

# Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
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www.holycrosspgh.org

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

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, March 26, 2016



## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He

was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.

His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

## 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 Sun. of St. Gregory Palamas in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Light of Orthodoxy, pillar and teacher of the Church, adornment of monastics, invincible champion of theologians, O Gregory thou wonderworker, boast of Thessalonica, herald of grace: ever pray 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 Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

## This Week at Holy Cross

Monday	6:30 pm Compline/Bible Study
Tuesday	Golden Club 3:00 Meet at Panera 4:30 My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 6:45 GOYA Volleyball Practice
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 6 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Thursday	5:30 pm Senior Greek Dance
Friday	9 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm Salutations
Saturday	5 pm Vespers and Confession
Sunday	Sunday of the Holy Cross – His Eminence Metropolitan Savas visiting. 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

## **Epistle Reading**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3.

"IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

## **Gospel Reading**

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas The Reading is from Mark 2:1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'" - he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

## **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.

<b>Deposit from Week of 3/20</b>	
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Deposit</b>
<b>Pledges from 2015</b>	\$175
<b>Pledges for 2016</b>	\$7,122
<b>Bulletin</b>	
<b>Candles</b>	\$849
<b>Donations – Unspecified</b>	
<b>Flowers/Communion Wine</b>	
<b>Loose Offerings</b>	\$144
<b>Greek School</b>	\$12
<b>Sunday Church School</b>	
<b>Vacation Church School</b>	
<b>Special Envelopes</b>	\$15
<b>Hall Deposits for 2016</b>	
<b>Hall Deposits for 2017</b>	
<b>Hall Rental Income</b>	
<b>Caterers</b>	\$1270
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	\$109.73
<b>Total Deposit</b>	\$9696.73

<b>Mini Capital Campaign Update</b>			
	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Matching Donors	\$75,000	\$58,500	\$16,500
Donations from Parishioners	\$64,745	\$62,369	\$2,376
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$139,745</b>	<b>\$120,869</b>	
Disbursements Made to Date			\$22,115
Building Fund Balance			\$137,068

<b>Financial Snapshot based on \$2,075.33 per day operating cost</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Weekly Collections</b>	<b>Weekly Collections Total</b>	<b>Estimated operational needs to following Sunday</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Total through Feb.</b>	\$96,764	\$96,764	\$136,971.78	-\$40,207.78
3/6	\$31,311	\$128,075	\$151,499.09	-\$23,424.09
3/13	\$9,778	\$137,853	\$166,026.40	-\$28,173.40
3/20	\$9696.73	\$147,549.73	\$180,553.71	-\$33,003.98

## **Stewardship at a Glance**

As of March 10, we have received 323 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$396,238, making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,229

### About Stewardship

To be a member in good standing, it is necessary to submit a pledge card. Although pledge envelopes are mailed out to everyone, we still need you to submit your 2016 pledge. That is what stewardship is. It is making a commitment in support of our Holy Cross community. We base our budget on the pledge income and this determines what we can, and cannot do. You can pick up a pledge card in the narthex of the Church, pledge on-line at [www.holycrosspgh.org](http://www.holycrosspgh.org) or call Nena in the church office at 412-833-3355. If you have already turned in a pledge card, please try to stay current. We depend on your support.

Thank you,  
Ted Sofis  
Stewardship Chair

## **A Note from Philoptochos**

The No Bake/Bake Sale continues. This is a great fundraiser for Philoptochos. Please look for the purple flyer lying at home with an envelope enclosed! You may send your check to Dena Yamalis or give it to her at church. Thank you for your generosity!

Our next Philoptochos meeting will be Tuesday, April 5 at 7PM. I hope that you can attend!

We are still accepting new members and reminding members to renew in Philoptochos. Please join our worthwhile organization!

We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to serve the Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 24. Please contact Elaine Sofis if able to help.

-Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

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*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 \_\_\_\_\_*

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

## On the Feast of the Annunciation by St. Theodore the Studite

Brethren and fathers, the Annunciation is here and it is the first of the Feasts of the Lord, and we should not simply celebrate as most do, but with understanding and with reverence for the mystery.

What is the Mystery? That the Son of God becomes son of man, using the holy Virgin as the means, dwelling in her and from her fashioning for Himself a temple and becoming perfect man.

Why so? "That he might ransom those under the law" as it is written, "and that we might receive sonship" [Galatians 4:5] that we may no longer be slaves, but free; no longer subject to the passions, but free of passions; no longer friends of the world, but friends of God; no longer walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

"Those who walk according to the flesh, think the things of the flesh; those who walk according to the spirit – [think] the things of the spirit; for the thought of the flesh is death; but the thought of the spirit [is] life and peace. And so the thought of the flesh is hostile to God, for it is not subject to the law of God. Indeed it cannot be. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." [Romans 8:5-8]

So that as far as we ourselves are concerned, we do not render the dispensation of our Lord Jesus Christ empty and ineffectual.

Not only that, but we should both pray and grieve for the world. Why so? Because the Son of God came to save the world, and the world rejects Him. Tribes and languages reject Him, those who have had his holy name invoked upon them reject Him, some through abandoning the faith, others through their evil lives. What should He have done and did not do? Being God He became man, "He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, the death of the cross." [Philippians 2:8] He gave us His body to eat and his blood to drink; He allowed us to call him Father, Brother, Head, Teacher, Bridegroom, Fellow-heir and all the other titles which there is no time to mention now. And still He is rejected, and still He bears it. "For" He says, "I have come to judge the world, but to save the world." [John 12:47]

What then is there to say, brethren? That the genuine disciples are grieved by the rejections of their fellow disciples, this showing love both for the teacher and for the disciples. So too, genuine servants suffer in the same way from the desertions of their fellow servants. This is why the great Apostle orders that "we should offer supplications, prayers, entreaties, thanksgivings on behalf of all mankind, for kings and for all in high positions." [1 Timothy 2:1-2] And, elsewhere he says this on the subject:

"I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bears witness with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have a great grief and unceasing anguish in my heart; for I have prayed that I might be anathema to Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." [Romans 9:1-3]

You see the power of love? You see the height of friendship? Moses shows it too when he says to God: "If you will forgive them their sin, forgive; if not, wipe me out of the book which you have written." [Exodus 32:32]

So we too, as genuine and not counterfeit disciples, should not only look to what concerns ourselves, but we should grieve and pray for our brothers and for the whole world; for by so doing what is pleasing to the Lord we shall become inheritors of eternal life, in Christ Jesus, our Lord, to whom be the glory and the might with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

## **Holy Cross Today**

**Coffee hour today is sponsored by the Greek School Program of Holy Cross.**

Please sign up for coffee hour. Check the calendar online: [www.holycrosspgh.org](http://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](mailto:holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org) or call the church office to request date

## **Save the Date**

Golden Club: On Tuesday, March 29, the Golden Club will be attending the movie, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" at Carmike Galleria 6 movie theater. Prior to the movie, we will be meeting at Panera Bread in the Galleria at 3:00 p.m. for an early dinner. Showtime at 4:30 p.m. Payment of \$5.75/person for movie can be made that day at Panera, at which time you will receive your ticket. Please RSVP by Thursday, March 24th to Rene (412) 831-3142 or Cynthia (412) 833- 9423 to reserve a seat.

Looking Ahead: On Saturday, April 9, the Golden Club will be attending a free Pittsburgh Opera recital

at the Opera Headquarters in the Strip District, followed by a question and answer period. We will be departing by van (and possible car pooling) from the Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and traveling first to The Original Pancake House, Greentree, for breakfast. Recital begins at noon, doors open at 11:30 a.m. Watch for more information regarding this event in the April Cross Roads and weekly bulletins.

## **Community News**

### **Greek Dancing**

Junior Greek Dancers (grades K-6th) are practicing again and would love new dancers. If your child is interested in participating in the Junior Greek Dance group, please contact Kristina Gzikowski [kanetakis@aol.com](mailto:kanetakis@aol.com) 412-956-5166.

### **Scholarship Opportunity**

#### **2016-2017 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

NEW YORK – Applications and instructions for three scholarships administered by the Department of Philanthropy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are available for awards to be made for the 2016- 2017 academic year. The George & Naouma (Gioule) Gioles Scholarship and the Katina John Malta Scholarship are for undergraduate studies, and the Paleologos Scholarship is awarded for graduate work of a non-theological nature. Each of these scholarships was established through generous gifts from dedicated Greek Orthodox Christians who wanted to provide financial assistance towards the education of young people from our Orthodox Christian community.

Applications can be accessed by visiting the scholarship web page.

For more information, please email [scholarships@goarch.org](mailto:scholarships@goarch.org) or call 212-774-0283. The deadline for submitting an application for any of these scholarships is May 6, 2016.

### **FOCUS Food Drive**

There will be a food drive for FOCUS on Sunday, April 3rd, 10th & 17th. Please place your non-perishable food items (no glass, please) in the boxes provided in the narthex. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity,  
Dianne Babb

***Philoptochos Palm Sunday Luncheon  
Baked Cod, Salad, Green Beans and Potatoes,  
Bread and a Cherry or Apple Cobbler  
Adults, \$10***

***Children, 5-12, \$5, 4 and under/ free,***

***served peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, applesauce, chips and Oreo cookies***

***Tickets will be sold on Sunday, April 17 at coffee hour and at the door on  
Palm Sunday, April 24.***

***To reserve by email contact Elaine Sofis at [esofis@comcast.net](mailto:esofis@comcast.net) or  
412 344-7046***

\*\*\* All information for the Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to Jonathan McClish by 11:59 pm of the Wednesday prior for inclusion. Submit to [mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com](mailto:mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com)



# Adjoined at the Thumb

How and Why are we “Connecting?”



**A GOYA Mini-Retreat on how we perceive  
“connection” and what that means for us, and our  
relationship with God and others.**

## **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church**

123 Gilkeson Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238

**Grades 10-12: Friday Evening - April 1st**

Salutations Begins at 6:30 – Pick up at 9:30

Snack and Discussion to Follow

**Grades 7-9: Saturday Morning - April 2nd  
10 am - Noon**

Any questions or concerns please contact Jonathan McClish at:  
[mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com](mailto:mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com)

An estimate of how many are coming would be helpful so please rsvp at email address above.

