

THE NET

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH— STEUBENVILLE, OHIO
 SEPTEMBER, 2019 VOLUME X • ISSUE 8

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September Calendar

Gyro Sale Flyer and Order Form

GOYA B-ball Tournament Sponsorship Form



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

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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	<i>President</i>
Tony Mougianis	<i>Vice President</i>
Rana Mahfood	<i>Secretary</i>
Rikki Kamarados	<i>Treasurer</i>
Don Kronstein	<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>
Joanne McCraley	<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>
Marianne Balakos	Michael Riley
Nick Demitras	Steve Pahides
Maria Matzorkis	Don Richardson

Philoptochos	Joanne McCraley
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

September, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Orthodox Christians are so weird sometimes. Our Pascha is different. Our food is different (obviously better). Our churches look different. Can we do something normal?

How about New Year? We can at least celebrate New year the same as everyone? Nope. Not a chance.

I know that we do, in fact, celebrate the New Year on January 1 with the rest of the world (followers of the Old Calendar will celebrate on January 14). However, the Church has a separate celebration of the New Year. It is called the Day of Indiction or "Ecclesiastical New Year" (see pg. 7), and the church celebrates this New Year on September 1.

If we are going to be different, then, we must let these differences matter. We must allow for these separations with the rest of the world's celebrations to mean something. Why else would the church do something like this?

Let's not forget that September was the real New Year, even for the entire world for a time! This was during a time when the Church and the State were following the same path. The secular world separated from the church and is following its own path. Why are we still trying to follow it?

These differences between the Church and the State mean something. Rather than to be ignorant of the differences or, even worse, embarrassed by them, we should flaunt (lovingly) our differences out for the world to see!

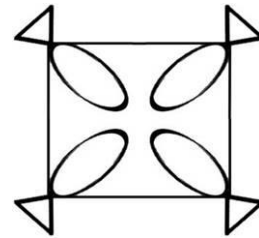
If the secular world wants to follow its own path, that's fine. But that path is not unto salvation. Only one path leads to salvation, and that is the path of Christ in the Church. Which path are we following? Which path are we allowing to run our lives? Which schedule dominates our time?

Now, the Church isn't saying to abandon our fiscal commitments or obligations. It is merely pointing out that there is another way to be "in" this world without being "of" this world. The Orthodox Church constantly is providing perfect examples on how to do this. It offers – through our worship, our fasting, our encouragement of doing charitable deeds and the examples of the saints – so many different examples on how to abandon the craziness of this world. As an alternative to letting the world run our lives, it encourages a deeper commitment to this world by retreating from it..... It makes sense, you just have to try it.

Jesus is the first of these examples, and His example is salvific. But, in case His example is too hard to follow exactly (and it can be sometimes), there are literally millions of others – including His Mother, the Theotokos. That is why the church designated the feast of her birth (Sept. 8) to be one of the first feasts we celebrate during the church year, and the feast of her death (Aug. 15) to be one of the last feasts we celebrate during the church year.

Let this year, be the year of renewal. Let this year be the year of commitment. Let this year be the year that we truly devote our lives to Christ

God bless you all!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship September

Summer schedule will be as followed for September
2. Orthros begins at 8:30 A.M. and Liturgy begins at 9:30.

Our fall schedule for Sunday Worship will resume
September 9, Orthros begins at 9:00 A.M. and Liturgy
begins at 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Paraklesis Services September

Paraklesis Services will be offered every Wednesday
evening at 6:00 P.M. unless otherwise stated.

SEPTEMBER

These are the services for the month of September.
Please check your schedules and plan to attend.

Saturday, September 1 Day of Indiction

8:30 A.M. Orthros
9:30 A.M. Liturgy with Blessing of the Waters

Saturday, September 8 Nativity of the Theotokos

9:00 A.M. Liturgy in Saxonburg

Tuesday, September 11

9:00 A.M. Orthros
4:00 P.M. Confession

Thursday, September 13

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers, Holy Cross, Pgh.

Friday, September 14 Elevation of Holy Cross

8:30 A.M. Orthros
9:30 A.M. Liturgy

Monday, September 17 ... St. Sophia & her 3 Daughters

8:30 A.M. Orthros
9:30 A.M. Liturgy

Thursday, September 20 St. Eustathios

8:30 A.M. Orthros
9:30 A.M. Liturgy
11:00 A.M. Confession

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following people will be celebrating their
birthday in the months of September:

SEPTEMBER

David Hart	9-02	Julie Moutsatsos	9-14
Mary Jean Mahfood	9-04	Antionette Caneris	9-14
George Berris	9-04	Irene Petrides	9-15
Ryan Manneh	9-04	Albert Bellas	9-15

Frankie Vostatek	9-05	Donna Zende	9-16
Andrew Shea	9-08	Alexis Satiropoulis	9-18
Nicholas Maragos	9-12	Vincetta Tsouris	9-19
Giorgio Alexander	9-12	Steve Pahides	9-20
Anthony Demitras	9-13	Constantine Moore	9-20
Jessica Groves	9-13	Charles Rangos	9-24

If your name was not listed and you had a birthday
during this month, please contact the office; and we will
be happy to place it on our roster for next year.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BIBLE STUDY September 12 & 26

The Bible Study normally meets on the 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. Please check
the weekly bulletins for any changes. We will begin the
study of *Isaiah*.

THEOLOGY ON TAP & OPA September 20

Theology on Tap is our Men's and Women's (OPA) study
group. The meeting will take place on September 20. Please
pay attention to any calls announcing the location on the
Notify-Now system. You don't need to be Orthodox to
come!

*Do you know anyone interested in Orthodox
Christianity? Contact Fr. Nick to learn how to have an
introduction to Orthodoxy in your home! Invite your
friends, and show them the faith of our ancestors!*

PARISH GROUPS

AHEPA September

The AHEPA Society will now have their meetings
scheduled through our Notify-Now system.

CHOIR September 2

Choir rehearsals will be held on the first Monday of
each month (changes will be made through the Call-Now
System). Anyone interested in joining the Choir is
welcome to do so. Please contact Pete Caleodis if you
are interested in joining. Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL September 10

Parish Council meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of
the month at 7:00 P.M. at the church unless otherwise
stated.

PHILOPTOCHOS September 5

The Philoptochos Ladies will have their monthly
meeting on Thursday, September 5, at 6:30 P.M. at
Steubenville Country Club. Please check the weekly

bulletins and Call-Now system for information. Thank you.

HOUSE BLESSINGS VOLUNTEERS

We are still in need of volunteers to go with Father Matthew for one day of the House Blessings or for a make-up day. It is a blessing to be able to help with this important task of the church year. Anyone who is interested and available should contact the church office and add his/her name to the sign-up sheet.

BUSINESS BLESSINGS

It has been awhile for some of the businesses since the last time you have received a blessing of your establishment. For those of you who would like to have their business blessed, please contact the office and the secretary will schedule an appointment for you. We will either schedule you on a unique day, or add you to an available time slot on the day when Fr. Matthew is in your area.

GYRO SALE

Philoptochos will be holding a Gyro fund raiser on Tuesday, September 10 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. This event is open to the public. Gyros are \$7.00 each Chicken Gyros \$8.00 each. There will be a \$.25 up charge for extra Tzatziki sauce. Koulourakia (Twist Cookies) are \$6.00 a dozen. There will be free delivery for orders of four or more Gyros. Everyone is welcome to either eat with us, carry out, or to help us with this event. Please join us for this event.

BIBLE STUDY

We are excited to continue our Bible study here at Holy Trinity. Beginning in September we will be encountering one of the greatest prophets – The Prophet Isaiah. One of the largest Old Testament books, *Isaiah* has, within its pages, the most amount of Messianic prophecies of any other prophets.

Please join us for our introductory lesson on Wednesday, September 12 at 10:00 A.M. Bring your Bibles!

ICARIAN FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Join us for the End-of-Summer Celebration, Sunday, September 16, after church in the social room. Make

your own sundae for only \$2. Families of 3 or more only \$6 maximum.

METROPOLIS CLERGY LAITY

The 2018 Metropolis Clergy-Laity & Philoptochos Assembly will take place at Holy Cross, Pittsburgh on September 29, 2018.

Among the matters to be discussed at the Clergy-Laity are the prior year and current year finances for the Metropolis, as well as its proposed 2019 budget, changes to the Youth Safety Guidelines for the Archdiocese and Metropolis, updates to the New Metropolis Center project and the progress reports from the various Metropolis Ministries.

Each parish is entitled to send 4 voting delegates—parish priest, council president (or another council member in their place) and 2 elected lay delegates. Each parish is also entitled to send 3 Philoptochos voting delegates—chapter president (or another board member in her place) and 2 elected Philoptochos delegates.

To register, please call the Church office and we can assist you with your registration.

GOYA KICKOFF MEETING

The GOYA will have their opening organizational meeting Sunday, September 30, 12:00 P.M. at the church following Liturgy. At this meeting, we will go over the upcoming year, and discuss the possible events and activities we would like to schedule. We also will be electing officers for the 2018-2019 school year. All children in grades 7 – 12 are included in GOYA. Thank you.

GREEK SCHOOL

Anyone interested in learning written or conversational Modern Greek, please contact the church office so that the secretary can write your name on the sign-up list.

JUNE & JULY FINANCIALS

June weekly income	\$
June weekly expense	\$
July weekly income	\$
July weekly expense	\$

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY

Με τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτου κ.κ. Σαῖββα
καὶ τοῦ Πνευματικοῦ Πατρός Γέροντος Ἐφραίμ,
ἡ Ἱερὰ Μονὴ τῆς Γεννήσεως τῆς Θεοτόκου προσκαλεῖ τὴν ἀγάπη σας διὰ τὴν εὐλαβικὴ συμμετοχὴ
σας στὴν μεγάλη λατρευτικὴ πανήγυρι τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου

στὶς 7 καὶ 8 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2018

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Sava and their Spiritual Father Elder Ephraim, Gerontissa Theophano and the Sisters of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery invite you with abundant love to join them for the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

September 7th and 8th, 2018

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Παρασκευή 7η Σεπτεμβρίου
6.00 μ.μ.- 11.00 μ.μ. Ἀγρυπνία
Μεγάλος Ἑσπερινός
Ἄστοκλασία
Ὁρθρος

Σάββατο 8η Σεπτεμβρίου
9.00 π.μ.-12.00 μ.μ.
Ὁρως
Θεία Λειτουργία
Ἀκολουθεῖ Τράπεζα



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, September 7
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm Vigil:
Great Vespers
Blessing of the Loaves
Matins

Saturday, September 8
9:00 am -12:00 pm
Hours
Divine Liturgy
Lunch follows

A variety of gourmet pastries as well as hand-crafts will be available for purchase.

121 St. Elias Lane; Saxonburg, PA 16056 Phone: 724-352-3999

Please call us in advance if you anticipate bringing a bus. We ask all pilgrims to please dress modestly. Thank you.

www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org

CHICKEN FEST

HOLY TRINITY GREEK CHURCH

300 S. 4TH STREET
STEUBENVILLE, OH
740-282-9835



OPEN TO PUBLIC
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018
3:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

\$11

INCLUDES FESTIVAL OR LEMON CHICKEN,
RICE PILAF, & GREEN BEANS

EAT IN OR CARRY OUT

DRINKS & PASTRIES SOLD SEPARATELY

Save The Date

COME & SEE!

September
22nd
2018



Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery

*With the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas,
Gerontissa Theophano & her Sisterhood warmly welcome you to:*

5TH ANNUAL DINNER BANQUET
in Memory of Gerontissa Taxiarchia

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
3:30 Vespers - 6:00 Dinner

Salmon or Chicken Entrees: \$100 per ticket

RSVP Online Now: 2018MonasteryBanquet.Eventbrite.com

121 St. Elias Lane - Saxonburg, PA 16056 724-352-3999
www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org

Summer Camp 2018



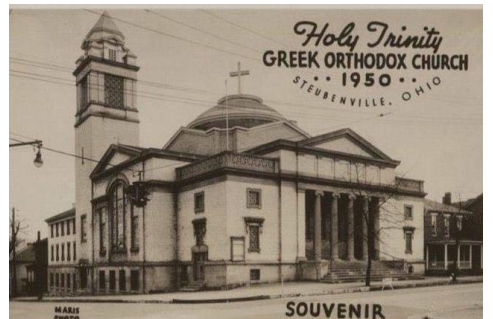
Some Heritage Pictures of Holy Trinity



Concept Photo



Grant School Groundbreaking (Pre-1925)



Souvenir Picture - 1950

HAPPY (ECCLESIASTICAL) NEW YEAR!

By: Evagelos Sotiropoulos

On September 1st, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Beginning of the Indiction, that is, the Ecclesiastical New Year. Before the Greek (or Constantinopolitan) Indiction was introduced by St. Constantine the Great in 312 and decreed by the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea (325 A.D.), the day of Indiction varied based on local tradition.

The word Indiction is birthed from the Latin word meaning to proclaim. It established the annual land tax to support the needs of the empire and its armed forces and was issued for 15-year cycles. It was the month of September when the harvest was gathered and thanksgiving offered to God (see Exodus 23:16), a festival connected to the Saviour's entry into the synagogue in Nazareth whose passage from the Gospel of St. Luke (4:16-22) is read on September 1st. It was also the month of September when St. Constantine, through the power of the Holy Cross, defeated Maxentius and granted Christians freedom of confession.

Today, the month of September continues to be the time of harvest for farmers, in addition to ushering in the start of the school year. The Biblical-based traditions and Church customs regarding the Ecclesiastical New Year continue to be honoured, especially by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Each year, on September 1st, members of the Holy and Sacred Synod, led by the Ecumenical Patriarch (currently His All-Holiness, Bartholomew), gather at the Patriarchal Church of St. George the Great Martyr in the Phanar to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy, venerate the Holy Panagia Pammakaristos Icon and proclaim the New Year. They also sign the Patriarchal and Synodal Tome for the Indictus, an ancient practice dating back to the time of Constantine the Great (+337).

More recently, the entire Orthodox Church, led by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has declared September 1st as a day of prayer for the preservation of God's creation and the protection of the natural environment.

The ecclesiastical calendar, and in particular the Orthodox Church's cycle of feasts, is rich and wondrous. For starters, the liturgical books used are a treasure of hymns and prayers composed by the Fathers of the Church which sustain the annual cycle of feasts, as well as the daily liturgical services. Some of them are well known, like the Epistle and, of course, Gospel Book, but all of them, such as the Psalter, Horologion and Triodion, are sacred and

without comparability in all of Christendom. The Orthodox commemoration and celebration of saints is also without parallel. To begin with, each day of the week has been assigned a special theme, beginning, naturally, with the Lord's Day:

Sunday: Glorious Resurrection of Christ

Monday: Angelic Powers

Tuesday: [St. John the Baptist]

Wednesday: Holy Cross and the Mother of God

Thursday: Holy Apostles and [St. Nicholas]

Friday: Holy Cross

Saturday: All the Saints and Souls of the Departed

The Church has also identified the Twelve Great Feasts with Pascha being first without equal.

The day-to-day riches of the ecclesiastical calendar, which are not well known outside Orthodoxy, are the celebrations of saints, be they apostles, prophets, martyrs, hierarchs or monastics. Each day, the Church commemorates the memory and lives of different saints, as catalogued and described in the Synaxaristes, which abound with examples of spirituality and virtue such as ceaseless prayer, fasting, humility, patient endurance, sacrifice, chastity and martyrdom, all of them woven together by love, the greatest of virtues: love for man and love for Christ.

Saints provide the faithful courage and hope; their lives serve as guideposts with directions and instructions for believers. The martyrs of the Church — beginning with the first male (St. Stephen the Archdeacon, celebrated December 27) and the first female (St. Thekla, celebrated September 24) martyrs, to the Christians martyred throughout the Middle East and across the world each and every day — hold a particular honour and serve as a reminder that the material goods of the earth are temporary and that this life is fleeting, while the life to come is eternal.

The daily cycle of feasts connect us to all the saints, to the Ever-Virgin Mary and above all, to Jesus Christ our God. The Ecclesiastical New Year reminds us to recalibrate our lives and centre our schedules as much as possible around the Church for, as St. Cyprian the Hieromartyr (+258) says, "A person cannot have God as his Father if he does not have the Church as his Mother."

-Taken from: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/evagelos-sotiropoulos/happy-ecclesiastical-new-year_b_5737468.html

JUBILATION AFTER ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHEDO CHURCH'S 27-YEAR-OLD SCHISM IS HEALED

05 August 2018 - By: Peter Kenny

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is the largest of the Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches, one of Christianity's oldest and has been in Africa since 330 AD, so there was joy and celebrations when, on 27th July, it declared an end to a 27-year-old schism that had torn it apart. The rapprochement took place thousands of kilometres from the north east African country with a ceremony of pomp, jubilation and ululation at Washington DC's Debre Mihret St Michael's Cathedral. Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed, who played a key role in the reconciliation, was present.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, a member church of the World Council of Churches, formally declared an end to schism, and recognised one Holy Synod and two Canonical Patriarchs ending a period that was painful for Ethiopians at home and in the diaspora.

WCC programme executive and convener for Africa, Dr Nigussu Legesse, was involved in the reconciliation process between the two synods of the church that split into two in 1991 as a result of the political change that forced the former Patriarch, Abune Merkorios to live in exile in the United States.

The service in Washington assembled hierarchs of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church who officially proclaimed an end to the schism. The ceremony afterwards took place in the historic Watergate Hotel.



"After years in which the church was split between an 'Addis Ababa Synod', a 'Synod in Exile', with two rival patriarchs, the two groups have now united into one single Holy Synod, and the schism is now officially over," Abune Abraham, Archbishop of Bar Dar and Eastern Gojjam said while reading a declaration, the OCP News Service said on 27th July.

According to the laws of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Patriarch Abune Mathias will lead the church by carrying out administrative duties. Patriarch Abunä Merkorios will return to Ethiopia with the rank and dignity of patriarch, and resume the patriarchal throne.

"When His Holiness Patriarch Abunä Merkorios returns to his homeland, Ethiopia, an appropriate residence within the Patriarchate shall be prepared for him together with all things that are needed for him to live in dignity," said the declaration.

From the date of the agreement, the designations of the exiled synod and native synod are abolished, "and there is only one church: the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church."

Prime Minister Ahmed was praised for working hard to restore peace in the country and for the unity of the Orthodox Church. He flew in to Washington from Addis Ababa as part of the process and flew back to national celebrations in the Ethiopian capital.

"As long as both holy Patriarchs are alive, our holy church will regard their patriarchal honour as equal," said the declaration.

Explaining the background to the schism, the declaration noted that due to the "change in government in Ethiopia...the one holy church was divided into two, and from the one synod, two synods led by two patriarchs were formed." The split in 1991 came after the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary

Democratic Front removed from power the Derg military junta, which had seized power in 1974 after the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie I. A breakaway church based in the United States was formed under the exiled former patriarch.

"Because of this, the fourth Patriarch, His Holiness Abunä Merkorios, lived in exile for more than two decades. Therefore, concerning the status of the two holy

Patriarchs, the peacemakers representing both synods decided the following after much discussion together about the unity and peace of the holy church."

The Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, the public broadcaster, reported that Ethiopian Orthodox Church had organised another conference at the millennium hall in Addis Ababa for 4th August to herald the reconciliation. Attending that ceremony will be members of the diplomatic community and Prime Minister Ahmed.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is in communion with the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria having gained autocephaly in 1959.

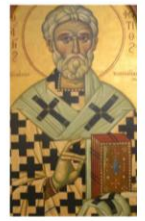
-Excerpted from: <https://www.sightmagazine.com.au/news/9999-jubilation-after-ethiopian-orthodox-tewahedo-church-s-27-year-old-schism-is-healed>



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ISSUE 14 — AUGUST 2018



SUCCESSFUL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

The sixth annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh Greek Language Festival was hosted by Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland Heights. Chairing the event was Maria Sikouris. Hundreds of children and families who study Greek converged to perform, exhibit artwork, compete in a Quiz Bowl, make crafts, and have fun.

Performances from many Greek Schools included an original Karagiotzi skit by Annunciation in Columbus, a duet sung by a grandmother and her granddaughter from the host parish, songs and a Greek tragedy performed by St. Demetrios in Rocky River, songs, hymns, a lyra solo, recorder solo, and skit from Annunciation in Cleveland, a guitar solo from Holy Trinity, Canton, songs from St. Paul in North Royalton, and a clarinet solo from St. Nicholas Cathedral of Pittsburgh.

An impressive Art Exhibit was on display made up of children's artwork from throughout the Metropolis. A variety of craft tables were available for children to make creative pieces.



For the Quiz Bowl, students studied material and vocabulary words for spelling in Greek, liturgical words and phrases, words from Greek roots, the lives of saints – St. John Maximovitch and St. Marina, Greek musical instruments, history of the Persian Wars and the Mycenaean, Minoan, and Cycladic Civilizations, and lives and artwork of the Greek artists Kostas Varotsis and Nikolaos Gyzis.

All teams this year competed on the Intermediate Level and every team did an incredible job! Winners were: First Place, from St. Nicholas in Pittsburgh, Ralou Benos, Toula Darakos, Konstantinos Karamalides; Second Place, from Annunciation in Cleveland, Konstantina Prinolakis, Gregory Sisamis, Georgios Sisamis; and Third Place, from St. Nicholas in Pittsburgh, Stefania Bounos, Yanna Mavrogeorgis, and Perry Velisaris.

All students who participated in the festival were given a certificate their academic school records denoting their participation in an academic foreign language activity. It was a fun day with much to share from each other, and each participant went home with a commemorative gift. This event is open to the public and we encourage you to come and enjoy the festival next year! Students interested in participating can study material from previous festivals online. New study material will be released in October, 2018.



SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

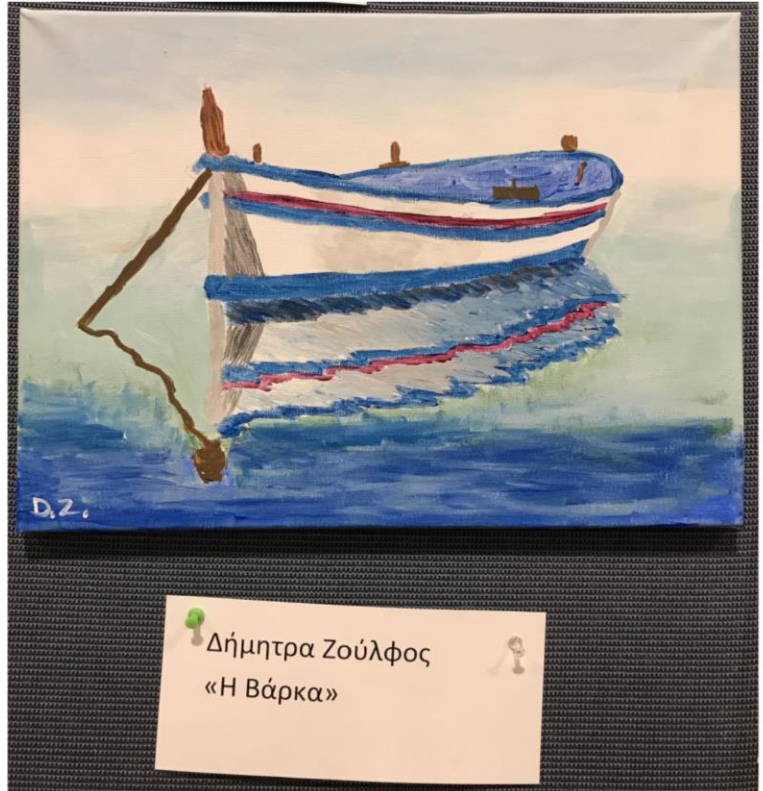
It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including His Eminence's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis.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

SUMMARY OF CLERGY-LAITY DECISIONS

The 44th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America took place July 1-5 in Boston, Massachusetts. Among its decisions were:

1. **The adoption of a 2019-2020 Archdiocesan Budget.** The budget provided for increases in the National Ministries Allocation of 0% in 2019 and up to 3% in 2020 (based on potential need), and the re-introduction of “third leg” funding to the Clergy and Lay Employees Pension Program of the Archdiocese (leg one being the participant contributions and leg two the “employer” contributions from the parishes and Archdiocese). At the close of the Budget discussion the budget as presented showed a significant deficit for 2019 and 2020, and the Plenary Session directed the Archdiocese to make necessary cuts in other parts of the budget to bring it into balance by the October Council meeting.
2. **The adoption of new Policies for the Safety of Youth and Children.** Unlike the old Youth Protection Manual, which was designed specifically for Metropolis camp and retreat programs, the new Policies are intended to be implemented at all Youth Ministries of the Archdiocese, Metropolises, and Parishes. Included in the Policies are two major sections: the policies (rules), and a best practices section. The Policies were crafted to take into account the diversity of circumstances between parishes, so communities with 5 children and 150 children could all be able to apply the policies in a sustainable and responsible way. *(Thanks to our own Archon Peter Clyde Papadacos and Rhea Ballas for their work in assisting the Archdiocese in the crafting of this document.)*
3. **The adoption of over twenty amendments to the Archdiocesan Regulations.** There were three broad categories of amendments: those affecting the Archdiocese, Metropolis, and Parishes.
 - Archdiocesan Amendments: Provide for better separation of duties within the Executive Committee, require regular reporting of financial situation to the Council, audited financial statements prepared in a timely manner, better protection of restricted funds, and professional competence for certain committee chairs (among them Finance and Audit).
 - Metropolis Amendments: Provide for a functional Audit Committee on the Metropolis level, annual presentation of financial statements to the Assembly and Parishes, including Financial statements that have either been audited professionally or reviewed by professionals on behalf of the Audit Committee, and the adoption of a Whistleblower Policy.
 - Parish Amendments: Provide that the same restrictions to Parish Council membership provided in Article 24 also apply to the parish Audit and Election committees, and that the Parish must send its audited (whether done by a professional firm or by the parish’s Audit Committee) Financial Statements to the Metropolis annually.

Below: Student artwork displayed as part of the 6th Annual Greek Language Festival, hosted by Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral in Cleveland Heights.



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Submissions for THE NET are to be submitted by the 20th of each month

About the Icon on the Cover



COMMEMORATION OF THE MIRACLE OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AT COLOSSAE

In Phrygia, not far from the city of Hieropolis, in a place called Cheretopos, there was a church named for the Archangel Michael, built over a miraculous spring.

This church was built by a certain inhabitant of the city of Laodicia in gratitude to God for healing his mute daughter. The holy Chief Commander Michael appeared to this man in a dream and revealed to him that his daughter would receive the gift of speech after drinking from the water of the spring. The girl actually did receive healing and began to speak. After this miracle, the father and his daughter and all their family were baptized. In fervent gratitude, the father built the church in honor of the holy Chief Commander Michael. Not only did Christians begin to come to the spring for healing, but also pagans. In so doing, many of the pagans turned from their idols and were converted to the faith in Christ.

At this church of the holy Chief Commander Michael, a certain pious man by the name of Archippus served for sixty years as church custodian. By his preaching and by the example of his saintly life he brought many pagans to faith in Christ. With the general malice of that time towards Christians, and especially against Archippus, the pagans thought to destroy the church in order to prevent people from coming to that holy place of healing, and at the same time kill Archippus.

Toward this end they made a confluence of the Lykokaperos and Kufos Rivers and directed its combined flow against the church. Saint Archippus prayed fervently to the Chief Commander Michael to ward off the danger. Through his prayer the Archangel Michael appeared at the temple, and with a blow of his staff, opened a wide fissure in a rock and commanded the rushing torrents of water to flow into it. The temple remained unharmed. Seeing such an awesome miracle, the pagans fled in terror. Archippus and the Christians gathered in church glorified God and gave thanks to the holy Archangel Michael for the help. The place where the rivers plunged into the fissure received the name "Chonae", which means "plunging."

-Taken from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2009/09/06/102517-commemoration-of-the-miracle-of-the-archangel-michael-at-colossae>