

# THE Veil

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

October 2025

Volume 3, Issue 10



Saint Artemios the Great Martyr October 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 Ianine Michael – Parish Administrator 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 Romanelli 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.

## 2025 Stewardship

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

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#### **COVER ICON – Saint Artemios the Great Martyr**

#### October 20th

The holy, glorious martyr Artemios came from a noble family and was highly regarded by Emperor Constantine the Great, who promoted him to the rank of Patrician and appointed him Military Governor (dux augustalis) of Alexandria and of all Egypt (c. 330). Despite his high appointment and responsibilities, Artemios did not weaken in his faith or in his zeal to spread the message of salvation in Christ.

Upon the death of Emperor Constantine, his son Constantius inherited all the East and resided in Constantinople (337). He entrusted Artemios with the task of bringing the relics of the Apostle Andrew from Patras in the Peloponnese and the Apostle Luke from Thebes in Boetia to Constantinople, where they were placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles.

When Julian the Apostate came to the throne and sought to restore paganism, he made Antioch his headquarters for carrying on the Persian war, and commanded all provincial Governors to meet him there with their forces. Therefore, Artemios departed Alexandria with his army and went to Antioch. After arriving in the city, he saw Emperor Julian with two priests before him, Evgenios and Makarios, whom he was trying to get to renounce their faith for the senseless cult of his gods. Having bravely confessed their faith in Christ, the Emperor ordered them to be struck five hundred times with rods. Disgusted by what he saw, Artemios went up to the Emperor and denounced his policies as being that of the demons, and the gods he worshiped were nothing but wood or silver and completely lifeless. The Emperor's surprise turned into fury when he learned that this was Artemios the Governor of Egypt, whom he suspected to have been responsible for the death of his brother Gaius Constantine, the Caesar of the East, assassinated on the orders of Emperor Constantius. Thus Artemios was seized and his badges of office were torn off, then he was thrown into prison with the priests Evgenios and Makarios.

The next day, Evgenios and Makarios were exiled to the inhospitable confines of Arabia where, after a while, they were beheaded (Dec. 20). Artemios was brought before the Emperor, who flattered him and offered him a promotion in the empire if he accepted the pagans gods and renounced Christ. Artemios ardently refused, and for this Julian had him tortured in prison, running through his body red-hot skewers. That evening Christ appeared to Artemios and healed his wounds. Strengthened by this vision, Artemios spent fifteen days on his feet, neither eating or drinking, but occupied night and day with prayer and the contemplation of heavenly mysteries.

After this time Julian had Artemios brought before him to put him to death. A large rock, lying near the theater, was split in two; the Saint was laid on one half and the other half was brought down on his body. As the stone fell, everyone could hear his bones break. He was left there till the next day, thinking that he was dead. But when the stone was lifted, the tyrant was astonished to find this broken-boned man, disemboweled and eyeless, scorning idols and glorifying the Cross of Christ. Julian thus ordered his beheading, to the joy of Artemios. A pious noblewoman got possession of the Martyr's body and took it to Constantinople, where for centuries it was fervently venerated by the faithful and wrought miracles without number.

In the seventh century an Anonymous author compiled a number of miracles of Saint Artemios, whose healing activities were predominantly centered in the Church of Saint John the Forerunner in Constantinople and who "specialized" in healing hernias and diseases affecting the genitals of mostly male patients. Below is one example of many:

A certain chief physician, Anthimos by name, had a son about 20 years old whose testicles had become dangerously diseased so that he did not even have the strength to go to the latrines by himself. The father brought him on a litter to the Church of the Forerunner where the much-revered relic of the holy and glorious Artemios now lies, and did whatever all are accustomed to do who are similarly afflicted. Then one night the holy martyr appeared to him in a dream in the semblance of his father Anthimos and said to him: "Let me see what it is that you have." And Anthimos' son, after undressing himself, showed him; once he had done this, Artemios took hold of his testicles and squeezed them forcefully so that he awoke and cried out in pain, still in the grip of the frightening dream. Anxious and worried that the illness was growing worse and after touching the afflicted place, he found himself without pain and his testicles restored to health.

Source: https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2015/10/saint-artemios-great-martyr.html

October 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Baking — Half Pan Sale (Lamb Shank)	2	3	4 Chrismation
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Godparent Sunday 2nd Sunday of Luke Sunday School	U	5:30 p.m. Greek School		9		11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council		5:30 p.m. Greek School		Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.		
Sunday School  Baking —  Half Pan Sale (Spanakopita)  GOYA — Fall Fun						
at Soergel's 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Teaching Divine Liturgy  3rd Sunday of Luke	20	5:30 p.m. Greek School	Baking — Half Pan Sale (Gyro Kits & Pastries)	2.5	24	Baptism <b>Gyro Fest</b> Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday School Philoptochos Meeting						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
6th Sunday of Luke		5:30 p.m. Greek School				
Sunday School						
<b>Gyro Fest</b> Noon - 6:00 p.m.						
<u>Parish Council Nomination for 2026-2028</u> October 26th-November 9th						

November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 5th Sunday of Luke Sunday School	3	4 5:30 p.m. Greek School	5	6	Vigil – Synaxis of Holy Archangels 7:00 p.m	8
					12:30a.m.	
			uncil Nomination ober 26th-Novemb			
9 7th Sunday of Luke 2nd Annual Blessing of First Responders Philoptochos Luncheon of Thanks	10	11 5:30 p.m. Greek School	12	13 GOYA Art Night	14	15
16 Saint Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist Sunday School Philoptochos Meeting	17	18 5:30 p.m. Greek School	19	20 Half Pan Sale Pick-Up 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	Temple	Half Pan Sale Pick-Up 11:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.  GOYA Fall Retreat at Camp Nazareth
9th Sunday of Luke Sunday School Parish General Assembly GOYA Fall Retreat at Camp Nazareth	24 Half Pan Sale Pick-Up 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	25 5:30 p.m. Greek School	26	27 Thanksgiving (Offices Closed)	28 (Offices Closed)	29
Saint Andrew the First-Called Apostle NO SUNDAY SCHOOL						



Our 2025–26 year is off to a wonderful start! On September 7 we held our Kick-Off Meeting with a great turnout, and we are grateful to all the ladies who attended. Each officer and board member shared highlights of the busy months ahead, and we also celebrated a very successful Fleatique. Stay tuned for details on which month it will return in 2026!

#### **Current Focus:**

Right now, our attention is on the

First Responders Appreciation & Luncheon of Thanks on **Sunday**, **November 9**. Philoptochos members are responsible for bringing side dishes, desserts, and drinks for this potluck meal. A signup sheet will be shared soon so everyone can contribute.

At the same time, we are launching three meaningful initiatives:

- 1. **Trauma Teddys** We are collecting *new or gently used* stuffed animals for Resilience Neighborhood Initiatives. These are given to children during emergency calls to provide comfort and love in moments of crisis.
- 2. **Hygiene Supplies Drive** What began as a collection of feminine products has grown into an ongoing donation effort for two local high schools. We now accept all hygiene items for young women and men: soaps, lotions, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lipsticks, combs, and other items that bring dignity and confidence. When you shop for yourself, consider adding one item for a student in need.
- 3. **Birthday Kits** We are assembling small kits for our local food pantry so anyone can celebrate a special day with joy. Each kit includes a cake mix, frosting, an aluminum pan, and a can of Sprite.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

- Christmas Card Fundraiser Sign-ups will be open October 19 through November 16. Stop in the hall after Liturgy or sign up online.
- **Philoptochos Membership Forms** Please remember to fill out your membership form and return it to Olympia.
- **Icon Painting Evening** We are exploring an evening class where an instructor will teach us how to paint an icon in a manageable format. We need a small committee to help coordinate the date, sign-ups, and setup/cleanup.
- **Sister Chapter Gathering** We would like to invite Philoptochos sisters from nearby parishes (Ypapanti, St. Nicholas Pittsburgh, Annunciation McKeesport) for fellowship and collaboration. A chairperson is needed to help plan the event, coordinate RSVPs, and shape the program.
- Women's Day Event in March For the first time, we are considering hosting an International Women's Day celebration for all women GOYA-age and older. The event could feature a parish panel of women sharing their experiences. If you'd like to help organize or be a featured speaker, let us know!

#### How You Can Help:

Our chapter thrives on the ideas, talents, and time of its members. If one of these initiatives or events sparks your interest, please reach out to **Kay Doas** or **Olympia Arthur**. Your voice and your hands make our chapter strong, joyful, and impactful

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School is back in full swing! We currently have four classes with students ranging from 1-18 years old! Our youngest learners are taught by Allison Flynn and Stefanie Todd. Our children K-3 are taught by Presv. Maria Gavrilos and Lauren Michaels. Zoe Thompson and Nancy Ioannou are teaching our students in Grades 4-7 and our 8-12th graders are taught by Milt Constantine and Christina Contes. We begin each lesson with a hymn directed by Presv. Maria. We are looking forward to many exciting service projects including a coat, hat and glove drive as well as a food drive during Lent. If you would like to join the Sunday School mailing list, please email

Christinacontes@gmail.com.













#### Festival 2025

\$441,009

This year's festival was our 2nd best Festival ever, only behind last year's record setting year. Rain impacted us on both Friday and Saturday, and all areas were down year over year with the exception of the Foodline and Ice Cream. The increases in food prepared helped us in the food line to set a new record. Since we prepared extra food and pastry and not everything was sold, we donated almost \$4,000 worth of food, including about 450 dinners, to local organizations that provide meals to those in need.

\$ 28,297 \$469,306	Other Income (Sponsor Program & Book Store) Total Income
\$150,507 \$ 64,677 \$ 33,262 \$248,445	Food & Beverage Expense Set-up/Clean-up Expense General & Admin Expense Total Expenses
\$220,861	TOTAL PROFIT

Food & Beverage Income

#### Fall Fundraisers

Planning and preparations are well underway for the Fall fundraisers: GyroFest and Half Pan Sale.

- GyroFest will be Oct 25/26 from 12noon to 6pm, we'll be looking for volunteers to help out that weekend.
- "Greek to Go" Half Pan Sale is already in progress with pick-up dates scheduled for Nov and Dec before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We added Lamb Shank this year and we will also sell all half pans during GyroFest.

We will be preparing half pans and other items for these events as follows and we are hoping you can volunteer your time:

- Complete
  Complete
  Sun Oct 12
  Sun Oct 19
  Moussaka
  Lamb Shank
  Spinach
  Pastitso
- Wed Oct 22 Gyro Kits, Pastry Packing, Grape Leaves, Tzatziki cupping

The website is open for the Half Pan Sale, order now at <u>GreekToGo</u> to ensure your favorites are available for your holiday entertaining.

Looking forward to a great GyroFest and Half Pan Sale,

Andy & Chris Festival Co-Chairs

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#### 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

Tuesday, September 30th, 2025 Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop of Armenia

#### Parish Council Nominations (2026-2028 Term)

The Parish Council consists of eleven (11) elected lay members serving a 3-year term. The following eight (8) names are current members of the Parish Council:

2025-2027 Term: Dr. Michael Contes, John Kamarados, esq., Zoe Lardas &, George Spiridonakos

2024-2026 Term: Chris Aivaliotis, Christina Contes, Christos Ioannou, Dimitri Tsambis

The following three members completed their 3-year term: <u>George Doas</u>, <u>Ted Ioannou</u>, <u>Bryan Romanelli</u>. They <u>are eligible</u> for the parish council if nominated to serve the 2026-2028 term.

There are three (3) spots that are available to serve on the Parish Council for the 2026-2028 Term. The following is a timeline of how nominations 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 26<sup>th</sup>-Sunday</u>, <u>November 9<sup>th</sup></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:

- During the October monthly Parish Council Meeting
- Sunday, October 26th, 2025 during coffee hour
- Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 during coffee hour

#### Elections & Parish General Assembly

On the last day of nominations on November 9th, if three (3) or less names have been submitted, then the slate of those three (3) names are presented to the General Assembly and no vote is necessary. If four (4) or more names are submitted, then a vote will take place via traditional paper votes during the General Assembly on Sunday, November 23rd, 2025 following Divine Liturgy.

#### Affirmation of Office

This will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday January 4th, 2026. 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



# Teaching Liturgy

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

On this Sunday, Fr. Michael will stop the Liturgy at multiple points to explain the significance and meaning of what is happening at that particular point in the service.

Please make every effort to arrive on time and not miss out on this special opportunity!





#### 2025 Frozen Half Pan Sale

Order now and pick-up later for the holidays!

Spanakopita (16 servings)	\$35
Spinach and cheese mixture baked into a filo dough crust, baking instructions included	
Pastitso (12-16 servings)	\$40
Layers of pasta & ground beef topped with béchamel sauce, baking instructions included	
Moussaka (12-16 servings)	\$40
Layers of potato, eggplant & gr beef topped with béchamel sauce, baking instructions incli	Japan
Gyro Party Kit (10 gyros)	\$50
2½lb fully cooked gyro meat & 10-pack pita bread, heating instructions included 16oz tzatziki sauce (tzatziki sauce is refrigerated and keeps for about a month)	
Lamb Shank (5-6 pieces about 11b each)	\$75
A tender shank w/diced vegetables braised in a tasty tomato/wine sauce, baking instructi	ons included
Traditional Baklava (4 pieces)	\$11
Filo pastry filled with chopped walnuts and sweetened with syrup	
Apricot Baklava (2 pieces) or Pistachio Baklava (2 pieces)	\$7
Filo pastry generously stuffed with an apricot or chopped pistachio filling and sweetened	with syrup

## Show up on any date and pick-up your order:

Thursday, November 20, 4pm-6pm Saturday, November 22, 11am-1pm Monday, November 24, 4pm-6pm Saturday, December 13, 11am-1pm Monday, December 15, 4pm-6pm Thursday, December 18, 4pm-6pm CLICK HERE TO ORDER AND PAY

RESERVE NOW
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

EMAIL US AT: FOODFESTIVAL@DORMITIONPGH.ORG WITH QUESTIONS

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



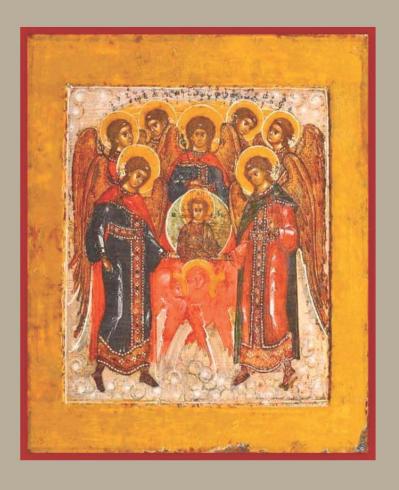
## GYROFEST

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

October 25 & 26, 12pm-6pm

Gyro on a Pita
Fries\$5
Steak Fry cut potatoes deep fried to a golden brown
<b>Spanakopita</b> (2 pieces)
Grape Leaves (8 pieces)
Traditional Baklava (4 pieces)\$11
Variety of Pasty Packs\$5 or \$7
Soft Drinks & Adult Beveragesvarious prices
Frozen Half Pans:
<b>Spanakopita</b> (16 servings)
Pastitso (12-16 servings)
Moussaka (12-16 servings)
Gyro Party Kit (10 gyros)
Lamb Shank (5-6 pieces about 11b each)
EMAIL US AT: <u>FOODFESTIVAL@DORMITIONPGH.ORG</u> WITH QUESTIONS  Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church - 12 Washington Ave - Oakmont, PA 15139

## Vigil in Commemoration of the Synaxis of the Archangels



Vespers
Litia w/ Artoklasia
Orthros
Liturgy

Followed by refreshments

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church

> 12 Washington Ave, Oakmont, PA 15139

Friday,
November 7th,
7 pm 12:30 am

## 2nd Annual Blessing of the First Responders

Sunday, November 9th, 2025 - 10:45 a.m.

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

Our Church community will join together on this day to honor and pray for our Oakmont & Verona First Responders.

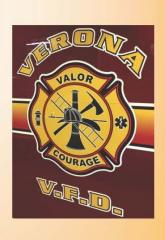
Following a short prayer service, the children of our community will have the opportunity interact with the First Responders and the vehicles that they drive.

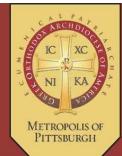
Our Church community will then ofter a Meal of Thanksgiving to our local First Responders.



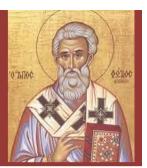








#### A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH





St. Demetrios, Warren, Ohio on Saturday August 23 celebrated the talent and craft of all ages of the Metropolis! The fabulous assortment of music all day by solo performers, bands, acoustic singers and our

very own 'Band of Fathers' created a carnival fun atmosphere and in all we had 16 Youth & Adult solo acts and five Bands play. The Art Exhibit showcased artisans, craftspeople and Iconographers, in total 30+ works of art were displayed. Kids had a fantastic time participating in over ten activity stations and we enjoyed a delicious selection of refreshments. Thanks to all that volunteered their time to create this wholesome family fun event. Much gratitude to all the sponsors, we are eternally grateful, and big thanks to all of YOU that came out to GOMoPalooza! We look forward to seeing you next summer for more GOMoPalooza!!

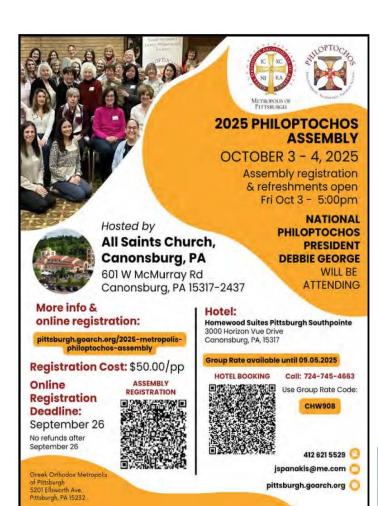




















FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: ELENI DEDOUSIS
VICTORIA ANDROMALOS DALE
HOST PARISH COORDINATORS greekdancers@HolyTrinityPgh.org

MICHELLE KOTSAGRELOS METROPOLIS CHAIRPERSON mmk8317ehotmail.com

ALYSSA KYRITSIS METROPOLIS YZAM DIRECTOR kyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org



#### 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) info@pittsburgh.goarch.org pittsburgh.goarch.org



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<b>Greek Orthodox Church</b>	:				
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