

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, June 5, 2016



Sunday of the Blind Man

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born without

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.

eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam."

Therefore, the Savior sent the blind man to this pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay-not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, and leave no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

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	6:30 pm Paraklesis/Bible Study
Tuesday	7 pm Philoptochos Meeting
Wednesday	Leavetaking of Pascha 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Thursday	Holy Ascension 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 7 pm Chant Class
Saturday	5pm Vespers
Sunday	8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Greek Dance Practice and Food Fair set-up following Liturgy

Memorials

Altar flowers are sponsored by John and Diane Hoenig in loving memory of loved ones who have passed in the Hoenig and Landis/Nicholas families.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34.

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed

Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days.

But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent).

So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.

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 31st, 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 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

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

A Note from Philoptochos

Please join us for a Philoptochos meeting this Tuesday, June 7, at 7PM on the carpeted area of the community center. Alyssa Klimso will give a brief presentation on her recent mission trip to Honduras at the beginning of the meeting.

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. Lunchtime 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 - Aliko 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 dyamalis@comcast.net or 412 343-8355

Please volunteer. Your help is truly appreciated!

Elaine Sofis,
Philoptochos President and Food Line Chairperson

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 TODAY with Kourambiethes the 31st and Tomorrow, Monday the 6th with Pasta Flora, please come to help, and please provide your own lunch.

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



New Parish Directory

Dear Parishioners,

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

IOCC Craft Beer Tasting

Tuesday June, 14 from 6-8 pm, IOCC will be hosting a Craft Beer Tasting at Spoonwood Brewing Company (5981 Baptist Road Pittsburgh, PA 15236). Tickets are \$30 per person and benefit IOCC's global humanitarian work.

For tickets call Kevin at 724.344.5610 or send checks to IOCC to:
Nick Terezis c/o IOCC, 306 Mayberry Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Basille the Comedian

Basille will be performing at Holy Trinity Ambridge Friday June 10th. If you are interested in tickets please call the church at 724-266-5336.

Coffee hour is sponsored by the Women's Philoptochos Society

Please sign up for coffee hour. Check the calendar 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

<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>
