

# Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
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Weekly Bulletin

Fr. Michael Kallaur  
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Sunday, January 29, 2017

No consideration of the Savior's humanity is adequate, I believe, that fails to consider a simple fact, mentioned often in the Gospels: He prayed. Indeed, if we reflect that prayer is the highest human activity, we should say that His prayer reveals more about Jesus as a human being than anything else He did.

Holy Scripture conveys the impression our Lord was fond of praying alone and out-of-doors. For instance, Mark writes of the earliest days of the Jesus' ministry: "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed" (1:35). In the Greek text, that final verb — "prayed" — is expressed in the imperfect tense, which denotes continued and/or repeated action. Mark implies that Jesus spent a significant period of time in that prayer. It began in the dark and ended after sunrise. Jesus prayed through the transition from night into day.

We know He also prayed through the transition from light to darkness — day to night. Mark writes of this somewhat later; the scene comes immediately after the multiplication of the loaves, which happened late in the day. Mark describes the apostles getting into their boat to sail away, while Jesus remained behind on the shore. Mark writes, "And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land" (6:46-47). Here, the prayer of Jesus is said to begin in the light and continue into the darkness. It is not broken off until very late — "the fourth watch"

Of all creatures on earth, only the human soul has the receptive capacity to hear the narrative declared in the heavens, and — hearing it — to commune in prayer with the Creator revealed there. The Gospels testify that Jesus had frequent recourse to that communion, sometimes spending entire nights in such prayer: "He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12).

We already observed that the Evangelist Mark used the imperfect tense (denoting continued/repeated action) to speak of Jesus' prayer. Luke, going further, intensified this impression by using an awkward periphrastic construction, difficult to render in decent English. Literally it reads, "He was remaining apart in the wilderness and praying" (5:16).

Inasmuch as we find Jesus doing this from the very beginning of His public ministry, we are surely justified in thinking this preference was already the habit of a lifetime. Indeed, we suspect it began in childhood; He was able to read the heavens before He knew how to read the scroll of Genesis. We may think of the young Jesus, most of all, when we recall another line from Psalm 8: "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants / You have perfected praise."

To read Fr. Patrick Reardon's full essay visit:

<http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/OT/view/reardon-prayer-is-the-highest-human-activity>

## **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 Relics of Ignatius the Godbearer in the Fourth Mode**

As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, thou foundest discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Wherefore, having rightly divided the word of truth, thou didst also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Ignatius . Intercede with Christ our 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 through Your Cross.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the First Mode**

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

### **This Week at Holy Cross**

<b>Monday</b>	Feast of the Three Hierarchs 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 6:30 Paraklesis/Bible Study
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 pm Sts. Mary & Martha Group
<b>Wednesday</b>	4:30 pm Greek School 6:45 pm Basketball Practice 7 pm Vespers for Feast Day at Ypapanti E. Pittsburgh
<b>Thursday</b>	Ypapanti at East Pittsburgh 9 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy
<b>Friday</b>	<b>GOYA Basketball Tournament here at Holy Cross</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	6:30 pm Great Vespers

**Coffee Hour** today is sponsored by the Holy Cross GOYA.

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.

## **Epistle Reading**

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1.

BRETHREN, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

## **Gospel Reading**

The Reading is from Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

## **A Note from Philoptochos**

Cookies are needed for the GOYA basketball tournament hosted at Holy Cross this week! Please take your cookies to the community center on Feb. 2,3,4. Thank you for your generosity!

Our next Philoptochos meeting will be Tuesday, February 7, 7PM, weather permitting.

Philoptochos values your membership! Please join or renew today with the membership form in the bulletin or Cross Roads. Your opinion matters!

Save the Date, A Philoptochos TEA on Saturday, May 20, 2017.

Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

Father Michael,

Thank you for overseeing the funeral services for our sweet mother, Calliopi. Please accept our gratitude for your spiritual guidance and service and extend our appreciation to all the Orthodox clergy and chanters that participated in the services. We are also very grateful to Father John Chakos for sending his beautiful eulogy from his mission in Guatemala. We are appreciative for the love and spiritual support provided to our family during this time of bereavement and great sorrow. The outpouring of love shown by extended family, friends and the Holy Cross Community has given my siblings and I the strength and courage to face the difficult days ahead.

On behalf of our family, I want to express our sincere appreciation for the beautiful Makaria provided in honor of our mom, as well as the lovely lunch prepared by her friends during Wednesday's viewing. Please thank Philoptochos and the many volunteers who devoted the generosity of their time and talents; the chefs, bakers, set-up crew, servers, clean-up crew, dishwashers, tablecloth washers and flower arrangers. We were overwhelmed by the expression of love from the community and are very grateful. My mom's life was a blessing to us all. The display of love will keep her memory treasured in our hearts forever.

In Gratitude,  
Anna Maria Medvid

### **Community News**

#### **NEW MONDAY BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

"Journey to Fullness" is a most enlightening and profound video series for both cradle and converted Orthodox Christians as well as potential converts to the Orthodox faith. This 16 part video series was created by Fr. Barnabas Powell a former Pentecostal pastor and now Greek Orthodox priest in Cummings, GA. Each broadcast is 20 minutes long followed by question and answer session.

Come to Paraklesis and pray for your family and friends and then stay for bible study.

#### **Philoptochos Philanthropy Award**

Attention Holy Cross Graduating High School Seniors and Parents

Two Holy Cross Philoptochos Society \$1000 Philanthropy Awards are available to two graduating high school seniors from our church. The awards are available to ONLY PLEDGED families of Holy Cross. The application will be available in the church office, narthex or Elaine Sofis beginning on Sunday, January 8, 2017 and returned by Sunday, March 19, 2017. The award is based on a philanthropic accomplishment(s) . A short essay is required. A separate, but similar, Philoptochos Philanthropy Award is

available to a graduating Mt. Lebanon High School senior in the guidance office, too.

You may apply to both awards but will be eligible to receive only one. Please see an application for all the necessary criteria to apply for the award. The Holy Cross Philanthropy Award application may be returned to the church office or Elaine Sofis, in church, or 121 Woodhaven Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

-Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

### **Save the Date**

#### **GOLDEN CLUB**

Important date! Tuesday February 21 we will be having a covered dish Valentine Party! Time: 11:30 -? Entertainment! Look for additional information in the February Cross Roads newsletter.

Please become a new member or renew your 2017 membership. Dues are ten dollars.

#### **God Parent Sunday**

Sunday February 12th will be our annual God Parent Sunday. Please join us with your spiritual

#### **Basketball Tournament**

Our home basketball tournament is just around the corner.

We provide a hospitality room for the parents and chaperones on both Friday and Saturday Night. It is located in the Philoptochos Room on the lower level of the Community Center.

We need baked goods (cookies, brownies, cakes, Greek pastries...) as well as fruit platters or savory snacks (crackers, cheese, olives, nuts ....).

Please bring donations to the Philoptochos Room both Friday and Saturday. It is very helpful if you have everything on a platter or tray ready to serve (please label your dish if you would like it back).

Please contact (call, text or e-mail):

Laura Zervos (412-287-5679 or [laura\\_jz@msn.com](mailto:laura_jz@msn.com)) with donations for Friday. Marica Mitsos (724-986-8549 or [yasouyana@yahoo.com](mailto:yasouyana@yahoo.com))

or Kellie Rohe (412-498-9498 or [ray.kellie@ymail.com](mailto:ray.kellie@ymail.com)) with donations for Saturday.

Thank you,

Marica, Kellie and Laura (Hospitality Committee)

#### **Stewardship Envelopes**

Holy Cross is no longer using the contribution envelopes that were mailed to you every month. Therefore, kindly put your donations (Stewardship, Holydays, Memorials, Special) in a plain personal envelope, with your name and address (mailing label) and /or your account number.

family to celebrate Liturgy and receive Communion together!

#### **Mardi Gras**

Saturday February 25th will be our Mardi Gras celebration. There will be games and activities for parents and children alike! Bring the whole family for Fellowship, Fun, and Food! Tickets will be \$10 Dollars for adults and \$5 dollars for children 5 and up (children under 5 get in for free).

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*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