

THE CURRENT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PRESENTATION OF CHRIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BIBLE VERSE SPOTLIGHT

"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

A Letter from Father Joe:



Dear faithful & friends of Ypapanti:

Over the years, my observation is that the majority of church members do not look forward to Great Lent; because they consider it a burden, an inconvenience and a disruption of the routines of life. Which is why so many choose to ignore Lent, or to only make the most minimal effort. This is very unfortunate, because Lent is intended to be beautiful, still, peaceful, instructive and therapeutic. Great Lent has once again, begun in the Orthodox Church. I've been thinking that every year we go through Lent, we reach Pascha (Easter), we have a joyous celebration, and then we go back to living again, as if we hadn't gone through Lent and Pascha at all.

So, what is the point of Great Lent? Is it just to impose some kind of special discipline, extra worship services, exclusive to this season, some extraordinary, unique, spiritual practices that we forget when it's over? Lent, however, really isn't just about that. Lent is about helping us understand how to develop and enhance a spiritual life that we can carry with us all year around. Lent is not just about dietary changes. It's not just about trying to fast like monks who live in a closed community, secluded from the outside world.

More importantly, Lent is about developing a sustaining spirituality, that has Lent as its seed; an inward-looking spirituality, where we start to care for the condition of our souls, as much as we care for the condition of our outward lives. A balanced life, is what Lent is supposed to be about. A balancing with the turning of our hearts, our minds and our souls, looking both inward and outward.

We have the Orthodox Lenten prayer of Saint Ephraim, the Syrian, which is really a beautiful prayer, one that we should meditate on throughout the entirety of Lent.

"Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

But give rather to Your servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and Love.

Yes, Lord and King, grant that I may see my own sins, and not to judge my brother (or sister); for You are Blessed unto ages of ages. Amen."

There is also another prayer that is beneficial to meditate on during Lent. It's from the great western church Father, Francis of Assisi. It sums up what Lent is about.

"Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, healing;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy."

"O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
and it is in forgiveness that we are forgiven,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Think about these prayers and meditate on them all of Lent. As we go forward on another Lenten journey, we must do so with humility, by granting forgiveness to those who have offended or hurt us. Letting go of grudges and asking forgiveness from those whom we have offended or hurt. By doing so, it opens the doors to the Kingdom of Heaven. Without forgiveness, we cannot enter that Kingdom.

We need to make our journey through Great Lent, both inwardly (through prayer, reading of scripture and the counsels of the church fathers and soul searching) and outwardly (through fasting, alms giving, increased church worship attendance and pious preparation for the holy sacraments). This is the Church's prescription to a blessed life and soul transforming Holy Pascha.

One verse from Forgiveness Sunday Vespers proclaims in hymnology, the whole meaning of Great Lent... “ (Lord) Turn not your face away from Your servant; for I am in distress, I am afflicted. Hear me speedily and hearken to my soul and deliver it!”

May we make the most of this opportunity set before us.
Forgive me for my offenses and pray for me a sinner!

Your unworthy servant at the Lord’s Holy Altar,
Father Joseph Cervo



Dear Church Family,

I was honored to accept this year's nomination as President of our Parish Council, and with God's guidance I will do my best in serving our "Ypapanti," Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church.

I'd like to thank Dr. Steve Markantone for his work as President for 7 of the past 10 or so years... Steve has had a positive impact on our community, leading us through many changes and spearheading several large projects while keeping us on stable financial footing. He will continue to serve on the Parish Council as VP.

Our Parish Council is excited about the things God wants us to do here in the days, weeks, months, and year(s) ahead! ...and **together** with your TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE there is no holding us back!

I look forward to working **together** towards building an even more thriving Community where we can continue to worship **together** for many years to come.

Marguerite Ellis

Parish Council President

Some recent improvements to our facilities that were possible due to the donation of *time, talent, and treasures* of our Parish members include:

- Church Sound System Upgraded
- Church Water Heater Replaced
- Security Cameras Purchased and Installed
- Hall Foyer, Hallways, and Doors Painted & Lighting Replaced
- Hall Restrooms Painted & Lighting Upgraded
- Foyer Chandelier Ordered
- Church Entry Step Carpeting Is In The Process Of Being Replaced



These improvements were much needed for functionality and safety, however...

We must launch a 2023 Capital Campaign in order to address the following needs:

Replace The Olympia Hall Sign – The current damaged sign makes it appear that our Church and hall are no longer in operation. We need to present ourselves as an energetic, vital entity to attract people

Replace the Hall Foyer Carpeting - In order to present a beautiful first impression for our guests, for our own enjoyment, and for hall rentability

Other improvements include **dishwasher replacement, HVAC upgrades, and large hall renovations.**

We realize that this is a very aggressive wish list, and truthfully would need over 50k and everyone's involvement with fundraising to make it a reality. All donations would be helpful, no matter the amount!!!

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





Agape

As we begin this most holy time of Great Lent, where our Mother, the Church, calls us to increase our prayer life and practice fasting to the best of our ability, there is another important Lenten exercise, almsgiving. One of the most important ministries of this parish, is the Outreach Program, that helps the less fortunate with food, clothing and housing/utility expenses.

St. John Chrysostom said:

“Although fasting is more difficult than this, nothing is so strong and powerful to extinguish the fire of our sins as almsgiving. It is greater than all other virtues. It places its lovers by the side of the King Himself, and justly. For the effect of fasting is confined to those who fast, and no other is saved thereby. But almsgiving extends to all, embracing the members of Christ, and actions that extend their effects to many are far greater than those which are confined to one.”

Through your generosity to our parish AGAPE fund, you embrace even the “least” of the Lord’s brethren, with the love of Christ, thereby saving yourself as you work to save others.

We ask you, during this season of prayer, self-discipline and fasting, to be very generous in your contribution to this ministry. As we practice the virtues that cleanse our souls, let us not forget or refrain from the “greatest of the virtues.” As important as prayer and fasting are, they are of no avail to us if we fail to give to those in need.

May Almighty God to bless our efforts as we journey to the Cross and empty Tomb of our Lord.

*Note: Make checks payable to, Presentation of Christ Agape Fund



Congratulations to our OakYpap girls' basketball team for a marvelous effort this season, along with the coaches, advisors and parents! The determination and dedication shown lay the foundation for other achievements and are what make for special lasting memories and friendships based in the Faith.

The team would like to thank the community who went to cheer them on throughout the season, and all who gave their support.





We would like to thank Metropolitan Savas, the many priests and deacons who served, and everyone who came to the services as we celebrated our Parish Feast Day. It was an uplifting celebration, followed by a joyous Panagyri.

Thank you to the Grecian Odyssey Dancers for performing, and to everyone who made our Panagyri a great success.





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!

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

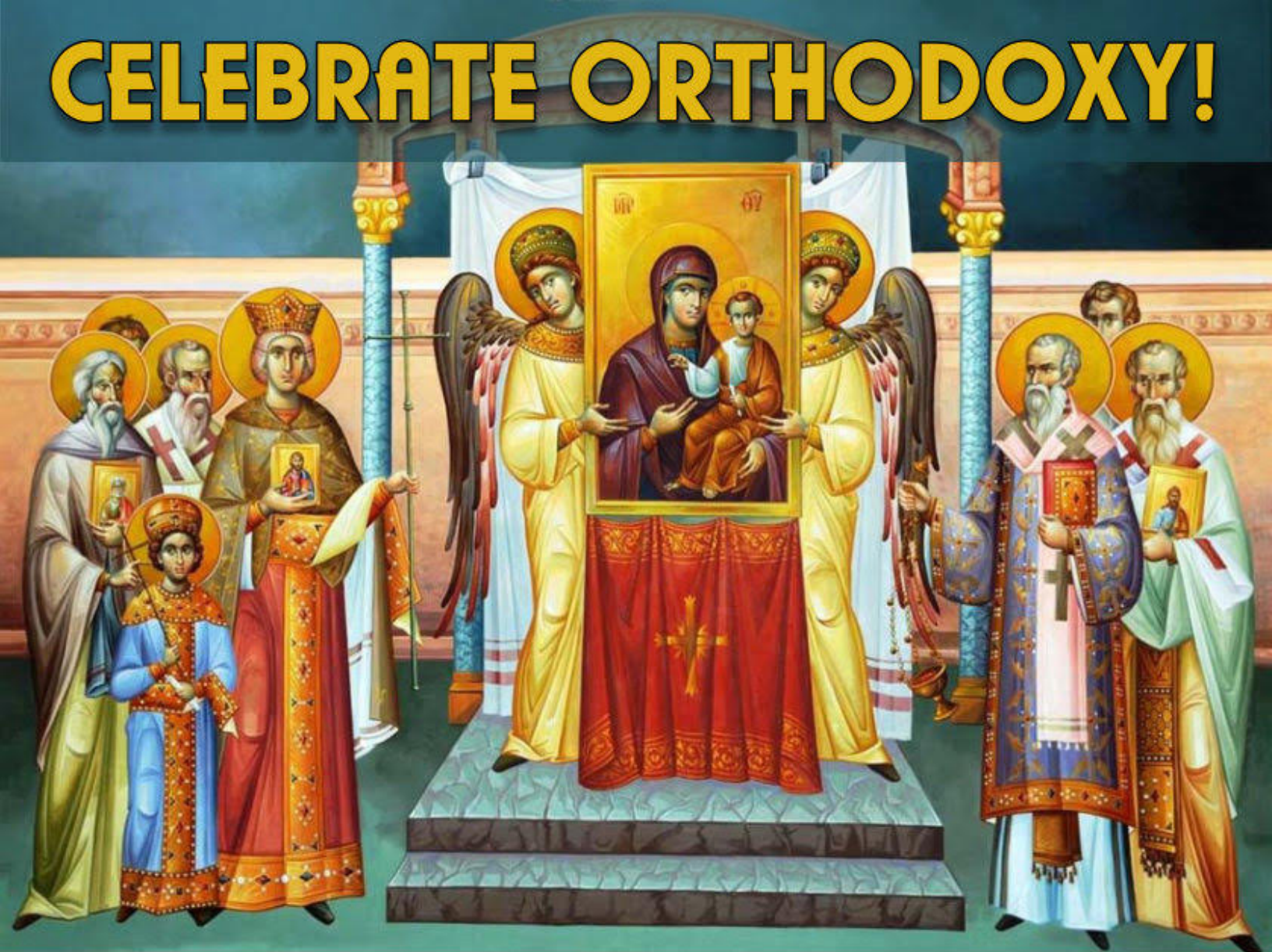


2023
East Pittsburgh
Greek Fest

Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church



CELEBRATE ORTHODOXY!



THE ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD OF GREATER PITTSBURGH INVITES YOU TO THE PITTSBURGH AREA

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS

Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral
3400 Dawson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Celebrant and Homilist: His Eminence Metropolitan Savas

Also featuring the Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh and
the Saint George Cathedral Byzantine Choir

Vespers will be followed by fellowship and Lenten refreshments.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST CHURCH

YPAPANTI'S ANNUAL FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 • 10:30 AM until 1:00 PM

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

*"A contemporary
Orthodox Saint, who
even walked in the
Turtle Creek Valley"*

GUEST SPEAKER:

Fr. Stefan Djoric

*(Pastor of St. Nicholas Serbian
Orthodox Church in Monroeville)*

SERVICE PROJECT:

Hygiene Kits

*(Assembled for the McKeesport
Homeless Shelter)*

LUNCH:

A Lenten Meal



Our theme this year will focus on the fascinating life of Saint Nikolai (Velimirovic),
a modern saint who spent his later years in the USA, until he reposed in 1956.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME !

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO JOIN US !

FEEL FREE TO BRING A LENTEN DISH TO SHARE !

THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CHURCH'S COMMUNITY CENTER - OLYMPIA HALL

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

• SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK •

**JOIN THOUSANDS
OF YOUTH ACROSS
THE NATION AND
SHARE YOUR FAITH!**



2023 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Senior Division (Grades 10-12) • Junior Division (Grades 7-9)

AWARDS

National finalists are eligible to receive the following:

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship: \$500 to \$2000

FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism: to be announced

Finalists at any level are eligible to receive the following:

Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College: \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year

Parish Festival Date & Time: Sunday, March 26, 2023 (after Liturgy)

Parish Chairperson: Paula Borsch

Contact Information: 412-721-1840 or borschfamily@comcast.net

Find the topics, tips, manual & award information at:
www.religioused.goarch.org

Department of Religious Education (DRE), Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America





LOOKING FOR TALENT!

ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS OF YPAPANTI

PRESENTS:

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!

TALENT SHOW CABARET!

**WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR
PARTICIPANTS TO BE A PART OF OUR
SPRING TALENT SHOW CABARET
ON SUNDAY MAY 21,2023**

**IF YOU SING, PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, LOVE TO DANCE OR ENJOY POETRY
READING OR COMEDY, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

PLEASE CONTACT ANASTASIA ANDREWS

AT

412-398-3194 BY APRIL 1, 2023 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SHOW

**THIS PROMISES TO BE AN EXCITING SHOW FULL OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC, DANCING, SKITS AND
GREAT ENTERTAINMENT!!!**

GIVE US A CALL SO THAT YOU CAN BE PART OF THE FUN!

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



PRESENTATION OF CHRIST CHURCH

+ ANNUAL LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT 2023 +

This year we will again prepare

Hygiene Care Packages for the
McKeesport Homeless Shelter

Supplies needed to prepare 150 packages include:

- 150 Cotton Hand Towels
- 150 Cotton Washcloths
- ~~150 Tubes of Lip Balm (sealed)~~
- 150 Nail Clippers
- 150 Bath Size Bars of Soap (in the wrapper)
- ~~150 Toothbrush (packaged)~~
- ~~1,500 Standard Size Band Aids~~
- ~~150 Gallon size Zip Lock Bags~~

Kindly bring donated items to the Church Community Center by March 13, 2023.

We look forward to welcoming our guest speaker, Fr. Stefan Djoric, and assembling the hygiene kits at our Annual Parish Family Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Alaina G. has graciously created an Amazon Registry for the kits, but any items can be purchased in stores and brought to the Church by March 13, 2023. Link to the registry:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/7V8N4L3L4OIT?ref=wl_share



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

1575 ELECTRIC AVENUE • EAST PITTSBURGH, PA • 15112

REMINDER



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



MARCH



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30pm Great Vespers	2	3 6pm Salutations to the Theotokos	4 9:30am Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy
5 Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	6	7	8	9	10 6pm Salutations to the Theotokos	11
12 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12pm Philoptochos	13 Deadline for Hygiene Kit Donations	14 7pm Parish Council Meeting	15 6pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	16	17 6pm Salutations to the Theotokos	18 9am Divine Liturgy 10:30am-1pm Lenten Retreat: Speaker, Service Project, Lunch & Fellowship
19 Sunday of the Holy Cross 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	20	21	22 6pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	23	24 6pm Salutations to the Theotokos	25 11am Food, Clothes & Hot Meal Pantry
26 Sunday of St. John Climacus 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	27	28 10am Sandwiches for Rankin Christian Center	29 6pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	30	31 4:45pm Lenten Covered Dish Dinner 6pm Salutations to the Theotokos	

MARCH 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

Organists Marguerite Ellis
Roula Kyros

Grecian Odyssey Mary Doreza,
Dancers Director
Elias Bardis,
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Book & Icon Store Deborah Grysiak

Choir Tom Rosvanis

Newsletter Paulina
Neuschwander