross Vespers  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Lamentations at the Tomb	<b>4</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Vespereal Divine Liturgy  <b>11:00 p.m.</b> Paschal Vigil
<b>5</b> <b>Great &amp; Holy Pascha</b>  <b>12:00 noon</b> Agape Vespers Pascha Panayiri to follow	<b>6</b> <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Great Vespers & Orthros <i>(Sts. Irene, Raphael, &amp; Nicholas)</i>	<b>7</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Divine Liturgy <i>(Sts. Irene, Raphael, &amp; Nicholas)</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>5:30-7:00 p.m.</b> Children's Greek School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Thomas Sunday</b>  Mother's Day	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>5:30-7:00 p.m.</b> Children's Greek School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women</b>  Festival Prep <i>(moussaka)</i>  Philoptochos Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>5:30-7:00 p.m.</b> Children's Greek School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

# HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE 2024

<b><u>SATURDAY OF LAZARUS</u></b>	<b><u>APRIL 27</u></b>	<b><u>ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ</u></b>
Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:30 a.m.	Ὁρθρος καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία
<b><u>PALM SUNDAY</u></b>	<b><u>APRIL 28</u></b>	<b><u>ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ</u></b>
Orthros & Divine Liturgy Bridegroom Service	8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Ὁρθρος καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία Ἡ Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου
<b><u>HOLY MONDAY</u></b>	<b><u>APRIL 29</u></b>	<b><u>ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ</u></b>
Bridegroom Service	6:00 p.m.	Ἡ Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου
<b><u>HOLY TUESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>APRIL 30</u></b>	<b><u>ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ</u></b>
Bridegroom Service	6:00 p.m.	Ἡ Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου
<b><u>HOLY WEDNESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MAY 1</u></b>	<b><u>ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ</u></b>
Holy Unction Orthros of Holy Thursday / Anointing	3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Τὸ Ἅγιον Εὐχέλαιον Ὁρθρος τῆς Μεγάλης Πέμπτης / Χρῆση με Εὐχέλαιον
<b><u>HOLY THURSDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MAY 2</u></b>	<b><u>ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ</u></b>
Vesperal Divine Liturgy Service of the 12 Passion Gospels	8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Ἑσπερινὴ Θεία Λειτουργία Ἡ Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Ἐσταυρομένου
<b><u>HOLY FRIDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MAY 3</u></b>	<b><u>ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ</u></b>
Royal Hours Descent from the Cross Vespers Lamentations at the Tomb	8:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Ἡ Ἀκολουθία τῶν Μεγάλων Ὁρῶν Ἡ Ἀκολουθία τῆς Ἀποκαθηλώσεως Ὁρθρος τοῦ Ἐπιταφίου
<b><u>HOLY SATURDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MAY 4</u></b>	<b><u>ΜΕΓΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ</u></b>
Vesperal Divine Liturgy Paschal Vigil	8:30 a.m. 11:00 p.m.	Ἑσπερινὴ Θεία Λειτουργία Ἡ Ἀγρυπνία τοῦ Πάσχα
<b><u>SUNDAY OF PASCHA</u></b>	<b><u>MAY 5</u></b>	<b><u>ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ</u></b>
Agape Vespers	12:00 noon	Ὁ Ἑσπερινὸς τῆς Ἀγάπης



# *Myrrh Bearing Women* *(Myrofores)*

ON HOLY FRIDAY, AT THE EVENING LAMENTATIONS SERVICE, GIRLS IN GRADES K-12TH HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS MYRRH BEARING WOMEN. THE MYRRH BEARING WOMEN CAME TO THE TOMB OF JESUS VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING TO ANOINT HIS BODY AFTER HIS DEATH.

**THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE ARE ASKED TO DRESS IN ALL WHITE (DRESS / SHOES / STOCKINGS / SOCKS / SWEATERS).**

A WHITE BASKET FILLED WITH ROSE PETALS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EACH GIRL.

THERE WILL BE A BRIEF REHEARSAL AFTER THE PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY.

THOSE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, PLEASE CONTACT PRESVYTERA MARIA AT (MARIAGAVRILOS13@GMAIL.COM)

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - OAKMONT, PA





# **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES OF OUR ORTHODOX CHURCH**

## **Palm Sunday Evening**

### *Bridegroom Service*

The Gospel describes the plotting of the priests and elders to trap Jesus as a religious heretic. The hymns of this Nymphios service commemorate two things: the prophetic figure of Joseph, who suffered unjustly at the hands of his brothers before being greatly rewarded. The second being the parable of the fig tree, in failing to bear fruit became a symbol of the fallen creation, and our own lives, in which we have also failed to bear spiritual fruit.

## **Holy Monday Evening**

### *Bridegroom Service*

This evening's theme is watchfulness and preparation, before the awesome judgement seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves. The Gospel reading contrasts the efforts of the Pharisees to trick and discredit Jesus. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Young Virgins—five wise and five foolish.

## **Holy Tuesday Evening**

### *Bridegroom Service*

True repentance and transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith is seen in the person of the sinful woman who anoints Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet. The highlight of the service is a hymn written by St. Kassiani in honor of this woman. The Gospel foretells and recalls Christ's inner struggles and agony. Holy Wednesday morning follows the same themes with the final Presanctified Liturgy for the year.

## **Holy Wednesday Afternoon**

### *Holy Unction*

The theme of this service is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Holy Unction anoints the faithful, heals them physically and spiritually. They are also reconciled to each other to receive to gift of Holy Communion instituted by Christ at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday Morning.

## **Holy Wednesday Evening**

### *Matins of Holy Thursday*

Service of the Matins for Holy Thursday, which focuses on three events 1. the Upper Room 2. the Garden of Gethsemane 3. the washing of the feet. Jesus Christ washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper showing His humility and love. Following the service faithful will be the anointing with the Sacrament of Holy Unction sanctified from the afternoon service.

## **Holy Thursday Morning**

### *Vesperal Divine Liturgy*

This Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great has Christ establishing the New Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah at the Last Supper through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The priest will prepare the Presanctified Host of Communion that will be used for the next year for the sick/homebound.

## **Holy Thursday Evening**

### *Service of the 12 Passion Gospels*

We commemorate the unjust suffering that Jesus Christ endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled to God our Father. Twelve Passion Gospels are read. A procession representing Christ carrying His own Cross along the streets of Jerusalem to Golgatha takes place in the Church. This is the longest Orthros service of the Orthodox Church.

## **Holy Friday Morning**

### *Royal Hours*

Each hour has a theme: the coming of Christ, the true light (First), the descent of the Holy Spirit (Third), the passion and crucifixion of Christ (Sixth) and the death/burial of Jesus (Ninth). The central prayer to each of the Hours is the Lord's Prayer.

## **Holy Friday Afternoon**

### *Vespers of the Unnailing*

At this service we are witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. This service is known in Greek as the *Apokathelosis*, or the Unnailing from the Cross. The service remembers how Joseph of Arimathea removed Christ's body from the Cross, wrapped it in clean linen and carried it to his own unused tomb for burial, the priest will pause the Gospel reading to take down the icon of Christ from the Cross.

## **Holy Friday Evening**

### *Lamentations at the Tomb*

Holy Friday evening's theme is Christ's descent into Hades during which the gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ's saving dispensation in the flesh. The service begins with the Lamentations also called *Encomia* (Lamentations) divided into three stasis. It includes the procession of the decorated Kouvouklion containing the Epitaphios. The service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.

## **Holy Saturday Morning**

### *Vesperal Divine Liturgy*

The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve Apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come with faith to perform the last act of love—to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of bay leaves and flower petals by the priest just before the reading of the Gospel.

## **Holy Saturday Evening**

### *Paschal Vigil*

The Church is completely darkened; a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of Darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the Church and defeats it completely. The Resurrection of Christ is proclaimed, and the singing of 'Christos Anesti' signifies Christ's victory over Death. After the Anastasis Service, the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom begins. The light is carried back to our homes so that they might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph. Red dyed Pascha eggs are blessed and given out to the faithful at end of this service.

## **Sunday of Pascha**

### *Agape Vespers*

The theme of this special service is love, forgiveness, reconciliation, triumph and joy—these are the gifts that we receive because Christ lived and died and triumphed for our sake. This service is characterized by the reading of the Gospel in several languages to illustrate the universal Good News of the Resurrection to all ends of the world.

# 2024 Pascha Panigiri

Pascha Sunday, May 5th

12:00 noon Agape Vespers

All Are Invited To Our Pascha Potluck Meal  
Following Agape Vespers

Lamb, Magiritsa, & Potatoes Are Provided

Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 30th to Janine Michael  
office@dormitionpgh.org / (412) 828-4144

With Amount Attending & What Dish You Will Be Brining

# Saints Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene Chapel Feast Day

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH – OAKMONT, PA

## Monday May 6<sup>th</sup>

6:00 P.M.

PASCHAL VESPERS

ARTOKLASIA

PROCESSION OF RELICS

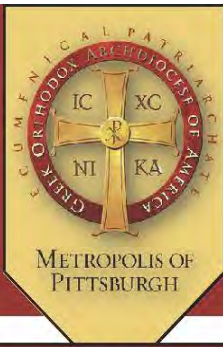
PASCHAL ORTHROS

## Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>

10:00 A.M.

PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY





# A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

## NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



### New Metropolis Center Construction Update

With the better weather and soil issues in the rearview mirror, progress has accelerated. We now have some of the first floor flat concrete work in place along with foundation walls rising. Here you can see the elevator area foundation walls beginning and interior basement footer forms. Here too are the piers that will support the dome of the chapel and the completion of the stairwell masonry.

In the coming two weeks, Kathy and I will be presenting at three more parishes to provide everyone the opportunity to support our dear church and encourage fellowship, ministry and worship for us, our kids and grandkids (we have 12 – pressure’s on!).



*The Metropolis of Pittsburgh*  
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society  
*2024 Daffodil Luncheon*

HOSTED BY  
HOLY TRINITY  
OF AMBRIDGE

Saturday  
April 6th  
11:00 am

MARRIOTT  
PITTSBURGH AIRPORT  
777 ATEN ROAD  
CORAOPLIS, PA 15108

For Luncheon Reservations visit:  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=NDJKRNGH5HXWW](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=NDJKRNGH5HXWW)  
or scan the QR code:

For Sponsorships visit:  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=2NXVEKSCRSUAA](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=2NXVEKSCRSUAA)  
or scan the QR code:

PLEASE RSVP  
BY MARCH 25TH

Proceeds to benefit:  
The Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
Emergency Fund and Seminarian Scholarship Fund

As mentioned last month, for this Lenten Season, most parishioners around the Metropolis will receive a mailing that kicks off our public fundraising campaign. Look for it! Thereafter, you will see social media videos of ministry workers who will speak to the potential this new center brings us all.

AND as I always will, I ask that you seriously consider a pledge, or raising your pledge, or pre-paying your pledge so that we AVOID ANY DEBT! We will continue fundraising until we are there! Please help us so that this new home is only ever a blessing AND NEVER A BURDEN to our church. Please participate and be part of our community!

Archon Nick Lekas - New Metropolis Center Project Manager

# METROPOLIS HAPPENINGS:

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

## THE NINTH ANNUAL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL AND QUIZ BOWL

Saturday, April 13, 2024  
St. Demetrios Church, Rocky River, OH 11am - 3pm

**QUIZ · MUSIC · ACT · ART**

Registration Deadline: March 30 2024  
For more information and registration visit:

[pittsburgh.goarch.org/greek-education](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org/greek-education)  
Maria Stamoolis: [mstamoolis@verizon.net](mailto:mstamoolis@verizon.net)

## METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH CAMP 2024

Week 1 (Grades 2-4): June 16-22  
Week 2 (Grades 5-7): June 23-29  
Week 3 (Grades 7-9): June 30-July 6  
Week 4 (Grades 10-12): July 7-13

**WELCOME BACK CAMPERS!**

Campers attend the week of the grade level they are completing this school year.

More Information: [y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summercamp](http://y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summercamp)

**REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 25TH AT 7PM**

# WEEKEND OF SERVICE

## APRIL 20-21, 2024

THE OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES ALONG WITH THE METROPOLIS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY WANT TO ENCOURAGE ALL OUR PARISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL WEEKEND OF SERVICE!

LED BY YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND PHILOPTOCHOS CHAPTERS, ENTIRE PARISHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME TOGETHER AND DO SOMETHING TO SERVE OTHERS DURING THAT WEEKEND.

Questions? Contact Alyssa Kyritsis at [akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org) or Joyce Spanakis at [jspanakis@me.com](mailto:jspanakis@me.com)

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

### 10th ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

MAY 18 2024 · 4:00 PM

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON PITTSBURGH-CRANBERRY**  
910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

Tickets: \$95/adult, \$25/child (under 12)  
Reservation & Sponsorship Deadline: April 28

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'

SCAN THE QR CODE to make reservations

FOR ONLINE RESERVATION & SPONSORSHIP:  
[pittsburgh.goarch.org/st-photios-awards-banquet](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org/st-photios-awards-banquet)

No Refunds available after May 4

Banquet Co-Chairpersons:  
Archdeacon Ryan: 412 621 5529 | [rgzikowski@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:rgzikowski@pittsburgh.goarch.org)  
Marianne Stearns: 412 600 2159 | [mstearns@nauticom.net](mailto:mstearns@nauticom.net)

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

[pittsburgh.goarch.org](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org) | 412 621 5529 contact: [lhenry@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto: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](http://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

