



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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NEW Y²AM DIRECTOR APPOINTED



Alyssa Kyritsis has returned home to the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. The Canonsburg native has assumed the duties of Youth Director for the Metropolis following Rhea Ballas's 15 years in the position.

Kyritsis, daughter of Dr. Nicholas and Susan Loutsion, attended the University of Connecticut then went on to earn her

Masters of Divinity from HC/HC in 2014. She spent the previous six and a half years as a pastoral assistant at St. John the Divine GOC in Jacksonville, FL.

Kyritsis returns to the metropolis married – her husband, Nick, works in Internet Ministries for the Archdiocese – and the mother of Nicholas, age 2, and with another child due Dec. 6 (the feast day of St. Nicholas, no less).

“Growing up, I was active in youth ministries at All Saints but I had stopped going to church while I was at UConn,” said Kyritsis, who earned her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies. “And though I didn’t attend church, I was connected to camp the whole time – but I felt like a hypocrite. That’s when I went to seminary and knew I wanted to run a camp or be a youth director.

“And the time I spent at St. John in Jacksonville working with

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YOUTH SAFETY ASST. DIRECTOR NAMED



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, announces that as of July 1, 2021, Rhea Ballas has joined Archdiocese Staff as Assistant Director for the Department of Youth Safety Compliance.

Previously, Rhea served for five years as the Youth Director at Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus, OH, followed by fifteen years as the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y²AM Director (the longest to hold this position) and Metropolis Youth Safety Administrator.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Rhea participated in the ministries of the communities and Diocese throughout her youth at Annunciation GOC of Akron and Annunciation GO Cathedral of Columbus. A dutiful and energetic volunteer, she was involved in Summer Camp ministry, Syndesmos (The World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth), GOYA and GOYA Athletics, and many other areas of Metropolis and parish ministry.

The Archbishop and Metropolitan, and all the clergy and lay leadership of the Archdiocese and Metropolis, all welcome Rhea to this new position and wish her many years of rich and beneficial ministry to the wonderful communities of this sacred Archdiocese.



SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>

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Fr. Nicholas (Louh), has prepared me for this role in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. I'm excited to meet as many people and visit as many parishes as possible."

Her goal is to visit every parish in the metropolis within two years to serve as a bridge between the metropolis and parishes and to be a resource to youth ministry leaders. "I want to be someone people can call on and to create an atmosphere where all of us in youth ministry help each other," added Kyritsis.

Coming into the position of Metropolis Youth Director, Kyritsis says her goals are two-fold:

- Church begins at home and she would like to see children and parents attend catechism together. "Salvation can't rest solely with clergy and youth ministry leaders" she said.

- Helping children find their niche to get them involved in some aspect of worship. "I hope to get kids plugged in to where their interests are. Let's find out what they love and get them active – that's especially true with teens," Kyritsis concluded.

And, in what should surprise no one, Kyritsis wants the children of the metropolis involved in camps – whether it's Camp Nazareth, Ionian Village or Antiochian Village – because she has seen first-hand how camp deepens faith and creates lifelong friendships.

2021 METROPOLIS CLERGY-LAITY, PHILOPTOCHOS, AND YOUTH WORKER ASSEMBLY

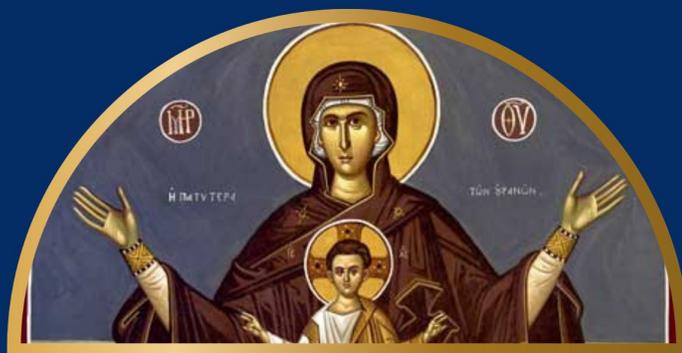
September 23-25, 2021 St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Canton, Ohio

Featured speakers, registration information, and lodging details to follow.

2022 Budget, New Metropolis Center project approval, 2022-24 Council Elections, and Camp Endowment among the major agenda items.

2021 Metropolis of Pittsburgh Regional Youth and Young Adult Paraklesis

Just like we do at camp!



August 11 at 6:00 pm

Holy Trinity, Canton, OH

Contact: Diana Kutty & Vicky Jordanides goya@htgoc.net

August 11 at 6:00 pm

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA

Contact: Fr. Aaron Gilbert 717-727-4014

August 12 at 6:00 pm

All Saints, Canonsburg, PA

Contact: Fr. George Athanasiou 724-745-5205

Fellowship and light refreshments to follow.

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

Stacey Stathulis, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar

Alyssa Kyritsis, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Maria Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture