

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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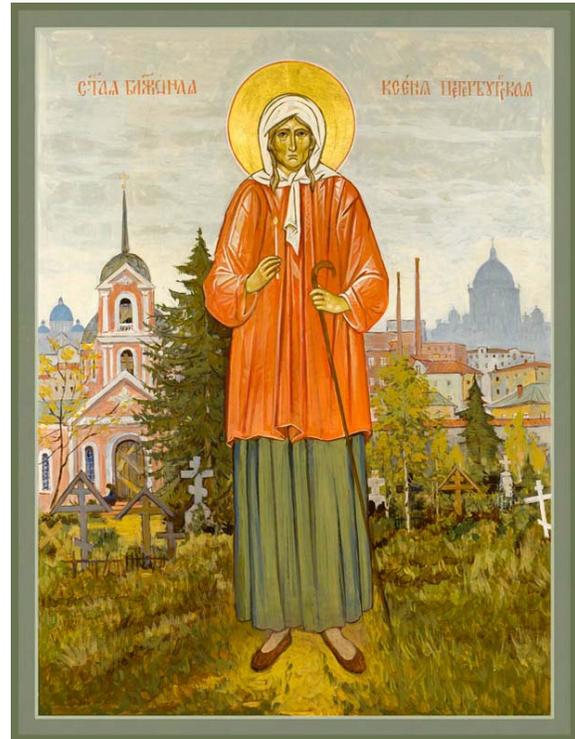
Weekly Bulletin

January 24, 2016



Xenia, Deaconess of Rome

Our righteous Mother Xenia of Rome was of a distinguished family. While her parents were preparing to wed her, she stole away secretly, taking two handmaids with her, and departed for Mylasa of Karia in Asia Minor, and there she completed her life in asceticism. She was ordained deaconess by Paul, her spiritual father, who became Bishop of Mylasa. Although she was originally named Eusebia, to conceal her identity, she took the name Xenia - which means "stranger" in Greek - because of her estrangement from her country.



Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ

Our righteous Mother Xenia of Petersburg was born about the year 1730. She married a Colonel named Andrew when she was twenty-six years old but he died suddenly on night, having been drinking with his friends. Left a childless widow, Xenia gave away all that she had, and vanished from Saint Petersburg for eight years; it is believed that she spent this time in a hermitage, learning the spiritual life. When she returned to Saint Petersburg, she wore her husband's military clothing, and would answer only to the name Andrew, that is, the name of her late husband. She took up the life of a homeless wanderer, and was abused by many as insane. She blessed with great gifts of prayer and prophecy, and often foretold things to come; in 1796 she

foretold the death of Empress Catherine II. Having lived forty- five years after her husband's death, she reposed in peace at the age of seventy-one, about the year 1800. Her grave became such a source of miracles, and so many came to take soil

from it as a blessing, that it was often necessary to replace the soil; when a stone slab was placed over her grave, this too disappeared over time, piece by piece. Saint Xenia is especially invoked for help in finding employment, lodging, or a spouse.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

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 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 First Mode

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

Epistle Reading

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel Reading

14th Sunday of Luke

The Reading is from Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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.

A Sacred Space

The interior church is most importantly, both the background and the setting for Orthodox worship. The art and architecture are designed to contribute to the total experience of worship, which involves one's intellect, feelings, and senses. The Eucharist and the other sacramental mysteries take place in God's midst, and they bear witness to His presence and actions. Therefore, in the Orthodox tradition there is a very strong feeling that the church is the House of God and the place where His glory dwells. For this reason, all Orthodox churches are blessed, consecrated and set aside as sacred space. The whole church bears witness to God's indwelling among His people. As one old admonition says:

"Let the Christian consider well when he enters the church that he is entering another heaven. That same majesty of God which is in heaven is also in his church, and on this account the Christian must enter with reverence and awe."

Rev. Dr. Thomas FitzGerald

Save the Date

GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERS: Please join us on February 16, 2016, from noon until 3 p.m. for a Valentine covered-dish luncheon from noon until 3 p.m. in the Community Center. Entertainment is planned! We are asking members to RSVP with your choice of either bringing a side dish or dessert. Please see the Sunday bulletins for updates on this event and future events. You can RSVP by calling or emailing Rene Koett (412) 831-3142 (rjkoett@yahoo.com) or Cynthia Kostelnik (412) 833-9423 (cakostelnik@yahoo.com) with your covered-dish selection (side dish or dessert). Rene will be collecting dues that day of \$10 for 2016. Cash or checks will be accepted. If paying by check, please make payable to: Golden Club of Holy Cross . We look forward to seeing you all there!

Holy Cross Today

Coffee Hour

Today's coffee hour is sponsored by the Winski, Palonis, and Vayanos 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 date

JOY Cross Dive

JOY: All Saints, Canonsburg Greek Orthodox Church has invited our JOY group to join them in an annual tradition in Diving for the Cross. This fun event is scheduled for January 24, 2016 at Canonsburg, Middle school, 25 East College Street, Canonsburg, Pa 15317 from 1:30-3:30 pm.

This Week at Holy Cross

Monday	St. Gregory the Theologian 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Liturgy 6:30 pm Paraklesis/Bible Study
Tuesday	7pm Martha & Mary
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 6:45 pm GOYA Basketball Practice
Thursday	7pm Chant Class
Saturday	5pm Vespers
Sunday	8:15 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy

Deposits made January 17, 2016	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	\$1,075
Pledges for 2016	\$4,791
Bulletin	
Candles	\$453
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	\$45
Loose Offerings	\$359
Greek School	
Sunday Church School	
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	\$2
Holy Week Envelopes	
Christmas Cards	
Socials/Special Projects	
Golf Outing	
Art Group	
Investment Club	
Hall Deposits for 2016	
Hall Deposits for 2017	\$800
Hall Rental Income	
Caterers	
Miscellaneous Income	
Total Deposit	\$7,525

Mini Capital Campaign Update

	Pledged	Received	Balance
Matching Donors	\$75,000	\$58,500	\$16,500
Donations from Parishioners	\$65,045	\$61,542	\$3,503
Total	\$140,045	\$120,042	\$20,003
Disbursements Made to Date			\$9,970
Building Fund Balance			\$142,843

Financial Snapshot based on \$2,075.33 per day operating cost

Date	Weekly Collections	Weekly Collections Total to date	Estimated operation needs to following Sunday	Difference
1/3	\$13,155	\$13,155	\$20,753.30	-\$7,598.30
1/10	\$7,320	\$20,475	\$35,280.61	-\$14,805.61
1/17	\$7,525	\$28,000	\$49,807.92	-\$21,807.92

A Note from Philoptochos

Save the date for the next Philoptochos meeting on Sunday, February 7 at 12:30PM following the coffee hour! This is a change in the original date of Tuesday February 16th. It should be a short meeting and conclude lots of time before the Super Bowl!

We will begin cooking for the June Food Fair soon! If you purchased frozen food items from Philoptochos, please return the pans to Popi Hagelios for reimbursement! Your pans are needed for baking! Please contact Elaine Sofis at 412 344- 7046 or esofis@comcast.net if you are interested in chairing a lunch or dinner food line

Also, two Holy Cross Philoptochos Society \$1000 Philanthropy Awards are available to two graduating high school seniors from our church. The awards are available to ONLY PLEDGED families of Holy Cross. The application will be available in the church office, narthex or Elaine Sofis beginning on Sunday, January 24, 2016 and returned by Sunday, March 20, 2016. The award is based on your definition of philanthropy, a short essay on your philanthropic work and how your Orthodox Christian faith will guide you as you enter the adult world. A separate, but similar, Philoptochos Philanthropy Award is available to a graduating Mt. Lebanon High School senior in the guidance office, too. You may apply to both awards but will be eligible to receive only one. Please see an application for all the necessary criteria to apply for the award. The Holy Cross application may be returned to the church office or Elaine Sofis, in church, or 121 Woodhaven Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

-Elaine Sofis,
Philoptochos President

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