

September 13, 2015 ~ Sunday before Holy Cross

Tone of the week: Plagal of the Second Tone

Fourth Eothinon

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

The Church is shown to be a many-lighted heaven that doth shine a guiding light upon all them that do believe; wherein while standing we cry aloud: Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

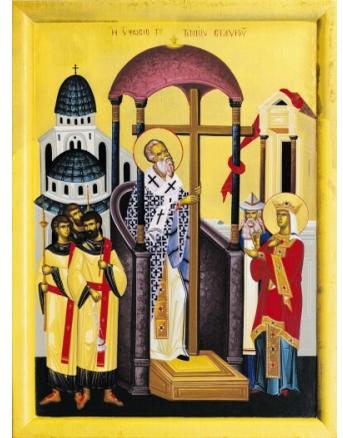
Gospel Reading:

Sunday before Holy Cross

The Gospel of John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."



September 13, 2015

*Altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of +Steve Lagios by wife Pam,
and Cookie, Frank & Stephanie Phaturios.*

*Altar candles are sponsored in loving memory of +Nicholas Petrakos
by Chronis, Diane and Joanne Manolis.*

Coffee hour is sponsored in loving memory of +George Bouzos by the Bouzos and Zotis families.

Memorials	+George Bouzos	40 days
	+Nicholas Petrakos	1 year
	+Steve Lagios	10 years
	+Alexander Lagios	10 years

Monday **Feast of Holy Cross**
8:30 am Matins/9:30am Divine Liturgy
Luncheon *see below

Tuesday 8:30am Golden Club Outing

Wednesday 4:15pm Greek School Registration and classes begin
7pm Parish Council

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

*Please join us for our Feast Day Luncheon on Monday, September 14 following Liturgy. Menu: shrimp, rice, salad, bread & dessert. Adults \$12; children \$6. Fasting food donations to share are welcome! ~Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

Autumn Food Fair yard signs are available in the vestibule and community center. Please place the signs residential yards approved businesses. Mt. Lebanon has been removing the signs from public spaces!

Yiayia Joan's Attic will accept jewelry, toys, books CLEAN linens, household goods and collectibles beginning Sunday, September 20. Please NO broken items and NO clothing. Please contact Pam Lagios at 412 276-4614 or JoAnna Asvestas at 412 519-0403 with questions.

GOLDEN CLUB: On Tuesday, September 15, 2015, a trip is planned to the Laurel Highlands to the Kentuck Knob home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the early 1950's. will continue to Stone House Restaurant for lunch. Cost for the tour is \$18.50. (Does not include lunch). Please reserve your space by contacting Cynthia; deadline for payment is September 7. Please make check payable to GOLDEN CLUB OF HOLY CROSS.

Moussaka will be prepared on Monday and Tuesday, September 21&22 at 9:30AM for the Autumn Food Fair. Late arrivals are always welcome! Thank you to ALL who have volunteered in preparing the variety of foods for next month!

Dress for Success is not able to accept clothes until October. **Please do not drop off clothes until AFTER the Autumn Festival has ended and cleaned up, beginning week of October 12.**

Greek school: First day/registration Sept. 16 @4:15pm
Contact Dena: dymalis@comcast.net or 412-343-8355

2nd Annual Michael Megaludis Memorial Golf Outing will be **Monday, October 5** Brochures are in the narthex or register online at www.HolyCrossPgh.org

Finding the balance of time... As we enter a new Church year and a new academic year we are challenged with the many demands placed upon our families. In order to help our families and maximize our time at Church on Sunday morning we are keeping our "summer hours" year round.

The Sunday Schedule will be as follows:

8:15am Matins begins

9:30am Divine Liturgy begins-**Please note that if Matins ends 5 minutes earlier, we will go right into the Div. Lit. so please be prompt at 9:20am**

10:30am (*this is an approximate time*) – following Holy Communion, the children will proceed to Sunday School

11am -Divine Liturgy will conclude (*SEE BELOW*)

11:30am - conclusion of Sunday School lessons

When the Divine Liturgy concludes, we invite all members of the community to coffee hour. **We ask that you DO NOT congregate in the hallway** where the Sunday School lessons are taking place. This is disruptive to the teachers and children who are working diligently to benefit from a lesson that has been prepared for their spiritual edification. Our intention of keeping the 9:30am Divine Liturgy start is to allow our children to experience both the Liturgy and Sunday School and not have to leave class early. Please help us in our mission to educate our children in the Orthodox Faith and please join us for some fellowship in the community center.

First Day of Class & Church School Registration: September 13th

Registration will take place on Sunday, September 13th in the classrooms.

Parents please take the time to update your child's personal information and alert us to any special needs your child may have.

- ♥ **Children entering the Pre-School class must be 3 years of age by September 1st.**
- ♥ **Children entering our Kindergarten class must be entering Kindergarten in public/parochial school.**
- ♥ **Our Pre-School and Pre-K classes are available for children not yet entering Kindergarten.**

**It is preferable that each child attend the same Church School Grade Level in which they are in public/parochial school. Please make every effort to place your child in their proper class.*

Holy Cross Sunday School students are being asked to donate much needed "back to school" personal hygiene supplies for the 2,000 children being helped by FOCUS. The items include toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash, dental floss, shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, comb, hair brush and socks. Please bring your donations on September 20th & 27th, and October 4th, and place in the collection box in the vestibule. Although these are simple items we have readily available for our daily use, they are things most of the FOCUS children do not have at all. All parishioners are encouraged to participate. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.

WELCOME – A
ND 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.*

*YOU ARE INVITED...TODAY and Sunday, September 20th immediately following Divine Liturgy – Holy Cross is hosting a **MINISTRY EXTRAVAGANZA!!!!***

You are invited to meet the members of our community that are doing the ministries of our beloved Church. Please come and find a ministry that you feel called to support and offer your time and talents!

Here is a list of the ministries that you will find:

<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Vacation Church School</i>
<i>Philoptochos</i>	<i>Missions and Outreach</i>
<i>GOYA</i>	<i>(FOCUS Pittsburgh/</i>
<i>JOY</i>	<i>MISSIONS)</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>Circle of Angels</i>
<i>Garden of Love</i>	<i>Sts. Mary & Martha</i>
<i>Golden Club</i>	<i>First Steps of Christ</i>
<i>Building Committee</i>	<i>Arts and Letters</i>
<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Christmas Pageant</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>Greek Dance</i>
<i>Greek School</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
<i>Choir</i>	<i>Young Adults</i>
<i>Chanters</i>	<i>Prospora Baking</i>
<i>Food Festival</i>	<i>Sandwiches for the homeless</i>
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Walk for Missions</i>
<i>Golf Outing</i>	

Find out what you are missing, ask questions, figure out how you would like to participate in the life of our beloved Holy Cross. Want to start a new ministry, talk to Fr. Michael. We are always looking for ways to serve the Lord!

Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair and Yiayia Joan's Attic, October 7-9, is quickly approaching! Set up, **October 4-6** Volunteers needed: **Thursday, October 8 & Friday, October 9**, Dinner food lines anytime from 4-8PM. Contact Elaine Sofis 412 344-7046. Help needed in the prep room to make salads & gyro sauce, pan dolmathes, cashier, serve refreshments, and carry food to the line. Please call Elaine Sofis 412 344-7046. ALL welcome to volunteer to help Philoptochos assist those in need!