

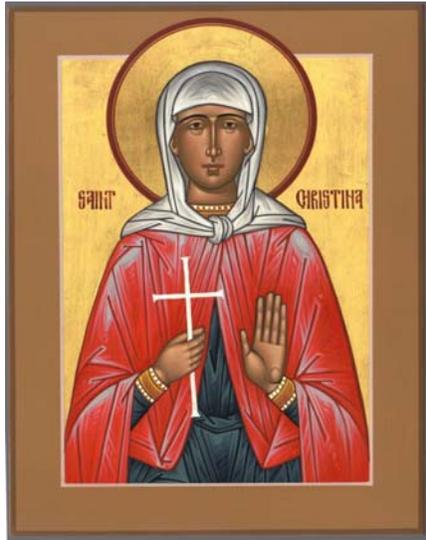
# Holy Cross

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

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, July 24, 2016



The Martyr Christina lived during the third century. She was born into a rich family, and her father was Governor of Tyre. By the age of 11 the girl was exceptionally beautiful, and many men asked for her hand in marriage. Christina's father, however, wanted his daughter to become a pagan priestess. He placed her in a special room where he had set up many gold and silver idols, and he ordered his daughter to burn incense before them.

In her solitude, Christina wondered who had created this beautiful world. From her room, she was delighted by the stars of the heavens, and she constantly thought about the Creator of the world. She was convinced that the voiceless and inanimate idols in her room could not create anything, since they themselves were created by human hands. She began to pray to the One God with tears, entreating Him to reveal Himself. Her soul blazed with love for the Unknown God, and she intensified her prayer all the more, combining it with fasting.

Christina was visited by an angel, who instructed her in the true faith in Christ. The angel called her a bride of Christ and told her that she would suffer for her faith. Christina smashed all the idols in her room and threw them out the window. Shortly thereafter, Christina's father visited her and asked where all the idols had gone. Christina would not speak, but

summoning her servants, her father learned the truth from them.

In a rage, Christina's father began to slap her face. At first, she was quiet, but then she told her father about her faith in the One True God, and that she had destroyed the idols with her own hands. Her father gave orders to kill all the servants who had attended his daughter, and he fiercely beat Christina and threw her in prison. Having learned about what had happened, Christina's mother came crying to her daughter's cell and urged her to renounce Christ. However, Christina remained unyielding. The next day, her father brought Christina to trial and ordered that she worship the pagan gods and ask forgiveness for her sins. Instead, she gave a firm and steadfast confession of her faith in Christ.

Her father ordered that Christina be tied to an iron wheel, beneath which was lit a fire. Her body, turning round on the wheel, was scorched on all sides. She was then thrown back into prison. That night, an angel appeared, healing her wounds and strengthening her with food. Seeing her unharmed, her father gave orders to drown her in the sea. An angel sustained Christina while the stone sank to the bottom, and she miraculously came out of the water and reappeared before her father. Her father subscribed this event to sorcery, and he decided to execute her in the morning. However, that same night, her father suddenly died. Governor Dion was sent in his place. Dion ordered Christina to renounce Christ, but seeing her unyielding firmness, he again subjected her to torture. She was then thrown back into prison where Dion thought she would eventually perish. However, people began to flock to her, and she converted about 300 people to the true faith in Christ.

In place of Dion, a new governor, Julian, arrived and resumed Christina's torture. Julian ordered that she be locked in a red-hot furnace. After five days the furnace was opened and Christina was found alive and unharmed. Seeing this miracle, many came to believe in Christ the Savior.

Finally, St. Christina was executed with a sword.

## **Hymns of the Day**

### **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 Great Martyr Christina in the Fourth Mode**

O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee: accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in mercy.

### **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 Second Mode**

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

## **This Week at Holy Cross**

Monday – Friday	9 am until Noon - Vacation Church School
Saturday	5 pm - Vespers
Sunday	8:15 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy

Coffee hour is sponsored by the Philoptochos of Holy Cross.

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.

\*\*\* 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)

## **Epistle Reading**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:1-10.

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

## **Gospel Reading**

The Reading is from Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

## **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](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.

## **A Note from Philoptochos**

Autumn Food Fair cooking will begin with Pastitsio NEXT Sunday, July 31 after Liturgy with the pasta prep and continue Monday, August 1 & Tuesday, August 2 at 10AM. Please make an effort to help for an hour or two!

Elaine Sofis  
Philoptochos President

## **Community News**

New Parish Directory  
PLEASE PARTICIPATE!!!  
New Parish Directory

Late arrivals are always welcome!

Work on an updated Parish Directory with PICTURES continues. Please expect a second call from a committee member to validate the updated information before it goes to the printer. Also, if you haven’t already, please make your appointment today to have your picture taken.

The goal is 100% participation! Remember, the purpose of the directory is to facilitate us contacting one another. A picture will help.

Dates for taking pictures:

August 22 - 26 & August 27

Monday – Thursday – 4:00 PM - 8:45 PM Saturday 10:00 AM – 1:45 PM

Online scheduling or Call: [holycross.redfordphoto.com](http://holycross.redfordphoto.com) or 724.743.5700

Don’t miss out!!!

Deposit from Week of 7/17	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	
Pledges for 2016	\$4,452
Bulletin	
Candles	\$308
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	
Loose Offerings	\$141
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	\$2,450
<b>Total Deposit</b>	<b>\$7351</b>

Mini Capital Campaign Update			
	Pledged	Received	Balance
Matching Donors	\$75,000	\$72,750	\$2,250
Donations from Parishioners	\$75,000	\$68,502	\$6,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$141,252</b>	<b>\$8,748</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 June</b>	\$312,152.61	\$312,152.61	\$377,710.06	-65,557.45
7/3	\$8,705	\$320,857.61	\$383,936.05	-\$63,078.44
7/10	\$4,060	\$324,917.61	\$398,463.36	-\$73,545.75
7/17	\$7,351	\$332,268.61	\$412,990.67	-\$80,722.06