

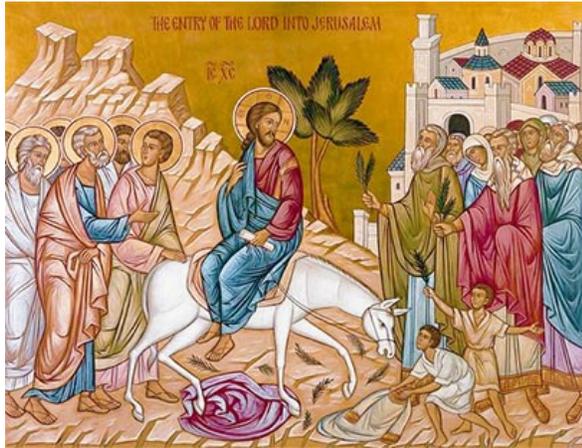
Holy Cross

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

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, April 24, 2016



Palm Sunday

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus

was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the First Mode

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the Fourth Mode

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Second Mode

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

This Week at Holy Cross

Sunday	5 pm Bridegroom Service
Monday	9 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 10:30 am Cross Roads Assembly 6:30 Bridegroom Service
Tuesday	9 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:30 Bridegroom Service with Hymn of Kassiani
Wednesday	9 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 3 pm Holy Unction 6 pm Second Unction and Matins for Holy Thursday
Thursday	9 am Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:30 pm Service of the Passion (12 Gospels) 10 pm All Night Vigil by the Cross
Friday	9 am Royal Hours 3 pm Taking Down from the Cross 6:30 pm Matins/Praises
Saturday	9 am Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil (First Anastasi) 11 pm Nocturns, Procession, Matins, and Liturgy – Agape Meal to follow
Sunday	<u>Pascha!</u> 12 Noon - Agape Vespers

Holy Cross Today

Philoptochos Fish Dinner

Join us today in the Community Center for the annual Philoptochos Fish Dinner! Tickets are available at the door: Adults \$10, Children ages 5-12 \$5, and Children 4 and under are free! Come join the community in celebration of this important Church Feast!

Philoptochos Bread Sale

Philoptochos will be selling Pascha bread after Liturgy today for \$10 a loaf. Purchase this delicacy to support all the wonderful work the Women's Philoptochos Society does for the community!

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9.

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

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.

Stewardship at a Glance

As of April 24th, we have received 338 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$403,776, making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,194.60.

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

Please join us today after Liturgy for the Philoptochos Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon! Tickets are available at the door for \$10 adults and \$5 children (5-12). Ages 4 and under are free. Adult and Teen volunteers are needed to help serve and cleanup at the luncheon today.

A second basket will be passed today to help defray the cost of Epitaphion flowers.

Thank you to all who gave generously to the FOCUS Lenten Food Drive and to Dianne Babb, our FOCUS representative, who tirelessly delivers the much appreciated food donations.

Easter bread,\$10, is available today! Save yourself the time of baking! Thank you to our bakers, kneaders and wrappers who gave their time to make the delicious bread!

Circle of Angels is requesting cookie donations on May 3 in the church office to make Easter baskets for the shut-ins.

The next Philoptochos meeting is Tuesday, May 3 at 7PM. I hope that you can attend.

Congratulations to Philoptochos member, Aliko Andrews, on being selected by the Metropolis as a St. Photios recipient for her 40 years of radio broadcasts on the Greek Hour of Pittsburgh.

Elaine Sofis
Philoptochos President

Community News

Myrrh bearers

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

CIRCLE OF ANGELS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

While you are preparing your Pascha goodies for your family celebration, will you please keep in mind the homebound and our brothers and sisters in the nursing homes and hospitals and set aside some of your yummy home baked cookies for them. (no nuts or powdered sugar please). We will be packing the cookie baskets for our infirm parishioners on Wednesday, May 4th at 1:00 PM.

Please deliver your cookies to the church office on Tuesday, May 3rd.

Thank you and God bless you and your families. Kali Anastasi!!!

Profound Disruption: Holy Week & Pascha

April 22, 2016 by Elissa
Bjeletich

<http://blogs.ancientfaith.com/raisingsaints/profound-disruption-holy-week-pascha/>

Holy Week is a Big Deal.

There are services morning and night (if you're lucky enough to have a full-time priest in your parish) and they can wear you out. They'll take over your life. Trying to accomplish the basic requirements of a family life (providing meals and clean laundry and maybe showering) can become pretty challenging when you're endeavoring to really live Holy Week.

It is profoundly disruptive to your family rhythm.

Some parents will look at that schedule and shrug, confident that Holy Week was not designed for families.

In fact, Holy Week is designed for families. It is a targeted medicine for the very spiritual illness that ails modern American families most especially: the sickness of worldly busyness.

Our families cater to complex children's schedules, and we run from work to take the kids to practice; we travel to see them play games and tournaments; we push back mealtimes and ignore church services. We allow the rhythm of our homes to be set by coaches, rather than settle into the healthier patterns of the church calendar

and prayer cycles.

Holy Week and Pascha disrupt all of this.

The Church calls out to you: Put it away. Lay aside your earthly cares, and come here. Stop playing with toys, spinning with the pursuits that will fade away and disappear when we die. Come face your Lord, come walk with us to Golgotha and dive down into Hades to rise up on the third day. Enter into the eternal truth.

Holy Week and Pascha disrupt our lives because we need disruption. We get all too comfortable just showing up on Sundays. We get caught up in the nonsense of our daily lives, and we begin to think that these details and entertainments are 'real'. Christ is real. His resurrection is real.

The details and scuffles and frustrations of our daily lives are where we work out our salvation, but they will all fade away in an instant. They are not real like God is real; in eternity, they will be revealed as vain imaginings and illusions. At the Second Coming, all of this noise will be silenced and we will stand before the Lord our God, and the idea of soccer practice will not once enter our heads.

There are pep talks and practical blog posts on how to pull it off all over the Orthosphere right now. (Check out the links at the bottom of this post.) Make some food now that can be quickly eaten later. Cancel all of your appointments, email the coaches and let them know that your kids will be at church next week. Put the parish Holy Week schedule on your cell phone. Get ready, because it's coming.

Yes, Holy Week will disrupt our plans, thank God. What could be more disruptive than this:

*Today He who hung the earth upon
the waters is hung upon the Cross.
He who is King of the angels is*

arrayed in a crown of thorns. He who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery. He who in Jordan set Adam free receives blows upon His face. The Bridegroom of the Church is transfixed with nails. The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear. (Great & Holy Friday: Fifteenth Antiphon of the Matins (Plagal of the Second Tone))

Everything must be disrupted to take us off the path of death. Our Lord took on flesh, somehow containing the uncontainable in a human body, to disrupt everything, to change our course, to save us.

He will willingly enter Hades to destroy it;

more than a disruption, but an annihilation. The gates are torn asunder, and Hades is no more.

On Great & Holy Friday, we'll sing "Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Cross." Today. Not 2000 years ago, but today. Because time changes in Holy Week.

On Palm Sunday, we'll celebrate the divine liturgy. But that night, we'll celebrate Matins. And from that evening forth, the Matins (morning services) are in the evening and the Vespers (evening services) are in the morning. Time is on its head. Holy Week is intentionally disruptive.

This is what we need, so let's give in to it. Throw caution to the wind, and let our lives be disrupted and transformed.

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

The St. Photios Banquet will be Saturday May, 7th. Ad sponsorships are due by April 15th and reservations for the dinner are should be in by April 20th. Call Mary Doreza at **412-877-3415** to make reservations.

Golden Club Members: On May 17, 2016, our Golden Club members will be traveling to St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church in Millvale for a conducted tour of the elaborate murals by artist Maxo Vanka (1890-1963). The murals tell the story of the Croatian peasants who left their native farm lands at the turn of the 20th century to seek a better life in the post-industrial United States of America. The evocative murals also capture Vanka's strong belief about the futility of war and his sadness about the destruction of the motherland. Prior to the tour, we will be stopping for lunch. Please see the May Cross Roads and Sunday bulletins for further information regarding this event. Contact either Rene Koett or Cynthia Kostelnik for reservations. We hope to see you all there!

Golden Club Membership: We encourage all parishioners, 50 years of age and older, to join our lively group as we share in fellowship and explore our region's venues, including historical sites, churches, concerts, plays, movies, opera and museums, just to name a few. Membership is only \$10 per year! Events are planned once a month from January through May and resume again in September through the end of the calendar year. If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Rene Koett at 412-831-3142 (rjkoett@yahoo.com) or Cynthia Kostelnik at 412-833-9423 (cakostelnik@yahoo.com). We hope you will consider joining The Golden Club of Holy Cross!

<p>*** 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</p>

Deposit from Week of 4/17	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	
Pledges for 2016	\$6,499
Bulletin	
Candles	\$583
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	\$20
Loose Offerings	\$93
Greek School	
Sunday Church School	\$8
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	
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	\$92
Total Deposit	\$7,295

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 Mar.	\$173,191.73	\$173,191.73	\$195,081.02	-\$21,889.29
4/3	\$13,038	\$186,229.73	\$209,608.33	-\$23,378.60
4/10	\$13,809	\$200,038.73	\$224,135.64	-\$24,096.91
4/17	\$7,295	\$207,333.73	\$238,662.95	-\$31,329.22

**Food Fair
We Can Do It!**

