

## Sunday, January 7, 2018 ~ Sunday after Epiphany

### Epistle reading is from Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

### **Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner**

#### The Gospel According to John 1:29-34

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."



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

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

*Thank you to Philoptochos for sponsoring coffee hour today.*

**This Week at Holy Cross**

- Monday**      **House Blessings**
- Tuesday**     **House Blessings**  
7pm Philoptochos Meeting
- Wednesday**   **House Blessings**  
4:30pm Greek School  
6:45pm GOYA Basketball
- Thursday**     **House Blessings**
- Friday**        GOYA Basketball Tournament at Holy Cross
- Saturday**     GOYA Basketball Tournament at Holy Cross

**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.

*If you are interested in sponsoring **Coffee Hour**, please 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.*  
*Sundays in February and beyond are available for anyone to volunteer. Please contact the church office.*



**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"

## House Blessings

Every year, on the Feast of Epiphany, Orthodox Christians around the world have a blessing of the waters to celebrate the Baptism of Christ as well as the revealing of the Holy Trinity to mankind. We then receive the blessing of this Holy Water to renew ourselves in Christ and to remind ourselves that through Christ all things are again made clean. We also extend that blessing to the homes in which we live, to wipe away temptations and attacks that might lead us away from Christ.

If you wish to have Fr. Michael come and bless your home, please complete this form and return it to the Church office at your earliest convenience. Please **PRINT** clearly.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUGGEST THREE (3) DATES AND TIMES FOR HOUSE BLESSING  
STARTING JANUARY 5TH**

(You will receive a phone confirming date and time of blessing)

**1** \_\_\_\_\_

**2** \_\_\_\_\_

**3** \_\_\_\_\_

Please prepare the following, to the best of your abilities, for the blessing:

- 1) Make an effort to have the entire family present.
- 2) Set out an Icon in a central area of the house where the prayer service will begin.
- 3) Write two lists of names, one of the living and one of the departed family members for whom you would like the Priest to pray during the house blessing.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to fill out and return this form, either in the basket or to:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
123 Gilkeson Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228



**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.*

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## 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.