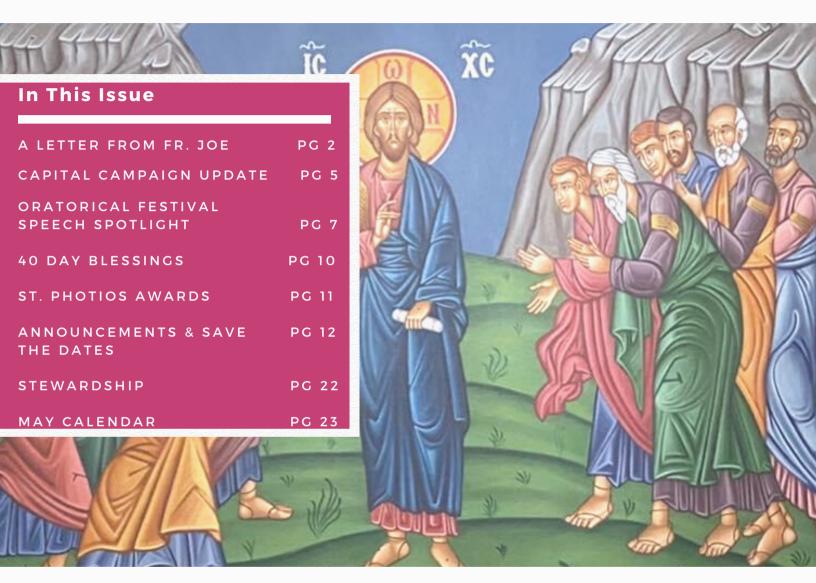
THE CURRENT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PRESENTATION OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



BIBLE VERSE SPOTLIGHT

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

A LETTER FROM FATHER JOE



Dear Faithful and Friends of Ypapanti:

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

On May 14, this year, we in America, honor our mothers on this special Sunday, known as Mother's Day. Mothers may not know it, but they, like a gardener, plant the seeds of faith in their children, more so than all the bishops and priests put together. A godly mother has a built-in congregation, i.e. her entire family. It would do us well, I believe, if we would focus on a verse from 1 Peter "...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (3:15).

Do people ask what is the "reason for the hope that is in us?" This question more commonly, comes from people whom we regularly interact with. For mothers, this may be from their husbands and children. People, directly or indirectly, commonly test our faith in the workplace, in schools and in social gatherings, but the challenge that comes from family can be more demanding and more persistent.

The challenges that come from family and children can be both clear and hidden. Sometimes children ask their mother, clearly and directly, "Mom, why do we do this?" or "Why do we say that?" Some of their questions can be very hard to answer. It's not uncommon for children (and some adults) to ask, "if God is everywhere why do we have to go to church to pray?" Do you know the answer? But, as difficult as the questions they ask may be, that is actually the easy part. The hard part is being attentive enough to hear the questions they are asking, not in words, but by their changing attitudes and behavior or by their body language. Mothers who are able to hear and respond to the unspoken questions of their children are not just exceptional mothers but effective members of the "royal priesthood" of Christ.

Children today are growing up in an increasingly perilous and confusing world. They need answers. The BIG question is; are we ready to provide them?

St. Peter directs us to "always be ready." But how can we be ready to defend the truth of our faith? The simple answer is, we must be grounded in the faith ourselves and only then will we be able to share it with those around us. You can't give what you don't have. We must make a concerted effort, no matter our age, to know our faith more deeply by studying the basic documents of our faith, the Bible, through which the teachings of the Orthodox faith are revealed, along with the writings and lives of the Saints who serve as "role models" because they listened to and honored the Holy Scriptures. Those who do not know the Scriptures cannot know Jesus Christ "with meekness and fear" (vs. 15).

This advice is very pertinent to mothers who may be chronically anxious about their children because they have great love and expectations for them. As a father who always tended to be "old school" tough when raising our children, looking back, I appreciate my wife's more tender and gentle approach, that at times, was often more effective than a tough and intimidating attitude.

When it comes to sharing our faith with others, example speaks louder than words. In fact, it has been said by countless clergy, educators, philosophers, public officials and psychologists, that the greatest legacy that a mother can leave her children, is the testimony of a deep and exemplary life of faith. The following is an adapted version of a well-known template for raising children.

Children Learn What They Live

- *If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
- *If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
- *If children live with ridicule, they learn to be withdrawn.
- *If children live with shame, they learn to feel inferior.
- *If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.
- *If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
- *If children live with approval, they learn self-esteem.
- *If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.
- *If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
- *If children live with security, they learn to have faith.
- *If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to seek and find love in the world.
- *If children live in a Christian environment, they will learn to love God.

On behalf of all children and their fathers, who have been blessed by the love of godly mothers, we commend and pray for all Christ-loving and God-fearing mothers. We ask for the intercessions of the most exemplary of all mothers, the Most Holy Theotokos, to inspire and intercede for all mothers, who go about their difficult task of raising and imparting true faith to our children.

Yours in the Risen Lord,

Father Joseph Cervo





Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

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

Ypapanti has 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
HVAC Upgrades
Emergency Lighting Updates
Commercial Grade Dishwasher

Phase Two

Paint Banquet Hall Replace 5400 sq ft Flooring

Phase Three

Restroom/Plumbing Upgrades

Why is the 2023 Capital Campaign so important? Why is it so important that everyone contribute?

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! It is once again time to give back to the community that we love.

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.

<u>Upgrades that require immediate attention</u>:

- Heating and Cooling systems
- Safety features up to standards
- Equipment in working order
- Updating facilities to attract future parishioners & more rental income

Through the donations of several parishioners, we were able to raise over \$38,000, completing the first (2) items in Phase One. We have replaced our damaged signage with a new lighted sign with LED changeable messaging. Now the people who drive by know for sure... there IS electricity on Electric Avenue, and we are anxious to share the light! We have also completed renovations of the Hall Foyer, including the ceiling, lighting, flooring, and painting - and are ready to furnish it. We are now well on our way to completing Phase One and beginning 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.



Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

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

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED!

Anastasia Andrews Marcie Borsch Paula & Dan Borsch James & Alexis Breen Georgina Callas Fr. Joe & Presbytera Linda Cervo George & Marguerite Ellis Claudia Farmer Stefanos & Argyro Giannikas George & Anthea Kachulis Ernie & Diane Kampetis Nick & Karen Karnavas Effie Kazakos Joan Kenney Chris Kouklis John & Mary Kyriakides Sophie Koutsavlis

Dr. Kyros Family **Emmanuel Markantone** Dr. Greg & Anne Markantone Josephine Markantone Dr. Steve & Mindy Markantone Petros & Gail Mantzouridis Toni Morgan Dr David & Stephanie Neuschwander Jamie Orfanopoulos Mary Papazis Stan & Adrienne Prestogeorge Maria Romesberg Dr. Tom & Sandy Rosvanis Nancy Russon Josh & Lacey Sturm Fran Zottola Mike & Kay Zanic

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

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





Our own Isabella Stupakis participated in the 2023 St. John Chrysostrom Oratorical Festival. We are so proud of her!

She close Topic 4: "Jesus models and teaches humility throughout his life and ministry. Discuss the challenge of living according to Jesus' teachings in a society that does not necessarily emphasize humility."

Here is the response she gave at the Metropolis level on Saturday, April 29th:

"Good morning, Father, members of the church, my fellow oratorical festival participants.

Today I need to get one hundred likes...no, I should try for two hundred. I think I can get there, but only if the archbishop takes a selfie with me. How many of us feel that if we are not online, we are missing out? How many young adults are influenced by trends that they see online? How can any Christian youth show humility when society teaches us that to get ahead, we must promote ourselves, build our brand, and be "popular" online?

I found a passage in the bible that really spoke to me about humility. (Peter 5:5) "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourself, all of you with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

I wanted to learn more about Peter, so I read John 13. If you are not familiar with this passage in the bible, it describes how Jesus decided to wash his disciples' feet. Peter tried to show humility because he did not want Jesus, their lord, washing his feet. But if humility is an attitude of spiritual modesty, Jesus showed us supreme humility because he knew himself, and his place in the world, the way others could not. This act of humility, after the last supper, was foreshadowing for Christ's ultimate act of humility, for all of us, on the cross. We sometimes mistake humility as weakness, but understanding the source of your humility can also give you strength. Knowing yourself and your place in the world is not weakness....it can be a superpower.

I think social media can influence us in a potentially non-Christian way. Too much of our time is spent on a screen and not enough time spent nurturing our souls. But just as the world continues to evolve, don't we as Christians need to find ways to also evolve? Can we find ways to use social media with humility to help us stay connected with each other and our church? I am in 7th Grade, and this was my first year in GOYA basketball. I did not know any of the girls on my team and they were all two to three years older than me. I was nervous. I was a little shy. And truthfully, I was scared. The first night in the hotel all five of us stayed in the same room. As we were sitting around talking after curfew (yes Dad it was

after curfew, but I got plenty of sleep for the game in the morning) I thought to myself that these were the sweetest, kindest, most humble Greek girls whom I have ever met. On the ride home, I told my dad that I want to go to camp Nazareth, take a trip to Greece, and live my life with a better understanding of my heritage and faith. Guess how I stay connected with my new friends? Guess how we shared pictures of the tournament since we all go to different schools? If you guessed the same social media platform that can create self-promotion and radical views you would be right.

Humility is something we all struggle with.

"You who are younger be subject to the elders."

Every time I read that the words sting a little more. Do we, the youth, really understand how to learn from our elders? Are we willing to bow down and wash their feet?

I still have a lot to learn, and I am thankful for this oratorical festival because it made me think about humility and my own shortcomings. It also helped me realize that with moderation and with humility, social media can be a tool that the church uses to stay connected with the youth, and the youth with each other. The key words are with humility and moderation."

Congratulations, Isabella, on a job well done!





Amelia Athans wrote about Saint Emilia, her patron Saint, for the Elementary division of the 2023 St. John Chrysostom Festival. She presented the topic during a Sunday School lesson. Here it is in her own words:

"St. Emilia.

She was the mother of St. Basil and St. Gregory.

Greek Orthodox Churches celebrate her name May 30th.

Basil the elder was her husband. They had 10 children.

Her oldest daughter Macrina convinced her mom St. Emilia to become a nun. To gather they made a monastery."

Congratulations, Amelia! We look forward to hearing more from you on our Faith in the years to come!







Sophia Breen

Sophia received her 40 day blessing. Congratulations to Alexis and Jim Breen on their beautiful baby girl!

CONGRATULATIONS

Liam Panayitis

Liam also received his 40 day blessing. Congratulations to Anna Mousouli and Stefan Mitsch!









Congratulations

We are so proud of our St.
Photios Award honorees!
Congratulations to
Metropolis Honoree Mary
Doreza and to our Parish
Honorees Tasso Spero
Athans and Petros
Mantzouridis. We are
thankful for them.
Axioi!



In Celebration of Mother's Day May 14, 2023



All are welcome to submit names of mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, step-moms, teammoms, 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's Address:	In Honor	In Memory
Tionoree 37 adress.		
Honoree:		
Honoree's Address:		
Honoree's Address:		
Honoree:		
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!



Please Print Clearly

CEMETERY:
FAMILY NAME:
Please list names for only ONE CEMETERY per form. Feel free to list loved ones who are not at one of the cemeteries below, and they will be commemorated at the Trisagion.
Names of the Departed:

Please return form to the Church Office before May 26, 2023



9:00 AM William Penn Memorial

9:30 AM Church Hill

10:15 AM Monongahela (N. Braddock)

10:45 AM Homestead

11:25 AM Homeville (St. Gregory)

12:15 PM Grandview

"Grant rest O Lord to the souls of your servants where there is no pain, sorrow, or suffering, but only life everlasting."

In Celebration of Father's Day June 18, 2023

If you would like to celebrate Father's Day by honoring someone special, please submit their name and contact information to:

Presentation of Christ Church by June 14, 2023 or hand in your names at the church door on Sunday June 18,2023

The suggested donation of \$5 per name is used for the benefit of St. Catherine Philoptochos ministry.

Your name:	
Honoree:	
Honoree:	In HonorIn Memory
Honoree:	In HonorIn Memory
Honoree:	
Honoree Address	
Honoree:	

Checks should be made payable to "St. Catherine Philoptochos" Thank you for your support! Happy Father's Day!











Baking is officially underway for Greek Fest 2023!



Four generations of Greek Pastry Bakers

Thank you to our parishioners and guests who volunteer at our clothing and food pantry! In April, we were blessed to have friends from LECOM-SH SOMA (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine at Seton Hill Student Osteopathic Medical Association) join us!









We had beautiful Holy Week and Pascha services.











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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 PRICING ~ CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE						
\checkmark PLEASE MARK YOUR SELECTION \checkmark						
□ FULL PAGE:	7.5″ X 4	4.5″	\$	\$275.00		
☐ HALF PAGE:	3.5" X 4	1.5"	\$	\$175.00		
☐ QUARTER PAGE:	2.0" X 4	4.5″	\$	\$125.00		
□ PATRON:	2.0" X 2	2.0"	\$	\$100.00		
□ SPONSOR:	NAME L	ISTING	\$	\$50.00		
WRITE YOUR MESSAGE BELOW ▼ OR ATTACH A PRINT READY AD *Inquire about tent sponsorship*						
KINDLY COMPLETE FORM AND SUBM	IT WITH PAYM	ENT TO PRESE	NTATIO	N OF CHRIST OFFICE:		
BY MAIL: PRESENTATION OF CHRIST CHURC	CH	BY EMAIL: Presentatio	nOfCh	ristOffice@gmail.com		

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

Subject Line: Ad Book Submission

1672 ELECTRIC AVENUE

412-824-9188

EAST PITTSBURGH, PA 15112

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

THE **2023** PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS GUIDE



THE **2023** PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS: ALL THE DETAILS

Don't cook tonight...go Greekl Please pass copies on to your friends! Greek food is always enjoyed best with good company!

Parish	Dates	Address	Phone	Website	Hours
Saint Nicholas	May 7-13	419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh (Oakland)	412-682-3866	www.StNicksPgh.org	Sun: 12p-8p; Mon-Thu: 11a-8p; Fri: 11a-9p, Sat: 1p-9p
All Saints	June 5-9	601 West McMurray Road Canonsburg	724-745-5205	www.AllSaintsCbg.org	Mon-Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Cross	June 13-16	123 Gilkeson Road Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)	412-833-3355	www.HolyCrossPgh.org	Tue-Thu: 11a-8p Fri: 11a-9p
Kimisis Tis Theotokou	June 15-17	2111 Davidson Street Aliquippa	724-375-5341	www.Theotokou.org	Thu-Sat: 11a-8p
Holy Dormition	June 23-25	12 Washington Avenue Oakmont	412-828-4144	www.DormitionPgh.org	Fri-Sun: 12p-11p Dinner until 9pm
Holy Trinity (Ambridge)	July 18-22	2930 Beaver Road Ambridge	724-266-5336	www.htgoc.org	Tue-Sat: 11a-10p
Saint Spyridon	July 21	1207 Grand Boulevard Monessen	724-684-5411	stspyridon.pa.goarch.org	Fri: 11a-9p
Ypapanti (Presentation of Christ)	July 27-29	1672 Electric Avenue East Pittsburgh	412-824-9188	www.ypapanti.net	Thu-Sat: 11a-9p
Saint George	August 26-27	315 W. Englewood Avenue New Castle	724-654-8521	www.stgeorgenewcastle.org	Sat-Sun: 11a-7p
Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh)	August 31- September 3	985 Providence Boulevard Pittsburgh (across from Passavant Hospital)	412-366-8700	www.HolyTrinityPgh.org	Thu-Sun: 11a-9p

Thank you for enjoying our great Greek food and visiting our churches. Want to also help these communities feed, minister to and provide health care for the hungry and needy of the Hill District and the Pittsburgh area? Support the Neighbor Resilience Project by visiting neighborhoodresilience.org, a philanthropic ministry united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions for poverty-and-trauma-affected communities in the Pittsburgh area.



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2023 East Pittsburgh Greek Fest

Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church





GIVING! TOUR MINISTRIES

LIGHT A CANDLE!

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

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MAY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	8	7:00pm Parish Council Meeting	10:00am Festival Baking - Finikia	11	12	13 10:00am Festival Baking - Koulourakia
14 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy 12pm Philoptochos Meeting	15	6:30pm Festival Preparation - Souzoukakia	17	18	19 Fundraiser Preparation	20 Fundraiser Preparation
21 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Fundraiser Talent Show	22	23	24	25	26	27 11:00am Food, Clothing, and Hot Food Distribution
28 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	29	30 10:00am Sandwiches for Rankin Christian Center	31 10:00am Festival Baking- Kourambiethes			

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

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GOYA

Stellanie Kyros

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Deborah Gr

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