

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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Fr. Michael Kallaur
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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, May 8, 2016



Thomas Sunday

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Savior wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection.

But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His

hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of 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 granted life.

Apolytikion for Thomas Sun. in the Grave Mode

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

Apolytikion for John the Theologian in the Second Mode

O Apostle, beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver a defenseless people. He that allowed thee to recline on His breast, receiveth thee bowing in intercession. Implore Him, O Theologian, to dispel the persistent cloud of the heathen, and ask for us His peace and great mercy.

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.

Happy Mother's Day!

We pray God continues to Bless all the Mothers of the Holy Cross Community!

This Week at Holy Cross

Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School
Thursday	5:30 pm Senior Greek Dance Group 7 pm Chant Class
Saturday	Metropolis Oratorical Festival here at Holy Cross 5 pm Vespers
Sunday	8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Memorials

40 Days - Jenova Spanos
20 Years - Nedjelka Nekezova

Altar candles are donated in loving memory of Jenova Sapanos
by John and Janet Conomos.

Coffee hour is sponsored by George James, Angelo & Tula Kazalas, Lou & Pat Moraytis, George & Tula Thiros, Frank & Joanne Tripodes.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. John's First Universal Letter 1:1-7.

THAT WHICH WAS from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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 May 5, we have received 340 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$406,400.00, making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,195.29

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

Happy Mother's Day to all the women of Holy Cross who make Philoptochos a valuable organization in this changing world.

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

From the National Office of Philoptochos

Dear Philoptochos Sisters,
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society May 8, 2016

On this day set aside to celebrate our mothers, I wish that all of you know the love of a mother - uncompromising, unconditional and all-encompassing love that holds us in its embrace long after childhood and throughout our lives. I pray that each of us can forever reflect on and bask in the warmth of that love and the comfort of a mother's watchful gaze- even after our mothers depart this life.

Please take a moment to thank your mother and those who have offered you a mother's love - today and all the days of the year.

Happy Mother's Day,
Maria Logus

Save the Date

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!

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. Extra Basket Raffle Tickets may be purchased throughout the evening at an additional cost. Come and enjoy an Italian evening with friends! Reservations can be made by May 12 by calling 412-766-4691

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.



Food Fair – The Food Fair is fast approaching, please keep June 15th through the 18th open as we will need all the help you can offer!

God Does His Best Work in Caves

By Robin Dugall

David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. - 1 Samuel 22:1

Discouragement is a common emotion to us and is one of the great enemies of the Christ-following experience. It is an enemy of personal drive and vision. It is a cancer that will pull enthusiasm and joy right out of you. But it is also a test because how you respond to discouragement when things are not going well is one of the most important challenges that you will ever face as a person who loves and follows Jesus.

During the reign of King Saul, a prophet of God, Samuel, anointed young David as the future king of Israel. Even before he became king, the people of the kingdom fell in love with David. Everything he touched turned to gold. He was victorious over one of Israel's most feared enemies, Goliath. When King Saul Struggled with emotional issues David was there to comfort him. If there was ever a guy who was on a roll, it was David. It appeared that nothing could go wrong for him. Then, one by one, the tables turned.

Look over this litany of loss in David's life: He lost his job. He went from shepherd boy to acclaimed warrior to fugitive. He lost his popularity, statues, and income. He lost his wife when King Saul gave her to another man. He lost his mentor when Samuel died. He lost his best friend Jonathan. He lost his home. The Bible tells us that he eventually ran to Gath, the land of Israel's enemies. After all David went through, he ended up in the camve of Adullam. He expected a palace but got a cave! Devastating! Does a cave sound like a place you've visited before? The Cave is where you go when all the props, crutches, and all that holds you up gives way; when suddenly, things don't work out as you've envisioned.

Maybe you've lost a job, financial security, spouse, dream of family life, mentor, friend, or health. We've all been there. The truth is, sooner or later, everybody logs some serious time in The Cave. The Cave is where God does some of his best work. God molds and shapes us in The Cave like nowhere else. When you end up in The Cave, I encourage you to embrace it? Why? Because when all you've got is God, you quickly come to the realization, that He is enough. Mother Teresa one said, "You'll never know Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you've got." He is able to transoform discouragement into encouragement. He transforms fear into confidence. He is able to bring new life out of the most desperate of circumstances. Are you in The Cave? Look for Jesus.

Deposit from Week of 5/1	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	\$80
Pledges for 2016	\$6,112
Bulletin	
Candles	\$3,143

Mini Capital Campaign Update

Donations – Unspecified	\$825
Flowers/Communion Wine	\$1,252
Loose Offerings	\$748
Greek School	
Sunday Church School	
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	\$78
Holy Week Envelopes	\$3,682
Christmas Cards	
Baptismal Candles	
Socials/Special Projects	
Golf Outing	
Art Group	
Investment Club	
Friday Night Candles	\$1,762
Epitaphion Flowers	\$201
Pascha Candles	\$2,395
Miscellaneous Income	
Total Deposit	\$20,278

	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 April	\$219,180.58	\$219,180.58	\$253,190.26	-\$34,009.68
5/1	\$20,278	\$239,458.58	\$267,717.57	-\$28,258.99

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