



Don't forget to buy your New Year's Eve tickets TODAY during coffee hour!!

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY CENTER
 123 GILKESON ROAD, PITTSBURGH, PA
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST 2014

8PM-2AM

following Vesperal 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

Congratulations
 to our
 2015
Parish Council

George Sokos

Ted Sofis*

Joanna Asvestas

Bryan Elderkin**

Duane Ferencz

Ponny Jahn

Peter Landis**

Thea Martin

Konrad Mayr

Stephanie Kladakis Myers**

John Orfanopoulos

Chris Pfanstiel

Manuel Politis**

John Popovich

Cathy Terasavage

**elected second term*

***newly elected*

December 21, 2014 Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel Reading: Sunday before Nativity The Gospel of Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.



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

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

December 21, 2014

Altar flowers are donated in loving memory of *Harry Sappas from his family.

Coffee hour is being prepared by Philoptochos.

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| Memorials | <i>Happy Sappas</i> | 6 months |
| | <i>Stephanos Kontos</i> | 1 year |
| Monday | <i>Anastasia the Great Martyr</i> | 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy 6:30 pm Paraclesis/Bible Study |
| Tuesday | <i>Ten Martyrs of Crete</i> | 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy |
| Wednesday | <i>Christmas Eve</i> | 4:30pm Royal Hours 6:00pm Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil |
| Thursday | <i>Christmas</i> | 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy |
| Friday | | |
| Saturday | <i>St. Stephen the First Martyr</i> | 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy |

During coffee hour TODAY:

LAST CHANCE Christmas Bread will be sold !!!



Circle of Angels, Thank you to all our Angels who made visitations, baked koulourakia, cookies, bread and candies. We are thankful for your generous monetary donations for our Christmas Outreach. God bless you all and have a Healthy, Happy New Year.
Carol and Christine

The Church - A Holy Place

When you enter the church building as the "House of Worship," you are entering into the Great Throne Room of the "King of Kings" as His subjects and His soldiers. The "King of Kings," Jesus Christ, is enthroned on the Holy Altar and all the angels, prophets, saints and the Most Holy Mother of God are present. His soldiers should be attentive and standing at attention. No one in the presence of the "king of Kings" would sit with his legs crossed, or his hands in his pockets, or chewing gum, or looking at his watch because to do any of these things would be disrespectful. The only proper disposition a soldier can have before his commander is that of reverence which is indicated by a bowed head, a submissive heart and prayer.



Church School Christmas Pageant

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

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!

2015 Philoptochos Membership:

It is time once again to join or renew your membership in Philoptochos. Please fill out the form below and return to the church or Connie Carahalis, 224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd., Pgh., PA 15234

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

*From your Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to National Philoptochos and \$10 is sent to the Pittsburgh Metropolis Philoptochos. Anything over \$25 goes to Holy Cross Philoptochos

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.