

The Veil

*A monthly publication of Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church
Oakmont, Pennsylvania*

February 2026

Volume 4, Issue 2



Saint Parthenios the Wonderworker

February 7th

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

12 Washington Avenue - Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139

Church: (412) 828-4144 - www.dormitionpgh.org

Rev. Fr. Michael A. Gavrilos - Parish Priest

Janine Michael – Parish Administrator

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Parish Council Members

President – Christos Ioannou

Vice President – Christina Contes

Secretary – Dr. Michael Contes

Treasurer – Chris Aivaliotis

George Doas

Ted Ioannou

John Kamarados, esq.

Zoe Lardas

Bryan Romanelli

George Spiridonakos

Dimitri Tsambis

Service Times

Sunday Orthros – 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Please check our calendar for other services and times

Confession: By Appointment

If you would like an article, or photos in The Veil, submit them electronically to Fr. Michael (fmg@dormitionpgh.org) no later than the 15th of the month.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” -James 5:14

If you or your loved one is sick, in the hospital, or need a priest, please contact Fr. Michael so that he will be able to visit them.

2026 Stewardship

*Thank you to everyone who
already filled out and / or
contributed to their 2026
Stewardship Card.*

*As a reminder, you can fill
out a stewardship card
located in the narthex on
the candle stand, or you can
update your pledge on
Realm.*

COVER ICON – Saint Parthenios the Wonderworker

February 7th

Saint Parthenios was the son of the deacon Christodoulos from Melitopolis on the Hellespont. Although illiterate, he listened attentively to the reading of Holy Scripture in church, and he did his best to put what he heard into practice. Working as a fisherman, he would give whatever he earned from the sale of his catch to the poor, keeping nothing for himself. His charity became well-known in the area, and Philetos, the Bishop of Melitopolis, obliged him to accept ordination to the priesthood, with a commission to traverse the diocese visiting the Christians in their homes. The grace of God brought forth abundant fruit in him through many miracles and healings. One day, he met a man on the road whose eye had been dislodged by the horn of a bull. He restored the eye to its socket and healed the wound. On another occasion, he cured a woman of a fatal cancer solely by the sign of the Cross. Then again, when a mad dog attacked him, he brought the creature down stone dead with a simple puff of his breath.

Confronted by so many indications of divine favor, Ascholios, the Metropolitan of Cyzicus, consecrated him Bishop of the city of Lampsakos, which was still in the depths of idolatry. By means of fasting, prayers and inspired words, and through the example of his evangelic way of life, the Saint succeeded in converting the city.

When he visited the court of Saint Constantine the Great he was authorized to destroy the pagan temples of Lampsakos and given funds for constructing a church. On the completion of the building, a large stone was being brought to cover the altar when the envious devil caused the oxen to go out of control, resulting in the death the driver who was crushed beneath the wheels of the cart. The Saint immediately addressed a fervent prayer to the Lord, and the dead man was restored to life.

Saint Parthenios was the loving father and the very providence of his city. He unfailingly healed every illness, making the doctors superfluous, to their great vexation. As light scatters darkness, at his coming the demons took flight. One day he commanded a devil to depart from a poor man, but the evil spirit entreated him, 'Give me a place where I can live until the time of the dread Judgement or, at least, let me inhabit swine' (cf. Matt. 8:32).

'By no means,' the Saint replied, 'but when you come out of this unfortunate there is someone else waiting for you.'

'Who is that?' 'It is I! Come and dwell in me!' The evil spirit fled at these words, crying out as though scorched, 'How could I enter God's house? Great is the power of Christians!' One day Parthenios went to Heraclea, the chief city of Thrace, whose Bishop Hypatian was very ill. God revealed to the Saint that avarice was the true cause of his disease. 'Get up,' he told the prelate.

'You're not suffering from a bodily illness but from a spiritual one. Let the poor have the goods that you're withholding from them and you'll get better.' Conscious of his sin, Hypatian offered all his goods for Parthenios to distribute to the needy.

'But no,' said the man of God, 'since God grants you strength, it is up to you to give the poor what they have a right to.' The Metropolitan then had himself carried to the Church of Saint Glykeria, the patroness of the city, and he distributed all his possessions to the needy assembled there. Three days later he was restored to health.

While staying at Heraclea, Saint Parthenios healed other sick people, and blessed fields and crops, predicting exactly what their yield would be. On taking leave of the Metropolitan, the Saint indicated that his own death was near at hand and he named his successor. Soon after returning to Lampsakos, he gave back his soul to God, bequeathing to his flock the sweet savor of his miracles and the example of his holy life. As soon as they heard the news, all the bishops of the region hastened to pay their respects at his funeral and to send up to God fervent prayers of thanksgiving.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Parthenios, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion in the Third Tone

Since thou hadst received God's grace to work ineffable marvels, godly-wise Parthenios, thou sacred worker of wonders, thou didst wholly cleanse the faithful of all their passions, casting wicked spirits out, O God-bearing Father; for this cause we sing thy praise as a great initiate of the divine grace of God.

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Sunday School 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers (<i>at Ypapanti – East Pittsburgh</i>)	2 9:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy (<i>at Ypapanti – East Pittsburgh</i>)	3 5:30 p.m. Greek School	4	5	6 9:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy (<i>St. Photios – at Holy Trinity Am-bridge</i>) Baking Palooza #2 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	7 Baking Palooza #2 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
8 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Sunday School	9	10 5:30 p.m. Greek School	11 Philoptochos Birthday Lunch Bunch	12	13 GOYA Basketball Tournament <i>-Hosted by St. Demetrios – Warren, OH</i>	14 8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Memorials (Saturday of Souls) GOYA Basketball Tournament <i>-Hosted by St. Demetrios – Warren, OH</i>
15 Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday Sunday School Philoptochos Sponsored Apokriatiko Covered Dish GOYA Basketball Tournament <i>-Hosted by St. Demetrios – Warren, OH</i>	16	17 5:30 p.m. Greek School	18	19	20	21
22 Forgiveness (Cheesefate) Sunday Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Holy Unction, Forgiveness Vespers, Dinner	23 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	24	25 5:45 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	26	27 6:00 p.m. Salutation to the Theotokos	28 8:30 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Memorials

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday of Orthodoxy (& Procession)	2 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	3 5:30 p.m. Greek School	4	5	6 6:00 p.m. Salutation to the Theotokos	7
8 Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas	9 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	10 5:30 p.m. Greek School	11 5:45 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	12	13 6:00 p.m. Salutation to the Theotokos	14
15 Sunday of the Holy Cross	16 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	17 5:30 p.m. Greek School	18 5:45 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy	19	20 6:00 p.m. Salutation to the Theotokos	21 10:00 a.m. HOPE & JOY Lenten Retreat
22 Sunday of St. John Climacus	23 6:00 p.m. Great Compline	24 5:30 p.m. Greek School	25 Philoptochos Volunteer at Beverly's PGH	26	27 6:00 p.m. Akathist to the Theotokos	28
29 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Festival Prep (<i>meatballs</i>)	30	31 5:30 p.m. Greek School				

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATE

Combined January and February Meeting

Our Philoptochos meeting will take place **this Sunday, February 1, 2026, following Divine Liturgy**. This will be a **combined January and February meeting**. All women ages 18 and older are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Koulourakia Baking | February 6 and 7

Volunteers are needed to help prepare Koulourakia.. ny amount of help is appreciated. Please see **Joanne Cope** for details and to sign up. THANK YOU to those who helped this week, we're off to a great start!

Covered Dish Luncheon Sign Ups

Sign ups are underway for our **Covered Dish Luncheon**. What dish will you sign up to bring? Please see **Joyce Diacopoulos** or **Maria Kopsahilis** to sign up. All parishioners are invited to participate!

Beverly's PGH Update

Our visit to **Beverly's PGH** has been rescheduled to **Wednesday, March 25**. Please see **Judi Contes** to RSVP.

Kay Doas

Philoptochos President

FESTIVAL UPDATE

This year's festival is June 26-27-28 and preparations are under way.

With the planned renovation of the back kitchen and scheduling the work around hall rentals, we need to allow some open weekends on the calendar in Feb and Mar which forces us to back load our cooking dates later than we like.

Here is where we are at as of now (once construction schedule is finalized we may revisit these dates) :

Jan 29-30-31	Baking Palooza #1
Feb 6-7	Baking Palooza #2
Mar 29	Meatballs
Apr 26	Spinach #1
May 3	Spinach #2
May 31	Moussaka
Jun 7	Pastitso #1
Jun 14	Pastitso #2
Jun 21	Tzatziki Cupping
Jun 22-25	Pastry Packing
June 24	Rice Pudding, Grape Leaves

We still need to schedule mid-week dates for:

Lamb Shank #1
Lamb Shank #2
Karithopita
Galatouboureko

We will advise once we schedule a kick-off meeting for late February or early March, we need everyone's input and ideas to ensure another successful year.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and help out as you can,

Andy and Chris

Festival Co Chairs

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Dear Sunday School community,

Thank you to everyone who contributed cold weather items! Because of your generosity, we were able to donate **over 20 bags** of coats, hats, gloves, and other essentials to the **Neighborhood Resilience Project**. Your kindness will help keep our neighbors warm during these cold months, and we are so grateful for your support and willingness to serve others. We are also looking for more opportunities to volunteer with the Neighborhood Resilience Project. If you would be interested in helping coordinate a volunteer activity, please let us know – we would love to hear from you!

We are also **very excited about our students participating in the Oratorical Festival**. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to grow and share their voices. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Milt Constantine**.

Finally, please save the date for Monday, February 16 (Presidents' Day). We are planning a Sunday School fellowship opportunity and look forward to spending time together. More information will be shared in the days to come.

Thank you for helping our Sunday School community live out God's love in such meaningful ways! We appreciate your support of our youth's religious education!

In Christ's love,

Pres. Maria Gavrilos and Christina Contes
Sunday School Co-Directors

GREEK DANCE UPDATE

Junior Grecian Stars

The Junior Grecian Stars will begin practicing for the festival beginning on Sunday, March 1st. Practices will be held every Sunday after Sunday School/coffee hour, and parents will receive communications if there will not be practice on a given week.

If your child is in kindergarten - sixth grade and is interested in joining, please contact director Eleni Wyrick. (412)-977-9942; elenirwyrick@gmail.com

Grecian Stars

The Grecian Stars is our church's GOYA dance group. If your child is in 7th - 12th grade and is interested in joining GOYA, please contact [GOYA directors]. As for GOYA's dance group, we are in search of a director with a love for Greek dancing and some time to give to our church's youth.

If you have any interest in directing the Grecian Stars, please contact Fr. Michael, Eleni Wyrick, and/or [GOYA directors] and we will do our best to ensure a smooth transition.

Please let me know if you would like anything more specific. Have a good night!

Best,

Eleni Wyrick



APOKRIATIKO COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

SPONSORED BY ST. BARBARA'S PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 2026
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

All parishioners are asked to sign up
and bring something to share!
Philoptochos will be providing chicken.

Please sign up with Joyce or Maria before February 6th
Joyce Diacopoulos at (412) 828-4231
Maria Kopsahilis (412) 798-0917

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church - Oakmont, PA

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP!

St. Barbara's Philoptochos is collecting these items to
bless others in need...

Please consider helping our mission!

SOCKS



*New socks of all sizes for
women, children and men
are needed for local shelters.*

CAKE KITS



*One cake mix, one container icing
and one can of soda in a
disposable cake pan is all it takes
to give supplies so someone can
celebrate a special day!*

Collection boxes located in the hall.

HYGIENE ITEMS



*Items for young men and
women who need help with
everyday supplies.*

STUFFED ANIMALS



*Cuddly teddies (or other
animals!) are given to
Neighborhood Resilience
Project for children in need
during traumatic times.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF BLESSING OTHERS!

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS CHURCH, OAKMONT, PA



PRAYER & PIZZA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026

4:00 P.M. HOLY UNCTION & FORGIVENESS VESPERS

FOLLOWED BY DINNER

JOIN US FOR PRAYER AND PIZZA AS WE PREPARE TOGETHER FOR GREAT & HOLY LENT.












PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED, PLEASE BRING A MEATLESS SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE.

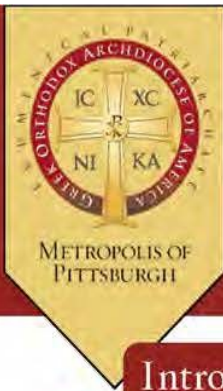


DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH — OAKMONT, PA

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 1st		<i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 8th		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 15th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 22nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 1st		<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!		<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

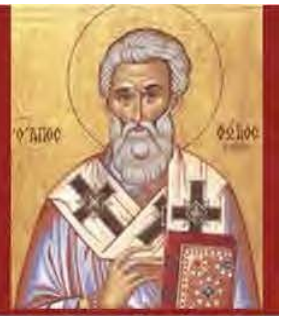


VOLUME 9 NO. 10 ISSUE: 85

FEBRUARY 2026

A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



Introducing New Camping Ministries Coordinator - Sophia Milinkovic



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas is pleased to announce the hiring of Sophia Milinkovic as our new Camping Ministries Coordinator, effective January 16.

Sophia Milinkovic was born in Pittsburgh and raised in Boca Raton, Florida where she later graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Science. She was brought up in a strong, faith-centered family where the life of the Church was at the heart of daily life. As the daughter of a priest, of blessed memory, her upbringing was deeply rooted in love for Christ and His Church. She was actively involved in the Metropolis of Atlanta and spent many formative summers in Orthodox camping ministry, including time at St. Stephen's Camp (Metropolis of Atlanta) and the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Camp, first as a camper and later as a counselor.

While Sophia's professional background is not directly rooted in camping ministry, it has provided her with strong leadership, organizational, and interpersonal skills. Her career has centered on working closely with people, building and supporting teams, navigating challenges, and fostering environments where individuals can grow and thrive.

Sophia moved back to Pittsburgh in 2011 and has been deeply committed to her parish life at Holy Cross, Pittsburgh and the continued work of the Church as a whole. She serves as a Sunday School teacher and is an active member of her parish council. Through her work with the youth, she recognizes the unique challenges they face today and is passionate about providing them with a safe and supportive space. A space that offers joy, encouragement, spiritual grounding, and a true sense of belonging.

She looks forward to working closely with clergy, volunteers, families, and campers throughout the Metropolis to strengthen the camping ministry and to help nurture the spiritual lives of its youth!

Axia, Sophia!



ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET ANNOUNCEMENT

The St. Photios Awards Banquet Committee with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas regret to announce that there will be no awards banquet this year due to the relocation of the Metropolis, and hosting the Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland.

See you in 2027!



**48th BIENNIAL
CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS**
SAVE THE DATE! - JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2026
**Join us in Cleveland, OH
at the Huntington Convention Center**



Metropolis of Pittsburgh Camp

SAVE THE DATE!

STAFF APPLICATIONS
OPENING SOON

GOYA Spring Retreat &
Summer Camp 2026

Summer Camp

Staff applications open from
February 1st to March 1st.

GOYA Spring Retreat

Staff applications open from
February 15th to March 1st.

APPLY BY
MARCH 1 AT
11:59 PM!

More Information — y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/campstaff

New Metropolis Center Progress - January 2026



THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE
PRESENTS:

LENTEN RETREAT

"Living in
Community"

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

10 AM - 2 PM

ST. NICHOLAS GOC

220 N WALNUT ST.
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

COFFEE, SWEETS & LUNCH PROVIDED

The retreat will offer points to consider
regarding:

- The importance of engaging with others.
- Ultimately, Christians can only be saved in community.
- We learn from the example of the early church who "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42).

Our speaker, Presvytera Eleni Christakos is the wife of a Greek Orthodox priest who serves in central Massachusetts and a homeschool mother of three children. She holds a degree in pharmacy and is currently working for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Marriage and Family, coordinating clergy wife peer groups. Presvytera Eleni also is very active in her church community directing and teaching in the religious education program and managing the book store and lending library. Drawing from her passion for teaching people of all ages, she is on a committee to start a classical Orthodox School. Living with a focus on health and wellness - physical, emotional and spiritual - is core to her being. She enjoys spending time outdoors hiking and kayaking. A true bibliophile, if she is not actively with her family she can be found reading or coordinating book discussion groups.



Presvytera Eleni Christakos



To Register, Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yww3sr7p>

His Eminence's Residence Progress - January 2026



Please consider a pledge or
donation towards this worthy
campaign that will benefit all.
To donate please scan the
QR code or visit
pittsburgh.goarch.org/pledge

Thank you as always for your
support!



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES!

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis - including Metropolitan Savas's Archpastoral 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



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