

Visitors, please read

We warmly welcome all visitors and seekers in our midst today.

Holy Communion is the greatest gift on earth. It is given by God to baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians, who have prepared themselves with regular prayer, fasting (from midnight, unless there is a medical condition), and confession, and who have the blessing of their spiritual father or confessor to receive it.

We welcome anyone visiting for the first time, and we trust that your experience here will be an uplifting and enriching one. The Orthodox Christian Church is actually a community of local Churches, whose roots are the ancient and native Christian communities of the biblical world, with centers in Jerusalem, Syria, Egypt, and Asia Minor, and by extension in Greece, Cyprus, Russia, North America, and throughout the world.

As a continuation of the ancient Church, 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 men" (Russian Primary Chronicle). That experience of heaven on earth and God in our midst forms the heart of all Orthodox worship.

Our worship 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 among all Orthodox believers. Since Holy Communion expresses that deep unity in belief and practice alike, it is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians, who have properly prepared themselves with prayer, fasting, and recent confession. This is because the Orthodox choose not to make an external display of unity with other Christian groups when actual unity of faith and practice does not exist.

While working to restore the full communion that did exist among Christians in antiquity, today we offer the blessed bread (*antidoron*) at the conclusion of the Liturgy, as a gift of hospitality and of 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 other clergy following the Liturgy.

Thank you for joining us, and again, we welcome you all.

We hope you enjoy your visit with us here at Holy Cross, and we thank you for joining us today.

We formally invite you and/or your guests to join us for coffee hour in the community center next door. If you can stay, we would love to have you!

Sunday, June 23, 2019 ~ All Saints

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

The Gospel According to Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

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

Altar flowers are sponsored by the Politis family in memory of
Lemonia Politis and loved ones.

Coffee hour is sponsored by Philoptochos.

This Week: Apostles Fast
Camp Nazareth Week Two

Monday – June 24

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy

4-7pm Farmer's Market

Tuesday – June 25

Wednesday – June 26

Thursday – June 27

Friday – June 28

Saturday – June 29

Apostles Peter & Paul

8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy

5pm Vespers

Memorials

Lemonia Politis 40 days

Kyriaki Apostolos 5 years

Michael Megaludis 5 years

Constantine Politis 7 years

Anne Maria Politis Douris 11 years

Deanne Drandakis 11 years

Dorothea Megaludis 13 years

Apostoli Apostolos 22 years

Anna Politis 40 years

Manuel Politis 41 years

Sophia Apostolos 42 years

Michael Apostolos 59 years

Filming of the **50th Anniversary Video** will take place in the sanctuary on July 9 & 10. If interested in participating, please contact Mike Politis (412) 759-4659.

The Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair, Yiayia Joan's Treasures, will *ONLY* be accepting jewelry and books this year in September. Please honor our wishes.

 **Please sign up to sponsor a Coffee Hour!**  

Call the church office to confirm your date.
Dates available June 30 and July 14 & 21,
all of August and beyond!

New Website & e-GIVING launched

You may have already noticed that we have a new Holy Cross Website with live stream of our services! The new Website also launches the new E-giving we have already announced earlier.

All parishioners are now able to:

- ✓ Make a one-time payment on-line with your credit card or directly from your checking account
- ✓ Set up recurring credit card or check payments by creating your own private log-in profile

With this initial launch, the following funds will be available for contribution: *Stewardship (Pledge), Agape Donations, Building Fund (General), and Building Fund (Memorial)*

Here is how you can access the on-line donation portal:

Go to the www.holycrosspgh.org

Either select the top menu item: 'Donations & Stewardship'

Or: just click the button 'Stewardship Pledge'

In both cases, you will be directed to the 'Donation' page:

Click the 'Donate online' button or within the highlighted section,

Click on the button: 'Click here to access the e-Giving site'

In both instances, you will be directed to the form section to enter all your payment or log-in details

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact any member of the Parish Council or the Stewardship Committee and/or Committee Chair, Konrad Mayr (412) 877 7780 or