

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 19, 2017

Saints Celebrated Today

Demetrios the New Martyr and The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria

Sunday of the Holy Cross

This Sunday is the halfway point in Lent. Midway on our journey to Holy Week and Pascha, many of us are tiring of our spiritual disciplines. What we approached with joy the first week has now turned into a chore. We become aware how little love we have in our hearts, which can be very discouraging. For this reason, the Church uses this Sunday to direct our attention to the Cross. The Cross is our strength and our salvation. We look to it and pray to Christ to give us strength to complete this journey. The Gospel passage for this Sunday challenges us again to commit our whole lives to Christ. As Christ was crucified for our salvation, we are called to take up our meager cross and follow Christ by crucifying our sinful desires and surrendering our will to His.

<http://lent.goarch.org/family/3rdsundayoflent.asp>

Interior crosses can be found at all times, and more easily than exterior ones. You have only to direct your attention to yourself and examine yourself with a sense of repentance, and a thousand interior crosses will at once present themselves to you. . . Interior crosses are sometimes so burdensome that the sufferer can find no consolation whatever in anything. All this can happen to you too! But in whatever position you may be, and whatever sufferings of the soul you may feel, do not despair and do not think that the Lord has abandoned you. NO! God will always be with you and will invisibly strengthen you even when it seems to you that you are on the very brink of perdition.

St. Innocent of Alaska - The Lenten Spring, SVS Press, p. 148, 19th Century

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee. **Apolytikion for the Sunday of the Holy Cross AND of 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

O Champion General, I you city now inscribe to you * triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, * being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. * Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, * from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you * I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

This Week at Holy Cross

Monday	6:30 am Compline/Bible Study
Tuesday	10 am First Steps of Christ 11 am Golden Club 7 pm Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 6 pm Presanctified Liturgy
Friday	9 am Presanctified Liturgy 7 pm Great Vespers @ McKeesport or New Kensington for Feast of the Annunciation
Saturday	Feast of the Annunciation 8:30 am Orthros @ Holy Cross 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 5pm Great Vespers/Confessions
Sunday	Following Liturgy Greek School will host a Spaghetti luncheon and present their annual Greek Independence Day Program.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6.

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Poutos, Palonis, and Cywinski families.

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.

Holy Cross Altar Society: TODAY Sunday March 19th at 12:30 in the Library, anyone who would like to participate in caring for our worship space please come and join the Holy Cross Altar Society. This is a wonderful way to spend extra time in prayerful service to the Church and to have some respite from the world, please consider joining!

GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERS: Please join us on Tuesday, March 21 at 11:00 a.m. in the **Old Social Hall (the location has changed but the time has stayed the same)** as we welcome Ann Howley, author of *Confessions of a Do-Gooder Gone Bad*, an award-winning memoir. A popular speaker, Ann loves to convince people that their lives are worth writing about. She is a 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 or bring your own, 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.

Philoptochos News

The Philoptochos Philanthropy Award applications are due today, Sunday, March 19. Please see Dena Yamalis to hand her the completed application.

Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon tickets will be presold on Sunday, April, 2 at coffee hour. You may reserve with me in advance or buy tickets at the door on April 9. Volunteers are needed to serve and clean-up.

Pascha Bread, \$10, will be made on Monday, March 27. You may buy your freshly baked bread that day after 4PM in the community center or on Sundays, April 2 & 9 After Liturgy. Philoptochos continues to welcome the 2017 membership of ladies and gentlemen! Our Next Philoptochos meeting will be Tuesday, April 4 at 7PM.

Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

Circle of Angels Home-baked Cookies Needed!

While you are doing your Pascha baking, we are calling upon our Baking Angels to think of our parishioners, who are home-bound or in nursing homes. Please freeze an extra batch for the cookie baskets we will pack on Bright Tuesday, April 18th. Please bring your cookies to the church on that day. The cookies should NOT have any nuts or be covered with powdered sugar. Monetary donations are also welcome. Thank you so much!

FOCUS Food Drive

There is a three week Pascha food drive for FOCUS. Please place your non perishable food items in the boxes provided in the vestibule today, as well as Sunday March 26 and Sunday, April 2nd. No glass please. Thank you for your support and generosity. Dianne Babb

****All entries for the Sunday Bulletin MUST be sent to Jonathan McClish by the Wednesday prior 11:59 pm. Thank you for your understanding.****

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.

Greek School Celebration!

Come celebrate The Annunciation Of The Virgin Mary and Greek Independence Day with a Spaghetti Luncheon! The luncheon and Annual Greek School program will take place following Liturgy Sunday March 26, 2017.

Suggested Donation Adults \$7.00 Children 5-12 \$4.00 Under 5 Free.

Save the Date

Friday April 7th at 6 pm, (food will be provided) we will begin preparation of the Palms for Palm Cross making. Please consider helping cut, clean, and soak the palms.

Lazarus Saturday April 8th there will be a community effort to make palm crosses and clean the Church for Palm Sunday. Following Liturgy we will have a Lenten potluck lunch for all who are present. Please consider bringing a Lenten food item to be shared with the group. Following lunch palm crosses will be made and the volunteers will clean the church with acolytes helping in the Altar. Confession will also be available at this time.

Holy Thursday April 13th will be the annual Vigil by the Cross. Following the Service, at 10 pm, the GOYAns and all who wish to participate will gather in the Old Social for a presentation by Jonathan McClish. All participants will then help prepare the brown bag lunches for FOCUS and afterwards, we will read the Psalms during the Vigil.

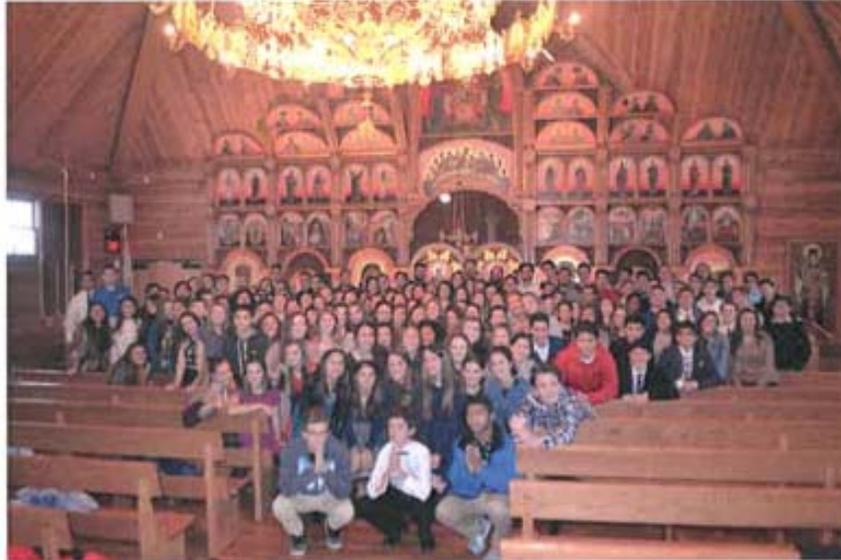
Myrophores

Holy Week is fast approaching! If your daughter would like to one of the myrophores on Holy Friday Night for the procession of the Epitaphion please contact Laura Zervos 412-812-1919

Deposit from 3/25	
Pledges - 2017	\$5,373
Candles	\$596
Loose Offerings	\$150
Sunday School	\$8
Misc. (insurance fund)	\$3,102
Total	\$9,229

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 Feb.	\$99,645	\$99,645	\$127,636.11	-\$27,991.11
3/5	\$12,087	\$111,732	\$143,310.72	-\$31,578.72
3/12	\$9,229	\$120,961	\$158,985.33	-\$38,024.33



**2017 GOYA Spring Retreat:
What Matters?
(Exploring Our Relationship with God's Creation)**

Friday March 31st – Sunday April 2nd 2017

**Keynote Speaker: Fr. Alexandros Petrides, of St. Nicholas Cathedral,
Bethlehem**

Check-in on Friday is from 7:00 pm. to 9:00 p.m.

Departure on Sunday is at 12:00 noon.

Please contact Ted Cherpas (412-621-8543 // camp@pittsburgh.goarch.org) with any questions.

Online Registration found at: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/summer-camp>

Please note: If you are registering more than one camper, you have to use a different e-mail address for each additional camper.

***To Commemorate March 25th - Greek
Independence Day - and Our History
As Well as Honor Our Commitment to
Help the Poor:***

***The Philoptochos Society will host a **Pop
-Up Kafe Ellada** to aid the Poor in
Greece and Cyprus.***

Please come on Saturday March 25th, 2017

From 11:00 - 11:45 am (following Liturgy)

at the Starbucks Mount Lebanon

In the Galleria Mall

Across from Holy Cross Church on Gilkeson Road, 15228.

*Hear stories and make a donation which will benefit the
National Philoptochos Society-Aid to Greece and Cyprus*

We will help keep their “memory eternal”

***by listening to stories we share
while having a FREE sip of Kafe.***

Look for the Greek Flag!

Hosting is Demetria Danielides Abde, daughter of Persefony Danielides 1936-2015

*RSVP not necessary but helpful. If you would like, contact Demetria at: 412.414.1160 or
email mmipgh@gmail.com*