

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



CURRENT

MARCH 2019





Dear Parish Family,

Over the last several weeks the Church has been slowly preparing us to enter into Lent through a period known as the Tridion. The first two Sunday Gospel readings of this time set an important tone for the entirety of the Fast.

On the first week we hear about the Pharisee in the temple. He was certain of his moral and spiritual superiority, especially compared to all those around him. And why shouldn't he be? The Pharisee knew all the rules and followed them to the letter. And so he proudly announced this in his prayer. But we know from the reading that God's favor was upon the sinner who stood far off, examined himself quietly, and cried out to God for Mercy.

The next week we heard about the Older Brother of the Prodigal Son who was astounded when his rebellious little brother repented of his sinful lifestyle and was accepted with open arms by their father. Why would this father, who represents our Father in Heaven, want anything to do with a "former" sinner?

Of course we know two important things. First, no one lives and does not sin. Second, God does not desire the death of a sinner, rather that He should repent and live.

These two parables show us that the Lord calls us to examine ourselves and repent, which is to reorient our minds and hearts towards Him. What a blessing it is to have a time of year set aside to emphasize removing barriers between us and God!

Repentance takes on many different outward appearances throughout the Bible, from tears flowing onto the feet of our Savior, to a man standing quietly in the corner of the temple, to a son running to his father's open arms. But it always begins with the choice to turn away from sin and towards God.

In just a few short weeks the Great Lent will be upon us. This year, let's reconsider what it looks like in our daily lives to turn to God in all circumstances, and how additional services, prayer, and fasting can help us in this journey.

This will be the topic of our mid-Lenten retreat on March 30, to which everyone is invited. Join us, and bring a friend!

The gates of repentance are open before us. Let us walk the path together through the Great Lent to our Lord's Empty Tomb.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FRDK".

Fr. Dean

A Note from President and Stewardship Chairman Steve Markantone

I would like to thank everyone for their support of Ypapanti.



For the past 104 years we have demonstrated tremendous unity and harmony. Simply put unity is strength!!! Everyone brings a special talent; which is needed in order for our church to not only survive but to grow. This can only be accomplished by sharing everyone's strengths and talents. We are grateful to those that share their ideas and concerns as this helps to create a thriving congregation.

When you think back on the most memorable times in your life it is the people and relationships that matter most. As we approach lent it is a great time to reaffirm our commitment to Christ and the church by becoming an active part in our community.

Thank You



Please fill out your 2019 pledge card

36TH ANNUAL YPAPANTI GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL THURSDAY—SUNDAY AUGUST 15, 16, 17, 18, 2019

As we know, the Annual Food Festival is not only the major fund-raiser of the Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church Community, but it is also the one event when everyone has four days to work together for the good of the Church. Therefore, help is needed from **everyone**. Thankfully, we have been blessed in the past 35 years with a very large number of our parishioners who have generously volunteered many hours of their time and talents to not only “work the Festival,” but have spent much more time in preparing for the actual event. We feel certain this tradition will be continued. So, please mark your calendar (August 15-18) for 2019’s opportunity to work side-by-side with fellow parishioners and friends and consider helping with the Festival preparation that will begin this month.



A NEW TWIST IN THE PLANNING OF THE FESTIVAL



In order to guarantee another successful four-day Festival, we are exploring other ways to “plan for the Festival”, since it is less than six months away. In recent years many people have gathered together to discuss how we could improve the event. Those people became an “at-large planning committee” and many thanks are extended to them for their contributions. This year we will try to streamline the meetings by forming committees to address specific areas. These committees would meet individually, with their chairmen representing them on the “General Planning Committee”, working with a coordinator. The Committees would be:

Food



Baking



Financial



Gyros



Public Relations



Office

We believe that smaller groups focusing on specific areas will be a better use of your time.



* HOW DO I BECOME INVOLVED? *



The first two “General Festival” meetings will be open to all interested parishioners who would like to share ideas and ask questions about what could be done better. These meetings will be at **7:00 PM in the Library of the Olympia Hall on Thursday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 26**. At those meetings you can volunteer to serve on the above committees or sign up for a specific area at any of the March Sunday Coffee Hours after Divine Liturgy. We need your input early enough that new ideas can be incorporated into the event. Please try to attend the March meetings to express your thoughts.

With God’s blessing and our prayers and efforts, we can look forward to a very successful 2019, 36th Annual Ypapanti Greek Food Festival.

We are grateful to Joleen Chiaverini and Dr. Veronica Jones for teaching us Mental Health First Aid



Thanks to the generosity of our faithful stewards, we were able to restore our holy water font! The faithful of our community have been receiving holy water from this font since 1945.

What a joy to host our Archbishop and Father Savas and many area clergy and cantors on the occasion of the feast of St. Photios, and also, Sts. Barsanuphius and John.



Such a sweet encounter between our eldest parishioner and our youngest! May they both be blessed!



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ISSUE 19 — MARCH 2019



Above: Clergy and faithful from the Orthodox communities of Greater Harrisburg pictured together at the site of the prayer blessing of the Susquehanna River on Jan. 27. The Susquehanna is one of the oldest rivers in the world, and is the longest US river to empty into the Atlantic Ocean.

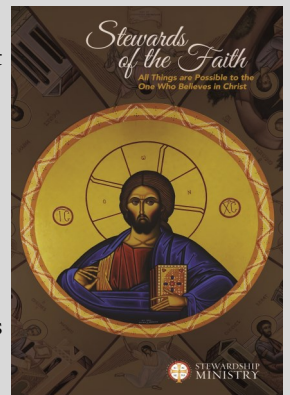
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BLESSED

On January 27 the Orthodox Communities of the Greater Harrisburg area gathered in the afternoon to sanctify the Susquehanna River. More than one hundred faithful braved the cold weather to participate in the service, held at a special area on the river front. Following the initial service, they processed to the bridge from where three ice crosses were thrown into the River by various Orthodox clergymen of the area. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Camp Hill sponsored the reception that followed afterwards for all attendees (while a variety of foods were served, we have it on good authority that *avgolemono* soup “hit the spot” and was the favorite of all).



STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Parishes should be on the lookout for a letter from the Metropolis Stewardship Committee that offers a seven-year snapshot of their financial stewardship and information on each parish's stewardship performance in relation to similarly sized parishes in our Metropolis.



The committee is also distributing the 2019 Stewardship Data Form to gather information on the previous year's financial stewardship on each parish. Please remit the data form to Stacey Stathulis at staceys@pittsburgh.goarch.org or contact him with any questions you may have.



SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including His Eminence's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



Lenten Family Retreat

“Repentance in the Modern World”



Join Us!

Retreat Schedule includes:

- Service Project
Benefiting the homeless
community of McKeesport
- Presentations by Fr. Alex
- Lunch and Fellowship

Guest Speaker Father Alex Goussetis
Director of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Center for Family Care

Be
part!
of it.

March 30, 2019, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Presentation of Christ
Olympia Community Center
1575 Electric Ave. East Pittsburgh, 15112



Share Your Favorite Lenten Recipe!

We are creating a community Lenten cookbook to share with everyone at our March 30, 2019 Lenten Retreat.

If you have a wonderful recipe that you prepare during Lent AND you are willing to share ...

We would love to have it!

To submit your recipe, please complete this form and return it to the Church office by **March 15th**.

Name Your Recipe		
Prep Time	Cook Time	Number of Servings
Ingredients		
Preparation & Cooking Instructions		
Helpful Hints		

Homeless Care Checklist

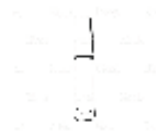
Presentation of Christ 2019 Lenten Parish Family Retreat



One cotton hand towel



One cotton washcloth



One tube Lip Balm



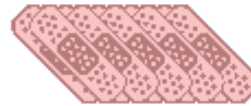
One fingernail or toenail clipper



One bath sized bar of soap in the wrapper



One toothbrush in the package



Ten standard size Band-Aids



One Gallon Zip Lock Bags for packaging

Please bring donated items to the Church Community Center by March 24.

Supplies are needed for *100 care packages* to be donated to "McKeesport Downtown Housing Homeless Shelter."

Also accepting donations of:
Twin bed fitted sheets, new and used adult size coats.

Great Lent 2019



Service Schedule

Beginning the week of Monday, March 11:

Mondays: Great Compline 5:30 PM

Followed by Premarital Counseling 7:00 PM

March 11, 18, April 1

Wednesdays: (except March 20):

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00 PM

Adult Education to follow at 7:30 PM

Fridays: Salutations to the Theotokos/Akathist Hymn 6:30 PM

Community Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM in Social Hall

Saturdays: Great Vespers (except March 23)

Times vary, please see bulletin or website

“Let us cheerfully begin the season of Lent, and undergo the spiritual struggles. Let us purify and cleanse our souls and bodies. As we fast from foods, let us also abstain from giving in to any of the passions, and instead delight in the virtues of the Spirit. May we persevere in them with love, and then be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and to celebrate holy Pascha with spiritual joy.” -- From the First Vespers of Lent

SATURDAY OF SOULS

Departed Loved Ones "For the repose of the servants of God..."



Why do we commemorate those who have fallen asleep?

During memorial services we commemorate the souls of those who have gone before us into eternal rest. By praying for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, we continue to ask that God may have mercy on them in His divine judgment, so they may gain the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The names offered will be commemorated during the "Saturday of the Souls" services at the beginning of the Lenten season and during the Service of Proskemedi before Sunday Divine Liturgies. Please submit your names only once, as they will be used for all of the Saturday of Souls Services during this season.

Please remember your loved ones by not only submitting their names, but by attending the Liturgy to offer your own prayers for their eternal rest. Anyone wishing to do so may also bring a dish of memorial wheat (Koliva) for use during the Saturday of Souls service.

Please provide first names only:

You may mail your list of names to the Church office or leave it at the Candle Stand.

Dates for Saturday Of Souls Service for 2019 are:

March 2, 2019 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
March 16 8:30 AM Matins, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy



CALL FOR READERS!!



Anyone interested in offering one of the prayers at the services of the **Salutations to the Theotokos**, held on the first five (5) Fridays of Great Lent, should contact Jamie at jorfanopoulos@yahoo.com or Fr. Dean to be placed on the schedule.

Two readers are needed for each of the services, which begin at 6:30 pm and are preceded by a free dinner.



March 15, 2019: 5:30 pm LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER
(1st Friday) 6:30 pm ***Salutations to the Theotokos (I)***

March 22, 2019: 5:30 pm LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER
(2nd Friday) 6:30 pm ***Salutations to the Theotokos (II)***

March 29, 2019: 5:30 pm LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER
(3rd Friday) 6:30 pm ***Salutations to the Theotokos (III)***

April 5, 2019: 5:30 pm LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER
(4th Friday) 6:30 pm ***Salutations to the Theotokos (IV)***

April 12, 2019: 5:30 pm LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER
(5th Friday) 6:30 pm ***Entire Akathist Hymn***



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SAVAS

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS
OF OUR HOLY AND GOD-PROTECTED METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH AT THE

6TH ANNUAL ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET



SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019
4:00 PM HORS D'OEUVRES, 5:15 PM DINNER

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL PITTSBURGH-CRANBERRY

910 SHERATON DRIVE, MARS, PENNSYLVANIA 16046 - 724-776-6900

RESERVATIONS: \$85/PERSON FOR ADULTS
\$25/PERSON FOR CHILDREN (UNDER 12)

RESERVATION & SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE: APRIL 19

REFER QUESTIONS TO: MARY DOREZA (412-877-3415)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

NO REFUNDS AVAILABLE AFTER APRIL 30.

MAIL TO:
PETER CLYDE PAPADAKOS
ST. PHOTIOS BANQUET RESERVATIONS
109 LINDBERG DR.,
MCKEESPORT, PA 15132

NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE METROPOLITAN'S BENEVOLENCE FUND



Join us for

BOOK CLUB

featuring

Nicole M. Roccas'

TIME AND DESPONDENCY

March, 6, 13, 27

April 3, 10

7:30pm, Church library

Tastes of International Soups

sponsored by

St. Catherine Philoptochos



Please come and join us for international soup tasting

All Are Invited

Saturday, April 13, 2019, Olympia Hall from 11:00 – 3:00 pm



\$6.00 admission includes samples of 3 soups and bread. Quarts of your favorites will also be available for \$6.00 each. Pastries also for sale \$1.00 each. Coffee \$1.00.

A portion of the proceeds benefit First Food and Friends

	Br					
September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30	October 7	October 14
Gail Mantzouridis	Sylvia Graziano A.Prestogeorge	Roula Giannikis S. Giannikis	Toula Bargas Tina Rushe	Katina Harem Diane Kampetis Natalie Litz	Mary Doreza	Josie Markantone M. Markantone D. Markantone
October 21	October 28	November 4	November 11	November 18	November 25	December 2
General Assembly Appreciation Luncheon	Marge Tsudis Kay Zanic Shirley Zafiris	Nancy Russon Lucy Koutsavlis Tootie Pranis	St. Catherine Luncheon	*Fasting S. Neuschwander M. Papazis	*Fasting Philoptochos	*Fasting Toni Morgan Gloria Batis
December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30	2019	January 6	January 13
*Fasting Mary Doreza Tessie Stupakis	*Fasting Tootie Pranis Lucy Koutsavlis	*Fasting Children's Christmas Lunch	Lori Voltz Paula Borsch	NEW YEAR	Anna Dudek Claudia Farmer	B. Leventopolous D. Leventopolous
January 20	January 27	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24	
K. Kwiatkowski Carol Snyder	Ypapanti Name Day Celebration	Ria Stoupas Kathy Athans Filia Arvanitis	Philoptochos International Soup Sale-	Sophie Koutsavlis Lucy Koutsavlis Samantha K.	Mary Doreza YASOU	
March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31	April 7	April 14
Rebecca Fritzius Kim Fritzius Julie Surma	*Cheese Fare Sun Angela Stupakis K. Armstrong Theodora Stupakis	*Fasting Gabrielle Kokanos	*Fasting Marguerite Ellis Alexis Breen	*Fasting A. Kyros Roula Kyros Stella Stratigos	*Fasting Philoptochos	*Fasting Kathy Panagos Pota Seitenakis
April 21	April 28	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	June 2
Palm Sunday Luncheon	EASTER SUNDAY	Gail Mantzouridis Sandy Rosvanis	Mothers Day Philoptochos	J. Augoustidis Anna Augoustidis Anna Mamakos	A. Margaros C. Karystinos D. Grysiak	Philoptochos
June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30	July 7	July 14	July 21
Stamatia Milburn Athena Caldwell	Fathers Day Philoptochos	M. Ferrari Frosso Kolokouris	Alissa Krizan Elizabeth White Jennie Ziakan	Flora Hamborsky C. Kypriotakis E. Papageorgiou	Mary Ann Sfanos Josie Caruso	Diane Davliakos Roy Parlour Christina Burns
July 28	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25		
Georgina Callas Maria Krishnaswamy	Malamo Countouris Hensley Paula Borsch	Philoptochos	FOOD FESTIVAL	Joan Kenney Anastasia Andrews	Please include coffee creamer and juice.	

Fellowship Coffee Hour Committees 2018/19

Updated 11/07/2018

Please remember to bring creamer and juice. Thank you.



TENTATIVE
FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE for 2019

Updated 2-26-19

Product	Date	Day	Time	Chairpersons
Souvlakia	April 18	Thursday	6:00 PM	Tasso Athans Adam Lewin
Spanakopita	April 30	Tuesday	10.00 AM	Sandy Rosvanis Kathy Athans
Spanakopita	May 1	Wednesday	10:00 AM	
Tiropita	May 14	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Sandy Rosvanis Kathy Athans
Tiropita	May 15	Wednesday	10:00 AM	
Pastitsio	June 11	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Tasso Athans
Pastitsio	June 12	Wednesday	10:00 AM	
Moussaka	June 25	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Tasso Athans
Moussaka	June 26	Wednesday	10:00 AM	

Calendar for March 2019 – Subject to Updates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					March 1	March 2 1 st Saturday of Souls 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 1:00 PM Mental Health First Aid
March 3 Judgement Sunday 8:30 AM Matins 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 2:00 PM Odyssey Dance Practice	March 4	March 5	March 6 6:30 PM Parakelsis 7:30 PM Orthodox Adult Education	March 7 7:00 PM Odyssey Dance Practice	March 8	March 9 2 nd Saturday of Souls 9:30 Divine Liturgy
March 10 Forgiveness Sunday 8:30 AM Matins 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 12:00 PM Philoptochos Time Springs Forward!	March 11 Clean Monday Lent Begins 5:30 PM Great Compline with Cannon of St. Andrew	March 12 11:00 AM YASOU 5:30 PM Great Compline with Cannon of St. Andrew 7:00 PM Parish Council Mtg.	March 13 2:00 PM Meal Prep for FOCUS Pittsburgh 6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy 7:30 PM Orthodox Adult Education	March 14 5:30 PM Great Compline with Cannon of St. Andrew 7:00 PM Food Festival Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Odyssey Dance Practice	March 15 12:00 PM YASOU Outing; Movie "Faith, Hope, Love" 5:30 PM Free Lenten Dinner 6:30 PM First Salutations to the Theotokos	March 16 3 rd Saturday of Souls 8:30 AM Matins 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Great Vespers
March 17 Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:30 AM Matins 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM Odyssey Dance Practice	March 18 5:30 PM Great Compline with Cannon of St. Andrew	March 19	March 20 6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy 7:30 PM Orthodox Adult Education	March 21 7:00 PM Odyssey Dance Practice	March 22 5:30 PM Free Lenten Dinner 6:30 PM Second Salutations to the Theotokos	March 23
March 24 St. Gregory Palamas 8:30 AM Matins 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy 5:30 PM Great Vespers of the Annunciation	March 25 Feast of the Annunciation	March 26 7:00 PM Sandwich Prep for Rankin Christian Center	March 27 6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy 7:30 PM Orthodox Adult Education	March 28 7:00 PM Food Festival Committee Meeting	March 29 5:30 PM Free Lenten Dinner 6:30 PM Third Salutations to the Theotokos	March 30 10:00 AM Lenten Family Retreat 2:15 PM Great Vespers
March 31 Sunday of the Holy Cross 8:30 AM Matins 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy						

Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

1672 Electric Avenue, PO Box J, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112 - 412-824-9188

www.PresentationofChristPgh.org ----- Follow us on Facebook @PresentationofChrist

Under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Demetrios Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas. The mission of the Presentation of Christ is to proclaim with joy the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach and spread the Orthodox Christian Faith and to be a community devoted to and energized by the love of God and our neighbor.

Rev. Fr. Constantine Kokanos Cell Phone: 412-760-7203 Email: FatherDeanKokanos@gmail.com	Sunday Services Matins 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
Stefanos Giannikas, Chanter Filia Arvanitis, Chanter Thomas Rosvanis, Chanter	Paraklesis Service Wednesday at 6:30 PM Orthodox Adult Ed Wednesday at 7:30 PM
Nancy Philpot, Admin Assistant PresentationOfChristOffice@gmail.com Office Phone: 412-824-9188, Fax: 412-824-9740	Tara Reis Events Coordinator Phone: 412-824-5540

2019 Parish Council Members

Steve Markantone	President	724-325-1729	Peter J Anthony	412-596-5348
Stan Prestogeorge	Vice President	412-824-5033	Deborah Grysiak	412-371-2465
Tom Rosvanis	Vice President	412-373-5057	Ernie Kampetis	412-892-9096
Paula Borsch	Treasurer	412-721-1840	Sophie Koutsavlis	412-461-8246
Anastasia Andrews	Treasurer	412-398-3194	Petros Mantzouridis	412-780-0201
Sam Koutsavlis	Secretary	412-461-3450	Jamie Orfanopoulos	412-244-2264
Richard Voltz		412-798-8177	Tootie Pranis	412-373-1270

Organizations & Committees

Y.A.S.O.U.	Tootie Pranis, Co-President, Mike Orson, Co-President
Philoptochos	Sylvia Graziano, President
Choir	Tom Rosvanis, Director & President
Organists	Marguerite Ellis, Roula Kyros
Young Professionals	Steve and Chris Burns
Y.A.L.	Nick Stupakis, Dean Leventopoulos
Grecian Odyssey Dancers	Mary Doreza, Director, Elias Bardis, President
Junior Olympian Dancers	Michelle Kotsagrelos, Director, Jamie Orfanopoulos, Director Elias Bardis, Asst. Director, Maria Bardis, Asst. Director
GAPA	Elias Bardis, President
Book & Icon Store	Deborah Grysiak