



A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



2025 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Our 2025 Metropolis St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held on April 26 at Anunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster, PA. We had 11 Junior and 19 Senior Division Speakers. We once again had Essay, Poetry and Iconography Divisions which were judged remotely. We had a total of 19 participants in these categories. This year we were pleased to add a Vocal Division to our Festival. Both the Vocal Division and the Oratorical Scholarship will be named in memory of Archon Peter Clyde Nicholas Papadokos. The Vocal Division had seven vocalists for its inaugural year. Our Festival Participants represented 19 of the parishes of our Metropolis. Many thanks to the host committee and volunteers from Anunciation who put together a beautiful program including a delicious breakfast and lunch.

Through the generosity of the parishes and our Metropolis Philoptochos Society who donated to our scholarship fund we were able to award \$500 scholarships to the top two speakers in each Division as well as \$100 scholarships to the first-place winner in each of the Essay, Poetry, Iconography and Vocal Divisions. The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Poetry, Essay, Iconography and Vocal Division Finalists were:

Poetry

Junior Winner: Anna Agrafiotis, Koimisis Tis Theotokos, Erie, PA
Senior Winner: Kalliope Kondolios, St. Demetrios, Warren, OH

Essay

Junior Winner: Claire Gaitanis, Holy Trinity, Camp Hill, PA
Senior Winner: Anthony Asmis, St. Paul, N. Royalton, OH



Congratulations

TO THE 2025 METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
PARTICIPANTS!

Iconography

Estelle Raudenbush, Holy Trinity, Camp Hill, PA

Vocal

Sophia Hogg, St. Nicholas, Pittsburgh, PA

Sophia Hogg from St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh and Taxiarchi Russ from Anunciation Cathedral, Columbus were selected to represent our Metropolis at the National Oratorical Festival which was hosted by our Metropolis and was held on May 30-June 1 at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Pittsburgh. Sophia and Taxiarchi delivered their speeches beautifully and were each awarded Honorable Mention and received \$2,500 scholarships.

We were thrilled to be the hosts of this year's National Finals. The weekend began with a Paraklesis service on Friday evening at St. Nicholas followed by dinner and indoor Mini Golf. On Saturday we were honored to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros who joined us to listen to the inspiring speeches followed by an Awards luncheon where finalists and guests enjoyed a Best of Pittsburgh themed menu. On Saturday evening the finalists and their guests boarded a 1920's style trolley and enjoyed a guided tour of Pittsburgh, including a ride on the Duquesne Incline and dinner at Le Mont restaurant followed by some Greek dancing! On Sunday, we concluded with Divine Liturgy led by Archbishop Elpidophoros during which the Junior and Senior Finalists presented their speeches. Liturgy was followed by a farewell brunch.



A special highlight of the National Finals weekend came on Saturday morning when special guest, Sergio Raftis delivered a heartfelt and inspiring witness of this faith. Sergio is mostly non-verbal so a friend read the speech but the words were Sergio's and the message was both powerful and inspiring. His speech deeply touched everyone present as well as those watching online. Many thanks to our host committee for all of their hard work in putting together a beautiful and memorable weekend for the 18 Finalists who represented all of the Metropolises in our Archdiocese.

Join us!

2025 REGIONAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT PARAKLESIS SERVICES



WESTERN REGION
ST. PAUL CHURCH
NORTH ROYALTON, OH
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7
7:00 PM



CENTRAL REGION
ST. GEORGE CHAPEL
(OF HOLY TRINITY, PITTSBURGH)
8941 RINGEISEN ROAD
ALLISON PARK, PA 15101
FRI. AUGUST 8 AT 6:30 PM



EASTERN REGION
ANNUNCIATION CHURCH
YORK, PA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12
6:30 PM

New Metropolis Center

We are so close to our goal!
Please consider a donation to
the campaign. *Let's Do This!*



Please make checks
payable to "Greek
Orthodox Metropolis
of Pittsburgh" with
NMC Donation written
in the memo.

**New Metropolis
Center**
PO Box 640729
Pittsburgh, PA
15264-0729

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Family Camp

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025 | CAMP NAZARETH

"Honoring the Sabbath"

In the busyness of life, how can families slow down together?

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Adult Track: Priscilla Callos, MDiv, RBC, CT

Youth Track: Marina Giannirakis, MSW, MPS

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES! REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 14.



Scan our QR Code for more info!

Questions? Contact Fr. Joe DiStefano at
frjdistefano@yahoo.com

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Metropolitan Savas
invites YOU to
the 2nd Annual

Sat. Aug. 23rd
11am - 9pm

St. Demetrios
Community Center
3223 Atlantic St. NE
Warren, OH



Are You a
Musician,
Band
or Artist?

Want to
Perform or
Display Art?

Contact
Fr. Joe
DiStefano

frjdistefano@
yahoo.com

Free
Admission

Fun for
All the
Family!

2 Music
Stages

Kids
Games

Art & Craft
Exhibits

Food &
Beverages

Free
Parking

AUG. 23 2025
MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Scan me!



All Proceeds go to
the GOMoP Youth &
Young Adult Ministries

Bands
Solo Acts
Arts & Crafts

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

