

THE VEIL

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

May 2026

Volume 4, Issue 5



Holy New Martyr John of Serres

May 12th

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.



Fr. Michael's Message

Christ is in our Midst

Each year on Pascha we hear over and over again "Christ is Risen" and the response of "Truly He is Risen!" It does not matter if you are in the largest cathedral or in a small village Church, when "Christ is Risen" is first proclaimed, it seems to have a thunderous sound. Over the 40 days following Pascha, Orthodox Christians throughout the world greet each other with the Paschal Greeting of "Christ is Risen" and the response of "Truly He is Risen!" We begin and end every service that we have with Christ is Risen, we leave the icon of the Resurrection out in the Church;

we are constantly being reminded of Christ's triumph over death.

All day on Pascha, and throughout the entirety of Bright Week, we have the joyful feeling of the Resurrection, however after the Sunday of Thomas, things seem to slow down a little bit, the attendance in Church appears to get smaller and smaller, we greet each other less and less with the Paschal Greeting, our secular lives seem to take over with all of the end of the year events with school, work, we begin to think about what we will be doing this summer, i.e. weddings, baptisms, graduations, baby showers, and by the time we celebrate the Apodosis of Pascha, we tend to forget Christ in our lives. I am not suggesting that we forget our roles as Orthodox Christians, I am saying that we do not seem to keep Him at the center of our lives, as much as we do during the Paschal Season.

Christ is with us, around us, and in our lives at all times, and we cannot limit our relationship with him to certain times throughout the year. There are many things that we can do to keep our relationship with Him active throughout the entire year. We have to be willing to say no to the abundance of events that are becoming more and more popular on Sundays, especially in the morning when it causes us to miss Church. We have to focus on those who may be sick, suffering, or in need around us in our lives; feed, clothe, and visit them. We cannot be afraid to do our Cross before we eat our food at school or work. We can make sure to pray and give thanks to God morning and evening, even if it is as short as saying "Glory to you O God!" or the Trisagion prayers or the Jesus Prayer. Following Christ is not easy, it takes work, but so does any other relationship we want in our lives. We need to continuously build upon our relationship, and always strive to keep Christ at the forefront of our lives. As we approach the Ascension of our Lord in a couple weeks, we will no longer be using the Paschal greeting of "Christ is Risen!" However, this does not mean that we no longer greet each other in our Lord's name. We should continue to greet each other with "Christ is in our midst!" or other seasonally appropriate greetings. In this small way, we can continue to remember to keep our Lord close, and continue to follow Him.

Fr. Michael A. Gavrilos
Parish Priest

2026 Stewardship

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

Aivaliotis, Antoni & Calli	Dorovenis, Adrianna	Karnavas, John & Diane	Pandeladis, Georgia
Aivaliotis, Chris & Dina	Dorovenis, Demetrios	Kavouras, Andron	Papanikolaou, Xenophon & Eleni
Aivaliotis, Elaine	Eiler, James & Poppy	Kehris, Joanne	Pappas, Georgia
Aivaliotis, George	Esper, Stephen	Kokales, Nicholas	Roberts, Helen
Aivaliotis, Michelle	Evanovich, Ann & Frank	Kratsas, John & Linda	Rodites, Michael & Adrienne
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Arthur, James & Olympia	Facaros, John & Sophia	Kyriacopoulos, John & Dolores	Skroupa, A. Dane & Gayla
Batis, John & Pavlena	Facaros, Theologos & Kyriakoula	Kyros, James & Roula	Spiridonakos, George & Susan
Batouyios, Dimitrios & Toula	Flinn, Dan & Allison	LaBella, Ida	Spiridonakos, Elaine
Beldocos, Ariadne	Gavrilos, Andrew & Lisa	Lardas, Demetri	Thompson, Kellan & Zoe
Berger, Vasilias	Gavrilos, Fr. Michael & Pr. Maria	Lafferty, Richard & Barbara	Todd, Jonathan & Stefanie
Brahos, Anthony	Gemellas, Denise	Lardas, Nicholas & Zoe	Tsambis, Dimitri & Constance
Callas, Stephen & Ellen	Gemellas, Litsa	Lewis, Gus & Carol	Tsambis, John
Ciotola, Mario	Gregory, Theodore & Karen	Lobaugh, Catherine	Voltz, Richard & Lori
Constantine, Miltiadis & Niki	Hebrank, Jacob	Mamatas, Emanuel	Voltz, Kaila
Contes, Michael & Judi	Herouvis, Olga	Mandros, Christopher	Walter, Clark & Jean
Contes, Christina	Ioannou, Christos & Kristin	Marzullo, Brian & Dina	Worf, Donald & Rhoda
Cope, Erin & Sam	Ioannou, Theodore & Maria	Mathews Jr., Gus & Kathleen	Wyrick, Dianna
Cope, Neil & Joanne	Ioannou, Athanacia	McCrary, Merrill & Mary	Wyrick, William
Coutsoumbis, Peter	Ioannou, George	Michaels, Lee & Alison	Xenakis, Irene
Cutone, Maria	Ioannou, Kristina	Mikroudis, Panagiotis & Kari	Xidis, Margo
Dastolfo, Leroy & Angela	Ioannou Stavros, Tina & Jack	Mitchell, Robert & Natalie	Yialouris, Lana
DeDousis, Konstantinos	Janssen, Robert & Jayne	Moratis, Christopher J.	Zavaras, Katerina
Denillo, Alecia	Kakias, Michael & Debra	Nave, Ann	Zicarelli, Nicole
DeNillo, Rosalyn	Kamarados, John & Cheryl	Nemeth, Lambra & Frank	
Diacopoulos, Joyce	Kariotis, Harry	Norcross, Diane	
Doas, Christopher & Katherine		Paleos, Despina	

COVER ICON – Holy New Martyr John of Serres

May 12th

The Holy New Martyr John came from a wealthy family of Serres and was born and raised in Serres in the latter half of the fifteenth century.

In the prime of his youth, his courage to appear in public as equal to the Turkish occupiers with a splendid appearance, caused the envy of the Turks, who went to the authorities. His accusers claimed that John publicly insulted the faith of Muhammad, refusing to follow him despite his initial promise. The authorities ordered, after this serious complaint, that John be arrested and brought to court, which forthwith happened. The judge, after considering the matter, at first tried with promises of positions to lure him to change his faith, and they would have gained much if by his example others imitated him, but all their attempts failed, since John, in response to the proposal, publicly confessed his faith in Christ.

When all methods failed, they tried in vain to force John to confess their faith by resorting to torture. They took the Saint from prison, dragged him on the ground without clothing, then uprooted his hair while beating him with a rod. Despite this harsh torture, John continued to sing praises to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to his right a magnificent man on a horse whose face shined like the sun appeared. He realized that this was Saint Theodore, sent to strengthen him and give him courage.

The Turks, when they saw that by this means John still refused to renounce his faith, returned him to prison, where they continued to put physical and moral pressure on him. The steadfast dedication of John to his ancestral faith caused them to despair of their efforts, and so a written request was made to the Sublime Porte to be given instructions. Written instructions came, and the judge of Serres ordered the death of John, if he did not renounce his faith in Christ.

Thus the tyrants, after a final effort to get John to renounce his faith failed, took him from prison and led him to a public place where his executioners, in order to make his execution more painful, raised him above a pile of brushwood and dry wood, and after they tied his hands and feet, they lit the fire.

John remained calm throughout this horrible martyrdom, and he even asked his tormentors if they indeed lit the fire, and with a low voice he sang hymns to God. One of the executioners, in order to silence him, plunged a pole in his mouth, and this brought an end to the earthly life of the New Martyr.

The Service to the Holy New Martr John of Serres was written by the Great Orator of the Holy and Great Church of Christ, Manuel the Peloponnesian, sometime between 1491-1497.

Saint John of Serres was martyred for his faith in Christ around the year 1480 and he is annually commemorated on May 12th.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Baptism
3 Sunday of the Paralytic Festival Prep (<i>spinach</i>)	4 7:00 p.m. Greek Dance for Adults	5 5:30 p.m. Greek School	6 <u>Philoptochos Flower & Plant Fundraiser</u> 11 a.m.-1 p.m. & 5 p.m.-7 p.m.	7	8	9 Wedding
10 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman	11 7:00 p.m. Greek Dance for Adults	12 5:30 p.m. Greek School	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday of the Blind Man Sunday School Graduation Dance Practice Junior Grecian Stars Festival Prep (<i>meatballs</i>)	18 7:00 p.m. Greek Dance for Adults	19 5:30 p.m. Greek School 6:00 p.m. Vespers, Orthros, & Divine Liturgy (<i>Apodosis of Pascha</i>)	20 6:00 p.m. 9th Hour, Vespers, & Orthros (<i>Holy Ascension</i>)	21 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy (<i>Holy Ascension</i>)	22	23
24 Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council	25 7:00 p.m. Greek Dance for Adults	26 5:30 p.m. Greek School	27	28	29	30 Saturday of Souls 8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Memorials
31 Holy Pentecost Dance Practice Junior Grecian Stars Festival Prep (<i>moussaka</i>)						

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Baptism
7 Sunday of All Saints Festival Prep (<i>pastitso</i>)	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 2nd Sunday of Matthew Festival Prep (<i>pastitso</i>)	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 3rd Sunday of Matthew Festival Prep (<i>tzatziki</i>)	22 Festival Prep (<i>pastry packing</i>)	23 Festival Prep (<i>pastry packing</i>)	24 Festival Prep (<i>pastry packing</i>)	25 Festival Prep (<i>pastry packing</i>)	26 52nd Annual Greek Food Festival	27 52nd Annual Greek Food Festival
28 4th Sunday of Matthew (<i>Time Change</i>) 8a.m.-10 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy 52nd Annual Greek Food Festival	29	30				

FESTIVAL UPDATE

The Prep Kitchen is now operational and we have launched into festival prep mode.

Thanks to all who helped with spinach, about 280 full pans and 72 half pans were prepared and now ready for the festival,

Future prep dates:

Wed/Thu May 6/7	Lamb Shank
Sun May 17	Meatballs
Sun May 31	Moussaka
Sun Jun 7	Pasitiso
Sun Jun 14	Pastitso
Sun Jun 21	Tzatziki Cupping
Mon-Thu Jun 22-25	Pastry Packing, Grape Leaves, Rice Pudding, Set-up

Still to be scheduled on weekdays: Galatouboureko and Karithopita

We got a late start this year due to the kitchen renovation and we need everyone's help to be ready for festival weekend, so please consider helping out.

Also, area leads will be scheduling their respective areas, so when approached please volunteer your time to help festival weekend.

Looking forward to another successful festival,
Andy & Chris













THE 2026 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS GUIDE

It's a great tradition, and it's here again: 39 days of Greek Festivals in the greater Pittsburgh region, so plan well and you can eat Greek all summer! Post this schedule on your refrigerator and share copies with others. Bring your family and friends! We look forward to serving you!

LOCATION

DATES

- St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland) May 5-10
- All Saints (Canonsburg) June 8-12
- Holy Trinity (Steubenville) June 10-12
- Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon) June 15-19
- Kimisis Tis Theotokou (Aliquippa)..... June 11-13
- Holy Dormition (Oakmont) June 26-28
- All Saints (Weirton) July 10
- St. Spyridon (Monessen) July 10
- Holy Trinity (Ambridge) July 14-18
- Presentation of Christ/Ypapanti (East Pgh.) July 23-25
- Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh/North Hills) September 3-6

SEE BELOW FOR FESTIVAL HOURS & HOST PARISH WEB SITES. CHECK FOR UPDATES.

THE 2026 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS: ALL THE DETAILS

Don't cook tonight...go Greek! Please pass copies on to your friends! Greek food is always enjoyed best with good company!

Parish	Dates	Address	Phone	Website	Hours
Saint Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland)	May 5-10	419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh	412-682-3866	www.StNicksPgh.org	Tue-Thu: 11a-9p; Fri: 11a-10p; Sat 12-10p; Sun 12-8p
All Saints (Canonsburg)	June 8-12	601 West McMurray Rd., Cburg	724-745-5205	www.AllSaintsCbg.org	Mon-Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Trinity (Steubenville)	June 10-12	300 S. 4th St., Steubenville	740-282-9835	www.holytrinitystb.org	Wed-Fri: 11:00a-9:00p
Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon)	June 15-19	123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh	412-833-3355	www.HolyCrossPgh.org	Mon-Thu: 11a-9p, Dinner til 8p; Fri: 11a-10p, Dinner til 9p
Kimisis Tis Theotokou	June 11-13	2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa	724-375-5341	www.Theotokou.org	Thu-Sat: 11a-8p
Holy Dormition (Oakmont)	June 26-28	12 Washington Ave., Oakmont	412-828-4144	www.DormitionPgh.org	Fri-Sun: 12p-11p Dinner until 9p
All Saints (Weirton)	July 10	3528 West St., Weirton	304-797-9884	allstwww.org/greek-festival	Fri: 11a-9p
Saint Spyridon (Monessen)	July 10	1207 Grand Blvd., Monessen	724-684-5411	stspyridon.pa.goarch.org	Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Trinity (Ambridge)	July 14-18	2930 Beaver Rd., Ambridge	724-266-5336	www.htgoc.org	Tue-Sat: 11:30a-8:30p
Ypapanti/Presentation of Christ	July 23-25	1672 Electric Ave., E Pittsburgh	412-824-9188	www.ypapanti.net	Thu-Sat: 11a-9p
Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh/North Hills)	Sep. 3-6	985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh	412-366-8700	HolyTrinityPgh.org/festival	Thu-Sun: 11a-9p

Thank you for enjoying our great Greek food, music and culture. Take a church tour and ask about the timeless Orthodox Christian faith while you're there, too! Also, want to help us feed, minister to and provide health care for the hungry and needy of the Pittsburgh area? Support the Neighborhood Resilience Project, an Orthodox Christian philanthropic ministry united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions for poverty-and-trauma-affected communities in the region. Find out more or donate at neighborhoodresilience.org.

This free guide is provided as a public service of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Pittsburgh/North Hills). Please share it with your friends! Find it online at HolyTrinityPgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide.

Join Chapter Icaros for the 24th Annual Steve Manners Icarian Open!

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Meadowink Golf Course

4076 Bulltown Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

www.meadowinkgolf.com

PRICE: \$120.00 (cash or check only), includes green fees, golf cart, snack at the turn, beer, and dinner

AGENDA

12:00pm Registration
1:00pm Shotgun Start
6:00pm Dinner



*Don't be left out!
Get a foursome together,
and we'll make foursomes
as best we can for the rest.*

Remembering



*Steve Manners
5/25/1951-9/15/2000*

*Mike Aivaliotis
3/12/1951-2/12/2025*

CONTACT: Anna Aivaliotis at 412-310-7290 or annaca@pitt.edu

Reminder: PA LCB do not allow you to bring your own beer. You can purchase additional beer at the course.
Dress Code: Collared shirts. No cut-offs.



CHAPTER ICAROS PRESENTS THE
49TH MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Mini Convention Dance

Live Music With
Konstantino Revelas and Theodore Papazekos
with Victoria Mavrogeorgis on violi!
Cash Bar and Mezethes



SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

9:00 PM - 2:00 AM

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

Adult Presale through May 10th \$30
Adult \$35, 12 & Under \$10

Venmo: @AnnaConsortia-Spanos
Checks Payable to: Chapter Icaros #7
Mail: 1500 Wareman Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Contact: icarosminiconvention@gmail.com

ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Invites you to our

GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

Shannopin Country Club

1 Windmere Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15202



PRICING

\$225/golfer or \$900/foursome:
includes greens fees, cart, range,
locker services, lunch and dinner,
skill prizes and golfer gift

Dinner only, \$50/person

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

Skill prizes:
Mens/Seniors/Women

First place team prizes:
Men/Seniors/Women

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11 AM: Registration

11-12: Sit-down lunch

12:30: Shotgun start

5-6: Cocktail reception
(cash bar)

6:00: Dinner/silent
auction/skill prizes

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Golfer Gift Sponsorship \$2500:
name on golfer gift, one
foursome, recognition

Gold \$1500: one foursome, tee
sign, recognition

Beverage Cart \$1500: one
foursome, logo on bev cart

Putting Contest Sponsor \$500

Hole in One Sponsor \$500

Tee Sponsorship \$200

Program Sponsor \$100: includes
dinner

For more information, please contact:

George Bellios, 412 897-5354 or St Nicholas, 412-682-3866

PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

To pay & register by mail,
mail this form with payment to:

St. Nicholas Cathedral
Attn. Golf Outing
419 South Dithridge
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Make checks payable to:
St. Nicholas Cathedral
*Please mark "Golf Outing"
in the memo line*

Golfer name/s:

Your Cell:

Your Email:

To register and pay online,
please visit:

<http://birdease.com/SaintNicholasGolfOuting>



New Metropolis Center | April 2026

Did you receive our March mailing? Please consider a pledge or donation towards this worthy campaign that will benefit all. We are so close to our goal! To donate please scan the QR code or visit pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge




Images: Metropolis Center, Chapel Dome, Sanctuary, Social Hall



Images: Prayer Garden Walkway, Office, Kitchen

The Department of Greek Education for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

The Annual Greek Language Story Contest



Do you know of someone in your family or community with a fascinating story to tell? Interview and write the life story of an elderly immigrant with Greek or Cypriot roots living (either) independently or dependently, such as in a nursing home, assisted living, etc.; or interview the child or spouse of an elderly or deceased immigrant and tell their life story.

- 1 Tell of their life before and after coming to the U.S.**
 - where they traveled from and why they left
 - who they traveled with and how they traveled
 - who they prayed to for strength and any miracles
 - how old they were when they arrived to the U.S.
 - what challenges they faced
 - what did they do here in the U.S.
- 2 Provide pictures**
 - of them, their family
 - of places where they lived abroad, and in the U.S.
 - of their favorite places and pastimes, both abroad and in the U.S.
- 3 Provide samples of**
 - their favorite Greek songs, hymns, poems, etc.

You are not limited to only the above questions, nor are all of the above imperative
 Type this in Greek and in English in a Word document. Provide a copy for the person you interviewed and send a copy to:
 The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Department of Greek Education, 5201 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, also email a copy with the pictures separately not in the word document to mstamoolis@verizon.net
 Student interviewers are from 4th - 12th grade. Awards given to students who display thoroughness and hard work.

1ST PLACE - \$500
2ND PLACE - \$300
3RD PLACE - \$100

Deadline to register is June 4, 2026. Deadline for submission is June 11, 2026. For information e-mail Maria Stamoolis, mstamoolis@verizon.net.



Image: Bell Tower



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




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12 Washington Avenue
Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139

