

Holy Cross Church

Address: 123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228 Phone: (412) 833-3355 Fax: (412) 833-3357

Web: <http://www.holycrosspgh.org/>

WEEKLY BULLETIN

12/06/2015



December 06

Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travellers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Nicholas the Wonderworker in the Fourth Mode

The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Apolytikion for the Church in the First Mode

Save, O Lord, Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the faith. And, protect Your people by the power of Your Cross.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 115.15,12.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Verse: What shall I render to the Lord for all that he has given me?

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21.

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading

10th Sunday of Luke

The Reading is from Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Welcome

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

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.

Stewardship at a Glance

Our goal for 2016 is to have 400 Stewards of the Church, and as of publication, we have received 163 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$193,935.00, making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,183.00.

Please submit your signed 2016 Pledge Card, which is required to maintain your membership in good standing at Holy Cross each year.

You can submit your pledge card on-line at the church website at www.holycrosspgh.org or pick up a pledge card at the candle stands in the church narthex. We need the support of all our parishioners.

Financial Snapshot

November			January through November			Current Snapshot	
Income	Expenses	Net	Income	Expenses	Net	Chk. Acct.	Bills Due
\$56,383	\$63,705	-\$7,322	\$737,195	\$752,465	-\$15,270	\$1,313.04	\$24,892.47

Holy Cross Today

Buy Food for Christmas Today!

GOYA is selling trays of spanakopita for \$35 each. See Denise Mellis at coffee hour.

Philoptochos is selling frozen tiropita, pastitsio, and galatobouriko. See Popi at coffee hour.

Today is the final day for submitting your card in order to be listed in the parish Christmas card. A card to fill out can be found in the Narthex to hand to Jonathan McClish at coffee hour.

Fundraiser for St. Nicholas National Shrine

The Church school will be selling handmade St. Nicholas ceramic ornaments as well as felt St. Nicholas puppets. The proceeds will be given to our Philoptochos to send in with their donation to the St. Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero in New York City, they will be sold during coffee hour in the carpeted area. Monetary donations will also be gladly accepted. (Please make checks payable to the Holy Cross Philoptochos with St. Nicholas Shrine written in the memo) Suggested donation: St. Nicholas Ornaments - \$5.00 St. Nicholas Puppets - \$10.00.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Today after Liturgy, the church school will be rehearsing for the Christmas pageant. Only the lead roles, chorus, and narrators need to attend.

Save the Date

Circle of Angels - For our Christmas Outreach, we request our parishioners to donate cookies, candy, and monetary donations. Please drop off your items no later than December 9th to the Church office. Thank you, Carol and Christine

Sisters from Saxonburg will be here next Sunday selling gifts for the Christmas season.

Christmas Pageant - Sunday December 20th following Liturgy

New Years Eve Gala - December 31, 2015 8pm-2am - at Holy Cross Community Center - Dinner, Live Music, Cashbar, and Champagne Toast at Midnight. * See flier for ticket information*
Questions? Call: Voula Contis 412.445.5298 / Jen Liokareas 412.580.9272 / Sophia Tambouratzis 412.341.3205 / Georgia Yamalis 412.728.2259 / Laura Zervos 412.287.5679

This Week at Holy Cross

Monday 6:30 pm Paraklesis/Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek

Tuesday 10 am First Steps of Christ

Wednesday 4:30 pm Greek School
6:30 pm Greek Dance Recital
7:30 pm GOYA Basketball Practice

Thursday 7 pm Chant Class

Saturday The feast of St. Spyridon in **Monessen**
9 am Orthros
10 am Liturgy
5 pm Vespers and Confession, here at Holy Cross