

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 833-3355
www.holycrosspgh.org

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

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Saints Commemorated Today

Conon the Gardener; Mark the Ascetic; Archelaos the Martyr of Egypt; Righteous Father Mark of Athens; John the Bulgarian; Mark the Faster; Parthenios the New Martyr who contested in Didymoteichos; George the New-Martyr of Rapsani; Eulogios the Martyr; Eulabios the Martyr; Conon the Isaurian

Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Orthodox worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops.

Almost a century before this, the iconoclastic controversy had once more shaken the foundations of both Church and State in the Byzantine empire. Excessive religious respect and the ascribed miracles to icons by some members of society, approached the point of worship (due only to God) and idolatry. This instigated excesses at the other extreme by which icons were completely taken out of the liturgical life of the Church by the Iconoclasts. The Iconophiles, on the other-hand, believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty.

The Council decided on a doctrine by which icons should be venerated but not worshipped. In answering the Empress' invitation to the Council, Pope Hadrian replied with a letter in which he also held the position of extending veneration to icons but not worship, the last befitting only God.

The decree of the Council for restoring icons to churches added an important clause which still stands at the foundation of the rationale for using and venerating icons in the Orthodox Church to this very day: "We define that the holy icons, whether in colour, mosaic, or some other material, should be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments, on the walls, furnishings, and in houses and along the roads, namely the icons of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, that of our Lady the Theotokos, those of the venerable angels and those of all saintly people. Whenever these representations are contemplated, they will cause those who look at them to commemorate and love their prototype. We define also that they should be kissed and that they are an object of veneration and honour (timitiki proskynisis), but not of real worship (latreia), which is reserved for Him Who is the subject of our faith and is proper for the divine nature. The veneration accorded to an icon is in effect transmitted to the prototype; he who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands".

An Endemousa (Regional) Synod was called in Constantinople in 843. Under Empress Theodora. The veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed at the Hagia Sophia Cathedral. The Empress, her son Michael III, Patriarch Methodios, and monks and clergy came in procession and restored the icons in their rightful place. The day was called "Triumph of Orthodoxy." Since that time, this event is commemorated yearly with a special service on the first Sunday of Lent, the "Sunday of Orthodoxy".

http://lent.goarch.org/sunday_of_orthodoxy/learn/

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 Sun. of Orthodoxy in the Second Mode

We worship Thine immaculate icon, O Good One, asking the forgiveness of our failings, O Christ our God; for of Thine own will Thou wast well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that Thou mightest deliver from slavery to the enemy those whom Thou hadst fashioned. Wherefore, we cry to Thee thankfully: Thou didst fill all things with joy, O our Saviour, when Thou camest to save the world.

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 Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

This Week at Holy Cross

Today	4:30 pm Vespers @ All Saints Canonsburg
Monday	6:30 Compline/Bible Study
Tuesday	7 pm Philoptochos Meeting 7 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 6 pm Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday	7 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice
Friday	9 am Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm Salutations
Saturday	GOYA Volleyball Tournament @ St. Nick's Pittsburgh 5pm Great Vespers/Confessions

Coffee Hour

Today, coffee hour is sponsored in Memory of Dan McClish (father of Jonathan McClish) to commemorate 5 years since his passing.

If you are interested in sponsoring 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 Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40.

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who 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 enemies 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 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.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Holy Cross 2017 Stewardship Roster

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their 2017 Pledge Cards. Our apologies for the omissions, on the previous listing. Please join us, in support of our Holy Cross ministries and complete your 2017 Pledge Card today. Remember a signed pledge card is required to maintain your membership in good standing at Holy Cross each year. If you have not yet submitted your 2017 Pledge Card, you can call Nena in the Church office at (412) 833-3355 or go on line and pledge under stewardship at holycrosspgh.org. Just click on Stewardship and then click Pledge Online and fill out the form. We thank you for your love and support.

Ted Sofis
Stewardship Chair

Note from Philoptochos

Our next Philoptochos Meeting is this Tuesday, March 7 at 7PM in the Philoptochos Room. I hope that you can attend! Philoptochos has 131 members and continues to grow! Please see the membership form and join or renew today!

Save the Dates: Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon on April 9. A Philoptochos Tea on Saturday, May 20 at Noon in the community center.

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, Holy days, Memorials, Special) in a plain personal envelope, with your name and address (mailing label) and /or your account number.

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

JOY Lenten Passport

We are once again be travelling through lent together as a group with our Lenten Passports! We meet every Sunday of Lent during coffee hour in the carpeted area outside the hall! 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.

GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERS: Please join us on Tuesday, March 21 at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Center as we welcome Ann Howley, author of Confessions of a Do-Goooder Gone Bad, an award-winning memoir. A popular speaker, Ann loves to convince people that their lives are worth writing about. She is a regular contributor to Pittsburgh Parent Magazine, and her articles and essays about the inevitable surprises and hilarity in life appear in publications nationwide. It proves to be a fun-filled presentation, followed by a question and answer period. Following the presentation, all are welcome to continue fellowship at the Galleria, second floor, outside Panera. Purchase lunch on your own or brown-bag it, keeping in mind that it is the Lenten fast. Please RSVP by March 16 to Cynthia Kostelnik (412) 722-9512 (cakostelnik@yahoo.com) or Rene Koett (412) 559-1721 (rjkoett@yahoo.com). We will also be collecting membership dues that day of \$10.

GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP: We encourage all parishioners, 50 years of age and older, to join our lively group as we share in fellowship and explore our region's venues, including historical sites, churches, concerts, plays, movies, opera and museums, just to name a few. Membership dues are only \$10/person, per year! Events are planned once a month from January through May and resume again in September through the end of the calendar year. If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Cynthia Kostelnik (412) 722-9512 (cakostelnik@yahoo.com) or Rene Koett (412) 559-1721 (rjkoett@yahoo.com). We hope you will consider joining The Golden Club of Holy Cross!

Social Committee: Next Sunday March 12th all those interested in being a part of the Social Committee will be meeting in the Library at 12:30 following Liturgy and Coffee Hour. This organization will be in charge of events such as the parish picnics and Feast Day celebration. This committee is an answer to a call from parishioners for more family and budget friendly activities here at Holy Cross.

Holy Cross Altar Society: Sunday March 19th at 12:30 in the Library will be the inaugural meeting of the Holy Cross Altar Society. This group will lead the way with care and decoration of our worship space. It is also a way for parishioners to set some extra time a week to spend at Church in peace, prayer, and service.

Tickets for the Syrian Relief Dinner will be sold during coffee hour today. The event is April 2, 2017 Sunday at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland.

Tickets are \$50 and \$20 (7-18 years old). Donations will also be accepted. It is sponsored by the IOCC Pittsburgh Metropolitan Committee, St. Nicholas Philoptochos and Antiochian Orthodox community. Checks can be made out to IOCC.

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**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 **

Deposit from 2/25	
Pledges - 2017	\$8,267
Candles	\$643
Loose Offerings	\$168
Sunday School	\$14
Misc. (donation from 2/19)	\$100
Total	\$9,192

Financial Snapshot based on \$2,239.23 daily operational needs

Date	Weekly Collection	Weekly Collection Total to Date	Estimated Operational Needs to Sunday	Difference
Total through Jan.	\$59,627	\$59,627	\$69,416.13	-\$9,789.13
2/5	\$11,126	\$70,753	\$80,612.28	-\$9,859.28
2/12	\$9,846	\$80,599	\$96,286.89	-\$15,687.89
2/19	\$9,854	\$90,453	\$111,961.50	-\$21,508.50
2/25	\$9,192	\$99,645	\$127,636.11	-\$27,991.11

*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.