

# Holy Cross

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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, May 29, 2016



## Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Jesus of Navi (Joshua) addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king.

## 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.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat, and He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations. After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine, and her feast is kept on February 26.

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Mode

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spake to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

### Apolytikion for Mid-Pentecost in the Plagal Fourth Mode

At Mid-feast give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for Thou, O Saviour, didst cry out to all: Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-spring of life, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

### 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.

### This Week at Holy Cross

Monday	<b>Memorial Day</b> 9am - 11am Jefferson Cemetery 12 noon - 2pm Mr. Lebanon Cemetery
Tuesday	6:16 pm GOYA Family End of Year Party
Wednesday	7pm Vacation Church School Volunteer Meeting
Thursday	7 pm Chant Class
Saturday	5pm Vespers
Sunday	8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Greek Dance Practice following Liturgy

### Memorials

40 Days - George Rangos  
All Departed Military Veterans

### Epistle Reading

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30.

IN THOSE DAYS, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch

spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord.

So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

### **Gospel Reading**

The Reading is from John 4:5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

### **Stewardship at a Glance**

As of May 27, we have received 348 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$408,552.00, making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,174.

#### 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](http://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

### **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.

## **Community News**

### **New Parish Directory**

Work on an UPDATED Parish Directory with pictures has begun. Please expect a call from a committee member to verify and update information.

In addition to confirming mailing addresses and home phone numbers, we are gathering email address and cell phone numbers to have that contact information in the church database. It is your choice whether to have it published or not in the directory, but for emergency purposes, we would like to have it for the church files.

Also, while we hope all families avail themselves of this opportunity to have family photographs taken as they see fit, we would like all adult children - those over the age of 21 - to have their own entry in the directory. Please plan your time with the photographer accordingly.

We want to inform and encourage everyone to have a picture taken for the directory. Look for information in church bulletins and handouts soon in the narthex.

Thank you for your cooperation!  
The Directory Committee

### **Food Fair**

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**

**ATTENTION HOLY CROSS FOOD FESTIVAL WORKERS: THE NEW T-SHIRTS ARE HERE!!**

**Shirts are available for pre-sale at Coffee Hour on May 22, May 30, June 5th, and June 12th**

**T-SHIRTS: \$15** (HC festival worker special price) , **\$20** (public price at Marketplace after June 12th) **POLO SHIRTS: \$35**

Cash, checks accepted - please make out to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church Marketplace.

Any questions? Please contact Ponny Jahn at 412-737-5528

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**



Cooking for the festival will continue Tuesday the 31st and Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup>, please come to help, and please provide your own lunch.

**More Important Food Fair announcements are in "A Note from Philoptochos."**



**Vacation Church School**

**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. If you are able and interested, please contact Jonathan McClish at 412.833.3355 or [mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com](mailto:mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com)

It is very important to have as many volunteers as possible to keep the program as successful as it has been in previous years!

### **Coffee Hour Sponsorship**

Coffee hour is sponsored by the **Beth Rangos** in loving memory of her husband **George Rangos**.

Please sign up for coffee hour. Check the calendar online: [www.holycrosspgh.org](http://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](mailto:holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org) or call the church office to request date

**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 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have a Graduate in the family or know of one, please call the church office with their information.

\*\*\* 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](mailto:mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com)

<b>Deposit from Week of 5/22</b>	
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Deposit</b>
<b>Pledges from 2015</b>	
<b>Pledges for 2016</b>	\$7,310

## Mini Capital Campaign Update

<b>Bulletin</b>	
<b>Candles</b>	\$498
<b>Donations – Unspecified</b>	\$50
<b>Flowers/Communion Wine</b>	\$50
<b>Loose Offerings</b>	
<b>Greek School</b>	
<b>Sunday Church School</b>	\$6
<b>Vacation Church School</b>	
<b>Special Envelopes</b>	
<b>Holy Week Envelopes</b>	\$6
<b>Christmas Cards</b>	
<b>Baptismal Candles</b>	
<b>Socials/Special Projects</b>	
<b>Hall Deposits – Current Year</b>	
<b>Hall Rental Income - 2016</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	
<b>Total Deposit</b>	\$7,920

	Pledged	Received	Balance
Matching Donors	\$75,000	\$62,000	\$13,000
Donations from Parishioners	\$75,000	\$65,745	\$9,255
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$127,745</b>	<b>\$22,255</b>
Disbursements Made to Date			\$27,516
Building Fund Balance			\$141,450

Financial Snapshot based on \$2,075.33 per day operating cost				
Date	Weekly Collections	Weekly Collections Total	Estimated operational needs to following Sunday	Difference
<b>Total through April</b>	\$219,180.58	\$219,180.58	\$253,190.26	-\$34,009.68
<b>5/1</b>	\$20,278	\$239,458.58	\$267,717.57	-\$28,258.99
<b>5/8</b>	\$5,816	\$245,274.58	\$282,244.88	-\$36,970.30
<b>5/15</b>	\$10,999.03	\$265,273.61	\$296,772.19	-\$31,498.58
<b>5/22</b>	\$7,920	\$273,193.61	\$311,299.50	-\$38,105.89