

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.

Sunday, February 24, 2019 ~ Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15 Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The Gospel According to Luke 15:11-32 The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' An

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Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
 123 Gilkeson Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15228
 (412)833-3355 website: www.holycrosspgh.org email: holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org

Fr. Michael Kallaur
 Fr. Daniel Korba
 Dn. Frank Dickos

Altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Nicholas Bonaros by his wife Helen Bonaros.

Coffee Hour is sponsored in loving memory of Gust Rodites by the Galie family, downstairs in the Old Social Hall, due to floors being refinished in Community Center.

Memorials:

<i>Basil Pascaris</i>	<i>40 days</i>
<i>Linda Rodites</i>	<i>8 months</i>
<i>Nicholas Bonaros</i>	<i>6 years</i>
<i>Gust Rodites</i>	<i>10 years</i>

THIS WEEK:

Monday 1:00 pm Crossroads Mailing ~ Volunteers welcome!
 6:30pm Paracletis/Bible Study

Tuesday *St. Porphyrius of Gaza* 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy

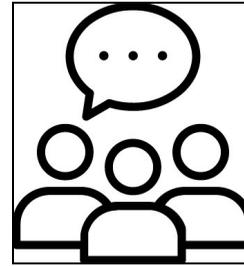
Wednesday 4:30pm Greek School
 6pm Blanket Ministry

Thursday 7:30pm Lazarus Men's Group @ Primanti's

Friday

Saturday of Souls 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service
 4pm Chant Class
 5pm Vespers
 6pm Altar Boy Meeting

(continued...)
 they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



Thank You! To all of the parishioners who filled out our Part 1 of the Community Survey. Many of you offered great personal insight and we truly appreciate your feedback! Responses are currently being tallied, and all comments will be presented to Parish Council. Once all parts of the survey are completed, a full report will be released to the community as well as list of ways in which your insights shaped our efforts moving forward. Keep an eye out for Part II of the survey, coming soon.

Please Join Us! Do you love farmers markets? Are you a farmers market guru? If so, please join us for our very first Holy Cross Farmers Market Committee Meeting! We're looking for a handful of volunteers to help with the remaining planning and execution of this exciting new event for our parish. Please join us on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:30pm in the Community Center.



For more information, please email holycrosspghfarmersmarket@gmail.com

The **Blanket Ministry** postponed from last week will meet in the Philoptochos Room at 6pm on Wednesday, February 27th. Please join us. You will love the fellowship, and we have a very talented instructor who is teaching everyone who wants to learn how to crochet. She's teaching beginners and all levels. Everyone has learned in a very short time how to make the blankets and shawls. A wonderful way to mix fellowship with an outreach project! Hope to see you there, and please invite a friend!

The Popi Hagelios Philanthropy Award applications are available to **Holy Cross High School Seniors**. The family must be Holy Cross pledged members. Please note the deadline to submit your application is March 17, 2019.
 In Christ,
 Andrea Milinkovic

Kicks for Kids

Collection of new or gently used athletic shoes to help support less fortunate kids in Washington County involved in sports.

(will accept any shoe ex. tennis shoes, soccer cleats, basketball shoes ect...)

Collecting from February 1st- March 1st.
 Run By GOYA

Monetary donations also greatly appreciated
 *email Julia Chakos at chakosj1@gmail.com
 or
 Jimmy Kartsonas at 20kartsonasj@ptsdwebapps.com*