



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

VOLUME 5 NO. 5 (ISSUE 39) — SEPTEMBER 2021



ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE:

LOSS AND HOPE

As we enter into a new ecclesiastical year, the observance of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Aug. 15) – the summer Pascha – is still fresh in our minds and in our hearts as the last major feast of the year that has passed. And the Nativity of the Theotokos (Sep. 8) is the first feast of the new



year. The Virgin Mary's birth and death bookend the ecclesiastical year, enveloping the passage of time in her cycle of hope-filled loss and persistent faith.

Despite the challenges, Joachim and Anna and the Theotokos never lost sight of their hope in God. They knew the Lord did not promise them ease, and they did not ask for it—but instead they knew that if they remained faithful to Him by following His commandments in love, that He would manifest His power through them and give them the imperishable promise. The fruit of this faithfulness is then the centerpiece of the aforementioned feasts: the birth of a daughter to end Joachim & Anna's stigma who would also bring Hope Incarnate into the world, and the passage into an eternal Kingdom promised to all by the loving Lord and Son she bore.

Within the past year we all have experienced loss—the deaths of faithful priests and dear loved ones, an increase in illnesses

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NEW METROPOLIS CENTER PROJECT ON ASSEMBLY AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

Since 1955, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh has been housed in a three-story, now 120 year-old residence in the Shadyside neighborhood. In 2012-2013, with increasing maintenance costs, a lack of meeting space adequate to even basic needs, a small kitchen and even smaller offices, no secure records storage, no on-street parking (after navigating Pittsburgh's traffic challenges to get there), Metropolitan Savas challenged us to do better.

His Eminence chose to forego living in the Metropolitan's residence next door to the center to help 'seed the field' through its sale and resulting net proceeds of approximately \$300,000. Since that moment, **and to this date, more than \$7 million has been raised for a new Metropolis Center.**

Two adjacent parcels in Washington Township, PA have been donated by the Kursturiss and Pihakis families, totaling nearly 20 acres of land that sits near the confluence of I-79 and I-70. After years of geological site analysis and engineering and negotiating architectural design, the design phase of the new Metropolis Center is complete. Highlights include:

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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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of both body and mind, instability in our economy and social structures, strife and enmity. We've passed milestones without fanfare, faced challenging transitions, and been confronted with our weaknesses both individually and as a body of believers.

For the coming year we should hold on to the same hope of the Theotokos, as we continue to endure the painful effects of the year that has passed: that despite the tribulations, strife, pain, and loss, our God will continue to guard and guide and love us, and our calling is to continue to strive toward His upward call in love, to serve one another out of reverence for Him, seeing that by remaining steadfast to Him in the tribulation, the promise is made to us as it was to His mother: that we will be translated unto life by His grace.

- 15,000 square-foot facility
- Including 1,000 square-foot Chapel
- Chapel is adjacent to dining hall that converts into the Nave for increased attendance
- Offices for every function – Metropolitan, Chancellor, Youth, Camp, Philoptochos, etc.
- Caterer's kitchen with in-house ware storage, washing, and dry good storage
- Outdoor patio with a 100-person dining capacity
- Sizable library/conference room
- Temperature-controlled, fire suppressed records storage rooms
- 2,000-square foot Metropolitan's residence with connecting walkway



At the 2021 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly, a presentation will be made leading to a motion to approve an expenditure of approximately \$12,500,000 for these construction and ancillary costs:



Total Project Budget	\$12,500,000
Facility & Parsonage Construction	\$6,050,000
Excavation, Site Prep, Paving	\$2,100,000
Furnishings, Chapel Décor	\$1,100,000
Architect & Engineering	\$450,000
Relocation Expenses	\$165,000
Operational Endowment	\$2,100,000
Five-Year Campaign Cost	\$535,000

These costs are predicated on quotes previously received. Given today's supply chain and labor issues, these costs may change. We expect to have revised and updated general contractor's quotes prior to the assembly. Those costs will reflect current bids. Metropolis Council Vice Chair Nick Lekas (from Annunciation GOC, Akron, OH) is



serving as Project Manager. Please contact him with any questions or concerns at (330) 618-1488 or at nick@gatewayindustriesonline.com. He will be making the presentation at the at the Assembly.

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch

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Alyssa Kyritsis, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Maria Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture