



# A GOOD WORD — Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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## Μετ' ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός GOD IS WITH US

One of the most moving experiences of the Lenten season comes in the hymn of the Great Compline, "God is with Us." The words come from the 8th chapter of the Prophecy of Isaiah, and are a part of the larger story of faithfulness and abandonment.

The Old Testament prophets repeatedly speak of God's judgment against His people who, in their comfort in the promised land, began to worship the pagan deities. The Israelites abandoned the Lord who delivered them from slavery and wandering. The Lord gave them the rich and beautiful land, **but** they neglected their duty to one another, to provide for the poor, widowed, orphaned, and stranger - to be priests to the world, showing everyone what a loving relationship with God could bring, and inviting them into that relationship.

Isaiah's prophecy delivers a two-fold message: those who abandon God and who neglect His people will be swept away in judgment by their choices, and those who cling to Him and demonstrate faithfulness to Him in action will be guarded by Him. This pronouncement, like all prophetic messages, is designed to provoke

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## NEW METROPOLIS CENTER UPDATE



Given the rising tide of COVID cases in January, a decision was made to cancel the first public fundraiser in February for the new Metropolis Center. A new date is being sought, but event space availability is proving to be a challenge at this time.

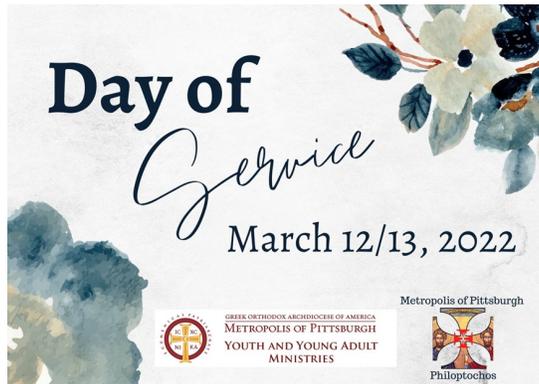
With the selection of a general contractor, Franjo Construction of Homestead, PA, we continue toward a goal of breaking ground in this Spring. Franjo has experience with similar projects, their cost estimates are in line with others and the company believes there are opportunities for cost savings too. The value engineering process is underway now and should be done within four to eight weeks.

In the meantime, we are in the process of developing a 15-minute fundraising video that highlights 100+ years of growth from a diocese to a thriving metropolis with dynamic ministries that serve all ages and interests. It will be shown at future fundraising events around the Metropolis. You can also see a 3D flyover of the future Metropolis Center here: <https://youtu.be/R9IorXBGoZE> or use the QR code.



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repentance - to give one last opportunity to change one's direction in order to draw nearer to the Lord—and to reinforce that *if we're willing to be repentant*, then the Lord will support, protect, and guide us.



So, too, does the hymn fall within the Lenten season to bring forth both messages: repentance and faithfulness. We consistently neglect to do our full measure to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself" and thus must consistently ask for God's forgiveness and move toward perfection; and we are reminded that if we make our good-faith attempt at living out those two great commandments, that the Lord will shelter us - not necessarily from the physical tribulations of an imperfect world, but from the more challenging spiritual warfare that constantly seeks to conquer us.

### For God is With Us

God is with us. Know this, O Gentiles, and be defeated.  
Give ear, all you to the very ends of the earth.  
Be defeated although you are strong.  
For even if you should be strong again, you will be defeated again.  
Then too, whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it abroad.  
And whatever word you shall speak, it will not continue among you.  
But do not be afraid of their terror, nor be troubled.  
Sanctify the Lord Himself, and He shall be your fear.  
So if you trust in Him, He shall be as a sanctuary for you.  
I shall wait for God, and I will trust in Him.  
Behold, I and the children God gave me.  
A people who walk in darkness, behold a great light.  
And you who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, upon you a light will shine.  
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And of His peace there is no end.  
His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel.  
Wonderful Counselor.  
Mighty God, Master, Prince of Peace.  
Father of the age to come.  
Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.  
God is with us. Know this, O Gentiles, and be defeated.  
*GOA DCS (https://dcs.goarch.org/)*

# BEE-TREAT!

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



**MARCH 19, 2022**

**BeeTreat (9:30AM - 5:30PM)**

**Youth Track:** 6th - 12th Grades

**Adult Track:** Clergy, parents, young adults, and youth workers

**Young Adult Event (7pm)**

Anyone 18 and older

**TO REGISTER:**

[www.y2am.org/BeeTreats.com](http://www.y2am.org/BeeTreats.com)

It's Free!

**SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND 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: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



### GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 - <http://pittsburgh.goarch.org> - [info@pittsburgh.goarch.org](mailto:info@pittsburgh.goarch.org)  
412-621-5529 (Main) - 412-465-0460 (Camp) - 412-621-8543 (Youth) - 412-621-1522 (Fax)