

Sunday, December 31, 2017 ~ Sunday before Epiphany

Epistle reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



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Fr. Michael Kallaur
Fr. Dan Korba
Dn. Frank Dickos
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Thank you to Philoptochos for sponsoring coffee hour today.

This Week at Holy Cross

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday *Eve of Epiphany*
9am Royal Hours
10:30am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil
First Blessing of Water

Saturday *Feast of Epiphany* 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
Great Blessing of Water

Attention Philoptochos Members: Change of date for meeting due to extreme temperatures. Philoptochos meeting postponed until NEXT week, Tuesday, January 9 at 7pm.

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.

GOYA BB Tournament: January 12, 13, 14

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=""](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.*



Philoptochos News:

*As we welcome a New Year, my wish is for
blessings for you and your families. We will
have our Philoptochos Meeting on
Tuesday, January 9th* at 7:00pm.*

*Looking forward to another year of
philanthropy and service.*

Invite a friend to join us!

See you Tuesday after next!

*Yours in Christ,
Andrea Milinkovic*

**date change*

**Reminder that Philoptochos Annual
Membership Dues are being collected
by Connie Carahalis and/or
Mimi Kontoulis.**

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.