

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



CURRENT
NOVEMBER 2021





A few weeks ago, I went out to lunch with an old friend. After a few minutes at the restaurant, the server came to see what we would like. This joyous occasion called for bacon cheeseburgers! After we had placed our order, I realized that it was Friday! I was so wrapped up in the excitement that I forgot it was a fasting day!

How easy is it for these things to slip our minds? Times of celebration can pull us out of sync from the rhythm of the Church year. It is not that Orthodox Christians do not celebrate. Rather, the Church offers us a cycle of feasting and fasting to guide us through the year.

Still there are these times when the world tells us not to worry about things like church attendance and fasting. After all, they will still be there later, when things settle down.

It is easy to prioritize when things are calm.

What will we prioritize when life is hectic?

Most of us can probably relate to the hectic time leading up to Christmas. We have office parties, cards to write, shopping, and baking. And what do we get from this? Research has shown this version of preparation will result in up to 64 percent of us experiencing some form of depression after Christmas!

What then should we do?

The Church offers us an often forgotten alternative during this season in the form of the Nativity Fast. The Nativity Fast is an opportunity to prioritize Christ centered preparation. It is an opportunity to avoid the post-holiday blues that may come from losing this focus, and instead enter into the joy of the Nativity of our Lord.

This is a beautiful time of year. Let's enjoy it with those we love. But let's not lose our focus on our life in Christ. And let's save the bacon cheeseburger for December 25.

See you at Church!

FRDK

Fr. Dean

A Note from President and Stewardship Chairman Steve Markantone

Is Ypapanti Your Home?

A home by definition is a place where one lives as part of their family. But a home is really much more than that. It is a safe and familiar place where we belong. Ypapanti is our spiritual home; it is a place of prayer, comfort, spiritual healing, and celebration. You know you are home from the minute you open the doors to the Narthex as your senses come alive. Even if you are watching it online from a far, you can smell the aroma of the incense. The sound of hymns and prayers give you the immediate feeling you are home. No matter how long you have been away, in an instant you know this is your home.

It is the parishioners in our church that really make this a home. People willing to share their time, talent and treasure is what has allowed Ypapanti to thrive for generation after generation. It is overwhelming to be a small part of such a great family.

I would like to express my gratitude to each and every Stewart of Ypapanti. Without your love and support of our church family, none of this could be possible. As we approached the busy holiday season I look forward to seeing all of you at our spiritual Home!!!

Please take the time to fill out a pledge card for 2022 as none of this is possible without your generous donation of your time treasure and talent.



GRECIAN ODYSSEY DANCERS

In 1981, St. Catherine Philoptochos of Ypapanti took its turn in hosting the Greek section of the 25th Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival at the Civic Arena. A group of twenty-six young dancers responded to the call to perform Greek dances at the Folk Festival program. The majority were parishioners of Ypapanti, but in true tradition of our Parish, dancers from the Pittsburgh area were invited to join the show. Four months later, sixteen of the “original” Dancers formed the group known as “Grecian Odyssey Dancers of Ypapanti”. Since 1981—forty years later, they have continued to represent the Presentation of Christ Church and welcomed over 300 Dancers who have performed in more than 1250 shows.

Since the Ypapanti Festival in August 2021, the group has danced for the St. John Greek Festival in Youngstown, Ohio, and will dance for the Philippine Center in West Mifflin on Saturday, November 13. They are also scheduled to perform for the Pittsburgh G.A.P.A. (Greek American Progressive Association) annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 17, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in South Hills Village.

An annual Grecian Odyssey Dancers fund raiser is the baking and selling of Vasilopitas (New Year’s Breads). This project not only maintains and teaches tradition in our heritage, but also provides funds for costumes, Folk Dance Festivals, music, and travel expenses for the group. Please consider supporting the group by placing an order on the enclosed form, before December 12. The vasilopita makes a wonderful gift for friends and family and can be picked up in the Olympia Hall on December 19, after Divine Liturgy.

If anyone is interested in joining this active group, and has passed his or her fifteenth birthday, they should contact the Director Mary Doreza at 412-877-3415. Everyone is welcome! Practices are usually scheduled for Sunday afternoons. No dance experience is required—just a willingness to learn, and to attend regularly the lessons/practices.

The Grecian Odyssey Dancers are very grateful to the community of the Presentation of Christ who have enthusiastically supported them throughout the forty years, and sincerely thank everyone.

May the Odyssey continue!

MOST COMMON ANSWERS

US
VE
ME
GY
HIP
CH

WORSHIP
CHURCH FAMILY
GLORIFYING GOD
GROWING
OUR NEIGHBORS
BEAUTY



PHOTOS



Learning about Liturgy and
the Presanctified Gifts.

We are thankful for those
who give their time and
talent!



Little Free Library!

Have a book? Leave a book.
Need a book? Take a book!



Fall General Assembly

November 28



Thanksgiving Food Drive

WHOOOOOOOOO

Can help feed families in need
during this holiday season?

You Can!

Presentation of Christ is partnering with the Rankin Christian Center to collect certain food items so that everyone who wants to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner can do so!



**Now until
November 15, 2021**

Donations accepted at Olympia Hall
Tuesday thru Friday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Or use the blue bin under the
Hall's portico to drop your donation
at any time!

Olympia Hall
1575 Electric Ave.
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

For more information contact
Presentationofchirstoffice@gmail.com
Or call 412-824-9188

www.PresentationofChristpgh.org

Follow us on Facebook



Items Needed

Canned Vegetables

- Corn
- Green Beans
- Peas
- Carrots
- Sweet Potatoes
- Pumpkin

Canned Soups, Stews, or Gravy

Boxed Mash Potatoes

Boxed Stuffing

Cranberry Sauce

Juice - Any Flavor, Any Size

Applesauce

Dry Pasta



Rankin Christian Center

230 3rd Ave, Rankin, PA 15104
M-F 8AM – 5PM | 412-271-8313

WELCOME BACK, STUDENTS!!!

Fall 2021



Beginning in September, we return to Sunday
School in person after Divine Liturgy

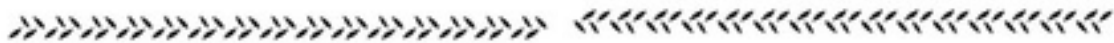
THE THEME FOR THE FALL
IS "LEARNING ABOUT THE
DIVINE LITURGY."



It's that time of year again for our annual Christmas card project – a wonderful way to send your greetings of the birth of our Lord to the entire parish community. Please return this form with your donation of \$15.00 to the office or the collection basket by December 12, 2021 to have your name included.

Name(s) _____

Please print your name on the above line the way you would like it to appear on the card. Thank you for supporting our Christmas Card Campaign.



Poinsettia Donation Form



Honor loved ones, commemorate those who have departed, or simply help to beautify the church during the Nativity of Christ holiday season while supporting our Church at the same time by sponsoring one or more beautiful poinsettias for Christmas. Please submit your order and donation of \$20.00 by December 12, 2019. Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Number of plants _____ @\$20.00 each _____

TRADITIONAL GREEK NEW YEAR'S BREAD



Vasilopitas

with "Good Fortune"
coin for 2022!

\$10.00 each

Sponsored by Grecian Odyssey Dancers of Presentation of Christ

Orders must be placed by 12/12/21

Pick up vasilopitas at the Olympia Hall, East Pittsburgh, on Sunday, December 19th
from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



ORDER FORM

NAME.....PHONE.....

of Vasilopitas w/sesame seeds _____ @\$10.00 = _____

of Vasilopitas without sesame _____ @\$10.00= _____

Total number ordered _____ Total amount enclosed _____

Make checks payable to: Grecian Odyssey Dancers, and mail it (or give it to a Grecian Odyssey Dancer) with your order to:

Mary Doreza, 3813 Burnaby Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-877-3415

*****Please Submit Orders By December 12.*****



MAKING OVER YOUR MARRIAGE



February 18-20, 2022
Antiochian Village,
BOLIVAR, PA

PRESENTED BY
Fr. Nick and
Dr. Roxanne Louh



ANCIENT FAITH MINISTRIES invites you to step away from your daily life for a weekend of learning, worship, and rest, led by Fr. Nick and Dr. Roxanne Louh. Come prepared to understand and set aside obstacles, and to regain your inspiration to strive toward a blessed and joyful union in Christ.

REGISTER TODAY

Visit store.ancientfaith.com or call 800-967-7377



ANCIENT FAITH STORE

~ Tentative ~

November 2021

~ Tentative ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:30 PM, Paraklesis 7:30 PM, Divine Liturgy Class	4	5	6
7 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy Church School After Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Meeting after Divine Liturgy	8	9 9:30 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM, Parish Council	10 1:30 PM Cooking for NRP 7:00 PM, Paraklesis to Saint Nektarios	11	12 Vigil, Feast of St. John Chrysostom 5:30 PM, Matins 6:30 PM, Divine Liturgy	13
14 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy Church School After	15 <u>Navidad Fast</u> <u>Begins</u>	16	17 6:30 PM, Paraklesis 7:30 PM, Divine Liturgy Class	18	19	20 11:00 AM, Food Pantry and Hot Meal To Go
21 Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy Church School After	22 10:00 AM, Thanksgiving Meal Prep	23 9:30 AM, Morning Prayer	24 5:30 PM, Thanksgiving Meal Distribution	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 8:30 AM, Matins 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy Church School After		30 10:00 AM, Sandwiches Prep for Rankin Christian Center <u>Giving Tuesday</u> 2021				

Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

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

Website: www.PresentationofChristPgh.org Follow us on Facebook @PresentationofChrist

Under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Elpidophoros 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. Dean Kokanos
Cell Phone: 412-760-7203
FatherDeanKokanos@gmail.com

Office Hours: 9 to 3, Tuesday to Friday

Sunday Services
Matins – 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

Adult Education on Wednesday. See Google Calendar or "This Week at Church"

PresentationOfChristOffice@gmail.com - Office Phone: 412-824-9188 - Office Fax: 412-824-9740

2021 Parish Council Members

Steve Markantone, President

Tom Rosvanis, Vice President

Stan Prestogeorge, Vice President

Paula Borsch, Treasurer

Jamie Orfanopoulos, Secretary

Ernie Kampetis, Asst.
Treasurer

Peter J. Anthony

Tasso Athans

Deborah Grysiak

Anastasia Andrews

Petros Mantzouridis

Tootie Pranis

Richard Voltz

Organizations & Committees

Sunday School and Youth Programs: Paula Borsch

Outreach Ministry: Tasso Athans

Philoptochos: Lucy Koutsavlis, President

Y.A.S.O.U.: Tootie Pranis

Cantor: Stefanos Giannikas, Filia Arvanitis, Tom Rosvanis

Choir: Tom Rosvanis,

Organists: Marguerite Ellis
Roula Kyros

Grecian Odyssey Dancers: Mary Doreza, Director
Elias Bardis, President

Junior Olympian Dancers: Michelle Kotsagrellos, Director
Jamie Orfanopoulos, Director
Elias Bardis, Asst. Director
Maria Bardis, Asst. Director

Book & Icon Store: Deborah Grysiak

