

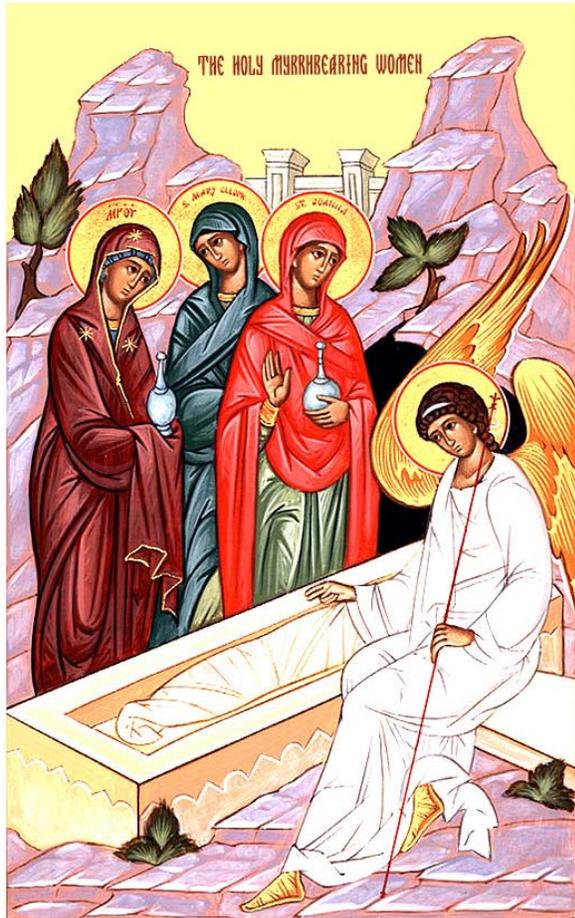
Holy Cross

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

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, May 15, 2016



Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions,

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulchre, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence.

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Saviour, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Saviour's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counsellors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says.

Apolytikion for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday 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 Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday in the Second Mode

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday in the Second Mode

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting 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

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.

Holy Cross Today

Today, we are blessed to have visiting **Polly Hillier**, the Director of the St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine, Florida. We welcome Polly to our community of Holy Cross, and pray God continues to Bless her in her work!

Also, following Liturgy, we will be having a luncheon for all of those who volunteered their time this year with **Sunday Church School**. We are grateful for their giving of their time and thank them!

Coffee hour is sponsored by the GOYA of Holy Cross.

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

This Week at Holy Cross

Monday	6:30 pm Paraklesis/Bible Study
Tuesday	9:30 am Golden Club Outing 10 am First Steps of Christ 7 pm GOYA Meeting
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School
Thursday	7 pm Chant Class
Saturday	Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy 5 pm Vespers
Sunday	8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Greek Dance following Liturgy

Epistle Reading

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7.

IN THOSE DAYS, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel Reading

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

FOOD FAIR GIFT CARDS
WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER CHURCH
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER \$10 PER CARD
BONUS PURCHASE BY \$50 AND RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$10
FOOD FAIR JUNE 15TH-18TH

Circle of Angels

Thank you to all who baked or donated cookies and candy for our brothers and sisters who are homebound and for those in nursing homes. We appreciate the time and effort you expended to bring joy and a ray of hope to those who are suffering. Thank you so much! Christos Anesti!!

Vacation Church School is coming up fast! The dates of the program this year are July 25th - 29th and we have a need for teachers and volunteers to help in classes, with skits, athletics, music, arts & crafts, and snacks. We will meet Wednesday June 1st to If you are able and interested, please contact Jonathan McClish at 412.833.3355 or mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com

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.

A Note from Philoptochos

Souzoukakia will be prepared today, May 15 following Liturgy. The hall is rented on May 22 and there will be NO cooking that Sunday, however additional spanakopita and galaktobouriko cooking will take place that Monday and Tuesday, the 23rd and 24th.

June 15-18 Food Fair food line chairpersons, prep room, runners, take-out, and pastries.

Much help is needed at the food fair food lines. Lunch time duties are 11:15 - 3:00 Dinner food line duties are 4:15 -9:00. Please contact a chairperson to donate your time. June 15, 16, 17, 18 are the dates. If you cannot commit to a full shift, please let the chairperson know what times are convenient for you, for example, 11:30-1:30PM or 6:00-9:00PM Any time is appreciated!

Wednesday, June 15 Lunch - Aliki Andrews 412 833-4596

Wednesday, June 15 Dinner- Georgia Burkhart 724 260-5052

Thursday, June 16 Lunch- Elaine Sofis 412 344-7046

Thursday, June 16 Dinner- Elaine Sofis 412 344-7046

Friday, June 17 Lunch- Terpsie Katsafanas 412 831-2248

Friday, June 17 Dinner- Elaine Sofis 412 344-7046

Saturday, June 18 Lunch- Cynthia Kostelnik 412 833-9423

Saturday June 18 Dinner- Elaine Sofis 412 344-7046

Help is needed in the prep room to prepare salads, pan dolmathes, prepare gyro sauce June 15-18. Please contact Elaine Sofis at esofis@comcast.net or 412 344-7046

We are also looking for strong men and women to carry food pans from the kitchen to the food lines for lunch and dinner, June 15-June 18. Please contact Elaine Sofis 412 344-7046 to give your name.

TAKE-OUT at the food fair also needs volunteers. Take-out is Wednesday, June 15, Thursday, June 16, Friday, June 17 Hours are 11:30AM-7:00PM Please call Marsha Taylor 412 884-4863 and commit to a shift.

Pastries needs volunteers for lunch and dinner ALL Days, June 15-18, 11:30-2:30PM and 4:30-9PM. Please contact Dena Yamalis at dynamalis@comcast.net or 412 343-8355
Please volunteer. Your help is truly appreciated!

Elaine Sofis

Philoptochos President and Food Line Chairperson

Save the Date

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!

The **Saints Mary and Martha Group** will be meeting Tuesday May 24th at the Kallaur home. Fr. Michael will be speaking on the beatitudes "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [, and] Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Please RSVP with Presvytera Eleni at 412.443.5873.

Deposit from Week of 5/8	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	
Pledges for 2016	\$4,464
Bulletin	
Candles	\$513
Donations – Unspecified	\$500
Flowers/Communion Wine	
Loose Offerings	\$217
Greek School	\$17
Sunday Church School	
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	
Holy Week Envelopes	\$105
Christmas Cards	
Baptismal Candles	
Socials/Special Projects	
Golf Outing	
Art Group	
Investment Club	
Miscellaneous Income	
Total Deposit	\$5,816

<u>Mini Capital Campaign Update</u>			
	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
5/8	\$5,816	\$245,274.58	\$282,244.88	-\$36,970.30

