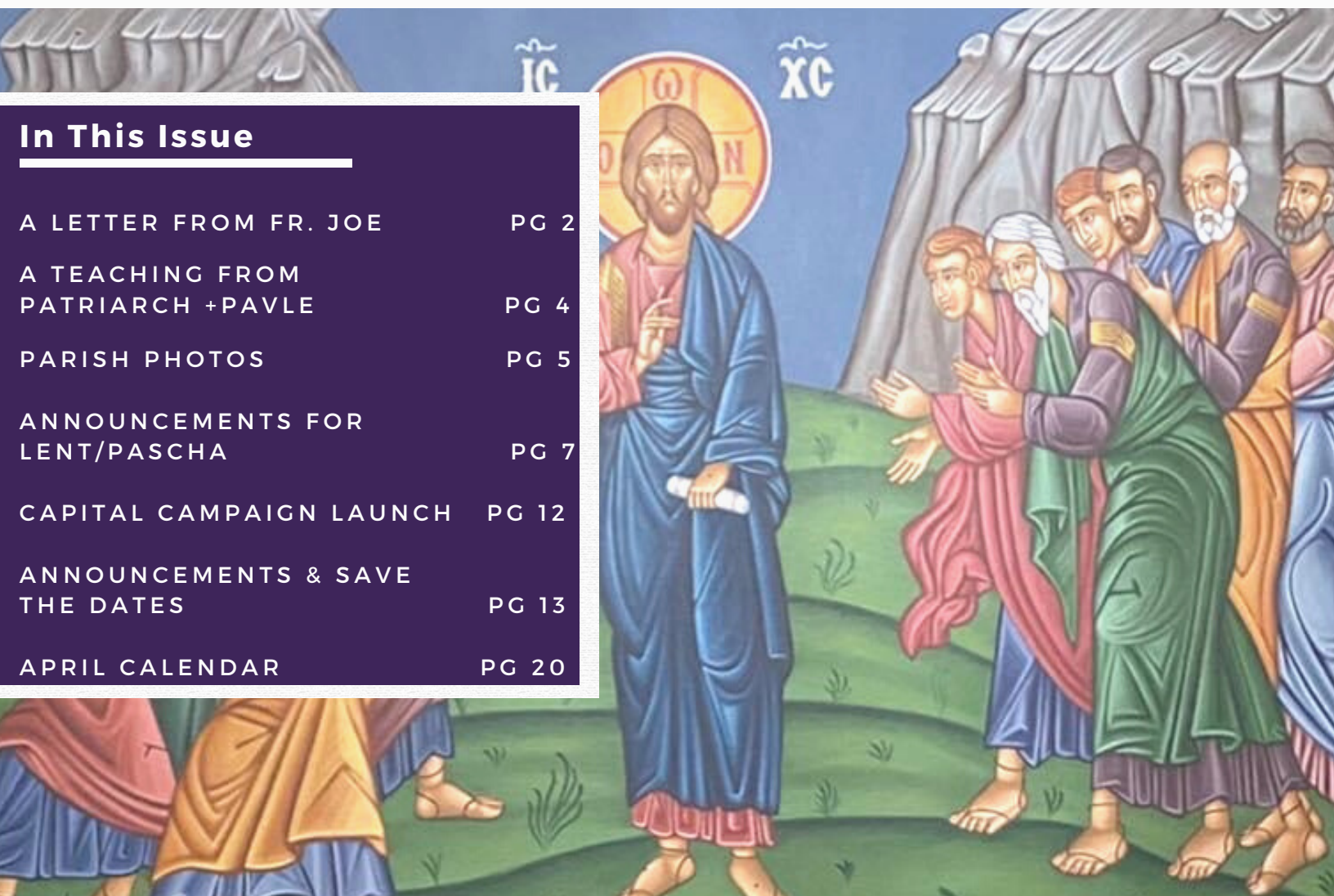


THE CURRENT

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BIBLE VERSE SPOTLIGHT

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."



Dear Faithful and Friends of Ypapanti Parish:

In our Orthodox understanding, worship is regarded as our encounter with the living God. Through worship God makes Himself present and active in our life; with the objective being our salvation. He bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, who makes real the promise of Christ to be in the midst of those gathered in His name (Mt 18.20). Through our worship cycle we do more than remember past events. We experience the risen Christ, who is timeless. Everything that is past and all that is future are made present through our liturgical celebrations.

We are now entering the final week of Great Lent, leading up to Holy Week, which culminates in the celebration of the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Pascha, (which means the new Passover) is the oldest, most honored and greatest feast of the Church. It is the very center and heart of the Orthodox Church year. But most important, Pascha is preceded by the Great Fast which seeks to make the Christian mindful of his/her dependence on God. It prepares the faithful for the worthy celebration of Pascha by calling all to repentance and to a deeper conversion of the heart. The Church urges in love, that no one be inactive, or remain indifferent to the call for us to engage in this spiritual exercise.

One indispensable element of Great Lent and Holy Week is that fasting is an integral element of our Paschal preparation, which stems from the apostolic times. For the most part, fasting came about as a result of the words of the Lord, "can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast" (Mt 9.15).

The Great Fast, somber in nature, originated in order to honor the Bridegroom of the Church, Who was taken away, crucified, and buried. Fasting relieves the body from unneeded weight; it promotes prayer, humbles the senses, and leads us to repentance. Fasting reinforces our awareness that we are sinners and fallen people, and that in repentance we ask God humbly to bring us back to life. Through fasting our body works in concert with our prayers, worship and sacramental participation.

Christ's passion, death and resurrection constitute the essence of His redemptive work. The solemn celebrations of Holy Week and Pascha are centered upon these events. The divine services of Holy Week, which evolved long ago in continuity with the experience, tradition and faith of the early Christians, help us enter into and celebrate the mystery of our salvation. Each aspect of this mystery is broken down, emphasized ritually, and assigned to the day of the week in which it occurred. The Mystical (Last) Supper, The Crucifixion, Burial and Resurrection of Christ, constitute the very heart and center of Holy Week.

In the solemnities of Holy Week, we experience anew the embrace of God's love and forgiveness; the gift and promise of temporal and eternal blessings. When we make the effort to participate, we become energized by the experience, as we continue by faith to climb the ladder of divine ascent.

God, through His infinite love, presents us with yet another opportunity to engage in spiritual warfare, to resist the clutches of the evil one, to be loosed from the burden of sin and to be delivered from eternal death. We have set before us, by the Holy Church, another opportunity to "lay aside earthly cares," to walk with the Lord and to "receive the King of all Who comes with angelic powers" to restore us.

"Come see and behold how good the Lord is!"

Asking the Lord to grant unto all, Kalo Pascha!

Yours in the Crucified and Risen Christ,

Father Joseph Cervo

Let us be wise and harmless

It is difficult for sheep to survive among wolves, but it is not impossible, because the Lord tells us how we can survive among wolves as His sheep. And that is: to be wise as snake and harmless as doves. Wisdom will save us from becoming a prey, from being torn apart by wolves, that is, from being killed by enemies. And harmless and kindness will protect us from becoming wolves. Therefore, we must have wisdom. To develop God-given wisdom, more and more, and parallel to that develop goodness.

Because wisdom without goodness turns into wickedness, and harmless without wisdom turns into obstinacy. Neither one nor the other, but to be "wise as snake and harmless as doves".

"They persecuted me, and they will persecute you," says the Lord. We must be clear with that and prepare ourselves to remain the way we should be, as our ancestors were: men of God, people of God. And then, when the end of our life comes, we will enter the joy of the bliss of the Kingdom of Heaven. That is the meaning and goal of our life.

Patriarch +Pavle



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



LENTEN
RETREAT



LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT - ASSEMBLING HYGIENE KITS FOR MCKEESPORT
HOMELESS SHELTER





SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS



FOOD/CLOTHING/
HOT FOOD PANTRY



GREAT FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION &
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY AT
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH IN WHITE OAK, PA



FOYER RENOVATION IN
PROGRESS:



Do you have photos you want to be included in The Current from a fellowship event, baptism, wedding, service or more? Email PresentationOfChristOffice@gmail.com and use the Subject Line "Photos for The Current." Thank you!

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

If you wish to sponsor one or more of the following items for Great Lent and Holy Week, please complete this form and return it with your payment to the Presentation of Christ Church Office as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity!

_____ Flowers for Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross\$80

_____ Altar Table Candles for Holy Altar during Holy Week\$75



~~Palms for distribution on Palm Sunday\$100~~



~~Olive Oil for Holy Unction Service on Holy Wednesday\$25~~



~~Candles adorning the Holy Cross on Holy Thursday.....\$50~~

_____ Flowers for Christ's Tomb (Epitaphion) on Good Friday.....\$500

_____ Candles for Christ's Tomb (Epitaphion) on Good Friday.....\$75

_____ Rose Petals for Lamentation Service on Good Friday.....\$75



~~Rose Water for Lamentation Service on Good Friday.....\$25~~

_____ Rose Petals for First Resurrection Service on Holy Saturday.....\$75



~~Altar Table Candles for Holy Altar during Resurrection Service..\$75~~

_____ Egg Dye and Decorations for Resurrection Service Eggs.....\$40

_____ Other Item or a Portion of the Above Items.....\$__

EASTER FLOWERS \$25

Please indicate the number of plants sponsored.

Quantity: _____ X \$25 / each = _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

TOTAL DONATION: _____

CHECK NUMBER: _____

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • 412-824-9188

1672 ELECTRIC AVENUE • EAST PITTSBURGH, PA • 15112

CALL FOR READERS !

Readers are needed for Services as we celebrate Holy Week and Pascha. There are services each night and the opportunity to read at the Services is available to all. In particular, our parish needs special commitments from readers to participate at the services below.



Holy Wednesday • Service of Holy Unction

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM

The tradition at Ypapanti is that the seven Epistle Readings at this Service are read in English by seven females.

If you or someone you know is interested in offering one of these readings, please see Stellanie K. or Jamie O. to sign up.

Great & Holy Pascha • Agape Vespers

Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 11:30 AM

During this brief service, the Gospel is proclaimed in as many languages as possible. If you or someone you know can read in any foreign language, please see Mary D. or Fr. Joe to sign up.



Learn to fold Palm Crosses!



Saturday of Lazarus • April 8, 2023

Join us for a short time following Liturgy on Saturday of Lazarus as we fold the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. Light refreshments will be served.

- This project will be held in the Lower Level of the Church •

No Experience Necessary! On the Job Training! All Ages Welcome!

Epitaphio Decorating and Egg Preparation!



Good Friday • April 14, 2023

All are welcome to help decorate the Kouvouklion (Tomb) on Good Friday morning. Workers are asked to arrive at 10:00 AM.

We will also prepare the Red Eggs for the Resurrection Service on Holy Saturday.

No Experience Necessary! On the Job Training! All Ages Welcome!

Presentation of Christ Church

Names of Departed Loved Ones for Commemoration at the
Lamentation Service on Good Friday Evening • April 14, 2023
(Kindly print all names clearly and submit form by April 13, 2023)



FORM SUBMITTED BY: _____

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE - 2023

Lazarus Saturday- April 8, 2023	8:30 AM - Matins 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy (Followed by Palm folding & lunch)
Palm Sunday- April 9, 2023	8:30 AM - Matins 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy & Palm Distribution • 6:00 PM - Bridegroom Service (Matins of Holy Monday)
Holy Monday- April 10, 2023	6:00 PM - Bridegroom Service (Matins of Holy Tuesday)
Holy Tuesday- April 11, 2023	6:00 PM - Bridegroom Service (Matins of Holy Wednesday)
Holy Wednesday- April 12, 2023	6:00 PM - Service of Holy Unction & Anointing
Holy Thursday- April 13, 2023	9:30 AM - Vespereal Divine Liturgy -Institution of Last Supper • 6:00 PM - 12 Gospel Passion Service (Matins of Holy Friday)
Great & Holy Friday- April 14, 2023	3:00 PM - Unnailing Service (Vespers of Holy Friday) • 6:00 PM - Lamentation Service (Matins of Holy Saturday)
Holy Saturday- April 15, 2023	9:30 AM - Vespereal Divine Liturgy – 1 st Resurrection • 11:00 PM - Chanting of the Nocturns 11:30 PM - Resurrection Service – “Come Receive the Light” 12:00 AM - Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy
Pascha Sunday- April 16, 2023	11:30 AM - Agape Vespers & Gospel in Multiple Languages

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1672 ELECTRIC AVENUE | EAST PITTSBURGH, PA, 15112 | 412-824-9188 | YPAPANTI.NET

• SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK •

**We have launched a 2023 Capital Campaign
in order to address the following needs of our
Olympia Hall in its 40th Anniversary year:**

Phase One

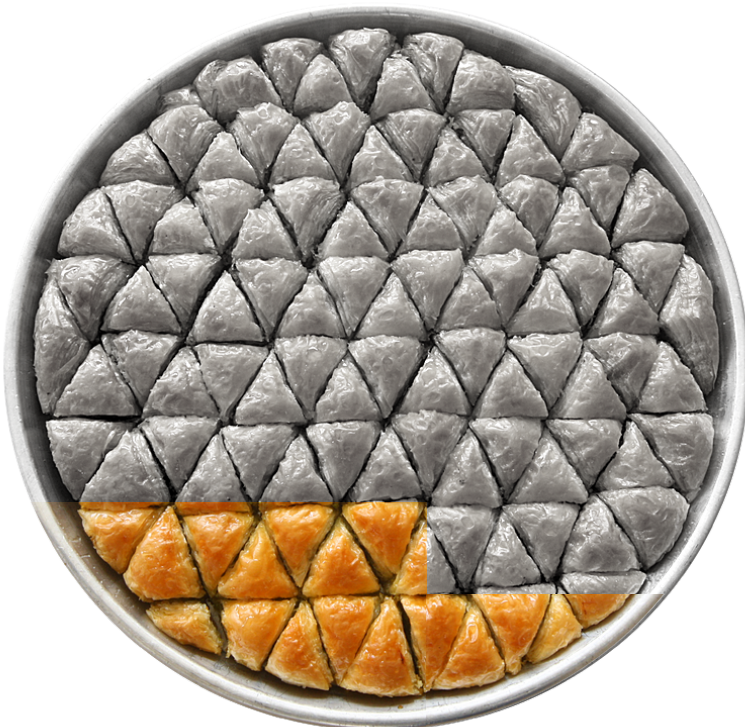
Replace The Olympia Hall Sign
Complete the Hall Foyer Renovation
Replace Dishwasher
HVAC Upgrades
Emergency Lighting Updates

Phase Two

Large Hall Renovations

**TOGETHER WE CAN REACH OUR GOALS
AND FINISH THE PAN OF BAKLAVA!**

**THANK YOU to those who have
donated:**



Anastasia Andrews
Paula & Dan Borsch
Father Joe & Prebyteria Linda Cervo
George & Marguerite Ellis
Claudia Farmer
Ernie & Diane Kampetis
Chris Kouklis
Sophie Koutsavlis
Dr. Steve & Mindy Markantone
Dr. David & Stephanie Neuschwander
Jamie Orfanopoulos
Mary Papazis
Stan & Adrienne Prestogearge

**Please make checks payable to
“Presentation of Christ Capital Campaign”**

BIG NEWS!

We are thrilled to announce Ypapanti's two recipients of the
2023 Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Award!

The St. Photios Award is given annually by Metropolitan Savas to dedicated
volunteers from parishes across our Metropolis.

This year, our parish is honoring
Tasso Athans and **Petros
Mantzouridis** as our "Parish
Recipients" of the St. Photios
Award for their many years of
outstanding contributions to
Presentation of Christ Church.
Both men are fine examples of
tireless dedication and are truly
an inspiration for their
commitment to the Holy Church
of God. Both deserve the
acclamation:

"AXIOS!" "WORTHY!"

In addition, our parish is blessed
to have another member of our
family being honored with this
award! Metropolitan Savas has
named our own **Mary Doreza** to
be a "Metropolis Recipient" of
the St. Photios Award. This
award recognizes Mary's
lifelong contributions to our
parish, the Metropolis of
Pittsburgh, and the Archdiocese
of America. Everyone who
knows Mary agrees:

"AXIA!" "WORTHY!"

Ypapanti's Prior St. Photios Award Recipients

2014 – Filia Arvanitis & Dan Dudek
2015 – Mike Orfanopoulos & Kay Zanic
2016 – Peggy Davliakos & Buddy Sfanos
2017 – Nancy Russon & Mary Papazis
2018 – Sotos Kolocouris & Theodora Stupakis
2019 – Josie Markantone & Marge Tsudis
2022 – Sam Koutsavlis & Tootie Pranis

(This year the Awards Banquet will be held April 29 and is open to the public)



Bringing out your Spring/Summer wardrobe this month, and finding that a few items no longer meet your needs?

Perhaps the size is wrong, the color no longer excites you, or you just want to make room for new clothes? We have a solution for you!

Donate your unwanted warm-weather clothes to the Ypapanti Clothing Pantry. Just bring them to Olympia Hall whenever you are in the neighborhood.

A few rules to follow:

- Clothes must be for the current season, as we do not have enough storage for overflow.
- Everything must be in good/new/like-new condition.
- Clothing must be clean, preferably freshly washed.

All items, especially those in larger sizes, or teen-sizes, are welcome.

Want to see first-hand what happens to our donations?

Volunteer on a Pantry day. The next Food and Clothing Pantry is Saturday, April 29th. We start setting up around 9am, and the event is usually over by noon or 1pm.

See you there!



Church Directory

As our church family continues to grow, it is time to update our church directory. It has been over 17 years (!) since we last compiled a directory...where has the time gone?

Over the next couple of months, we will be collecting photos of our church family members to complete our directory. Toni Morgan would be happy to take your photo at coffee hour, so just say "tyri"! 🧀

If you would prefer to submit a photo for the directory, please email it to tmorganamm@gmail.com -- and please send it in .jpg file format - get the picture?

We will begin this project in earnest on Sunday, April 2nd after church -- and we hope to accomplish all photos and receive all submissions by April 30th.

Looking forward to an updated snapshot of our church family. Thank you for your help!



Church Directory Committee

Toni Morgan (Chairperson)

Chris Kouklis

In Celebration of Mother's Day

May 14, 2023



All are welcome to submit names of mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, step-moms, team-moms, classroom-moms honorary moms, and anyone else that holds this loved title. Names will be prayed for on Sunday, May 14th.

Please submit names & contact information to Presentation of Christ Church by May 8th 2023.

Suggested donation of \$5.00 benefits the work of our St. Catherine's Philoptochos Chapter.

Your name: _____

Honoree: _____ In Honor _____ In Memory _____

Honoree's Address: _____

Honoree: _____ In Honor _____ In Memory _____

Honoree's Address: _____

Honoree: _____ In Honor _____ In Memory _____

Honoree's Address: _____

Honoree: _____ In Honor _____ In Memory _____

Honoree's Address: _____

Honoree: _____ In Honor _____ In Memory _____

Honoree's Address: _____

Honoree: _____ In Honor _____ In Memory _____

Honoree's Address: _____

Checks can be made payable to St. Catherine's Philoptochos.

Thank you for your generous support and Happy Mothers Day!

ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS OF PRESENTATION OF
CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PRESENTS

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!
A MUSICAL CABARET!

Join us for an afternoon of good food,
good friends, wonderful talent and entertainment!

SUNDAY MAY 21. 2023

OLYMPIA BANQUET FACILITY
1575 ELECTRIC AVENUE, EAST PITTSBURGH, PA, 15112
DOORS OPEN 1:00 PM

Cocktails, Buffet, Desserts, & Musical Cabaret

ADULTS \$30, STUDENTS \$15, AGE 4-11 \$7, Under 3 FREE
FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

MARY DOREZA 412 877-3415
PAID RESERVATIONS BY MAY 16, 2023

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT "LENDING
HEARTS," PROVIDING EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL
SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH
CANCER AND THEIR FAMILIES

NEW! **JULY 27, 28, 29**
DATES! *mark your calendars*



2023
East Pittsburgh
Greek Fest

Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church



REMINDER



STEWARDSHIP QR CODE



Did you turn in your 2023 pledge card?

Just click the "giving" tab on the church website,
or mail in/bring your pledge card to Church (just
don't forget to fill out the back!)

WWW.YPAPANTI.NET



APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy 2pm Grecian Odyssey Dance Practice	3	4	5	6	7	8 Lazarus Saturday 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy *Palm Cross Folding & Lunch after Liturgy
9 Palm Sunday 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Philoptochos Meeting 6pm Bridegroom Service (Matins of Holy Monday)	10 Holy Monday 6pm Bridegroom Service (Matins of Holy Tuesday)	11 Holy Tuesday 6pm Bridegroom Service (Matins of Holy Wednesday)	12 Holy Wednesday 6pm Service of Holy Unction & Anointing	13 Holy Thursday 9:30am Vesperal Divine Liturgy - Institution of Last Supper 6pm 12 Gospel Passion Service (Matins of Holy Friday)	14 Great and Holy Friday 3pm Unnailing service (Vespers of Holy Friday) 6pm Lamentation Service (Matins of Holy Saturday)	15 Holy Saturday 9:30am Vesperal Divine Liturgy - First Resurrection 11pm Chanting of the Nocturns 11:30pm Resurrection Service 12am Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy
16 Pascha  11:30am Agape Vespers & Gospel in Multiple Languages	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Feast of St. George 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	24	25 Mark the Apostle & Evangelist 11am Sandwiches for Rankin Christian Center	26	27	28	29 11am Food, Clothes & Hot Meal Pantry
30 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy						

APRIL 2023

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1672 Electric Ave, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112 | 412-824-9188

For more information, find us at:
www.PresentationofChristPgh.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: @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. Father Joseph Cervo

Email: frjcervo@sbcglobal.net

Cell Phone: 330-284-8353

*While Fr. Joe will be in the office regularly, feel free to contact him if you wish to set up a time to meet.

Sunday Services

Matins: 8:30AM

Divine Liturgy: 9:30AM

To live stream, click "Live Services" on our website

Karry Kraeer

Office Administrator

Email: PresentationofChristOffice@gmail.com

Office Phone: 412-824-9188

Office Fax: 412-824-9740

2023 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Marguerite Ellis, President
Steve Markantone, 1st Vice President
Ernie Kampetas, 2nd Vice President
Chris Kouklis, Treasurer
Paula Borsch, Asst. Treasurer
Jamie Orfanopoulos, Secretary

Anastasia Andrews
Claudia Farmer
Dean Geanous
Sophie Koutsavlis
Toni Morgan
Tom Rosvanis
Josh Sturm
David Zafris

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Youth Program Paula Borsch

GOYA Stellanie Kyros

Outreach Ministry Tasso Athans

Philoptochos Lucy Koutsavlis,
President

YASOU Tootie Pranis

Cantor Stefanos Giannikas
Filia Arvanitis
Tom Rosvanis

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Roula Kyros

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Dancers Director
Elias Bardis,
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Choir Tom Rosvanis

Newsletter Paulina
Neuschwander