

TONIGHT!!!

Hosts Sing Alleluia!

The Orthodox Choirs of Pittsburgh Sing for the Impoverished of Pittsburgh



**CHRISTMAS
CHORAL
CONCERT**

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Sunday - December 14
6:30 pm

Several choirs, representing over six Orthodox jurisdictions will present pieces of music traditional to their own culture.

Audience singing encouraged during designated communal carols.

Free-will offerings will go to support the ongoing work of FOCUS North America in serving the poor of the Pittsburgh area.

Coffee and Pastries will be served.

Proceeds to **FOCUS**
NORTH AMERICA

**NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY CENTER**

123 GILKESON ROAD, PITTSBURGH, PA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST 2014

8PM-2AM

following Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil at 6:30pm

INCLUDES:

Dinner & Live music by the Grecian Flames
Champagne Toast at Midnight
Cash Bar

Dinner tickets **MUST** be purchased by Sunday, December 21st.

Adults \$60 • Children 4-12 \$25 • Children 3 and under free

Dance only tickets available in advance and at the door for \$25

Tickets are available at coffee hour or you can call

Dino Kartofilis at 412.389.7333 email: Dino@Kartofilis.com or

Dan Milinkovic at 404.694.0455 email: excelloy_dan@yahoo.com

December 14, 2014

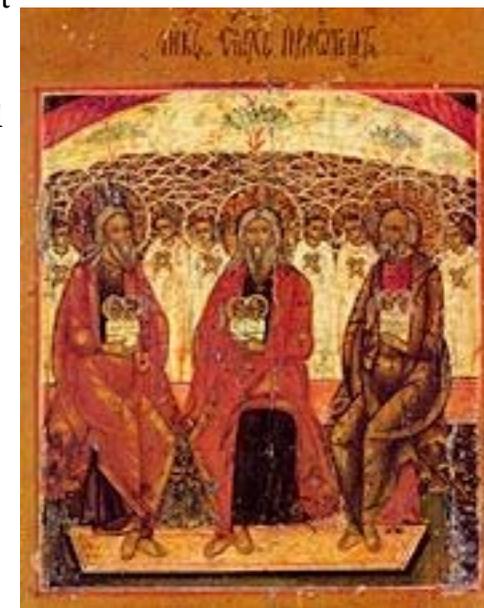
Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

11th Sunday of Luke

The Gospel of Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Fr. Michael Kallaur, Economos
Fr. Daniel Korba, Presbyter
Dn. Frank Dickos

December 14, 2014

Altar flowers are donated in loving memory of *Michael Megaludis and *Tottie Kyriaki Apostolos from the Megaludis and Politis families.

Altar candles are donated in loving memory of *Michael Megaludis and *Tottie Kyriaki Apostolos from the Megaludis and Politis families.

Coffee hour is being prepared by
Ted and Elaine Sofis, John and Catherine Sofis, and Timothy Sofis.

Memorials	<i>Michael Megaludis</i>	6 months
	<i>Tottie Kyriaki Apostolos</i>	6 months
	<i>William J. (Bill) Sofis</i>	31 years
	<i>Helen Sofis</i>	14 years
	<i>Dionissios Drakodaidis, father-in-law of Billy Sofis of Boston, MA and in-law of John Sofis & Beth Rangos. He passed away in Greece this past week.</i>	

Monday *St. Eleftherios*
8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
6:30 pm Paraclesis/Bible Study

Tuesday 7pm GOYA

Wednesday Prophet Daniel and 3 Holy Youths
8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
4:30pm Greek School
6:45 GOYA Basketball
8pm Parish Council

Thursday

Friday

Saturday *St. Ignatius*
8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
5pm Great Vespers/Confessions

Father John and Bob Kirschner recently returned from the Village of Aguacate in Guatemala. It is in this village that a medical clinic is being build beside the Orthodox Church. The clinic building (which is funded by the NGO One World One Community) is being constructed by the villagers and will be completed in March of 2015. Although the building is funded, the medical equipment needed for the clinic is not. To help fund the medical equipment, ceramic artists from the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts have offered to donate hand crafted ceramic art for a pre-Christmas sale to be conducted at **Holy Cross on Sunday December 14th. The pottery and other items will be on sale after the Liturgy in the community center. 100% of the sales receipts will be donated to the Holy Cross Mission Fund to buy medical equipment for the Clinic. Please plan to support this worthy cause.**



Church School Christmas Pageant Schedule

It's that time of year again! Please reserve the following times for your child's participation in the Holy Cross Christmas Pageant: **All rehearsals are MANDATORY - thanks!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH: Final rehearsal from Sunday School time until 12:30pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST: Christmas Pageant (in lieu of Sunday School)

****Nativity-themed artwork for the program will be taken until MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th.** Please submit to Nena in the church office. ANY QUESTIONS? WANT TO HELP?

Ponny Jahn will be coming around to the classrooms to get character volunteers - she can be reached at: poncon@yahoo.com or 412-737-5528. Holly Guna will be helping coordinate parent volunteers - she can be reached at jhguna@yahoo.com or 412-295-7240 Thank you for your help & cooperation to put together this huge annual event. Please be generous with your time and patience! ~Ponny & Holly

On Sunday, January 4th, our Sunday School will be celebrating St. Basil and the Miracle of the Vasiloptia. Each class will have a special lesson about St. Basil and will be cutting their own Vasiloptia. We'll also have chocolate coins and fun for all.

Parent volunteers are needed to provide drinks (small individual water bottles), paper plates and napkins. If you can help out in this way, please contact Kristin Frommeyer at kristin_houser@hotmail.com or 412.638.0430. Thank you in advance for your donations!

During coffee hour TODAY:



Christmas Bread will be sold !!!



Don't forget to buy your New Year's Eve tickets !!!

WELCOME – AND A FEW WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION...

We warmly welcome all visitors and seekers in our midst today, trusting that your experience here will be an uplifting and enriching one. The Greek Orthodox Churches are the ancient and native Christian communities of the biblical world, with centers in the Holy Lands, Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor, and by extension in Greece, Cyprus and throughout the world. Like the ancient Christians, we engage the whole person, heart, mind and all senses in Divine Worship. This experience has been so powerful to seekers in the past that it was often said "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. We knew only that there God dwelt among human beings." (*Russian Primary Chronicle*) That communion experience of heaven on earth and God in our midst forms the heart of all Orthodox worship. It culminates in the sharing of Holy Communion, which not only unites us with the Divine, but also expresses the deep unity in faith and life between all Orthodox believers. Since Holy Communion expresses that deep unity in belief and practice alike, it is reserved for observant Orthodox Christians. This does not mean, however, that non-Orthodox are 'excluded' - rather, the Orthodox choose not to make an external display of unity when actual unity does not exist. While working to restore the full communion that did exist in antiquity, today we offer the sign of the blessed bread at the service's conclusion as a symbolic gift of hospitality and growing unity that is offered to all present. If you would like to learn more about the Orthodox way of life, or have any questions about worship or Holy Communion, please approach Fr. Michael or one of the clergy following services.

Thank you for joining us, and again, Welcome You All.