

THE VEIL

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

March 2026

Volume 4, Issue 3



Saint Manuel of Sphakia

March 15th

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

12 Washington Avenue - Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139

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

Rev. Fr. Michael A. Gavrilos - Parish Priest

Janine Michael – 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.

2026 Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who already filled out and / or contributed to their 2026 Stewardship Card.

As a reminder, you can fill out a stewardship card located in the narthex on the candle stand, or you can update your pledge on Realm.

COVER ICON – Saint Manuel of Sphakis

March 15th

After the Ottoman Muslim conquest of Crete, the Orthodox Christian Cretans rose on a number of occasions seeking to expel the Ottoman Muslims from their island. After each uprising many Orthodox Christians fled the island and others were enslaved and forced to convert to Islam. Among those Orthodox Christians enslaved at a very early age was a young man named Manuel from the town of Sphakia who was taken and circumcised against his will.

When the opportunity presented itself, Manuel escaped from Crete and landed on the island of Mykonos where he went to an Orthodox priest and confessed. Manuel was given a penance and later was received back into the Orthodox Church through Chrismation.

On the island of Mykonos, Manuel married and was blessed with six children. His wife, however, proved to be unfaithful, but Manuel, fearing God, decided not to punish her in any way; he simply took the children and left his house. His brother-in-law, however, blamed Manuel for leaving his wife and threatened revenge.

One day, transporting a shipment of wood from the island of Samos to the island of Mykonos, Manuel encountered a ship on which his brother-in-law was serving. Before the Muslims, the latter accused Manuel of having been a Muslim who was now an Orthodox Christian.

When taken before the captain, Manuel was asked by him to what religion he belonged. Manuel answered, "I have been an Orthodox Christian since birth."

But the captain reminded him, "Once you were an Orthodox Christian, then you willingly became a Muslim. So you must return again to our faith, for if you do not agree to do this, I will make you suffer without mercy and you will die."

Undaunted, Manuel replied, "I was an Orthodox Christian, I am an Orthodox Christian, and I will die as an Orthodox Christian."

Angry, the captain had him tortured during the entire trip to Chios where he handed Manuel over to the admiral of the fleet, the Kapudan Pasha. When they arrived, Manuel asked a fellow Orthodox Christian to find him an Orthodox priest to counsel him and to hear his confession. But none of the priests would come, for they were afraid. One did send him advice through a third party. This encouraged Manuel so he could say to himself, "It is the same with me whether I die today or tomorrow. The world is transient. Rather than die tomorrow a sinner, it is better to die today for my faith and save my soul."

The Kapudan Pasha had Manuel brought before him for questioning. When he asked Manuel what he was, Manuel responded, "I am an Orthodox Christian." But the Kapudan kadi had Manuel's trousers lowered and he saw his circumcision and asked how that had come about.

Manuel responded by saying, "I am an Orthodox Christian since birth, but I was enslaved when I was very young and forced to become a Muslim. Now I am an Orthodox Christian again."

The admiral responded by ordering his immediate execution. Manuel's reaction to this was, "Glory to You, O God." They took him to the Old Fountain where Manuel willingly knelt and awaited the executioner's sword. The executioner, however, was inept and was not able to behead Manuel with a single stroke. Enraged over this, the executioner took hold of Manuel as though he were a sheep and cut his throat, separating his head from his body. The vali then ordered Manuel's body weighed down and thrown into the sea.

The Orthodox Christians who witnessed Manuel's martyrdom were greatly moved by it, for this act validated and strengthened their own faith. Thus Manuel, the slave from Crete, sacrificed his life for the love of Jesus Christ on the island of Chios on March 15th, in the year 1792.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday of Orthodoxy (& Procession)	2 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	3 5:30 p.m. Greek School	4	5	6 6:00 p.m. Salutation to the Theotokos	7
8 Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas	9 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	10 5:30 p.m. Greek School	11 5:45 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	12	13 6:00 p.m. Salutation to the Theotokos	14
15 Sunday of the Holy Cross	16 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	17 5:30 p.m. Greek School	18 5:45 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	19	20 6:00 p.m. Salutation to the Theotokos	21 10:00 a.m. HOPE & JOY Lenten Retreat
22 Sunday of St. John Climacus	23 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	24 5:30 p.m. Greek School	25 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy (<i>Annunciation</i>) Philoptochos Volunteer at Beverly's PGH	26	27 6:00 p.m. Akathist to the Theotokos	28
29 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Festival Prep (<i>meatballs</i>)	30	31 5:30 p.m. Greek School				

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Presanctified Liturgy at St. John in New Kensington</i>	2	3	4 8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy (Saturday of Lazarus)
5 Palm Sunday 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	6 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	7 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	8 2:30 p.m. Holy Unction 6:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday	9 9:00 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Service of the 12 Passion Gospels	10 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours 2:30 p.m. Decent from the Cross Vespers 6:00 p.m. Lamentations at the Tomb	11 9:00 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:00 p.m. Paschal Vigil
12 Great & Holy Pascha 12:00 noon Agape Vespers Pascha Panayiri to follow	13 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers & Orthros (<i>Sts. Irene, Raphael, & Nicholas</i>)	14 10:00 a.m. Paschal Hours & Divine Liturgy (<i>Sts. Irene, Raphael, & Nicholas</i>) 5:30 p.m. Greek School	15	16	17	18
19 Thomas Sunday	20	21 5:30 p.m. Greek School	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women Festival Prep (<i>spinach</i>)	27	28 5:30 p.m. Greek School	29	30		

PHILOTOCHOS UPDATE

Coffee Hour Needs You!

Coffee Hour does not happen on its own.

Every Sunday, Philoptochos teams prepare the coffee and set up the fellowship space. The snack, however, is provided by a parishioner. Right now, many upcoming Sundays remain unclaimed.

We invite each household to consider taking one Sunday this year to provide the snack.

If you know you will be remembering a loved one, celebrating a birthday, name day, anniversary, or offering a Trisagion in the coming months, hosting Coffee Hour is a beautiful way to mark the occasion.

You are also welcome to share a Sunday with a friend, koumbadi, or family member!

Providing the snack is simple. Just drop off your items in the hall between 9:30am and 10:00am. The Philoptochos team scheduled that Sunday will set everything up, serve, and handle all clean up.

Please contact Mary McCrady 412-828-7549 or Cathy Champagne 724-968-6503 to select a date. If you are unsure what to bring, they are happy to offer suggestions.

Our community thrives when we each take a turn.

International Women's Day - March 12 at 6:00pm

Sponsored by Philoptochos

Women GOYA age and above are encouraged to attend our parish celebration of International Women's Day on March 12 at 6:00pm.

This special evening, sponsored by Philoptochos, marks a meaningful opportunity for the women of our parish to gather for thoughtful discussion, reflection, and fellowship.

Join us. Bring a friend. Be part of the conversation.

Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for full details.

Kay Doas

Philoptochos President

GREEK DANCE UPDATE

Junior Grecian Stars

The Junior Grecian Stars will begin practicing for the Greek Food Festival on Sunday, March 1st. Practices will be held on Sundays after coffee hour, and parents will receive a more specific practice schedule as well as communications if there will not be practice on a given week.

If your child is in kindergarten - sixth grade and is interested in learning to Greek dance, please reach out to director Eleni Wyrick. (412)-977-9942; elenirwyrick@gmail.com

Grecian Stars

The Grecian Stars is our church's GOYA dance group. If your child is in 7th - 12th grade and is interested in joining GOYA, please contact [GOYA directors]. As for GOYA's dance group, we are in search of a director with a love for Greek dancing and time to give to our church's youth.

If you have any interest in directing the Grecian Stars, please contact Fr. Michael, Eleni Wyrick, and/or [GOYA directors] and we will do our best to ensure a smooth transition.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Dear Sunday School Families,

With Lent starting on Monday, there are several upcoming events we wanted to make you all aware of.

- We will be starting a non-perishable food drive for Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) during Lent. A flyer will be forthcoming with details. Please bring non-perishable food items to church for donation.
- We are also planning a Sunday School service project to NRP. The date is still TBD, most likely in late March or early April. Another email will go out once the date is secured with NRP. We are hoping to do the service project then maybe something as a group afterwards.
- Sunday, March 1 is the Sunday of Orthodoxy. We will have a procession with icons at the end of Liturgy. Please bring an icon for your children (and yourself!) to carry in the procession as we celebrate the Triumph of Orthodoxy!
- Saturday, Mar 21, our parish is hosting the Metropolis Hope & Joy Lenten Mini Retreat. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Elementary aged students to participate in a wonderful retreat and learn more about our faith, with the focus this year being on the meaning and symbolism from Palm Sunday through the Resurrection.

We will also be holding our Parish Oratorical Festival on Sunday, March 22. This year, in addition to our GOYA aged students participating, we are hoping to have our elementary students also participate by learning about their saint and presenting a short speech to their class. We will be working with them in Sunday School to learn about their saint.

We love seeing you and your children in church on Sundays, and hope to see you all at some of these events, as well as some of the Lenten services at Church. [Here](#) you can find a [Guide to Lent](#) with lots of great resources, as well as tips for five areas to focus and improve on during Lent as a family. Also attached to this email is a 6-week Journey Through Lent for the whole family using the story of Jonah as a guide, and includes a weekly scripture, discussion, activity, and prayer, and can be a beautiful way to guide your family through the Lenten season. Praying you all have a spiritually fruitful and uplifting Lent!

In Christ's Love,

Christina Contes and Pres Maria Gavrilos
Sunday School Co-Chairs

FESTIVAL UPDATE

Thanks to all who helped with the baking. Over a total of 5 days across weekends the team mixed, rolled, shaped, baked and stored:

20,600 Koulourakia (includes 3100 for Philoptochos fundraiser) - 4600 Kourambiethes

Food prep dates have been scheduled around kitchen renovation activities and hall bookings:

Mar 29 – Meatballs

Apr 26 – Spinach #1

May 3 – Spinach #2

May 31 – Moussaka

Jun 7 – Pastitso #1

Jun 14 – Pastitso #2

Jun 21 – Tzatziki Cupping

Jun 22-25 – Pastry Packing

June 24 – Rice Pudding, Grape Leaves

We still need to schedule mid-week dates for:

Lamb Shank #1

Lamb Shank #2

Karithopita

Galatoboureko

We will advise once we schedule a kick-off meeting for late March or early April, we need everyone's input and ideas to ensure another successful year.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and help out as you can,

Andy and Chris
Festival Co Chairs

GIVE TO GAIN

*When Orthodox women share their stories..
we all gain strength, connection, & perspective.*

A Celebration of International Women's Day



Nicole W. Zicarelli
Emcee

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

6:00pm | Grand Ballroom

A Panel Discussion in celebration of International Women's Day
Please join us after the session for networking and light refreshments
No RSVP Required



Anna Despotakis



Kellie Tsouris Hughes



Joanna Papazekos



Alison P. Sanders

Open to all women ages 13 and older

Hosted by the St. Barbara's Philoptochos
Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church
12 Washington Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

*Monetary donations collected will benefit
the Women's Shelter of Pittsburgh, PA*



LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

ORGANIZED BY: Dormition of the Theotokos Sunday School



BENEFITTING
The Neighborhood
Resilience Project

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY:
Canned Goods, Pasta,
Rice, Cereals, Peanut
Butter, Soups, etc.

PLEASE MAKE ALL DONATIONS BY FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Help us nourish our neighbors this Lenten season

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH 2026

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED
TO HELP COVER THE COSTS OF THE MEAL.

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, PLEASE

RSVP WITH NUMBER OF ADULTS & CHILDREN

BY THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH

PHONE (412) 828-4144 OR EMAIL

OFFICE@DORMITIONPGH.ORG



FISH
SALAD
VEGETABLE
PASTA & SAUCE
ROLL

*FISH STICKS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN

Spring 2026 FLOWER & PLANT FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by St. Barbara's Philoptochos Society

*Order Hanging Baskets, Patio Pots,
Flats (32 plants/Tray), Small Pot Annuals, and Herbs TODAY*



PAY BY CHECK - Print the form at
<https://tinyurl.com/2026SpringBasketsForm>
or Scan the QR code for the printable mail-in order form



*Printed order forms and envelopes will be available
in the Narthax. Completed orders may be mailed or
dropped in the church office mailbox.*



PAY ONLINE WITH A DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD at
<https://tinyurl.com/2026SpringBaskets>
or Scan the QR code to access the Online Order Form



Orders must be received by **Sunday, April 19, 2026**

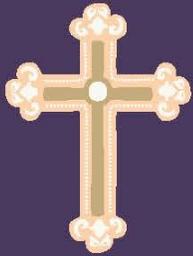
Mark your Calendar and Pickup Your Order at the Social Hall Entrance
Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Questions? Call (412) 559-2674
Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church
12 Washington Avenue Oakmont, PA 15139

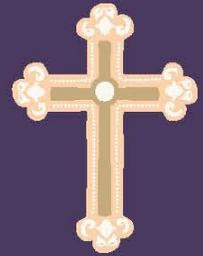
CENTRAL REGION

HOPE & JOY LENTEN MINI RETREAT



Saturday, March 21, 2026

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

12 WASHINGTON AVE,
OAKMONT, PA 15139

Participants will enjoy learning about Holy Week through iconography. Lessons include crafts, service projects, and more! Lunch will be provided.

\$10 per participant

REGISTER TODAY!

tinyurl.com/MiniLentCentral26

Questions? Contact Fr. Michael Gavrilos

 fmg@dormitionpgh.org

Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy.

Join us this Lent as the parishes of
Dormition of the Theotokos &
St. John the Baptist
host Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy

Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.
Followed by a Lenten Meal

Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

Dormition of the Theotokos Church (GOA)
12 Washington Avenue
Oakmont, PA 15139

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

Saint John the Baptist Church (OCA)
150 Elmtree Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

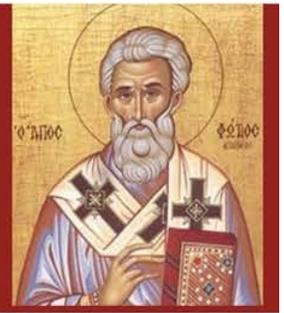
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 1st	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 8th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 15th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 22nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 1st	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE 2026

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS Orthros & Divine Liturgy	April 4th 8:30 a.m.	ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ "Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία
PALM SUNDAY Orthros & Divine Liturgy Bridegroom Service	April 5th 8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ "Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία "Η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου
HOLY MONDAY Bridegroom Service	April 6th 6:00 p.m.	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ "Η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου
HOLY TUESDAY Bridegroom Service	April 7th 6:00 p.m.	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ "Η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου
HOLY WEDNESDAY Holy Unction Orthros of Holy Thursday / Anointing	April 8th 2:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ Τὸ Ἅγιον Εὐχέλαιον "Ορθρος τῆς Μεγάλης Πέμπτης / Χρῆση με Εὐχέλαιον
<i>Reminder: Holy Unction will not be available to take home. If you or someone in your family is in need of anointing, please contact Fr. Michael.</i>		
HOLY THURSDAY Vesperal Divine Liturgy Service of the 12 Passion Gospels	April 9th 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ Εσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία "Η Ακολουθία του Ἐσταυρομένου
HOLY FRIDAY Royal Hours Descent from the Cross Vespers Lamentations at the Tomb	April 10th 8:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ "Η Ακολουθία τῶν Μεγάλων Ὁρῶν "Η Ακολουθία τῆς Αποκαθλώσεως "Ορθρος του Ἐπιταφίου
HOLY SATURDAY Vesperal Divine Liturgy Paschal Vigil	April 11th 9:00 a.m. 11:00 p.m.	ΜΕΓΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ Εσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία "Η Αγρυπνία του Πάσχα
SUNDAY OF PASCHA Agape Vespers	April 12th 12:00 noon	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ Ὁ Ἐσπερινὸς τῆς Ἀγάπης

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



48th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2026

Join us in Cleveland, OH at the Huntington Convention Center

Hotel Group Rates are now available:

<https://www.clergylaity.org/hotels>

Choose from Three Hotels: Delegates, attendees, and exhibitors of the 48th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress have the choice of staying in one of three hotels in the downtown Cleveland area, just minutes from the Huntington Convention Center where the Clergy-Laity Congress will be held.*

Plan Your Visit: Parish delegates should plan to arrive on Monday, June 29. The Clergy-Laity Congress will begin at 10 AM on Tuesday, June 30 and will continue through 10 PM Thursday, July 2.

*Meetings of the National Philoptochos Convention will be held at the Hotel Cleveland.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

LENTEN RETREAT

"Living in Community"

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2025
10 AM - 2 PM
ST. NICHOLAS GOC
220 N WALNUT ST.
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

COFFEE, SWEETS & LUNCH PROVIDED



The retreat will offer points to consider regarding:

- The importance of engaging with others.
- Ultimately, Christians can only be saved in community.
- We learn from the example of the early church who "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42).

Our speaker, Presvytera Eleni Christakos is the wife of a Greek Orthodox priest who serves in central Massachusetts and a homeschool mother of three children. She holds a degree in pharmacy and is currently working for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Marriage and Family, coordinating clergy wife peer groups. Presvytera Eleni also is very active in her church community directing and teaching in the religious education program and managing the book store and lending library. Drawing from her passion for teaching people of all ages, she is on a committee to start a classical Orthodox School. Living with a focus on health and wellness - physical, emotional and spiritual - is core to her being. She enjoys spending time outdoors hiking and kayaking. A true bibliophile, if she is not actively with her family she can be found reading or coordinating book discussion groups.



Presvytera Eleni Christakos



To Register, Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yww3sr7p>

New Metropolis Center Progress - February 2026





WEEKEND OF SERVICE

The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, in partnership with the Metropolis Ladies Philoptochos Society, invites all parishes to participate in this year's annual Weekend of Service!

MARCH 7-8, 2026

Led by youth, young adults, and Philoptochos chapters, parishes are encouraged to come together to serve others in their communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 **ALYSSA KYRITSIS**
akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org

 **JOYCE SPANAKIS**
jspanakis@me.com

REGIONAL LENTEN MINI RETREATS

Metropolis Regional Lenten Mini Retreats are open to all HOPE & JOY children (K-6th grade). Participants will enjoy learning about Holy Week through iconography. Lessons include crafts, service projects, and more! Lunch will be provided.

Eastern March 7, 2026 11:00 AM-2:15 PM <small>Theme: Walking with the Saints Age: JOY (2nd - 6th grade)</small>	Holy Trinity, Camp Hill, PA 1000 Yverdon Dr, Camp Hill, PA 17011 Jennifer Solomon: jennifersolomont@gmail.com Register at tinyurl.com/y8w8c5x8
Northwestern March 7, 2026 10:00 AM-1:00 PM	St. Demetrius, Rocky River, OH 22909 Center Ridge Rd, Rocky River, OH 44116 Marina Papafili: mpapafil@saintdemetriusr.org Register at tinyurl.com/RockyRiverHJ26
Southwestern March 7, 2026 10:00 AM-1:30 PM	St. John, Charleston, WV 3512 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston, WV 25304 Alyssa Kyritsis: akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org Register at tinyurl.com/CharlestonHJ26
Central March 21, 2026 10:00 AM-2:00 PM	Dormition, Oakmont, PA 12 Washington Ave, Oakmont, PA 15139 Fr. Michael Gavrilos: fmg@dormitionpgh.org Register at tinyurl.com/MinLentCentral26

Questions? Contact Alyssa Kyritsis  412-621-8543  akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org



New Metropolis Center Campaign

Please consider a pledge or donation towards this worthy campaign that will benefit all. To donate please scan the QR code or visit pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge

All donations received by **MARCH 25** will have their names added to a plaque in the main entrance and also in the bricks lining the prayer garden walkway.

Thank you as always for your support and prayers!



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.

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Dormition of the Theotokos
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12 Washington Avenue
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