

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, December 8, 2019

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

The Gospel According Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

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

Coffee Hour is sponsored by Philoptochos.

Trisaigon: Peter Fekos 14 years

GOYA is selling spanakopita today for \$25 per pan.

Pageant rehearsal after Divine Liturgy.

JOY Caroling this afternoon.

THIS WEEK:

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| Monday – December 9 | 10am Christmas Bread Baking
6:30pm Paracletis/Bible Study |
| Tuesday – December 10 | 10am First Steps
6pm Community Night |
| Wednesday – December 11 | 4:30pm Greek School
6:45pm GOYA Basketball |
| Thursday – December 12 | <i>St. Syridon in Monessen</i>
9am Orthros/10am Divine Liturgy
6:30pm Blanket Ministry
7pm Chant Class |
| Friday – December 13 | <i>St. Herman of Alaska @ Holy Cross</i>
8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy |
| Saturday – December 14 | 5pm Vespers/Confessions |

The Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon is currently running a free exhibit, open to the public, titled “*Houses of Worship in Mt. Lebanon.*” Holy Cross is one of 15 congregations represented. Exhibit will run through end of January. See December CrossRoads for more information (p. 26) or contact the Society: 412-329-8595 or hsmtlebo@gmail.com.

Ministry Opportunity: We have a Holy Cross Parishioner coming to completion of incarceration. The parishioner has the possibility to finish their sentence and transition to a home setting with a stable family. If you are willing to open your home to this parishioner, please see Fr. Michael for the details.

Thank you to Presvytera Mary Zotis for chairing the Philoptochos Christmas Party at the Le Mont. It was a relaxing evening of fellowship to welcome the Christmas season!

Please join us tomorrow, Monday, December 9 for the annual Christmas bread making at 10am. Many hands are needed for rolling, twisting, egg washing, baking and wrapping. Wrapping and selling are from 2:00pm- 5:00pm. Any of your time is appreciated! Bread, \$10 a loaf, will be sold on baking day, Community Night, December 10, December 15 and if available December 22.

The Blanket Ministry will meet on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30pm in the Philoptochos Room. This is a change in the date on the Cross Roads calendar.

Tuesday, December 17, Circle of Angels will be preparing Christmas Baskets. Please remember our shut-ins with donated powder-free and nut - free cookies.

Please continue the 2020 Philoptochos membership form.

☞ All Saints, Canonsburg



TO RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2020, please complete and return to church or to *Connie Carabalis, 224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd, Pittsburgh 15234*

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

*From your Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to 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!**