

# The Veil

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

September 2025

Volume 3, Issue 9



Saint Sophia, and her daughters Faith, Hope, & Love  
September 17th

# DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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 – 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](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.

# 2025 Stewardship

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

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aber	Mr. Philip Dimopoulos	Mr. Andron Kavouras	Evangelia Koumbaridou
Anna Aivaliotis	Mr. Michael Domian & Andrea Contes-Domian	Ms. Joanne Kehris	Timothy & Alexi Palmer
Elaine Aivaliotis	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dupaly	Joseph & Natasha Kilian	Cathy Pandeladis
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Ms. Joyce Diacopoulos	Diane Karnavas	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Nemeth	Ms. Margo Xidis
Mr. & Mrs. Athan Dimopoulos		Diane Norcross	Dr. Katerina Zavaras
		Mrs. Despina Paleos	Richard & Theodora Zika
		Mr. Eric Paljug & Mrs.	



## COVER ICON – Holy Virgin Martyr Anastasia the Roman

### Saint Sophia, and her daughters Faith, Hope, & Love

These Holy Martyrs lived during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (117-138), and were from a notable and illustrious family of Italy. They were pious just as their ancestors, and they conducted themselves as ones who love God with faith and hope and love and wisdom, just as the names they bore.

One day as they went to Rome, because they were famous and well known through their illustrious family, they were denounced to Emperor Hadrian for their Christian piety. They were immediately brought before him through the palace guard, and when the emperor saw them he marveled. He therefore separated the mother Sophia from her daughters, and discoursed with her about the faith. Seeing that she was fearless, he brought before himself her three daughters, and he began to flatter them in various ways. Recognizing that they were above all flatteries, he decided to put each one on trial separately.

Among them Faith was the first to stand before the tyrant, being twelve years old. And because she nobly rebuked the maliciousness and wiles of the tyrant, for this reason they beat her and had her hands tied behind her back. She was then cruelly beaten with rods. After this they cut off her breasts, and instead of blood there flowed forth milk. They then laid her over a grill which was set on fire, but having remained unharmed by divine help, they put her in a lit cauldron filled with pitch and asphalt. Having been kept unharmed from this torment, she was condemned to die by the sword. As she was going to the place of her execution, her mother Sophia encouraged her to accept death with joy on behalf of Christ. And so the blessed one was beheaded, and received the crown of the contest.

Then Hope stood before the tyrant, the second sister who was ten years old. And having shown herself to be firm and unalterable in the faith, for this she was beaten with rods like the first. Then she was placed in a lit furnace, which swiftly became inefficacious by divine power. Then she was hung up on a wooden stake and scraped with iron claws. After this she was placed in a lit cauldron full of pitch and resin. From this also she was kept unharmed, while many unbelievers were killed when suddenly the pitch and resin spilled out of the cauldron. Finally she also was beheaded, and received the crown of martyrdom.

Then the third sister stood before the tyrant, Love, who was nine years of age. And because with great prudence she confessed piety, the tyrant was astonished by this and was enraged. For this she was hung on a wooden stake and was beaten with straps so much, that she became disjointed in her body. By divine grace however she was restored to health, and placed in a furnace that was burning from various materials. By the care of a divine Angel, the Saint was kept unharmed from the furnace, while those who stood by including the tyrant, were half burnt by the flame which poured out. The senseless Hadrian, despite being half burnt, did not cease his inhumanity, but he ordered that the body of the Martyr be pierced with a spear. Then she was beheaded, like her two sisters.

Their mother Sophia, was greatly gladdened that she gave birth to such blessed children, and she thanked the Lord for them, and had the honorable relics of her daughters buried with splendor. After three days she spread herself over and embraced the tomb of her daughters, and begged God that she also may die. In this way the blessed one delivered her soul into the hands of God. Therefore the soul of the mother is together with her daughters, as well as their bodies, for the renowned one was buried near her daughters.

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

The Church celebrates and rejoices in the feast of the three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love and their mother Sophia, named for her wisdom: for in them she gave birth to the three godly virtues. Now they eternally behold their bridegroom, God the Word. Let us rejoice spiritually in their memory and cry: O our three Heavenly Protectors, establish, confirm and strengthen us in Faith, Hope and Love.

September 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 9:00 a.m. Hours & Divine Liturgy (Saxonburg Monastery)
7 Sunday before Holy Cross (2) Chrismations Greek Dance Instructors Meeting Sunday School Teachers Meeting	8	9	10	11	12 Wedding  Wedding Rehearsal	13 Wedding
14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Philoptochos Meeting	15	16	17	18	19 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy (St. Efstathios)	20
21 Sunday after Holy Cross 1st Day of Sunday School & Education / Backpack Blessing	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Metropolis Clergy-Laity Columbus, Ohio		
28 1st Sunday of Luke Sunday School	29	30				

October 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Chrismation
5 2nd Sunday of Luke Sunday School	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council Sunday School	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 3rd Sunday of Luke Teaching Divine Liturgy Sunday School	20	21	22	23	24	25 Baptism Gyro Fest 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.
26 6th Sunday of Luke Sunday School Gyro Fest 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.	27	28	29	30	31	

# A NOTE FROM PHILOPTOCHOS

## Fleatique 2025 Recap

We are so happy to share that our Fleatique on August 23 was an incredible success! For the first time ever, we had a line of shoppers waiting at the door before opening, eager to explore our 41+ vendor tables filled with unique finds. The energy in the hall was wonderful, and many guests commented on how beautiful the new renovations looked. They wished us continued success and shared how much they enjoy not only our annual Greek Food Festival, but also this indoor event.

This year our Fleatique was moved to the fall while the hall renovations were underway, and we were glad to make it work in a new season. The response was wonderful, and looking ahead we may return to our traditional springtime Fleatique next year. Please stay tuned for updates as plans unfold. We are especially proud that this was our second year holding the Fleatique since returning after COVID, and it is inspiring to see how this event has regained its place as a highlight for our parish and community.

**A special thanks goes to the parishioners who donated items for our Fleatique sales.** Shoppers look forward to these tables every year, and we are truly grateful for the income they provide. *Your donations made this possible!*

We also want to thank all of the volunteers who welcomed vendors, ran concessions, handled cash, and worked behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly.

### **With heartfelt thanks, we recognize:**

Mary McCrady • Jean Walters • Rosalyn Denillo • Olympia Arthur • Kay Doas •  
Diane Lingeris • Ida Labella • Rhoda Gemellas • Dianna Wyrick • Joanne Kehris •  
Linda Kratsa • Penny Bouris • Katina Doas • Kate Flynn • Eleni Spiridonakos •  
Aleka Batis • Chris Panos • Deb • Poppy Eiler

**Special appreciation to Janine Michael, Office Secretary, and Melissa Chatary, Hall Manager,** for being trusted partners in our endeavors and always supporting our efforts behind the scenes.

Our proceeds from Fleatique help support the mission of St. Barbara's Philoptochos, allowing us to continue our charitable and philanthropic work throughout the year.

Your friends,  
St. Barbara's Philoptochos

# HOME & BUSINESS BLESSINGS

Fr. Michael will be blessing homes and businesses

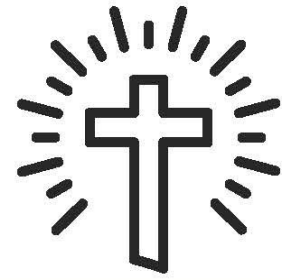
Monday, September 1st -  
Tuesday, September 30th, 2025

Please contact him directly to schedule.



2025-2026

# Sunday School Welcome Back!



## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

We are so excited to welcome you back to another wonderful year of Sunday School! We've been praying and preparing for a year full of faith, learning, friendship, and fun. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we're grateful to walk alongside your family as we grow together in God's love.

*Pres. Maria Garrilos and Christina Contes*  
*Sunday School Co-Directors*



## PLEASE REGISTER!

Please use the link below to register your child(ren) for Sunday School. It is helpful for us to maintain accurate records when you register annually. Thank you!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



## REMIND 101 APP

We will continue to use email as our primary means of communication but may send a text message to remind to bring icons, donations, or to let people know if Sunday School is cancelled. Please use the link below to sign up for the Remind 101 App.

[REMIND 101 APP](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Bring your backpacks for the blessing of the backpacks and our first day of Sunday School! We will also have a popsicle treat after church in the boathouse to kick off a great year!



# Sunday School Faculty

Ages	Teachers
1-4	Allison Flynn and Stephanie Todd
This class is a parent and me class. Parents of Pre-School children are invited to join us for songs and stories.	
5-8	Pres. Maria Gavrilos and Lauren Michaels
9-12	Nancy Ioannou and Zoe Thompson
13-18	Miltiadis Constantine and Christina Contes



# Teaching Liturgy

**Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

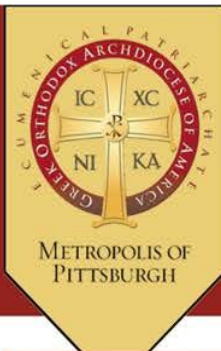
**Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.**

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!*





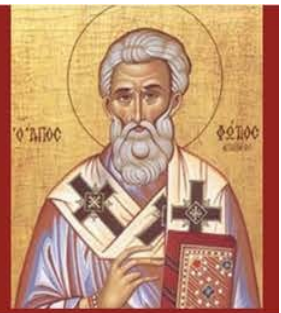


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SEPTEMBER 2025

# A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

## NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



### 2025 CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 2025

Registration opens 4:00pm  
(Clergy 11:30am)

**Annunciation Cathedral Columbus, OH**  
555 N High St, Columbus OH 43215-2068

[pittsburgh.goarch.org/2025-assembly](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org/2025-assembly)

SCAN FOR HOTEL  
RESERVATIONS



Group Rate available until 09.03.2025

Use Group Rate Code: 92E or  
Metropolis Clergy Laity 2025 block

Call: 614-559-200

[info@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:info@pittsburgh.goarch.org) 412 621 5529

### Registration Cost:

3/2 Days: \$250.00 | 1 Day: \$150.00  
+ \$15.00 for Friday Evening event:  
*Global Foodie Experience*

**Online Registration Opens: Aug 1**

Registration Deadline: Sept 14

SCAN FOR CLA  
REGISTRATION



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

## Family Camp

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025 | CAMP NAZARETH

### "Honoring the Sabbath"

In the busyness of life, how can families slow down together?

#### FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Adult Track: Priscilla Callos, MDiv, RBC, CT  
Youth Track: Marina Giannirakis, MSW, MPS

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES! REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 14.



Scan our QR Code for more info!

Questions? Contact Fr. Joe DiStefano at  
[frjdistefano@yahoo.com](mailto:frjdistefano@yahoo.com)

Hosted by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral...

## THE 3RD ANNUAL | 2025 SYNAXIS OF ORTHODOX WOMEN BYZANTINE CANTORS

### Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

419 South Dithridge Street | Pittsburgh, PA | 15213 | USA

**September 11 -**

Thursday afternoon  
to Sunday midday **September 14**

Culminating on the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

**\$250 per participant\***

includes all meals, workshops, e-music packet, & more

Blessed by His Eminence \*Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh,  
this synaxis (coming together) of female cantors from across the  
country and the world for Orthodox Christian worship, education, and  
practice in the Psaltic Art was the first event of its kind in the USA and  
is convening for its third year in a new region of the country.

#### Workshop Instructors



Irene Bullock



Amy Hogg



Sarah Roumas



Photini Downie Robinson



Featured Presenter  
**Father Eleftherios Constantine**  
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Teaching License in Byzantine Music,  
Central Music Conservatory of Thessaloniki

**Register  
online  
before  
August 15!**



\*Additional Costs: Travel and Accommodation

REGISTRATION, Travel info, and more at: [www.stnickspgh.org/sawbc2025](http://www.stnickspgh.org/sawbc2025)



## New Metropolis Center

*Let's Do This!*

Our campaign goal is within sight! Please consider a donation to the campaign.

**New Metropolis Center**  
**PO Box 640729**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15264-0729**



## SUMMER CAMP - THIS IS THE WAY



This year's theme was "This is the Way" which focused on The Cross of Christ.

"My yoke is easy and my burden is light," Jesus was speaking to the multitudes when He said these words. At that time they didn't know what His physical or His spiritual burden would be. We know that the spiritual burden would be the weight of our sins. But the physical burden.... The Cross. Only the power of Jesus Christ and His love for us can take the epitome of pain, humiliation and defeat and turn it into the perfect instrument of healing, exultation and victory. He has done this for us and calls us to come after Him, step by step, walking with our Cross toward our victory with Him and our ultimate JOY.



**MONDAY:** We talked about how sin entered the world and how only Christ, fully God and fully man, could save us. The Cross was part of God's plan from the beginning—like the Tree of Life in Eden.

**TUESDAY:** We looked at Old Testament stories—Abraham, Moses, and others—where signs of the Cross appeared. These moments showed God was always preparing us for Christ's sacrifice.

**WEDNESDAY:** We learned how Christ's death on the Cross happened exactly as the Scriptures said. Even the smallest details were part of God's plan to save us.

**THURSDAY:** We saw that Christ chose the Cross with love and strength. In the Church, the Cross is lifted high, not as a sign of loss, but of victory.

**FRIDAY:** Jesus tells us to take up our own cross. That means living with love, sacrifice, and helping others. The Church helps us do this together, as one Body in Christ.



In addition to our curriculum, our days were filled with Orthodox Life Sessions, Discussion Groups, Water & Land Olympics, Activities, Campfires, Music, and Arts and Crafts. Friendships were formed and connections were created by living our Faith in an Orthodox Christian Camp Community.

We are appreciative of all of the support from our families, parishes, donors, and the many prayers! It is a true joy to see our campers love one another and grow in their Orthodox Faith each summer!



## 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

