

THE ST. NICHOLAS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

2018 ADVENT PROJECT

benefiting the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg

On Thursday, June 15, 2017, as Sisters of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg were reading Vespers, a bolt of lightning struck through the roof of the Monastery into the new HVAC unit on the 2nd floor, starting a 3 alarm fire. The Sisters had time only to remove the Holy items from the church before the firemen arrived. All personal belongings were left behind.

Six area volunteer fire departments responded to their 911 call, deploying twenty-five fire trucks. The living quarters bore the brunt of the fire with water damage sustained in ceilings and floors. The entire building was affected by smoke damage, as well as electrical and water damage, making the structure unsafe and uninhabitable. All the contents of the building which were salvageable had to be removed, taken off site, and fumigated so that the entire building itself could be repaired, fumigated, and cleaned. Estimates to repair and replace items exceeded \$500,000.

The Monastery had just recently completed major mold mitigation inside and outside of the church and living quarters, replacing all 3 HVAC systems, duct work, and windows, as well as the building envelope reconstruction on the entire South and West walls of the building when this devastating event happened. The mitigation and renovation took 2 years; the Sisters have been faced once again with an uninhabitable building.

This year, the St. Nicholas Outreach Committee has chosen to support the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery for their Advent Project. They will be accepting monetary donations as well as non-perishable food items, such as:

- Flour
- Oil
- Sugar
- Canned Tomatoes/Vegetables/Fruit
- Rice
- Pasta
- Olives
- Coffee/Tea
- Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, etc.)

Cash donations are appreciated. If donating by check, please make payable to: Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery. All donations must be received by a committee member by December 16th.

For questions or more information, please contact Susan Glenn at 724-382-4061.

As we head into this Advent season, let us prepare ourselves and our family for the Feast of the Nativity with fasting, praying, and giving alms. For indeed, we have already received the greatest gift—Jesus Christ! Let us open our hearts to those in need, and *give according to the blessings of the Lord your God which he has given you.* (Deuteronomy 16:17)

ORDER FORM

ORDER DEADLINE Wednesday, December 14, 1018

The Poinsettia Plant



Poinsettias were known as the “**Flowers of the Holy Night.**” The shape of poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought to be a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ.

These plants are locally grown and will be ready for Orthodox Christmas. They may be taken home after Divine Liturgy or left at the Church for one week for the New Year. Please mark your selection below. Please pre-pay with cash or check to Sophie Vargo (412 466-2760) or call/email Pat Kolar (412 372-4239) /patkolar@verizon.net.

Size		Cost per Unit	Quantity	Total Cost
8" pot		\$20.00		
10" pot		\$30.00		
		TOTAL		

If you wish something to be written on an inscription card placed in the flower container, please write it here. _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Profits from the sale of Christmas poinsettias will benefit the St. Nicholas Sunday School.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

POSNO BAKE SALE

The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a Posno Bake Sale on December 9th after Divine Liturgy.

All proceeds will benefit the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery. This is the first Greek Orthodox women's monastery in the Americas, founded in 1989 and dedicated to the Birth of the Mother of God.

Cash donations will be accepted. If donating by check, please make payable to: Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery.