



# THE NET

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH— STEUBENVILLE, OHIO  
DECEMBER, 2019 VOLUME XII • ISSUE 11

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METROPOLIS OF  
PITTSBURGH



*THE MISSION OF THE HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, IS TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST BY SHARING THE JOY OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH THROUGH LOVE, COMPASSION AND CHARITY FOR ALL.*





The Net is the Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH PRIEST:

FR. MATTHEW MOORE

PHONE: (740) 282-9835

EMAIL: FRFM@HOLYTRINITYSTB.ORG

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

CINDY RICHARDS

EMAIL: OFFICE@HOLYTRINITYSTB.ORG

PARISH ADDRESS:

300 SOUTH FOURTH STREET

P.O. Box 788

STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952

PHONE: (740) 282-9835 | FAX: (740) 282-2091

EMAIL: OFFICE@HOLYTRINITYSTB.ORG

WEB: WWW.HOLYTRINITYSTB.ORG

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh (pittsburgh.goarch.org) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.goarch.org) under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (www.ec-patr.org).

PARISH MINISTRIES

PARISH COUNCIL

Nick Riley President
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Rana Mahfood Secretary
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Joanne McCraley Asst. Treasurer

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Nick Demitras Nicholas Mastro
Maria Matzorkis Don Richardson

- Philoptochos Angie Mahfood
Religious Education
Stewardship
GOYA Rikki Kamarados
JOY Maria Matzorkis
HOPE Maria Matzorkis
Choir Pete Caleodis
Library / Bookstore Louise Kronstein
Senior Citizens Barbara Lee Maragos
Chian Society John Kamarados
Pan-Icarian Brotherhood Stacey Kotsanis
AHEPA Tommy Kotsanis

December 2019

For Unto Us A Child Is Born...

There is a wonderful Christmas tradition among the four high schools in my hometown. Each Christmas season their respective choirs and orchestras combine at an auditorium and perform the choral sections of Handel's Messiah. If you haven't listened to much more of it than the Hallelujah Chorus, you are missing one of the most beautiful works of art in the Western world. While there is a baritone solo, I'm fond of, there is another choral piece, For Unto Us A Child Is Born. It's taken from Isaiah 9:6, a verse we read in Liturgy on Christmas eve. Though we use a different translation of the Old Testament I'm still drawn to Handel's use of the King James Version. Swelling dramatically, the choir exclaims 'Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace...'

This is the message for us during the Christmas season. For unto us a child is born, but not just any child. This child is Jesus Christ, the son of God, God himself intersecting with his own creation, for the salvation of his creation. And he is the wonderful counselor. He is the prince of peace. God coming down into the world changed the world forever, and his Nativity "...has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world." This is a cause of great celebration for us; we were in darkness but are now illumined! And it's in this illumination we understand our call as Christians, and why I'm most excited to participate in our 9th annual community Christmas meal, after Divine Liturgy on Christmas day.

Brothers and sisters, I wish you a very merry, peaceful, and blessed Christmas. Don't forget why it is that we gather our families together this season. See the information in this newsletter for our services schedule, come worship together, and join us to help serve those in need on Christmas day.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Fr. Matthew (handwritten signature)

### Happy Birthday

The following people will be celebrating their birthdays in the month of December:

#### December

Carla Alexander	12-05	Jonah Moore	12-09
Dan Alexander	12-05	Anna Moten	12-10
George Atsalis	12-02	Vasilios Niapas	12-21
Ted Economos	12-22	Angela Paidousis	12-05
Charles Entinger	12-26	Christopher Rebon	12-27
Carly Fuller	12-15	Connie Shea	12-11
Holly Kirsch	12-05	Sophia Shea	12-11
Jenn Kisner	12-16	Suzanne Synodinos	12-27
Anthony Mahfood	12-02	Angeline Vitellas	12-10
Frances Maragos	12-21		

### Parish Groups

**Choir**.....December 2  
Choir rehearsals are held on the first Monday of each month at 5:00PM. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.

**Philoptochos**.....December 5  
Please come out on Tuesday, Dec. 3, to help bake Koulourakia for the gyro sales. Your help is needed and greatly appreciated.

**Philoptochos**.....December 19  
The Philoptochos members will have their next meeting on Thursday, December 5, at the Steubenville Country Club. This is the Christmas Dinner and Gift Game.

**Parish Council**.....December 10  
Parish Council meetings are normally held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM

**AHEPA**.....December 19  
The AHEPA/ICARIAN Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 19, at 6:00PM at Scaffidi's Restaurant. Scaffidi's is in the Hollywood Plaza in Steubenville. RSVP to Stacey Kotsanis by December 15. 740-632-2792.

**Chian Christmas Party** .....December 7  
The Chian Christmas party/meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019. It begins at 5:00PM at the Sesame Grill on University Blvd. in Steubenville. You may register by calling Rikki Kamarados at 740-632-4311 or Pete Caleodis at 740-645-5681. The deadline to RSVP is December 3.

### Gyro Sale

The next Philoptochos gyro fundraiser is Tuesday, December 10 from 10AM-1PM Gyros are \$7/ea. & chicken gyros are \$8/ea. Koulourakia (twist cookies) are \$6/doz and recently added to the menu is baklava at \$2.50 ea. Please join us for this event, and lend a hand on December 9 at 9AM or on December 10 from 9AM -1PM.

### Offices Closed

The offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and on Thursday, December 26. May you all have a **Merry Christmas**. "Kala Christougena" Καλά Χριστούγεννα

### Cookie Donations Needed

Cookie donations are needed for the Christmas dinner. If you can donate cookies, please call the church office at 740-282-9835.

### Christmas Pageant

The Holy Trinity Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 22, following Liturgy.

### Parish Council Election Results

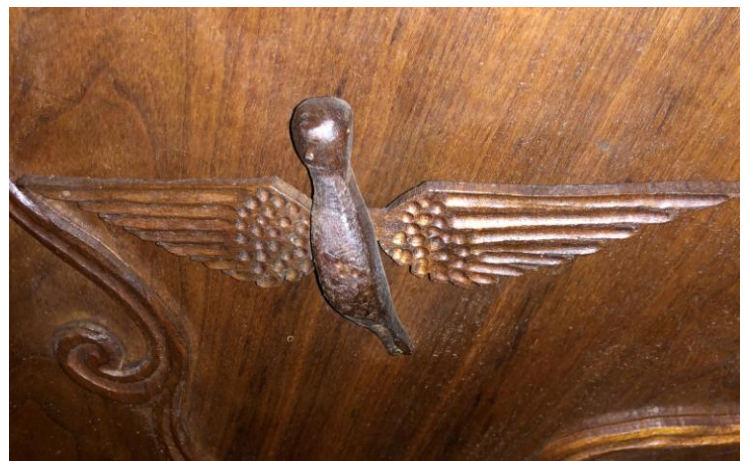
The following are the results of the 2020 Parish Council election: Pete Caleodis, Greg Matzorkis, Maria Matzorkis, and Christopher Vogagis. Thank you for your contribution of time.

### Sunday School

On December 6<sup>th</sup> the Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of St. Nicholas. Traditionally children will set their shoes out overnight and "St. Nicholas" will leave them some gold coins and an orange.

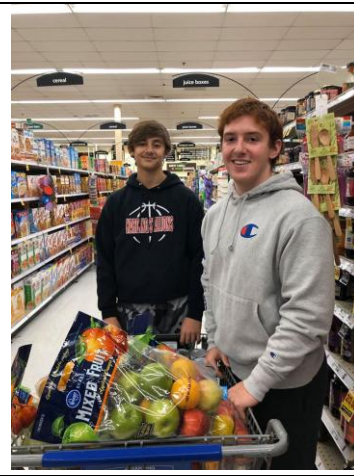
On December 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday School kids should leave their shoes outside of the classroom to see if St. Nicholas will leave them a gift!

### Where in the Church?



Where in the parish is this photo? First to know wins a \$10 gift certificate to Di Carlo's Pizza.





### GOYA Thanksgiving Food Baskets



The Moore Family Bought a House

Our New Parish Administrator  
Cindy Richards





## Our Journey to Bethlehem

Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis

We are about to take a journey. Whether one is a devout Christian or doesn't know Christ at all, we are all about to take a journey that will see Christmas decorations go up, lines at the malls get long, and stress levels go up. Such is the modern celebration of Christmas.

But there is another journey, a journey of faith that some choose to take and others choose to ignore. The journey of faith is a daily choice to follow Christ. Each year on November 15, as we begin the Orthodox Christian season of Advent that

journey takes on a new focus. For forty days, we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Christ. We fast. We pray. We worship. When the Feast of the Nativity comes, there is something to celebrate. Most important, however, is that when the Feast of the Nativity has passed, there is something more than gifts to return, decorations to take down, and credit cards to pay off. There is joy—and joy is what overcomes sadness. There is hope—and hope is what overcomes sorrow.

So, I invite you to share a meaningful journey to Bethlehem this year. Over the next fifty-four days I invite you to immerse yourself in the scriptures and services. We have the opportunity to study the characters in the Christmas story in a way that perhaps you haven't thought of them before. In studying and praying over the scriptures, having identified fifty distinct topics from only a few chapters of scripture, I saw things in scripture that I never before slowed down to appreciate. The hustle and bustle of the season has even permeated how I've read these most important passages.

People greet the feast of Christmas in different ways—some are happy to see it come, and others dread its coming. And when Christmas is over, some are sad to see it go, while others are relieved. I feel blessed that, as an Orthodox priest, I celebrate Christmas all year round. Each time I celebrate the Liturgy and prepare the Gifts that will become the Body and Blood of Christ, I gaze upon an icon of the Nativity at the table of preparation (Prothesis) in the Holy Altar of the church. The first prayer of the service of the Preparation of the Gifts (the Proskomide) at every Eucharistic service (and we celebrate the Eucharist in a service called the Divine Liturgy over one hundred times a year) is a hymn of Christmas:

*O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image. (Trans. Fr. Seraphim Dedes.)*

As I cover the Bread on the Paten with a metal covering “asterisk,” which looks like a four-point star, I offer a prayer based on the Gospel of Matthew 2:11: “And the star came and stood over where the child was with Mary His mother.” (The prayer is found in *The Order of the Divine and Holy Liturgy* by Holy Cross Seminary Press.) The service concludes with the dismissal from the Nativity services, “May Christ our True God who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation . . .” So, it's always Christmas in the church. The lessons of the Nativity are things we should meditate on all the days of our lives.

As we pass this Holy time of preparation, I humbly ask for your prayers. I humbly offer mine as well.

*O Bethlehem, welcome the Mother-city of God. For she is coming to give birth to the never-setting Light. Angels in heaven, marvel; people on earth, give glory. Magi from Persia, bring your triply precious gift. Shepherds in the field, sing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord who does all things. (From the Matins on the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30. Trans. Fr. Seraphim Dedes.)*

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## 2019 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD



### Share the Joy of Christmas

Include your name on Holy Trinity's Community Christmas Card

Return this form to the church office by  
December 2, 2019.

I am enclosing a donation of \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like my name(s) to appear as follows:

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### HOLY TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias: \$15.00

If you would like to donate a poinsettia to be placed in front of the church, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by December 2.



Limited supply, so donate yours today.

-----●  
**Purchased by:**  
\_\_\_\_\_



# **9TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY MEMORIAL DINNER**

**"PLEASE JOIN US"**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**FREE OF CHARGE**

**(Carry-out available)**

**Wednesday, DECEMBER 25, 2019**

**11:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**300 SOUTH FOURTH STREET**

**PHONE: 740-282-9835**

**E-MAIL: [office@holytrinitystb.org](mailto:office@holytrinitystb.org)**





# A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ISSUE 26 — NOVEMBER 2019



## PRESVYTERES RETREAT, RECHARGE

By Pres. Maria Gavrilos

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)*

What a blessing it was to be able to gather with our sister Presvyteres from across the country in Delray Beach, FL, during the long weekend of October 11-14. Every other year, the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres hosts a national retreat for our clergy wives, with a guest speaker to edify us, as well as plenty of time for fellowship and relaxation. Our topic this year was "Self-care for the Mind, Body, and Soul" presented by Pres. Dr. Roxanne Louh, and we learned about the connection between the three, how important each



of them are to the other, and how to help maintain our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. We also enjoyed morning and evening prayers with each other, a paint night, some local excursions, and a trip to the beach. Liturgy was such a joy to worship all together. This is such a vital event for clergy wives! Ministry is a 24/7 calling, and it permeates every aspect of clergy-family lives. This retreat gives us time to recharge, reconnect, and revive, so that we can be more present and more fully support our husbands in ministry! Thank you to all the parishes who support our clergy wives to be able to attend this wonderful retreat!



*Pittsburgh Metropolis Presvyteres in attendance (left to right): Eileen Sedor, Nicole Keares (National President), Eleni Kallaur, Kassiani Callos, Stephanie Petrides, Jennifer Moore, Maria Gavrilos, Evangeline Pappas, Vasiliki Constantine, and Goldie Doukas*

## KEY DOCUMENTS ON METROPOLIS WEBSITE

2019 Metropolis Assembly documents: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/2019-assembly>

Administrative documents and policies: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/administrative>

Allocations, Financial Statements, and other Finance documents: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/finance>

Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Camping, and Youth Safety Information: <https://y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/>



## SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas'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>



Want to  
work with  
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your parish?  
Then you  
must become  
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Worker.



Register. Screen. Train.

Questions? See your Parish Youth Safety Administrator.

[goarch.org/safety](http://goarch.org/safety)

### MISSIONS & EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

The next National Conference on Missions & Evangelism is being held Feb. 3-5, 2020 in Columbus, OH at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral - an event made possible by a grant from Leadership 100. The conference theme is: "Leading Change Toward a Healthier Parish" and features presentations by Fr. Evan Armatas, Fr. Theodore Dorrance, Fr. Aris Metrakos and Mr. Steve Tibbs.

The conference will offer insights, tools and strategies for parish leaders to fully engage active parishioners, re-engage those distantly connected and to share the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith with those searching for a spiritual home. It will also provide opportunities for sharing ideas and experiences among parish leadership and is open to clergy and laity alike. Attendance is limited to 200 participants, ensuring that discussion is plentiful and productive. Each Metropolis is being offered two complimentary registrations in an effort to guarantee participation across the Archdiocese

"This conference, like the one held in Portland, Oregon in 2016, will inform, prepare and inspire parish leaders to return home with useful tools and strategies for meaningful change toward parish health and growth," said Fr. Jim Kordaris, Director of the Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism. "We are convening a panel of experienced parish leaders, trained in the concepts and strategies needed to implement positive change." Please contact Stacey Stathulis ([staceys@goarch.org](mailto:staceys@goarch.org)) with any questions you may have.



Metropolis of Pittsburgh presents

## 2019 GOYA FALL RETREAT

# PUT ON CHRIST

"AS MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN CHRIST, HAVE PUT ON CHRIST"

A weekend exploring your identity in Christ with speakers Dr. Andrew & Anna Abboud

November 22-24, 2019

Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA | Cost: \$175  
Registration closes Sunday, November 17

For more information, regarding scholarship information, or to register, please visit: [y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/retreats](http://y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/retreats)  
*\*Financial aid provided by the generosity of Leadership 100*

### GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 - <http://pittsburgh.goarch.org> - [info@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:info@pittsburgh.goarch.org)  
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His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

Pres. Eileen Sedor, Receptionist

Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar

Rhea Ballas, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Maria Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture

Stacey Stathulis, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator

# NET-MINDERS

The Parish of Holy Trinity would like to thank the following benefactors for making this Monthly Newsletter possible:

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## In Loving Memory Of Thomas & Angeliki Caneris

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 Anthony N. Mougianis

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**Philoptochos Society**

"Friends of the Poor"  
 Women and Men Invited  
 See Angie Mahfood or Joanne McCraley

*In Loving Memory*



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# 2019 December

 Holy Trinity - Steubenville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
1 Year Memorial Fr. Iakovos 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM Baking Koulourakia	St. Barbara 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - St. Barbara 5:00 PM Confession 6:00 PM Paraklisis	St. Savas 6:30 PM Philoptochos Christmas Meeting	St. Nicholas 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - St. Nicholas	5:00 PM Chian Christmas Party
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Stewardship Sunday 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM Gyro Sale Setup	9:00 AM Gyro Sale 7:00 PM Parish Council	5:00 PM Confession 6:00 PM Paraklisis	St. Spyridon 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - St. Spyridon		6:00 PM Great Vespers & Confession
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Memorial Steve & Mary Collarios 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy			5:00 PM Confession 6:00 PM Paraklisis	6:00 PM Ahepa/Ikarian Christmas Party	8:00 AM Christmas Dinner Prep	8:00 AM Christmas Dinner Baking 6:00 PM Great Vespers & Confession
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Christmas Pageant after Liturgy 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	8:00 AM Christmas Dinner Baking	Eve of Nativity 9:00 AM Royal Hours 5:00 PM Vespers Liturgy	Holy Nativity 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy 11:30 AM Christmas Dinner	Offices Closed		6:00 PM Great Vespers & Confession
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Jan 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy		5:30 PM Communion Prayers 6:00 PM Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil				
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Notes</b>				



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Steubenville, OH 43952

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**Submissions for THE NET are to be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**

### About the Icon on the Cover



Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron tool. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

#### **Apolytikion of Great Martyr Barbara Fourth Mode**

Let us honor the holy Barbara for, with the aid of the Cross as her weapon, she crushed the snares of the enemy, and was rescued from them like a bird.