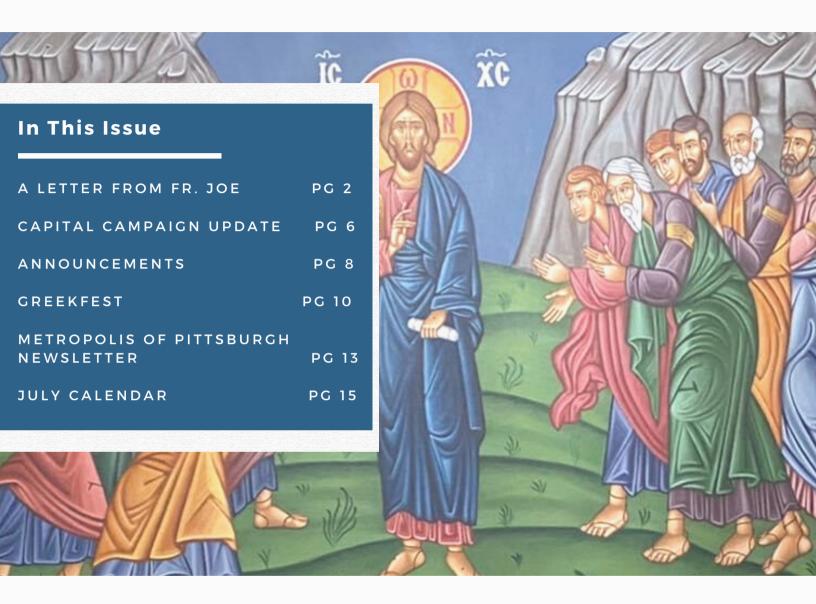
THE CURRENT



BIBLE VERSE SPOTLIGHT

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.



MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY!!!!

DEAR FAITHFUL OF YPAPANTI PARISH,

Allow me to begin by apologizing for the length of this message, please bear with me. But what with our upcoming annual Greek Fest, our Capital Fund Raising Campaign, our on-going Parish Stewardship Drive and ever-present Agape Fund Appeal, I am certain there are some who may be weary of the church always seeking money. Be certain, however, that in 39 years of ordained ministry, I know that if you feel weary, you are not alone. I've witnessed it everywhere I've been. There is an astute Jewish saying, "The longest path is the one that leads from the heart to the pocket."

According to current statistics, the average American household has an outstanding credit card balance of over \$6469, a rising level of overall debt, an average retirement account balance that is woefully short of their needs for retirement, and little to nothing saved for their children's education. While it would be nice to think that these statistics do not apply to us, unfortunately, they commonly do. Most of us would like to do a better job with our finances. We don't deliberately go out and rack up thousands of dollars of credit card debt overnight, or find ourselves with car payments and incredibly high mortgages. Sometimes circumstances arise in life that force us into our particular choices. Nonetheless, we still have a responsibility to God to be good caretakers of His gifts and not to squander them foolishly or selfishly.

God places great importance on stewardship of not only our time and talents, but also our material possessions.

There are three things in this world that many people cherish: their personal faith, the people they love, and money. The issue of money, which is often the most troubling and the most painful, is one thing that can cause frustration and discord within families.

If we are honest with ourselves and with God, it is safe to say that most of us have never had much training in managing personal finances. We start out as children with the notion of saving and putting money into some sort of piggy bank. We gradually move up to our own checking account, a credit card, a car payment, a mortgage, and finally to providing for our family. As all of us know, there is a huge difference between the days of stuffing change into a piggy bank and making the monthly mortgage payment and supporting children.

All of us grow up receiving instruction in everything under the sun, from driving a car, to getting a job, to caring for our homes. Sadly, though, we receive almost no instruction in how to manage money. Is it any wonder that one of the greatest sources of marital strife is money? And even if we have been taught something about money, we must examine what exactly, we were taught. The world tells us something along the lines of, "He who dies with the most toys wins." While the Lord and His Church says, "Money is a blessing that should be shared." However, for many people there is little connection between their financial lives and their spiritual lives.

Money is not inherently bad or evil. It is simply a product of what we do with our labors. It is not a measure of our worth in the eyes of God, despite what many people may think. Money however, is an instrument that can be used for good or for bad. We can also think of money as a kind of life substance, much like air, food, or water. It permeates almost everything we do. We need money in order to take care of ourselves, our families, and our church. And much like the way we use these other elements, how we use our money reveals who we are and what we believe.

A hefty priest once went to visit one of the monasteries on Mount Athos. He went there and asked the abbot to hear his confession. The abbot immediately rebuked him, saying that this man could not be a good priest because he was immensely overweight. You can imagine how shocked the priest was to hear these words. However, he realized that in this particular case, the abbot was correct. He had to admit that he was a gluttonous person. The priest returned home and lost considerable weight and went on to enjoy a healthy relationship with the abbot. The point is that change would never have occurred without objective honesty, humility and a resolve not to just fulfill his own passionate desires.

In Fourth-Century Egypt, there was a monastic theologian named Evagrius Ponticus. He described the beginning point of sin as logismos, or intellectual activity. It is not so much an intellectual debate, but rather a secret thought that has the power to stir the mind, a kind of secret dialogue. This thought has the ability to move someone to a secret decision against God's laws. Evagrius goes on to explain that "demons fight by means of present things." By present things he means pragmata, or objects; contact with these objects gives rise to addictive passions. In our modern world, there is probably no greater example of what Evagrius is speaking about than a credit card, because it symbolizes and makes available all the things that it can buy.

Think for a moment what Evagrius' was saying. Almost everyone uses money in concert with their feelings to some extent. When people are happy, they tend to buy things. When they are sad, they may either shut down, or simply buy more things in order to gain some feeling of joy. In relationships, people often use money as an instrument to control or manipulate the other party. They correlate gift-giving or receiving with affection.

Some people even use money in relationships as a weapon. It is not uncommon in marriages, for example, to find that one person is financially dominant over the other, and when one party feels wronged, they know that the way to inflict pain on the other is to withhold money or simply buy something frivolous for themselves. It provides spiteful momentary elation and satisfaction, but it often also results in even greater pain and strife between both parties.

We are raised in America to view wealth in very unhealthy ways. We tend to view wealthy individuals as more powerful, more intelligent, and more successful. These distorted perspectives subconsciously move us away from seeing money as a gift from God and us as the caretakers of this treasured gift. Money then becomes not so much a by-product of our labors, but a kind of end unto itself.

The fact is that we really don't make the money; God bestows it upon us. As Deuteronomy 8:18 says: "You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant." We would have nothing without God, and our wealth is truly His. This is a fundamental principle that is sadly lost in most people's mind.

Why do some give of their wealth so readily, and others so begrudgingly? The answer, quite simply, is often fear. There is a kind of silent fear in many people's hearts that God will not provide for them, or that they somehow have to take all financial matters into their own hands. It's okay to talk about God, but not when it concerns their personal bank accounts. While this couldn't be further from the truth, it is definitely a widely held fear. And as with any fear tied to a misunderstanding about God, this can and should be overcome through open and honest soul searching and if need be, spiritual counseling.

There are tremendous dangers associated with money. If the average person has a credit card balance of \$6469, it may take years to pay it off, making slightly more than the minimum payments. We are inundated with countless offers to spend more and to borrow more. In fact, it is actually getting more and more difficult to pay for things with cash. As we move ever closer to a cashless society, the sins of overspending become ever more hidden.

There is no magic pill one can take to eliminate debt. It requires a determined will and the belief that there is a better way. Much like St. Mary of Egypt, who after her conversion spent the next 40 years in the Sinai desert, if we have made a mess of our finances, it may take a long time to recover. This is why it is imperative that we discuss the subject of money openly and frankly with our family. One of the greatest tools of the evil one is secrecy. We should be no more afraid to discuss money in our households, than we discuss matters of our health, and other priorities in life.

For those who have made financial mistakes, much like losing excess weight, correcting financial mistakes can often take a lot of time. As an aid, ask yourself the following:

- Did I use all my money in a wise and prudent manner?
- Did I give some portion of the wealth back to God?
- Have I done as good a job as I could have done talking about our personal finances to my spouse and/or children?
- Have I used my credit cards in a prudent manner?
- Have I made purchases that are not in keeping with what God would have me buy?
- Have I at any time used my family's money carelessly, in spite, or anger?
- Have I truly been as responsible with the financial blessings bestowed upon me as I could have been?

As you can see, all of these questions involve "I," because the process of salvation begins with each of us as individuals. If we are not responsible, then how can we expect those around us to be?

If we are to walk in the Spirit, we must live a life that is pleasing to God in all its facets. Our personal finances are no exception. They are an integral part of who we are; they help define and shape us. Yes, we are called to renounce the things of this world; however, we are also called to be good stewards of everything in this world. We should not lose sight of the fact that we have been called to live in the world and to be witnesses of Christ's glory on earth. In our daily struggles, we must endeavor to be good caretakers of all the bounties given to us, to be responsible children of God, and to pass on to each succeeding generation the importance of good stewardship.

Much like a surgeon that has to cut away part of our skin to get to a particular ailing part of our body, we must be willing to peel away the layers of hurt, fear, anger and avarice, in order to be spiritually and psychologically healthy. Our Lord loves us infinitely more than we can even love ourselves. If we take heed and pray for Divine guidance, He can and He will, help us discern how we should use the money that He entrusts to us.

I encourage everyone to seriously incorporate these principles into your life, paying heed to Christ's teaching (Matthew 6:21), "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Your Servant at Christ's Holy Altar. Father Joseph Cervo

PAGE 5



Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Rev. Father Joseph Cervo, Protopresbyter

YPAPANTI'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS IN FULL SWING!!

WHY??? For 40 years, Olympia Hall has been the center of the social life and ministries of our beloved Ypapanti. The fellowship created in Olympia Hall has brought together generations of families and friends to further grow the roots of this community. We must maintain our facilities to ensure our legacy for future generations!

Olympia Hall is the home of our annual Food Festival, which not only keeps our Church and its ministries on strong financial footing, but it also provides us an opportunity to strengthen our bonds and the fellowship within our community. It is how we introduce others to our Faith and Culture.

Phase One

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

Phase Two

Paint Banquet Hall Replace 5400 sq ft Flooring

Phase Three

Restroom/Plumbing Upgrades

CAMPAIGN PROJECT UPDATE:

We have replaced our damaged signage with a new lighted sign with LED changeable messaging.

We have completed renovations of the Hall Foyer, including the ceiling, lighting, flooring, and painting and are furnishing it.

The HVAC & lighting upgrades are in progress.

The commercial dishwasher along with the additional plumbing, electrical work & new stainless table & sink retrofits are targeted to be installed by the festival.

Phase One is funded, and we are beginning to fund Phase Two of our Campaign!

Please consider a donation to assist us in achieving our ultimate goal of completing all phases. Thank you, WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER!!

Please make contributions to Presentation of Christ Church, with 'Capital Campaign' indicated on the memo line. **Contributions also accepted online**.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED!

Anastasia Andrews

Tasso & Gloria Batis

Marcie Borsch

Paula & Dan Borsch

James & Alexis Breen

Georgina Callas

Fr. Joe & Presbytera Linda Cervo

Nick Chirigos

Mary Doreza

Elaine Ellis

George & Marguerite Ellis

Claudia Farmer

Dean Geanous

Stefanos & Argyro Giannikas

Grecian Odyssey Dancers

George & Anthea Kachulis

Ernie & Diane Kampetis

Nick & Karen Karnavas

Karystinos Family

Effie Kazakos

Joan Kenney

Robert Kirkpatrick

Sotos & Irene Kolocouris

Chris Kouklis

Gerald & Diane Koutavas

Sam & Lucy Koutsavlis

Sophie Koutsavlis

Raja & Maria Krishnaswamy

John & Mary Kyriakides

Dr. Kyros Family

Dn. Bill & Dns. Mary Leogas

Petros & Gail Mantzouridis

Emmanuel Markantone

Dr. Greg & Anne Markantone

Josephine Markantone

Dr. Steve & Mindy Markantone

Toni Morgan

Dr David & Stephanie Neuschwander

Jamie Orfanopoulos

Kay Orfanopoulos

Mary Papazis

Billy & Elaine Petrakis

Steve Petrakis

Tootie Pranis

Stan & Adrienne Prestogeorge

Elaine Quinn

Maria Romesberg

Dr. Tom & Sandy Rosvanis

Tina Rushe

Nancy Russon

John Sagas

St. Catherine's Philoptochos

Emmanuel & Theodora Stupakis

Josh & Lacey Sturm

YASSOU

Ypapanti Choir

Dave & Jen Zafris

Mike & Kay Zanic

Fran Zottola



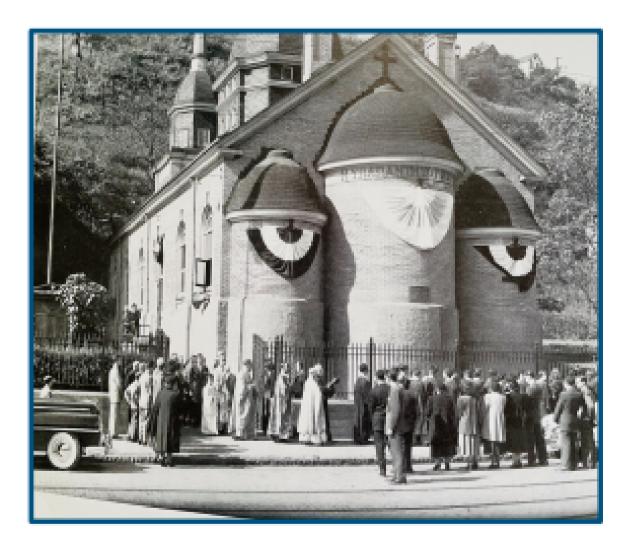
We need everyone's support to make our plan a reality!!!

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

PAGE 7 **JULY 2023**

"For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20



Gather with us at Church!

The Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church - "Ypapanti" Orthros (Matins) 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am, Sundays



PRESENTATION OF CHRIST CHURCH PRESENTS:

"LEARN TO DANCE GREEK!!"

The planning is finished and we're ready to have fun before the start of GreekFest!

Join us in learning some fun Greek Folk Dances Friday, July 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM

in

Ypapanti's Olympia Hall

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

IT'S A PRE-GREEKFEST PARTY!!



What to expect:

- Easy to follow instruction offered by members of our popular Grecian Odyssey Dancers!
- Snacks and drinks... "BYOB" if you'd like!
- A fun Friday gathering before we open GreekFest!

GREEK FEST "40"!

The Presentation of Christ Church celebrates its 40th year of FANTASTIC FOOD FESTS!!!

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY

JULY 27, 28, 29, 2023

Mark your calendar and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join you in working at the Festival on the dates, times, and stations listed below.

Please circle your time and station preferences!

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

10:00 AM-2:00 PM 2:00 PM-6:00 PM		PM	5:00 PM-CLOSE				
Food Serving	Pastry	Gyros	Bar	/Inside	Bar/Outside	Take Out	Cashier
Kitchen/P	rep Ru	Runner Grill		Loukoumades (PM)		ANYWHERE < 3	
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 20	023						
10:00 AM-2:00 PM	1 2:0	0 PM-6:00	PM	5:00	PM-CLOSE		
Food Serving	Pastry	Gyros	Bar	/Inside	Bar/Outside	Take Out	Cashier
Kitchen/P	rep Ru	unner	Grill	Loukou	ımades (PM)	ANYWHERE	<3
SATURDAY, JULY 25	9, 2023						
10:00 AM-2:00 PM 2:00 PM-6:00 PM 5:00 PM-CLOSE							
Food Serving	Pastry	Gyros	Bar	/Inside	Bar/Outside	Take Out	Cashier
Kitchen/P	rep R	unner	Grill	Louko	umades (PM)	ANYWHERE	<3
NAME					PHONE		
ADDRESS							
E-MAIL							

Please return this form to Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church by July 10, 2023. 1672 Electric Avenue East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

40th Annual GreekFest July 27 - 28 - 29 - 2023

ALBUM AD FORM

YOUR NAME:				
TELEPHONE NUMBER:				
AD SOLICITED BY:				
AD SIZE AND PRICE	NG ~ CONT	RIBUTIONS	ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE	
✓ PLEASE	MARK YOUR SE	LECTI	ON 🗸	
☐ FULL PAGE:	7.5" X 4.5"	0	\$275.00	
☐ HALF PAGE:	3.5" X 4.5"	\Q	\$175.00	
□ QUARTER PAGE:	2.0" X 4.5"	\Q	\$125.00	
□ PATRON:	2.0" X 2.0"	*	\$100.00	
□ SPONSOR:	NAME LISTIN	G o	\$50.00	
WRITE YOUR MESSAGE *Inquir	BELOW ▼ OR ATT			
KINDLY COMPLETE FORM AND SI	IBMIT WITH PAYMENT TO P	RESENTATI	ON OF CHRIST OFFICE:	
BY MAIL: PRESENTATION OF CHRIST CH 1672 ELECTRIC AVENUE EAST DITTSBURGH, PA 15112	URCH Presen	BY EMAIL: PresentationOfChristOffice@gmail.com Subject Line: Ad Book Submission		

DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2023 . THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

412-824-9188

GREEKFEST

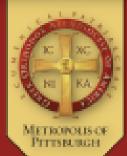
FOOD INGREDIENT DONATION LIST JULY 27, 28, 29, 2023

Sponsor a portion (or all) of your favorite dish – we all have one! Simply select the ingredient you wish to sponsor by circling it.

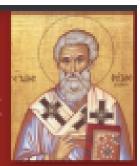
Gyros:	,	Side Dishes:			
Gyro Meat	\$4,500	French Fries	\$600		
Tzatziki	\$800	Rice	\$400		
Pita Bread	\$1,000	Grape Leaves	\$800		
Outdoor G	rill:				
Lamb	\$2,000	Pantry Items:			
Charcoal	\$700	Herbs & Veggies	\$1,500		
Dinners:		Oil	\$750		
Chicken	\$1,500	Olives	\$300		
Tiropita/S ₁	panakopita:	Pastries:			
Filo	\$400	Milk	\$350		
Feta Cheese	\$1,300	Honey	\$400		
Other Chees	es \$500	Eggs	\$300		
Spinach	\$300	Walnuts	\$800		
Pastitsio/M	loussaka:	Rice Pudding			
Pasta	\$100	race radaing .	,1,200		
Eggplant	\$225				
Ground Beef	\$1,500				
Name:		Total Donation:			
Phone:		Cash: Check: C	heck #		

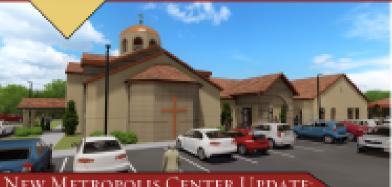
VOLUME 7 NO. 3 ISSUE: 54

JULY 2023



A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH





NEW METROPOLIS CENTER UPDATE: WE ARE BREAKING GROUND! Archon Nick Lekas



With our astounding fundraising success at the end of last year (God's Grace), as of the beginning of 2023, we began the search

in the Greater Pittsburgh area, seeking recommendations for general contractors from a network of primary and secondary sources. The goal was to develop hard bids from no less than three general contractors that; I) were proven capable of the size of this project, 2) were available to build this spring/summer and 3) showed heart for this beautiful endeavor. General contractors came and went and finally by the end of March we received five signed bids ranging from \$10M-\$12M.

In January, we transferred our prayers from asking for help with funding, and instead for assistance with finding good people to carry this project forward into the construction phase. Our prayers led us to a Greek Orthodox family-owned, second-generation general contractor from Pittsburgh whose offices are minutes away from the site. Learning that they are heavily invested in their parish community, (Holy Cross, Pittsburgh), and after repeated interviews among all the general contractors who submitted bids, we found that Liokareas Construction from Bethel Park, PA was not only a great fit but showed the heart for our faith-based project that no one else could. With recent archdiocesan approval of the project, we are awarding the contract to brothers Peter and Nick Liokareas, and expect to break ground this summer!





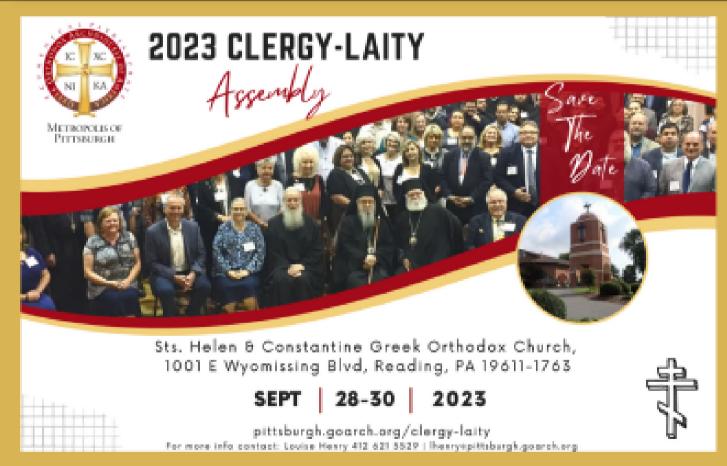
With this in mind, let us live with no regrets as we enter this new stage of the campaign for the New Metropolis Center.

Visit: www.pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge or scan the QR code to pledge/donate and learn more.

Thank you all for your support and prayers. Archon Nick Lekas









SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis - including Metropolitan Savas's Archeastorz visitations, preparations for summer camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry, and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis:

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412-621-5529 (Main) 412-465-0460 (Camp) 412-621-8543 (Youth) pittsburgh goarch org info@pittsburgh.goarch org



JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12pm Philoptochos Meeting	10	7:00pm Parish Council Meeting	12	13	6:30pm Learn to Greek Dance Event	15
16 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	17	18	19	20	21	22 11:00am Food/Clothing Pantry & Hot Meal 12:00pm FESTIVAL SETUP
23 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy FOOD FESTIVE	24 (AL PREP - CH	25 ECK BULLETIN	26 FOR TIMES	FOOD FESTIVAL	FOOD FESTIVAL	FOOD FESTIVAL
30 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	31					

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

Susan Wargo

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

ORGANIZATIONS & COMITTEES

Sunday School &

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

Organists

Marguerite Ellis Roula Kyros

Grecian Odyssey Dancers Mary Doreza,
Director
Elias Bardis.

President

Book & Icon Store

Deborah Grysiak

Choir

Tom Rosvanis

Newsletter

Paulina Neuschwander