

March 29, 2015 ~ Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

Ninth Eothinon

Reading:

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.



Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Tone

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Apolytikion of Sun. of St. Mary of Egypt in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Mother. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy Mary, your soul rejoices with the angels.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Tone

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Please visit our website at: www.holycrosspgh.org
for details on announcements and church calendar.

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Altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of +John Kehayas from his wife Betty.

Coffee Hour is sponsored by John & Diane Hoenig, Emanuel & Angela Panos and Jim Karakis.

<i>Memorials</i>	<i>Frieda Coussoule</i>	<i>3 days</i>
	<i>Katina Karavas</i>	<i>9 days</i>
	<i>Alexandra Flocos Gigicom</i>	<i>40 days (aunt of Elaine Nellas and Elaine Krelis, died at age 102)</i>
	<i>John Kehayas</i>	<i>10 years</i>
	<i>Regina J. Skarvelis Davis</i>	<i>27 years</i>

<i>*Memorials on Saturday, April 4</i>	<i>Angie Portellos</i>	<i>40 days</i>
	<i>Mike Andrews</i>	<i>1 year</i>
	<i>Emmanuel Andrews</i>	<i>5 years</i>

Sunday 4:30pm Prayer Service
5:30-7:30 pm IOCC Lenten Dinner/Reception for Syrian Relief
The Syrian Relief Dinner tonight is SOLD OUT! Thank you for your support!

Monday 6:30pm Compline/Bible Study

Tuesday

Wednesday 4:30pm Greek School
6pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday 7:30pm OCF at St. Nicholas, Oakland

Friday 9am Presanctified Liturgy
6pm Prep for Palm Cross making

Saturday *Lazarus Saturday*
8:30 am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
GOYA/JOY Palm Cross Making & Confessions
Acolyte Preparation for Holy Week
5pm Great Vespers

Submit Your 2015 Pledge Card Online: You can now submit your pledge card online at www.holycrosspgh.org Click on Stewardship, then click Pledge Online and enter your info and 2015 pledge. Your stewardship and support are what sustains the day to day operations of our parish. Pledge cards are also available at the candle stands in the Narthex, or you can just call Nena, in the church office with the amount.

Thank you, Ted Sofis, Stewardship Chair

Philoptochos will collect donations today and next Sunday, April 5 for Epitaphion flowers.

*Attention parents of girls ages 8-12, if your daughter would like to participate as a **Mirafora** on Good Friday, please call Laura Zervos 412.287.5679 or laura_jz@msn.com*

Circle of Angels will be putting together the cookie and candy Easter baskets on the Wednesday after Easter, April 15th. As you are doing your Easter baking, please remember our homebound parishioners and those in nursing homes, who are elated to receive your homebaked goodies. Please bring your donations to the church on Bright Tuesday, April 14th. Monetary donations are also welcome. Thank you so much!

Diane Landis Hoening will speak on April 14 at 6:45PM about her love of Iconography prior to the Philoptochos Meeting in the Philoptochos Room. Guests are welcome to attend!

Thank you to all who donated so generously to Philoptochos' FOCUS Lenten Food Drive.

With the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, the Monastery is hosting a Victorian Tea as a building fund-raising event through the efforts of Diane Davliakos on Saturday, May 2nd. (Please see Crossroads or our Website.) We thank you for your love and your kind support of the Monastery. We pray that you all have a blessed remainder Tessarakosti. In Christ's love, Gerontissa Theophano and the Sisterhood

May 16 Greek-American comedian Ellen Karis evening \$60 event tickets will be sold on Sundays, April 19, 26, May 3 and 10 at coffee hour. Gentlemen and Ladies, please have a fun filled evening at Holy Cross with your spouse, a date, friends or a group!

Please use HolyCrossPit@mail.goarch.org for ALL church related emails, announcements for weekly and monthly bulletins, e-blast requests, etc.

Pitt/CMU Orthodox Christian Fellowship
High School Night

The Pitt/CMU OCF invites high school students to join us to learn about OCF and living an Orthodox life in college.

Refreshments & drinks will be served!

Thursday April 2, 2015
7:30pm
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
419 South Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213



RSVP to pittcmuocf@gmail.com by March 31st.



 **Palm Sunday, April 5, 2015** 

Fish Luncheon sponsored by Philoptochos

Tickets will be sold at coffee hour TODAY for the Philoptochos Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 5. Please try to purchase your tickets today so that we can determine how much food to prepare! Palm Sunday Luncheon tickets will be also sold next week at the door. Adults, \$10 served baked fish, salad, green beans, potatoes, bread and an apple or cherry cobbler. Children, 5-12, \$5, served peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chips, applesauce and Oreo cookies, 4/under free. Contact Elaine Sofis to reserve, 412 344-7046 or esofis@comcast.net

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.

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.