

Holy Cross

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

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, June 26, 2016



The Sunday of All Saints

Honouring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honourable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the

meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honour all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honour the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honour and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honour today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for All Saints in the Fourth Mode

Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, though them, doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.

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

As the first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in off'ring unto Thee, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquillity, through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

This Week at Holy Cross

Thursday 7 pm Chant Class

Sunday 8:15 am Orthros
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Memorials

Eleftherios "Louis" Melis 2 years
Michael Megaludis 2 years
Dorothea Megaludis 10 years
Deanne Drandakis 8 years
Lottie (Kyriaki) Apostolos 2 years
Nicholas Megaludis 54 years
Maria Megaludis 46 years
Vasilios Orfanopoulos 42 years
Mary Orfanopoulos 19 years
Katherine Orson 35 years
Sotiri (Sam) Vlastos 5 years

Altar flowers are sponsored by the Megaludis and Politis families and Altar candles are sponsored by the Melis family in loving memory of loved ones who have passed.

Coffee hour is sponsored by the Megaludis, Politis, and Melis Families.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2.

BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Stewardship at a Glance

As of June 23rd, we have received 351 pledge cards, for a total pledge amount of \$408,673.00, making the average 2016 pledge thus far \$1,164.31

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

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.

A Note from Philoptochos

Thank you to ALL of the volunteers at this week's 44th food festival! The food food fair was successful because of your enthusiasm, time and dedication. Thank you, especially, to all of the chairpersons at the various venues. A HUGE thank you to Jim Spanos and Duane Ferencz who spent the last 6 months overseeing and planning our festival!

Please mark your calendars for the Philoptochos Food Fair and Yiayia Joan's Attic, October 5,6,7 We hope to have the same enthusiasm, volunteers and dedication to maintain our philanthropic efforts!

Elaine Sofis,

Philoptochos President

Community News

Vacation Church School is coming up fast! The dates of the program this year are July 25th - 29th and we have a need for volunteers to help in classes, with skits, athletics, music, arts & crafts, and snacks.

There will be a final meeting for all volunteers and teachers Wednesday July 20th at 7 pm, it is important everyone who is involved be there.

If you are able and interested, please contact Jonathan McClish at 412.833.3355 or mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com

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 all families may use this opportunity to have family photographs taken and published in the directory as they see fit, we are hoping all adult children - those over the age of 21 - will have their own entry in the directory. Please plan your time with the photographer accordingly.

Dates for taking pictures are:

Monday through Thursday July 18-21 4pm-9pm

Saturday July 23 All Day

Monday through Thursday August 22-25 4pm-9pm

Saturday August 26 All Day

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

Did you Know?

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Pittsburgh Metropolitan Committee meets monthly at Holy Cross to plan activities to promote IOCC's awareness and funding. If you have are available please join us, there is a meeting at Holy Cross this Tuesday June 21 at 7 pm. Since the small local committee was started 11 years ago we have raised over \$400,000 to help fund many worthy causes that IOCC addresses. IOCC is able to leverage these funds with government grants to increase the actual funding by a factor of 7. Charity Navigator has rated IOCC with 4 stars (highest rating) and found that 92% of the funds go directly to those in need. Past IOCC events have earmarked funds associated with the Katrina Hurricane, Greek Fires, Serbian Crisis, Japan Tsunami, Greek Economic Crisis, Ethiopian Famine, Sandy Superstorm and SyrianCrisis.

The Greek Hour

Today, at 2 pm, Alik and Mike Andrews radio show, the Greek Hour, will be airing for the last time. Alik and Mike Andrews produced this show for the last 41 years and will be missed by the greater Pittsburgh Community. Tune in today to radio station 810 am to hear the end of an era.

Deposit from Week of 6/5	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	
Pledges for 2016	\$2,473
Bulletin	
Candles	\$583
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	
Loose Offerings	\$129
Greek School	
Sunday Church School	
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	
Holy Week Envelopes	
Christmas Cards	
Baptismal Candles	
Socials/Special Projects	
Hall Deposits – Current Year	
Hall Deposits – Next Year	
Hall Rental Income - 2016	
Caterers	
Miscellaneous Income	
Total Deposit	\$3,185

Mini Capital Campaign Update			
	Pledged	Received	Balance
Matching Donors	\$75,000	\$72,750	\$2,250
Donations from Parishioners	\$75,000	\$68,502	\$6,498
Total	\$150,000	\$141,252	\$8,748
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
Total through May	\$280,468.61	\$280,468.61	\$325,826.81	-45,358.20
6/5	\$12,102	\$292,570.61	\$340,354.12	-\$47,783.51
6/12	\$5,318	\$297,888.61	\$354,881.43	-\$56,992.82
6/19	\$3,185	\$301,073.61	\$369,408.74	-\$68,335.13

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.

*** 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