

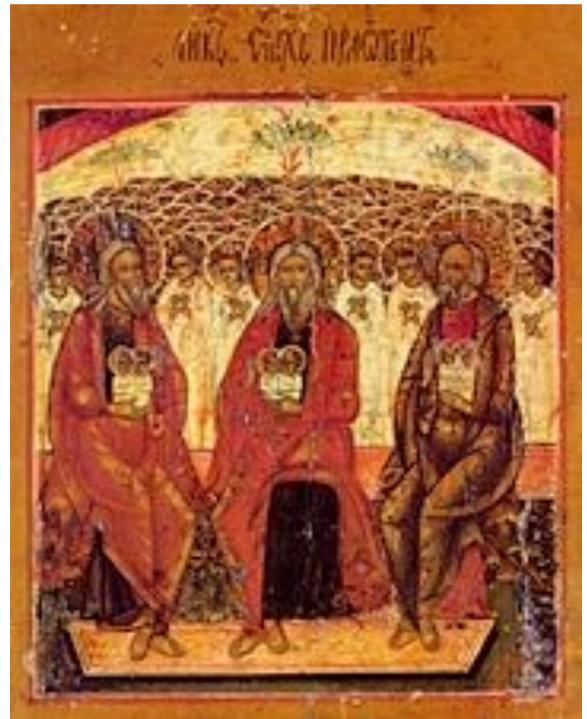
Sunday, December 17, 2017

Epistle reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"



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

Fr. Michael Kallaur
Fr. Dan Korba
Dn. Frank Dickos
www.holycrosspgh.org

Coffee Hour is sponsored by Philoptochos today.

Trisaigions Evelyn Callas 3 days (Fr. Michael will announce arrangements ~ Laughlin Funeral Home, Mt, Lebanon)
Zanettos Takos 19 years
Magdalene Takos 30 years

There is a limited number of plain, unseeded Christmas bread, \$10 a loaf, available TODAY, Sunday, December 17 following Divine Liturgy. Thank you for supporting this Philoptochos fundraiser!

This Week at Holy Cross

Monday 1:00pm ~ Christmas Card mailing ~ Volunteers welcome!!!
6:30pm Paraclesis /Bible Study

Tuesday 10am First Steps of Christ
6:30pm Parish Council

Wednesday **St. Ignatius** 8:30am Matins/9:30am Divine Liturgy

Thursday 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday **St. Anastasia the Great Martyr** 8:30am Matins/9:30am Divine Liturgy
11am Royal Hours

Saturday 8:30am Matins/9:30am Divine Liturgy
Confessions/5pm Vespers

Sunday **Christmas Eve** 8:15am Matins/9:30am Divine Liturgy
followed by Christmas Pageant
5pm Vespers

Monday **Christmas** 8:15am Matins/9:30am Divine Liturgy

ATTENTION.....**HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**: Applications for the Holy Cross Philanthropy Awards for this year will be available on December 17th in the Narthex or the Church Office or from Andrea Milinkovic, Philoptochos President. Requirements are detailed in the applications. We look forward to having all our High School Seniors apply.

Choir Rehearsals: Thursday, December 21 @ 7:30pm
GOYA BB Tournament: January 12, 13, 14

Thank you to ALL who helped at the FOCUS Christmas Concert reception last Sunday! It was a lovely event and we were entertained by truly inspirational vocalists.

Stewardship Message 2018

Stewardship is the love offering that we voluntarily give to our church. It is what makes it possible to serve the needs of our Holy Cross community. We have no minimum pledge, because whatever we can give is valued. Stewardship can involve many things, the time we have to give to others, the abilities and talents that we offer to the community, and the financial support that sustains us as a parish. Our stewardship enables us to support the ministries that are so dear to us. Our outreach, youth organizations, Sunday school, and the liturgical life of the church are all dependent on this support.

As we enter our 2018 Pledge drive, it is important to remember that the day to day operation and maintenance of our Church, Community Center and the grounds requires funding. For this we need the involvement of everyone. Our budget is over \$800,000. It costs about \$15,000 a week or about \$2,200 a day to run our church. As cost go up, we have to think about increasing our pledge. If everyone increased their pledge by 10% it would go a long way meeting our needs.

You can submit your 2018 Pledge Card online at www.holycrosspgh.org <<http://www.holycrosspgh.org>> ; Click on "Stewardship" and then click, "Pledge Online" and you can enter your 2018 pledge. You can also submit you pledge card by mail or by phone by calling Nena in the church office at 412-833-3355. To those of you have already turned in their 2018 Pledge Cards, we thank you.

*Ted Sofis, Vice President
Stewardship Chair*

*If you are interested in sponsoring
Coffee Hour, please 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.*

*Sundays in February and beyond are available for any-
one to volunteer. Please contact the church office.*



SOON @St. Nicholas Cathedral:

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 31, 2017

*Join us to celebrate
the New Year!*

\$45 per person
\$15 for children (under 12)
\$25 Dance only

INCLUDES:

- Buffet Dinner
- Champagne Toast at Midnight
- Full, cash bar
- Continental Breakfast
- Entertainment by PANIGIRI

Cocktails at 8 p.m.
Buffet dinner at 9 p.m.
Dance only at 10:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to Joanne Melacrinis at
412-563-4609 or 412-400-4607
NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 22

ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK
ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL
419 S. Dithridge St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Happy New Year!

Holy Cross Community Night

Thursday, January 18th 6-8:30pm

All Ages

Fun & Fellowship
With Your
Church
Family!

Complimentary
Dinner

GOYA: Grades 7-12

JOY: Grades 3-6

HOPE: Grades K-2

CRAFTS, GAMES AND MORE!

NURSERY

ADULTS

YOUNG ADULTS

"On Fire For Christ"

TO RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2018, please fill out the membership form below and return to the church or to Connie Carahalıs, 224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone_____

Email_____

*From your Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to the National Philoptochos in NYC and \$10 is sent to the Pittsburgh Metropolis Philoptochos. Anything over \$25 goes to Holy Cross Philoptochos

Or see any Board Member to pay your dues!

WELCOME – AND A FEW WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION...

We warmly welcome all visitors and seekers in our midst today, trusting that your experience here will be an uplifting and enriching one. The Greek Orthodox Churches are the ancient and native Christian communities of the biblical world, with centers in the Holy Lands, Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor, and by extension in Greece, Cyprus and throughout the world. Like the ancient Christians, we engage the whole person, heart, mind and all senses in Divine Worship. This experience has been so powerful to seekers in the past that it was often said “We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. We knew only that there God dwelt among human beings.” (Russian Primary Chronicle) That communion experience of heaven on earth and God in our midst forms the heart of all Orthodox worship. It culminates in the sharing of Holy Communion, which not only unites us with the Divine, but also expresses the deep unity in faith and life between all Orthodox believers. Since Holy Communion expresses that deep unity in belief and practice alike, it is reserved for observant Orthodox Christians. This does not mean, however, that non-Orthodox are ‘excluded’ – rather, the Orthodox choose not to make an external display of unity when actual unity does not exist. While working to restore the full communion that did exist in antiquity, today we offer the sign of the blessed bread at the service’s conclusion as a symbolic gift of hospitality and growing unity that is offered to all present. If you would like to learn more about the Orthodox way of life, or have any questions about worship or Holy Communion, please approach Fr. Michael or one of the clergy following services. Thank you for joining us, and again, we welcome you all.

THE CHURCH ~ A HOLY PLACE

When you enter the church building as the “House of Worship,” you are entering into the Great Throne Room of the “King of Kings” as His subjects and His soldiers. The “King of Kings,” Jesus Christ, is enthroned on the Holy Altar and all the angels, prophets, saints and the Most Holy Mother of God are present. His soldiers should be attentive and standing at attention. No one in the presence of the “king of Kings” would sit with his legs crossed, or his hands in his pockets, or chewing gum, or looking at his watch because to do any of these things would be disrespectful. The only proper disposition a soldier can have before his commander is that of reverence which is indicated by a bowed head, a submissive heart and prayer.