

# Holy Cross

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Weekly Bulletin

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[www.holycrosspgh.org](http://www.holycrosspgh.org)  
Sunday, April 2, 2017

## Saints Commemorated Today

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, Titus the Wonderworker, Theodora the Virgin-martyr of Palestine, Amphianos & Aedesios the Martyrs of Lycia,

## Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

During Great Lent we remember and venerate Saint Mary of Egypt both on April 1 and the Fifth Sunday of Lent. With the Canon of St. Andrew, read in many churches during the first and fifth weeks of Lent, we uphold her as an icon of repentance, an example for every Orthodox Christian to emulate. Yet for many years, she lived a life of bondage to sexual passions. If St. Mary of Egypt were alive today, would we welcome her into our assembly?

While we don't know about the very early years of her life, we do know that she lost her virginity at age twelve and ran away from home. For the next seventeen years she was a slave to her insatiable appetite for sexual perversions, including sexual encounters with "young men," even against their will. This sounds very much like a victim of pedophilia who recoils and continues in her victimization by taking on the role of a predator herself, victimizing others in the process. Many adults who fall into the bondage of pedophilia are victims of sexual abuse as children. In a futile attempt to reconcile the horror of their own victimization, they try to regain control of their lives through exploitation, continuing to inflict wounds on their own souls and bodies.

For seventeen years, Saint Mary of Egypt lived a lifestyle that isolated her from the community and God. Covered with filth amassed over the years, her heart yet longed for union with God. People in prison feel ostracized too,

## Hymns of the Day

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

### **Apolytikion for Sun. of St. Mary of Egypt in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

isolated from God and society, as they sit in shame in prison cells longing for the same tears of repentance that lead to joy and reconciliation.

The healing of the venerable Saint Mary of Egypt was not instantaneous but required a rigorous and lengthy spiritual journey. Being led by the Holy Spirit, she retreated to the wilderness where she lived the life of a hermit for seventeen years, seeking freedom from bondage of the passions. She spent a further thirty years in the wilderness having obtained the true gifts of repentance, healing and freedom from the enslavement of sin.

During Great Lent, each of us seeks repentance, turning from our own vices and passions and setting our minds and hearts on God. Through the intercessions of the most Holy Theotokos, God grants us the gift of compunction to turn from our wounds and sins to find healing and comfort in Him.

Let us remember Saint Mary of Egypt and her wonderful redemption. During the remainder of this Lenten journey, may we pray to be freed from our imprisonment to the passions that enslave us. Let us also pray for strength for all of our brothers and sisters who are imprisoned in penitentiaries, for their struggles and their journeys to repentance.  
-Fr. Patrick Tutella

### **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 Second Mode**

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

### **This Week**

Monday	9 am - 4 pm Spanakopita Making 6:30 am Compline/Bible Study
Tuesday	9 am - 4 pm Spanakopita Making 7 pm Philoptochos Meeting
Wednesday	4:30 pm Greek School 6 pm Presanctified Liturgy
Friday	9 am Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm Prep for Palm Cross Making
Saturday	Lazarus Saturday 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Following Liturgy - Community Lunch, Palm Cross Making, Church Cleaning, Confession and Acolyte Prep for Holy Week

### **Memorials**

*Jenovia (Zenovia) Spanos - 1 Year  
John Spanos - 40 Years  
Nick Skarvelis - 40 Years*

*Anastasia Skarvelis - 29 Years  
Michael Andrews - 3 Years  
George Merrill - 30 Years  
Mary Merrill - 10 Year*

*Persefony "Becky" Danielides - 2 Years*

*Altar Flowers are sponsored by Jim & Regina Spanos and Family in loving memory of Jenovia Spanos.*

*Altar Candles are sponsored in loving memory of Marjorie Shultz, mother of David & Chryssa Shultz.*

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Aliki Andrews, Presvytera Eleni, Demetria Danielides-Abde and George Abde, Regina and Jim Spanos, Jennifer and Nicholas Spanos in loving memory of departed loved ones.

If you are interested in sponsoring a 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 Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14.

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

### **Gospel Reading**

The Reading is from Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

### **Philoptochos News**

Please join us THIS Tuesday, April 4 at 7PM for our next Philoptochos meeting.

Pascha Bread, \$10, will be sold today and April 9 after Liturgy. Thank you to all the bread makers and wrappers – the bread looks delicious.

Palm Sunday Luncheon tickets will be presold today at coffee hour and at the door next Sunday, April 9. If possible, please purchase or reserve your tickets so that we know how much food to prepare. A wonderful Luncheon is planned! See the flyer for more info.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 8 at Noon, to set-up the community center and on April 9 to serve and clean-up the Luncheon.

Spanakopita will be prepared tomorrow, Monday, April 3 at 10AM. Late arrivals are always welcome!

Save the Date for the Saturday, May 20 Noon Tea at Holy Cross CC.

Thank you to ALL who donated so generously to the FOCUS Lenten Food Drive and to Dianne Babb, our FOCUS representative!

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 and bring to church office by Bright Tuesday, April 18th. We will be packing cookie baskets on Bright Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>. 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, Carol Halkias

### **Greek Dance Soup Fundraiser**

The Holy Cross Greek Dance Group will be selling Lenten soup this TODAY!

The Soup is 5 dollars a container and can be purchased in the carpeted area of the Community Center and the Vestibule of the Church following Liturgy. Proceeds will help with the purchase of new costumes. A variety of soups are available -lentil, fasoulada (bean), vegetable and fava (split pea). The Greek Dancers greatly appreciate your support!



## Important Food Festival Updates

Thanks to everyone who came to make Tiropita and Galatobourika. We even got a start on Spaniopita with the extra help, eliminating a planned day next week!

Spaniopita will be finished Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am-4pm. Thanks for the continued support!

Note the new 4-day schedule of Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Setup will be critical for Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> so please mark your calendars to come help after 2pm.

Deposit from 3/26	
Pledges - 2017	\$14,483
Candles	\$1,293
Loose Offerings	\$397
Sunday School	\$8
Flowers/Communion	\$45
Defibrillator Battery Replacement	\$576
Palms for Palm Sunday	\$25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,827</b>

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
3/26	\$16,827	\$137,788	\$190,334.55	-\$52,546.55

### 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 412-287-5679

**\*\*All entries for the Sunday Bulletin MUST be sent to Jonathan McClish by 11:59 pm the Wednesday before the Sunday you wish to have it appear. Thank you for your understanding.\*\***

**GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERS:** Please join us on Tuesday, April 18 as we travel to "a quaint, European haven in Pittsburgh." We will be visiting St. Anthony's Chapel of Many Relics (5,000) on Troy Hill, North Side, for a docent-led tour. This shrine, dedicated to the "Wonder-Worker" St. Anthony of Padua in 1883, houses a vast collection of relics and has been designated an Historical Landmark by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. This is the largest repository of relics in the World, outside that of the Vatican. Among the thousands of relics of the saints in the Chapel, are three central reminders of the most profound aspects of our Christian faith--Christ's suffering and death on the Cross and his glorious Resurrection from the dead. A large cross holds a splinter of the True Cross, a thorn from the Crown of Thorns, and a piece of the stone from the Holy Sepulchre. The stained-glass windows are the finest of their kind, produced in Munich, Germany by the Royal Bavarian Art Institute for Stained-Glass in 1890. A free-will offering to the Chapel is suggested. We hope you will consider joining us that day, and we look forward to seeing you!

Please meet at the Church for travel by van, *no later than 10 a.m.* We will have lunch prior to our tour time of 1 p.m. Please RSVP by April 10 to Rene Koett (rjkoett@yahoo.com or 412-559-1721) or Cynthia Kostelnik (cakostelnik@yahoo.com or 412-722-9512). Also, please see Sunday's bulletins for any updates regarding this trip.

**Holy Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>** 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.