

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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Pittsburgh, PA 15228
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Weekly Bulletin

Fr. Michael Kallaur
Fr. Dan Korba
Dn. Frank Dickos

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Saints Celebrated Today

Christos the New Martyr
Meletios of Ypseni
Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch
Antonius, Archbishop of Constantinople

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Savior has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own condition - inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God - we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable before the Great Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach that there is no sin - no matter how great it may be - that can overcome at any time His love for man.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

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 Third Mode

O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."

This Week at Holy Cross

Today	Godparent Godchild Sunday, General Assembly 6:30 pm – Young Adults - Orthodoxy On Tap @ Sharp Edge
Monday	6:30 Paraklesis/Bible Study
Tuesday	10 am First Steps of Christ
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 6:45 pm Basketball Practice
Friday	GOYA Basketball Tournament @ St. Haralambos Canton Saturday
Saturday of Souls	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Sunday	Meatfare Sunday – 40 Days for Popi Hagelios

Memorials

Linda Mourtaeos - 2 Years

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the family of George Aspiotes
in honor of his 90th Birthday!

All coffee hours in the month of March are still available for sponsoring. If you are able to sponsor a 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.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20.

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father.

But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

A Note from Philoptochos

Next Sunday, February 19, will be +Popi Hagelios's 40 day Memorial. Her family will be sponsoring coffee hour and Philoptochos members will be serving and cleaning-up. Philoptochos continues to accept new and renewing members! Please see the membership form in today's bulletin. 128 members and counting! Our best membership ever! Have you marked your calendars for Saturday, May 20? A Philoptochos TEA at Holy Cross Community Center!

Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

JOY Lenten Passport

We will once again be travelling through lent together as a group with our Lenten Passports! Our first meeting will be Sunday February 26th. We will meet during coffee hour and I will hand out the passports to the children and give them their first 4 stamps! Parents, participation in the program can be extremely beneficial to both you and your children. It is an opportunity for us to examine more fully the Lenten Journey and to have conversations outside the church setting.

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

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.

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.

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! See flyer for details.

**Please remember, all information one wishes to have appear in the weekly bulletin must be submitted to Jonathan McClish NO LATER than 11:59pm on the Wednesday prior of the bulletin in which they wish to have the information. Please email all requests to mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com **

*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

February 5 th Deposit	
Pledges 2017	\$9,621
Candles	\$762
Loose Offerings	\$441
Hall Deposits	\$300
Directory	\$5
Total	\$11,129

Financial Snapshot based on \$2075.33 daily operational needs				
Date	Weekly Collection	Weekly Collection Total to Date	Estimated Operational Needs to Sunday	Difference
Total through Jan.	\$59,627	\$59,627	\$74,711.88	-\$15,084.88
2/5	\$11,126	\$70,753	\$89,239.19	-\$18,486.19

Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults present

ORTHODOXY ON TAP

Featuring



**HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN
SAVAS
OF PITTSBURGH**

*Sunday, February 12, 2017
6:30pm*

*Sharp Edge Beer Emporium
502 S So Clair St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206*

POYA is a group for those of all Orthodox backgrounds, ages 21-40, to gather in faith, fellowship, and service.