

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, May 21, 2017

Saints Commemorated Today

Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the Apostles, Pachomios the Righteous New Martyr

The 6th Sunday of Pascha: The Sunday of the Blindman

As with all of His miracles, there is great significance to Jesus Christ healing the blind man. It is the only time we hear of a person whose sight was received after having been blind from birth. In those days, there was a pervasive belief that sickness was a direct result of sin. Therefore, the Lord is questioned whether the sin of the man or his parents is the root cause of his blindness. And while humanity's sin, the primordial sin, is the reason for all sickness, suffering, and death, Jesus Christ discredits the notion that it was the personal sin of either this man or his parents that led to his impairment. Rather, the man's lack of sight will serve a greater purpose—to glorify God. Although few of us need to be healed of physical blindness, all of us need to be cured of our spiritual blindness—the sin that keeps us from living a life in Christ.

-Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.family.goarch.org

But I assert that he even received benefit from his blindness: since he recovered the sight of the eyes within.

-St. John Chrysostom Homily 56 on John 9, 4th Century

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Apolytikion for Constantine and Helen in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Having seen the image of Thy Cross in Heaven, and like Paul, having received the call not from men, Thine apostle among kings entrusted the commonwealth to Thy hand, O Lord. Keep us always in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, 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 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 at Holy Cross

Monday	6:30 Paraklesis/Bible Study
Tuesday	7 pm Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	Leavetaking of Pascha 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 4:30 pm Greek School
Thursday	Ascension 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Saturday	5:00 pm Vespers

Memorials

John Babb - 2 Years

*Artoklasia today is for the health of
the Paliouras, Zotis, Bouzos, and Katsadas Families.*

Coffee Hour today is sponsored by the Costa Paliouras and Dean Zotis families
in honor of Sts. Constantine & Helen

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 Acts of the Apostles 26:1, 12-20.

IN THOSE DAYS, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles—to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be

Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.

Philoptochos News

Thank you to ALL who donated cookies, pastries and silent auction items to make our Philoptochos Tea a huge success! Thank you to ALL who volunteered in set-up, serving, clean-up and in the kitchen! It was a fun, relaxing afternoon for our ladies. I co-chaired with and thank Ria Kartsonas, Pam Lagios, Dena Yamalis and Mary Zotis. What fabulous women to work with! Let's do this again in a few years!

Our next Philoptochos meeting will be Tuesday, June 6 at 7PM. IF ratification is received prior to the meeting, the new board will be sworn and the new executive officers will be elected at the conclusion of the meeting. Another swearing in of the new board will occur on Sunday, June 11, after Divine Liturgy.

Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

Community News

Sts. Mary & Martha Group

On Tuesday May 30th Fr. Demitrios Carellas will be speaking on the topic "The Voice of Christ is Filled with Hope." The evening will be hosted by Carol Halkias. Please RSVP - (412) 276-5002

Adult Sunday Church School Class

Fr. Daniel would like to meet with all those who attend the Adult Sunday Church School class today Sunday May 21st following communion. Class will be held in the Philoptochos Room on the downstairs level of the community center.

BAKE SALE TODAY!

The Senior Dance group is holding a bake sale today as a fundraiser for their new costumes! Come support our fantastic dance group who represent us so beautifully at our festival!

Deposit from week of 5/14	
Pledges - 2017	\$5,028
Candles	\$474
Flowers/Communion Wine	\$20
Loose Offerings	\$188
Sunday School	\$1
Mission Fund	\$725
Total	\$6,436

Financial Snapshot based on \$2,239.23 daily operational needs				
Date	Wkly Collection	Wkly Collection Total to Date	Est. Operational Needs to Sunday	Difference
Total through April	\$217,823	\$217,823	\$268,707.60	-\$50,884.60
5/7	\$6,014	\$223,837	\$284,382.21	-\$60,545.21
5/14	\$6,436	\$230,273	\$300,002.82	-\$69,765.82

All entries for the Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to Jonathan McClish no later than Wednesday at 11:59 pm prior to the Sunday you wish to have the entry published. Send to mcclish.jonathan@gmail.com *



**The 45th Annual
HOLY CROSS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
FOOD FESTIVAL**
June 13-16, 2017 • Mt. Lebanon

This week, we are baking Koulourkia on Tuesday & Wednesday (May 23rd & 24th). We know the start of summer is a busy time to share your time but we're coming to the homestretch and need the help!

The group starts in the morning at 9am and wraps when the work is complete, usually mid-afternoon. Sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/foodprep17>, on our Facebook group, or call chair Regina Spanos with any questions at 412.889.6674.

The committee is collecting all volunteer needs for during the festival and we'll share a full list within the next week – keep an eye out for an email and bulletin/crossroads updates.

High School and College students (and parents) – did you know helping at our festival counts toward required volunteer hours for school? We can easily provide final documentation for all volunteer hours as long as we set up the arrangement in advance. Email HeatherKratsas@gmail.com for more details.