

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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Fr. Michael Kallaur
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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, December 4, 2016



Barbara the Great Martyr

Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian.

She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Great Martyr Barbara in the Fourth Mode

Let us honour Saint Barbara, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all-modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.

Apolytikion for John of Damascus in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God-inspired adornment of monastics, O wise John, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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 Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

This Week at Holy Cross

Today	Feast of St. Barbara the Great Martyr Christmas Pageant Rehearsal following Liturgy Fundraiser for the Medical Mission in Guatemala. Lentil soup will be served in handmade bowls. A suggested minimum donation will be \$10.00 the donor keeps the handmade soup bowl.
Monday	Feast of St. Savas the Sanctified @ Metropolis Center 9 am Matins 10 am Liturgy 7 pm Vespers for St. Nicholas @ St. Nicholas Cathedral, Oakland
Tuesday	Feast of St. Nicholas @ St. Nicholas Cathedral, Oakland 9 am Matins 10 am Liturgy 7 pm GOYA Meeting
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 7 pm Food Festival Meeting to discuss plans for festival's future.
Saturday	5 pm Vespers
Sunday	Mandatory rehearsal for all participating in the Christmas Pageant followed by GOYA visit to Auberle Shelter.

Memorials

Nicholas Manganas - 1 Year

Polyxeni Brincki - 7 Years

Paraskevi Kalas - 12 Years

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.

**Coffee Hour today is sponsored by the Manganas family
in loving memory of Nicholas Manganas.**

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5.

BRETHREN, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Stewardship Reminder

Thank you to those of you who have submitted your 2017 Pledge. To date we have not received most of the pledge cards. We are in the process of making our budget for next year. Please make every effort to turn in you 2017 pledge.

A Note from Philoptochos

Fresh Christmas bread (\$10 per loaf) will be available in the community center, tomorrow, Monday, December 5 after 4PM. The bread will be available also on Sundays, December 11 and 18.

The next Philoptochos meeting will be Sunday, January 8 at 12:30PM
Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

*** 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

Community News

Circle of Angels

COOKIE TIME!!! Please bake an extra batch of your delicious Christmas cookies for our home-bound parishioners and those in nursing homes, who look forward to the goodies baskets that the Circle of Angels will deliver at Christmas time. We ask that the cookies have no nuts or powdered sugar. We also accept monetary donations toward the baskets. The cookies will be packed on Tuesday, December 13th at 10 AM. Please bring your cookies to the church office before then. Thank you! Blessed Christmas to you and your families!

Thank you, Carol Halkias

Parish Council Elections

Next Sunday, December 11th there will be elections to fill five spots on Parish Council. Those up for election to the Council are:

Joanne Asvestas*	Chris Pfanstiel*
Gus Grekis	Joy Polonis
Carrie Klepzig	Peter Teris
Deno Pappas	

The five people who receive the most votes will be the newest Parish Council members. (The asterisk (*) indicates this person would be serving a second term.)

NOTICE FOR THOSE ELECTED

A mandatory parish council seminar meeting (newly elected members must be present) will be held during December Parish Council meeting on December 13 at 7PM.

Save the Date

Christmas Pageant!

The Church School will be presenting the Christmas Pageant Sunday December 18th. Practices will take place today and next Sunday the 11th after Liturgy. Please keep your eye out for more announcements.

GOYA visit to Auberle Center:

The GOYAnS will be visiting children at the Auberle Center Sunday December 11th following Christmas Pageant rehearsal. Parents are needed to drive, so please make time if you can.

*It is time once again to join or renew your membership in Philoptochos.
Please fill out the form below and return to the church or Connie Carahalis:
224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15234*

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

*From your \$25 Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to the National Philoptochos, and \$10 is sent to the Pittsburgh Metropolis Philoptochos. Anything over \$25 goes to the Holy Cross Philoptochos.

Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2016	\$8,015
Pledges for 2017	
Bulletin	
Candles	\$434
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	
Loose Offerings	\$147
Greek School	
Sunday Church School	
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	\$30
Holy Week Envelopes	
Christmas Cards	
Baptismal Candles	
Socials/Special Projects	
Hall Deposits – Current Year	
Hall Deposits – Next Year	
Hall Rental Income - 2016	\$2,000
Christmas Card	\$280
Golf Outing	\$100
Directory Donation	\$1,000
Poinsettia	\$75
Total Deposit	\$12,081

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 Oct.	\$448,487.84	\$448,487.84	\$659,954.94	-\$211,467.10
11/6	\$16,157	\$464,644.84	\$674,482.25	-\$209,837.41
11/13	\$12,972.95	\$477,617.79	\$689,009.56	-\$211,391.77
11/20	\$8,896.28	\$486,514.07	\$703,536.87	-\$217,022.80
11/27	\$12,081	\$498,595.07	\$718,064.18	-\$219,469.11