

April 12, 2015 ~ Great and Holy Pascha

Reading:

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.



Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone

Christ is risen from the dead, by death hath He trampled down death, and on those in the graves hath He bestowed life.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

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

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

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

April 12, 2015 ~ Pascha

Monday *Bright Monday*
Office closed

Tuesday *Bright Tuesday*
9am Orthros/10am Divine Liturgy @ Chapel of Sts. Nicholas,
Rafael & Irene, Holy Dormition, Oakmont
6:45pm Philoptochos Meeting, Guest Speaker Diane Hoenig

Wednesday 4:30 pm Greek School

Thursday

Friday *Life-Giving Font*
8:3-am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy

Saturday Metropolis St. Photios Awards Banquet

Food Fair Prep: Pastitsio making after Liturgy next Sunday, April 19

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

Thank you to our great chefs and *ALL* our volunteers- *GOVA* and adults, who helped in the set-up, serving and clean-up at the *Philoptochos Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon!* Your time and effort is very appreciated! *Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President*

Mother's Day/Father's Day Card name submission form in narthex. \$5 per name submitted.

Circle of Angels will be putting together the cookie and candy Easter baskets on the Wednesday after Easter, April 15th. 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 Hoenig will speak on April 14 at 6:45PM in the Philoptochos Room about her love of Iconography. A short **Philoptochos meeting** should commence about 7:30PM. Guests are most welcome to attend!*

*Pam Lagios and John Hoenig will be honored at the **St. Photios Banquet** on April 18 at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh. Ticket info is in the Cross Roads.*

*Next **Sts. Mary & Martha Group: Tuesday, April 28** The Family of Adam, the Global Family: To be made in the image and likeness of God, Speaker: Fr. George Livanos Hostess: Vasso Paliouras, 114 Hoodridge Dr., Mt. Lebanon 15228*

With the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, the Monastery is hosting a Victorian Tea as a building fund-raising event on Saturday, May 2nd. (Please see Crossroads or 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 & 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.

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.