PROPER PROTOCOL WITH GOD

It's unlikely that many of us will ever be privileged to have an audience with the President of the United States, or anyone else of similar stature. If, however, we did, we would be given a **"crash course"** on what **proper protocol** would be for our encounter. Undoubtedly, we would be briefed on how we should dress, what we should say and how we should say it when meeting with the leader of our nation. Certainly we would not act as if we were in the company of a work colleague or a school classmate – our behavior would be expected to be dignified and respectful.

Every Sunday, we have a wonderful opportunity to have an "**audience**" with Someone Who carries much more "**clout**" than the President when we attend Divine Liturgy. We often overlook what a special experience this should be, and that certain things are required of us when we "**meet**" Him. When God spoke to Moses from the Burning Bush, He instructed him to "**. . . take off your shoes, for you are on holy ground.**" While we need not follow these words too literally, we must nonetheless, remember the sacredness and sanctity of being in the presence of the Lord. Our prayers must always be sincere; our approach to the Lord in this special way should always be with great humility and love. We must never **demand** that our prayers be answered by Him – nor should we **expect** a positive response **every time** we call upon Him to assist us.

May we "**know our place**" in our relationship with God. He is our Father; we are His children. He is the Giver of all good things, and when we come to Him with unwavering faith, we can rest assured that the Lord will certainly listen to our supplications!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

Romans 12:3

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

"He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:6



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

June 29, 2025

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Parish Priest
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Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(Closed noon-1pm for lunch)

Sunday Services
Orthros 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Orthros | Liturgy

Epistle
II Corinthians
11:21-33; 12:1-9

Gospel
Matthew
16:13-19

Attendance
6/22/25
135

Today's Prosfora & Communion Wine

Donated by Steve and Ann Lazarides
In Loving Memory of Faris Karoue & Katherine Lazarides

Upcoming Memorials

July 6
40-Day Memorial - Patricia St. Jean
10-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Katherine Zantopulos
10-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Lester Macris & Family
10-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Harry Manos III



The Food Pantry is in desperate need of boxes of cereal and liquid dish soap. Items can be placed in the bin outside the Church Office. Thank you for your continued support of our continually growing Pantry! *~Denise Bellas*



"Your own of Your own, We offer to You... On behalf of all, and for all..."

Your New Metropolis Center - June 2025 Updates

LETS DO THIS!

We Have a Dome!









Latest news from the construction site

The inner dome was received this week and installed for a perfect fit, completely changing the look of the building. The gas line has been installed to the street. Telephone poles have been moved by the utility company to accommodate our parking areas. The curved ceiling framing has been installed in altar. We have completed most wall insulation and roof drains. Completed concrete at terrace. Began belltower masonry. Completed framing at main entrance doorway and reception area. Continue installation of doors and windows. Footers complete for residence in spite of bedrock. Block foundation walls in process.





NOTICE: Bible Study will resume on July 30, 2025.

PAN-ORTHODOX VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

JULY 14-18, 2025



Ages 4-12 9am-12pm

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1118 Cherry St. NE
Canton, OH 44704
330-455-8482

Register Online

The remaining schedule for festival baking is:



Tuesday, July 8 - Dolmathes (MANY Leaves are still needed)
Tuesday, July 15 - Rice Pudding

We will begin at 9:00 am on each of the baking dates.
Thank you!

The 2025 Festival Baking Committee

The 48th Annual Grecian Festival at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is on July 16, 17, 18, & 19, 2025. Come join us for lunch and/or dinner during these dates! Join us for outdoor activities of Food Booths and Vendors from 4pm - 10pm on Wednesday, Thursday from 11am–10pm, and 11am-11pm Friday and Saturday. Enjoy Gyros, Souvlaki, Beer & Wine, Greek Pastries, Loukoumathes, Saganaki & More!!! **DRIVE THRU AND CARRY OUT AVAILABLE!** Be entertained by our own Dance Troupe performances and Music each day, as well as guest opportunities to tour our Church Facility.

The ***Festival Taverna sign up sheets are outside the Church Office.*** Workers are needed both for Lunch and Dinner and in between each day. Please sign up for a day or two if you are able! For any questions, please contact Sally Rath for the Taverna at 330-705-2663.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, take down, work in the kitchen, booths, food lines, and sell many items. Please consider volunteering your time, talents, or treasures!

Donation cards AND Sponsorship sheets (*Last Call for the Album*) are still available outside the Church Office to help defray the costs of our Festival. We want to keep our Grecian Festival the most popular Festival in Stark County and growing positively. **Our 2025 Donation Goal is $40,000.**

Calendar for the Week

All Services are streaming online @ *www.htgoc.net/live*

Sunday, June 29
Saints Peter & Paul
Summer Camp Week #3
40-Day Memorial & Coffee Hour - Dimitra Kefalas 11:30 AM
40-Day Memorial - Faris Karoue And 9-Yr. Memorial - Katherine Lazarides 11:30 AM
Dance Troupe 6:30 PM

Monday, June 30
No Scheduled Events

Tuesday, July 1
Apostles Fast Begins
No Scheduled Events

Wednesday, July 2
No Scheduled Events
Fr. Nick At Camp

Thursday, July 3
Koraes Board Meeting 7:00 PM
Young Adult Basketball 7:30 PM

Friday, July 4
Fourth of July - Office Closed
No Scheduled Events

Saturday, July 5
No Scheduled Events

Sunday, July 6
Summer Camp Week #4
Fr. Nick At Camp All Week
40-Day Memorial - Patricia St. Jean 11:00 AM
10-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Katherine Zantopulos
10-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Lester Macris & Family
10-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Harry Manos III
Dance Troupe 6:30 PM



NOTICE:
The Church Office will be CLOSED on Friday, July 4th and Father Nick will be at Camp July 6-12, 2025.

Resurrectional Apolytikion.
Mode 2.

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, “O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!”

For the Apostles.
Mode 4.

Preeminent Apostles and teachers of the universe, intercede with the Master of all, to grant peace to the whole world, and great mercy to our souls.

Apolytikion of Our Church
Mode pl. 4.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God; Who did show forth the fishermen to be all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit. And through them You drew the world into Your net, O Friend of man, glory to You!

Kontakion.
Mode 2.

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: hasten to intercede, and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4

Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9

Brethren, whatever anyone dares to boast of -- I am speaking as a fool -- I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one -- I am talking like a madman -- with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The Gospel According to Matthew 16:13-19

At that time, when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.
Ἦχος β΄.

Ὅτε κατῆλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ζωὴ ἡ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν ᾅδην ἐνέκρωσας, τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

Τῶν Ἀποστόλων.
Ἦχος δ΄.

Οἱ τῶν Ἀποστόλων πρωτόθρονοι, καὶ τῆς οἰκουμένης διδάσκαλοι, τῷ Δεσπότῃ τῶν ὅλων πρεσβεύσατε, εἰρήνην τῇ οἰκουμένῃ δωρήσασθαι, καὶ ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Τοῦ Ναοῦ.
Ἦχος πλ. δ΄.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἁλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Κοντάκιον.
Ἦχος β΄.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδῃς, ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἀεί, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 11:21-33, 12:1-9

Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. δ'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.

Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 11:21-33, 12:1-9 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἐν ᾧ δ’ ἄν τις τολμᾷ - ἐν ἀφροσύνῃ λέγω - τολμῶ κἀγώ. Ἑβραῖοί εἰσιν; κἀγώ· Ἰσραηλῖταί εἰσιν; κἀγώ· σπέρμα Ἀβραάμ εἰσιν; κἀγώ· διάκονοι Χριστοῦ εἰσιν; - παραφρονῶν λαλῶ - ὑπὲρ ἐγώ· ἐν κόποις περισσοτέρως, ἐν πληγαῖς ὑπερβαλλόντως, ἐν φυλακαῖς περισσοτέρως, ἐν θανάτοις πολλάκις, ὑπὸ Ἰουδαίων πεντάκις τεσσαράκοντα παρὰ μίαν ἔλαβον. Τρὶς ἐραβδίσθην, ἅπαξ ἐλιθάσθην, τρὶς ἐναυάγησα, νυχθήμερον ἐν τῷ βυθῷ πεποίηκα· ὁδοιπορίαις πολλάκις, κινδύνοις ποταμῶν, κινδύνοις λῃστῶν, κινδύνοις ἐκ γένους, κινδύνοις ἐξ ἐθνῶν, κινδύνοις ἐν πόλει, κινδύνοις ἐν ἐρημίᾳ, κινδύνοις ἐν θαλάσσῃ, κινδύνοις ἐν ψευδαδέλφοις· ἐν κόπῳ καὶ μόχθῳ, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις πολλάκις, ἐν λιμῷ καὶ δίψει, ἐν νηστείαις πολλάκις, ἐν ψύχει καὶ γυμνότητι. Χωρὶς τῶν παρεκτός, ἡ ἐπισύστασίς μου ἡ καθ’ ἡμέραν, ἡ μέριμνα πασῶν τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν. Τίς ἀσθενεῖ, καὶ οὐκ ἀσθενῶ; Τίς σκανδαλίζεται, καὶ οὐκ ἐγὼ πυροῦμαι; Εἰ καυχᾶσθαι δεῖ, τὰ τῆς ἀσθενείας μου καυχήσομαι. Ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ οἶδεν, ὁ ὢν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι. Ἐν Δαμασκῷ ὁ ἐθνάρχης Ἀρέτα τοῦ βασιλέως ἐφρούρει τὴν Δαμασκηνῶν πόλιν, πιάσαι με θέλων· καὶ διὰ θυρίδος ἐν σαργάνῃ ἐχαλάσθην διὰ τοῦ τείχους καὶ ἐξέφυγον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ. Καυχᾶσθαι δὴ οὐ συμφέρει μοι· ἐλεύσομαι γὰρ εἰς ὀπτασίας καὶ ἀποκαλύψεις κυρίου. Οἶδα ἄνθρωπον ἐν Χριστῷ πρὸ ἐτῶν δεκατεσσάρων - εἴτε ἐν σώματι οὐκ οἶδα· εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ἁρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ. Καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπον - εἴτε ἐν σώματι, εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος, οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ὅτι ἡρπάγη εἰς τὸν παράδεισον, καὶ ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα, ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι. Ὑπὲρ τοῦ τοιούτου καυχήσομαι· ὑπὲρ δὲ ἐμαυτοῦ οὐ καυχήσομαι, εἰ μὴ ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου· ἐὰν γὰρ θελήσω καυχήσασθαι, οὐκ ἔσομαι ἄφρων· ἀλήθειαν γὰρ ἐρῶ· φείδομαι δέ, μή τις εἰς ἐμὲ λογίσηται ὑπὲρ ὃ βλέπει με, ἢ ἀκούει τι ἐξ ἐμοῦ. Καὶ τῇ ὑπερβολῇ τῶν ἀποκαλύψεων ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι, ἐδόθη μοι σκόλοψ τῇ σαρκί, ἄγγελος Σατᾶν, ἵνα με κολαφίζῃ, ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι. Ὑπὲρ τούτου τρὶς τὸν κύριον παρεκάλεσα ἵνα ἀποστῇ ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ. Καὶ εἴρηκέν μοι, Ἀρκεῖ σοι ἡ χάρις μου· ἡ γὰρ δύναμίς μου ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ τελειοῦται. Ἥδιστα οὖν μᾶλλον καυχήσομαι ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου, ἵνα ἐπισκηνώσῃ ἐπ’ ἐμὲ ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 16:13-19 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς τὰ μέρη Καισαρείας τῆς Φιλίππου ἠρώτα τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ λέγων· τίνα με λέγουσιν οἱ ἄνθρωποι εἶναι τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· οἱ μὲν Ἰωάννην τὸν βαπτιστήν, ἄλλοι δὲ Ἠλίαν, ἕτεροι δὲ Ἰερεμίαν ἢ ἕνα τῶν προφητῶν. λέγει αὐτοῖς· ὑμεῖς δὲ τίνα με λέγετε εἶναι; ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος εἶπε· σὺ εἶ ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ζῶντος. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· μακάριος εἶ, Σίμων Βαριωνᾶ, ὅτι σὰρξ καὶ αἷμα οὐκ ἀπεκάλυψέ σοι, ἀλλ’ ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. κἀγὼ δέ σοι λέγω ὅτι σὺ εἶ Πέτρος, καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μου τὴν ἐκκλησίαν, καὶ πύλαι ᾅδου οὐ κατισχύσουσιν αὐτῆς. καὶ δώσω σοι τὰς κλεῖς τῆς βασιλείας τῶν οὐρανῶν, καὶ ὃ ἐὰν δήσῃς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἔσται δεδεμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, καὶ ὃ ἐὰν λύσῃς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἔσται λελυμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. τότε διεστείλατο τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ ἵνα μηδενὶ εἴπωσιν ὅτι αὐτός ἐστιν Ἰησοῦς ὁ Χριστός.