

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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Fr. Michael Kallaur
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Dn. Frank Dickos

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, April 3, 2016



Sunday of the Holy Cross

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labor set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

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

We Welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Savas! God grant him many years!

NO CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY, PLEASE RECEIVE COMMUNION AS A FAMILY.

Monday	6:30 pm Compline/Bible Study
Tuesday	7 pm GOYA meeting
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 6 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Thursday	5:30 pm Senior Greek Dance 7 pm Chant Class
Friday	9 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm Salutations
Saturday	10 am- 2 pm Pre-Marriage Seminar 5 pm Vespers and Confession
Sunday	8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Holy Cross Today

Coffee hour today is sponsored by the Philoptochos Society.

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 Memorials

Apologies for not listing memorials, altar flowers and altar candles last week.

Omitted was a Memorial Trisagion for †**Mary Karakis**, 8 years, and altar candles donated in loving memory by her husband Jim Karakis.

Also omitted were altar flowers in loving memory of †**George Gatsiopoulos** from his family. One year memorial was on last Saturday of the Souls.

Sunday, April 3 - Altar flowers are sponsored by John and Diane Hoenig in loving memory of loved ones who have passed in the Hoenig and Landis/Nicholas families.

Going forward, altar candles are \$25 and altar flowers are \$50.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6.

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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. 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.

Stewardship at a Glance

As of April 1, we have received 332 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$402,449. Thus making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,212.

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 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

There is a Philoptochos meeting THIS Tuesday, April 5 at 7PM in the Philoptochos Room. I hope that you can attend!

Please join us for the Philoptochos sponsored Palm Sunday Luncheon on Sunday, April 24 following Liturgy. Please see the flyer in today's bulletin for details. Tickets will be presold on Sunday, April 17 and at the door on April 24.

Adult and teen volunteers are needed to serve and clean-up for the Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 24. Please contact Elaine Sofis at 412 344-7046 or esofis@comcast.net if able to help.

Elaine Sofis,
Philoptochos President

Community News

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

Myrrh Bearers

Attention parents of JOY age girls; grades 2-6. Please contact Laura Zervos if your daughter would like to participate as a miroforos for the Good Friday evening service. Laura Zervos--412-287-5679

Laura_jz@msn.com



On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression.

The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers

of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Veneration of the Cross on September 14. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of

Jerusalem.

Another icon related to this feast depicts the actual service of veneration that is conducted in the churches on the Third Sunday of Lent. (See icon at beginning of article) In the center of the icon is the Cross. It is on a table surrounded by flowers. Above the Cross is the image of Christ in a partial mandorla representing His glory. He is blessing those who have gathered to venerate the Cross, the rulers, clergy, monastics, and laity.

As in the service of veneration, the icon shows the priest venerating the Cross as the people chant the hymn "We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify," which is inscribed on the table holding the Cross.

The Sunday of the Holy Cross is commemorated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, which is preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on Saturday evening. The hymns of the Triodion for this day are added to the usual prayers and hymns of the weekly commemoration of the Resurrection of Christ.

Scripture readings for the Sunday of Orthodoxy are: At the Orthros (Matins): The prescribed weekly Gospel reading. At the Divine Liturgy: [Hebrews 4:14-5:6](#); [Mark 8:34-9:1](#).

At the conclusion of the Matins (the traditional practice in association with a vigil) or of the Divine Liturgy, a special service is held. The Cross is placed on a tray surrounded by basil or daffodils and is taken in solemn procession through the church to the chanting of the Thrice Holy Hymn. The tray is placed on a table before the people, and the hymn of the Feast of the Cross is chanted. As the priest venerates the Cross, the priest then the people chant, "We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your holy Resurrection we

glorify." At the conclusion of the service, the people come and venerate the cross and receive the flowers or basil from the priest.

Source:http://lent.goarch.org/sunday_of_the_cross/learn/

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 or call 212-774-0283. The deadline for submitting an application for any of these scholarships is May 6, 2016.

Save the Date

Golden Club Members: On Saturday, April 9, our Golden Club members will be attending a free Pittsburgh Opera recital at the Opera Headquarters in the Strip District. 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. The recital begins at noon, doors open at 11:30 a.m. Please call Rene (412) 831-3142 (rjkoett@yahoo.com) or Cynthia (412) 833-9423 (cakostelnik@yahoo.com) to reserve a seat on the van by April 6th. We will be collecting dues that day of \$10 for the year 2016.

Saints Mary & Martha Group: Tuesday April 12, Fr. Demitri Carellas will be speaking on the Beatitude "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." If you are interested in coming, please RSVP with Stellani Coleman by calling 724- 942-3838.

*** 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



Palm Sunday, **April 24, 2014**



Luncheon sponsored by
Philoptochos

Baked Cod, Salad, Green Beans and Potatoes,
a cherry or apple cobbler and bread

Adults, \$10

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

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

Ticket 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 or 412 344-7046

Please buy your tickets in
advance so we can determine how
much food to cook!

Thank you for attending!

Tickets will be sold at the door for the same price.

Deposit from Week of 3/20	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	
Pledges for 2016	\$24,254
Bulletin	
Candles	\$512
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	\$20
Loose Offerings	\$122
Greek School	\$15
Sunday Church School	
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	\$1
Holy Week Envelopes	
Christmas Cards	
Baptismal Candles	
Socials/Special Projects	
Golf Outing	
Art Group	
Investment Club	
Hall Deposits for 2016	
Hall Deposits for 2017	
Hall Rental Income	
Caterers	
Miscellaneous Income	\$300
Total Deposit	\$25,224

Mini Capital Campaign Update

	Pledged	Received	Balance
Matching Donors	\$75,000	\$62,000	\$13,000
Donations from Parishioners	\$64,745	\$65,745	
Total	\$139,745	\$127,745	
Disbursements Made to Date			\$22,115
Building Fund Balance			\$139,568

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

Date	Weekly Collections	Weekly Collections Total	Estimated operational needs to following Sunday	Difference
Total through Feb.	\$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	\$9,696.73	\$147,549.73	\$180,553.71	-\$33,003.98
3/27	\$25,642	\$173,191.73	\$195,081.02	-\$21,889.29