

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 833-3355
Weekly Bulletin

Fr. Michael Kallaur
Fr. Dan Korba
Dn. Frank Dickos
www.holycrosspgh.org
Sunday, April 16, 2017

Christ is Risen! **Christos Anesti!** **Cristos Voscresie! Khristos Amafafouka! Al Messieh** **Qam! Cristo esta Resucitado!**

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

"But why did He appear not to all, but to the Apostles only? Because to the many it would have seemed a mere apparition, inasmuch as they understood not the secret of the mystery. For if the disciples themselves were at first incredulous and were troubled, and needed the evidence of actual touch with the hand, and of His eating with them, how would it have fared in all likelihood with the multitude? For

this reason therefore by the miracles [wrought by the Apostles] He renders the evidence of His Resurrection unequivocal, so that not only the men of those times-- this is what would come of the ocular proof--but also all men thereafter, should be certain of the fact, that He was risen. Upon this ground also we argue with unbelievers. For if He did not rise again, but remains dead, how did the Apostles perform miracles in His name? But they did not, say you, perform miracles? How then was our religion instituted?"

St. John Chrysostom

Homily I on Acts I, 4th Century

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion for Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode

Christ is Risen from the dead, by death he has trampled down death, and to those in the tomb bestowing life.

Hypakoe of Great and Holy Pascha in the Fourth Mode

When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre, they heard from the Angel: Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of men.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

This Week

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| Pascha | Noon Agape Vespers |
| Tuesday | At Sts. Nicholas, Rafael, & Irene (Holy Dormition, Oakmont) 9 am Orthros 10 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Golden Club van leaves from Church parking lot |
| Wednesday | 4:30 pm Greek School |
| Friday | Celebration of the Life Giving Font 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy |
| Saturday | St. Photios Awards Banquet @ Sheraton at Station Square 4 pm Hors D'oevers 5:15 pm Dinner |

Epistle Reading

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8.

IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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 make an extra batch of your delicious home baked cookies for the cookie baskets and bring to the church office on Bright Tuesday, April 18th or before 10 AM on Bright Wednesday, April 19th. We will pack the cookie baskets at 10 AM on Wednesday, April 19th. The cookies should not have any nuts or be covered with powdered sugar. Monetary donations are also welcome. Thank you so much!!!

Philoptochos News

Christos Anesti!

Thank you to ALL who helped at the Philoptochos Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon! I thank the set-up crew, chefs, servers, clean-up crew and dishwashers. The food was delicious and the fellowship memorable. A Philoptochos Tea is planned for May 20 at NOON in the community center. Tickets are \$15. Please call Pam Lagios, 412 276-4614 or Mary Zotis, 412 835-2381 to reserve your tickets. Reservations will be taken at coffee hours April 23 & 30, May 7. Tea sandwiches, fruit, teas, silent auction, door prizes and a fashion show. ALL ages are welcome!

PLEASE READ: Our 140 Holy Cross 2017 Philoptochos Members, an explanation of the May 2 elections! Philoptochos MEETING and BOARD Elections, May 2, 6:30PM. Wine, cheese and crackers served to thank the old board and celebrate the new one!

There will be a short Philoptochos meeting on the carpeted area of the community center at 6:30PM on Tuesday, May 2 followed by a BOARD election from 7:00PM-8:30PM. All candidates must be present at the election. IF you received an election notice in the mail, you are a 2017 paid Philoptochos member and are eligible to vote. This is an actual election of 18 board members. Our Philoptochos is NOT having a prepared slate of new board members and executive officers. You will vote for 18 board members or less. You may NOT vote for more than 18 or your ballot will be invalid. I will be the 19th board member as your outgoing president. I was not granted a waiver to have a third term. Please prayerfully vote for your new board. After ratification from the National Philoptochos and swearing in from Fr. Michael, the new Philoptochos board members will convene and executive officers will be elected. This date is to be determined. The current officers and board continues until the new board is sworn in.

Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

Visiting Ministries: Priestly Sacramental Visits and Circle of Angels visits

Do you have a loved one that cannot regularly attend church services?

Please call the church office to schedule a Sacramental Visit from one of our clergymen. They will also be placed on the Philoptochos Circle of Angels visiting list. Thank you for helping our parish family to stay connected to the Church.

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| Deposit from 4/2 | |
| Pledges - 2017 | \$10,843 |
| Candles | \$1,034 |
| Loose Offerings | \$490 |
| Epitaphio Candles | \$1,070 |
| Special Envelopes | \$105 |
| Flowers/Communion Wine | \$80 |
| Pascha Lilies | \$40 |
| | |
| Total | \$13,662 |

| 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 March | \$137,788 | \$137,788 | \$190,334.55 | -\$52,546.55 |
| 4/2 | \$10,255 | \$148,043 | \$206,009.16 | -\$57,966.16 |
| 4/9 | \$13,662 | \$161,705 | \$221,683.77 | -\$59,978.77 |

HOLY CROSS MEN'S GROUP

WE WILL BE STARTING A MEN'S GROUP HERE AT HOLY CROSS. WE ARE LOOKING FOR OUR FIRST MEETING TO BE SATURDAY MAY 13TH. WE WILL MEET FOR BREAKFAST AND HAVING AN OPEN CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR FAITH. JOIN US FOR THIS NEW FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING, PLEASE CONTACT GEORGE SOKOS AT DOCSOK@VERIZON.NET

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.

***** ALL ENTIRES FOR THE APRIL 23RD BULLETIN MUST BE TURNED IN TO JONATHAN MCCLISH NO LATER THAN MONDAY APRIL 17TH 11:59 PM. EMAIL YOUR ENTRY TO MCCLISH.JONATHAN@GMAIL.COM THE BULLETIN WILL BE MADE ON TUESDAY THE 18TH *****

Truly He is Risen! **Alithos Anesti!**

Voistsinu Voskresie! Kwaeli Amafafouka!

Huhquhn Qam! Verdad Resuciatado!

**Christ is Risen from the Dead, by death He has trampled
down death, and to those in the tomb granting Life!**