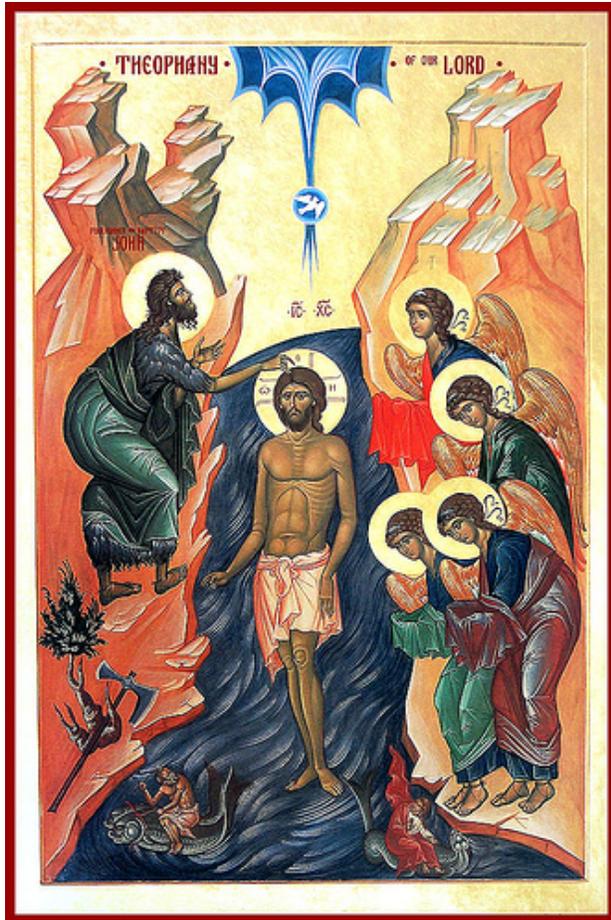


Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 833-3355
www.holycrosspgh.org

Fr. Michael Kallaur
Fr. Dan Korba
Dn. Frank Dickos



The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist who is dressed in camel's hair and has the appearance of

one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism.

In the center of the icon is Christ being baptized in the Jordan. He is standing in the water wearing a waistcloth, and with His right hand He is blessing the waters of the Jordan. Above His head is the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Him. At the top of the icon, a semicircle depicts the opening of the Heavens and the voice of the Father.

On the right side of the icon angels are shown with their heads bowed in reverence to Christ. They are prepared to receive Him as He comes out of the water.

The celebration of this Feast of our Lord begins on January 5, a day known as the Forefeast of Theophany. Depending on the day of the week, this could be an evening service with Vespers followed by the Liturgy of Saint Basil or a morning service with Matins and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. Following the service on January 5, the service of the Blessing of the Waters is conducted. Prior to the evening or morning service the Royal Hours with the Typika are said.

On January 6, the day of the Feast, the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is conducted preceded by Matins and followed by the second Blessing of the Waters.

The Blessing of the Waters is conducted in the church; however in many places throughout the world services are conducted near open bodies of water. As a sign of blessing as Christ blessed the Jordan, holy water is poured into the body of water. An associated

tradition has been the tossing of a cross into the water to be retrieved by divers. The holy water from the church is given to the faithful to consume and to use in blessing their homes. In the weeks following the Feast, clergy visit the homes of parishioners and conduct a service of

blessing using the holy water that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany.

From:

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/epiphany

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

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.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Theophany in the Fourth Mode

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 Fourth Mode

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8.

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Stewardship at a Glance

As of publication, we have received 222 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$268,664.00, making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,210.20.

Please submit your 2016 Pledge Card. Remember a signed pledge card 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.

A Note from Philoptochos

Please join us for our first Philoptochos meeting of 2016 on Tuesday January, 12 at 7pm.

Elaine Sofis
Philoptochos President

Save the Date

GOLDEN CLUB: Lunch & Learn! Please join us on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. for a complimentary lunch served in the reception area of the Hall, followed by a presentation at 1:00 p.m. by Laura Ainsley of The Frick on "Cemetery Tales: Pittsburgh's Buried Art & History." Experience Pittsburgh's interesting and picturesque cemeteries in a colorful slideshow.

We will also be collecting dues that day of \$10 for 2016. The Golden Club is open to all Holy Cross members, age 50 and over. If you are not already a member, please consider joining our wonderful group of seniors (young and old), who enjoy fellowship, touring, cultural events, food and fun!

Please RSVP to Rene Koett at (412) 831-3142 (rjkoett@yahoo.com) or Cynthia Kostelnik at (412) 833-9423 (cakostelnik@yahoo.com) by January 12th, so we can prepare ahead for our luncheon. We hope to see you there! Please Note: In case of inclement weather that day, we will reschedule this event.

Holy Cross Today

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Rohe, Hugus, and Wandle families.

Please sign up for coffee hour. Check the calendar online: www.holycrosspgh.org, click "Events", then "Coffee Hour", then scroll down to calendar, click on date to see if someone has taken it.

Then email holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org or call the church office to request the date.

This Week at Holy Cross

Tuesday **Strict Fast Day**
8:30 am Royal Hours
10 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil and Blessing of the Waters

Wednesday **Epiphany**
8:30 am Orthros
9:30 am Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of the Waters
4:30 pm Greek School
6:45 pm GOYA Basketball Practice

Thursday **Synaxis of John the Baptist**
8:30 am Orthros
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
7pm Chant Class

Saturday 5pm Vespers

**All submissions for the bulletin should be sent to Jonathan McClish at
mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com **

2016 Philoptochos Membership: It is time once again to join or renew your membership in Philoptochos. Please fill out the form below and return to the church or Connie Carahalis, 224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd., Pgh., PA 15234

Name _____ Address _____
_____ Telephone _____
_____ Email _____

*From your Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to National Philoptochos and \$10 is sent to the Pittsburgh Metropolis Philoptochos. Anything over \$25 goes to Holy Cross Philoptochos