

March 1, 2015 ~ Sunday of Orthodoxy

Tone of the week: Plagal of the First Tone

Fifth Eothinon ~ Reading:

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.



Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

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 enemies 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 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: the Gospel of John 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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- ♥ **Food Fair Food Prep schedule in narthex and online @ www.holycrosspgh.org**
 - ♥ ***Spanakopita making NEXT Sunday afternoon!***
 - ♥ **Please see the calendar in the narthex to sign up for coffee hour in March/April.**
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4pm TODAY Sunday of Orthodoxy Service for the Greater Pittsburgh Area, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa will preside

<i>Monday</i>	10am – 1pm Clergy Retreat with His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa 6:30pm Compline/Bible Study
<i>Tuesday</i>	Clergy Retreat @ Antiochian Village 7pm GOYA Miting 7pm Philoptochos Meeting
<i>Wednesday</i>	Clergy Retreat @ Antiochian Village 4:30pm Greek School 6pm Presanctified Liturgy
<i>Thursday</i>	Clergy Retreat @ Antiochian Village
<i>Friday</i>	9am Presanctified Liturgy 6:30pm Salutations to the Theotokos I
<i>Saturday</i>	10am -2pm Pre-marriage Seminar 5pm Great Vespers

Philoptochos FOCUS Lenten Food Drive

Please donate your non-perishable food items, plastic jars, peanut butter, canned goods, beans, soups, cereals, etc NO glass, please, to the vestibule ONLY on Sundays, March 15, 22 and 29. There is a great need. Please be generous! Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

TODAY tickets will be available at coffee hour for the **IOCC Syrian Relief Dinner on Sunday, March 29th**. Please look for Deno Pappas or Carol Halkias at the IOCC table to purchase your tickets, which are \$50 per person and/or to make a donation to help our suffering brothers and sisters in Syria. God bless you for your generosity!

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, we welcome you all.*

Appeal to the Community

We find ourselves in a tremendous cash crunch: February has not only brought freezing cold and snow but also increased bills for energy and snow removal in addition to payables of more than \$ 50,000 on the books.

Therefore, we are appealing to the community to ask everyone to advance their monthly pledge amount for Month of March to now. We are not asking to increase their pledge amount just to advance a month's payment.

Holy Cross Parish Council

Attention Holy Cross Graduating High School Seniors and Parents

Two Holy Cross Philoptochos \$1000 Philanthropy Awards are available to two graduating high school seniors from our church. The awards are available to ONLY PLEDGED families of Holy Cross. The application will be available in the church office, narthex or Elaine Sofis beginning on Sunday, January 25, 2015 and returned by Sunday, March 22 2015. The award is based on your definition of philanthropy, a short essay on your philanthropic work and how your Orthodox Christian faith will guide you as you enter the adult world. A separate, but similar, Philoptochos Philanthropy Award is available to a graduating Mt. Lebanon High School senior in the guidance office, too. You may apply to both awards but will be eligible to receive only one. Please see an application for all the necessary criteria to apply for the award. The Holy Cross application may be returned to the church office or Elaine Sofis, in church, or 121 Woodhaven Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228. -Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

Wild Wonderful West Virginia
is calling you to the
Metropolis Daffodil Luncheon

12:00pm, Saturday, March 14, 2015
Glessner Auditorium, Oglebay Resort, Wheeling

Luncheon cost is \$50.00 per person.

*For information, contact local Philoptochos chapter
or Fran at 304-242-2137 before March 6th, 2015.*

No tickets sales at door.

BENEFICIARIES:

Metropolis Social Services Fund
Athena's Closet

(assisting cancer patients with needs not covered by insurance)

Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project
of West Virginia

*(providing immediate and practical assistance to
needy pregnant women and to families
with children under the age of two years).*

