

Holy Cross

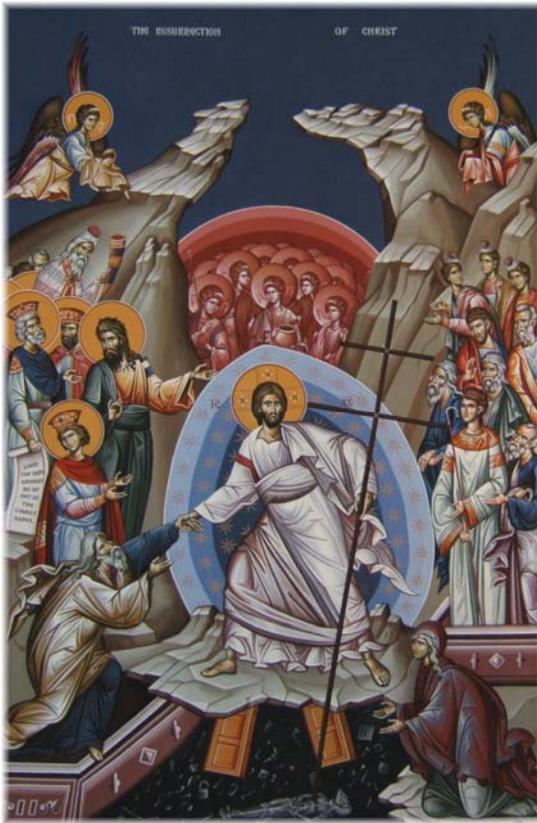
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Fr. Michael Kallaur
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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Христось воскресе! Христос васкрсе!
Christus ist auferstanden! Le Christ est ressuscité! Cristo è risorto!
¡Cristo ha resucitado! اِقاح اِقاح اِقاح حيسملا! Christ is Risen!



Great and Holy Pascha

Early dawn on the Sunday Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour - almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women,

however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion for Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode

Christ is risen from the dead, by death He has trampled down death, and to those in the tombs He has bestowed life.

Hypakoe of Great and Holy Pascha in the Fourth Mode

When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre, they heard from the Angel: Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of men.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

This Week at Holy Cross

Sunday	Noon Agape Vespers
Monday	The Feast of St. George at St. George Antiochian Cathedral Oakland 9 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	9 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy @ Chapel of Sts. Nicholas, Rafael, and Irene - Oakmont, PA 7 pm Philoptochos Meeting 7 pm GOYA Meeting
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School
Thursday	7 pm Chant Class
Friday	Life Giving Font 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Liturgy
Saturday	9 am GOYA Volleyball Tournament St. Photios Awards Banquet
Sunday	Sunday of Thomas Mother's Day 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

40 Days for Zenovia Spanos and memorial for all
Departed Mothers

Epistle Reading

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8.

IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Holy Cross Today

Altar flowers are donated in loving memory of John Babb by Dianne, Rebecca, Peter, Andrea, Brendan and Charlotte.

Altar candles are donated in loving memory of John Babb by Nouna Niki Aronson.

The Paschal Meal is Sponsored by the Parish Council of Holy Cross, come join us as we break the fast and share in fellowship with our community!

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 24, 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 this Tuesday, May 3 at 7PM for a short Philoptochos meeting.

Circle of Angels will be collecting cookie donations this Tuesday, May 3 in the church office to make Easter baskets for our shut ins. Please no nuts or powdered sugar.

Holy Cross is hosting the Metropolis Oratorical Festival and Luncheon on Saturday, May 14.

Please let me know if you can assist with the luncheon. 412 344-7046 or esofis@comcast.net

Thank you to all of the adults, teens and GOYANS who set-up, served, cooked and cleaned-up at the Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon. Thank you to all who attended this very successful Philoptochos fund raiser.

Elaine Sofis Philoptochos President

Community News

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.

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!!!

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. 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!

Graduate's Sunday – We will be celebrating those from our parish who will be graduating at the end of the 2015-2016 academic year on Sunday June 5th.

Vacation Church School – This summer Holy Cross will again be hosting a week of Orthodox education and fellowship for the Orthodox youth of the Pittsburgh area. This year's theme is "Miracles" and will be from Monday July 25th through Friday July 29th.

ITALIAN FEAST & GIFT BASKET RAFFLE - St. John's Church in North Side Pittsburgh (2688 California Ave) will be having a fundraiser dinner and raffle on Saturday, May 14 from 4:00-6:30 (Doors open at 3pm). Over 30 Amazing Gift Baskets to Raffle! Ticket Prices: \$20 per Adult 18 and older, \$10 per Child Ages 6-17; \$50 for Family Admission. Ticket Price includes: Admission Ticket, 8 Basket Raffle Tickets, 2 Drink Coupons, Homemade Italian Spaghetti Dinner with Appetizers, Salad Bar, and Dessert. Come and enjoy an Italian evening with friends! Reservations can be made by May 12 by calling 412-766-4691

Sermon on the Resurrection by St. John Chrysostom

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Deposit from Week of 4/17	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	
Pledges for 2016	\$8,696
Bulletin	
Candles	\$1,076
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	\$50
Loose Offerings	
Greek School	
Sunday Church School	
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	
Holy Week Envelopes	\$686
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	
Epitaphion	\$715
Miscellaneous Income	\$10.85
Total Deposit	\$11,846.85

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
4/24	\$11,846.85	\$219,180.58	\$253,190.26	-\$34,009.68

