

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
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✠ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 ✠ SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY ✠

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19** Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

**Gospel According to Matthew 2:13-23** When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**Memorials:** †Emmanuel Moissakis 1 year

**Coffee Hour** is sponsored by **Philoptochos**. ☕

HOLY CROSS MARKET again today! See below.↓

**THIS WEEK:**

Monday, December 30

Tuesday, December 31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

4pm Vespers

5pm Matins

6pm Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil

Wednesday, January 1

Thursday, January 2

Friday, January 3

11am Royal Hours for Theophany

Saturday, January 4

5pm Vespers



**HOLY CROSS MARKET**

VASILOPITA.  
SPECIALTY BREADS.  
SOUP & SWEET TREATS!

HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY CENTER  
DURING COFFEE HOUR  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 & 29  
(MORE DATES TO COME)



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE  
HOLY CROSS ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT

**Attention High School Seniors and Parents:** The application for the **Popi Hagelios Memorial Philanthropy Award of the Philoptochos Society of Holy Cross Church** is now available in the narthex, Elaine Sofis, [esofis@comcast.net](mailto:esofis@comcast.net) or Denise Melis, [dmelis@comcast.net](mailto:dmelis@comcast.net), electronically. The application is due by March 16, 2025. The award is available to a **PLEGGED 2025 Holy Cross family member** who is a 2025 graduating high school senior. A similar application is available from Mt. Lebanon High School. You may apply to both philanthropy awards, but will only be eligible for one

## 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 received 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 your house blessing  
**STARTING JANUARY 5TH**  
(You will receive a call 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 in the narthex or to:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of love and support for our

### Holy Cross Iconography project!

Thank you to the many who have pledged partial and full support to the icons. All of our efforts today are in preparation for this tremendous project to take place in July 2025.

We prayerfully ask you to consider supporting this project and creating a legacy for your family. No gift is considered small and can be fulfilled over three years (2024, 2025 & 2026).

May you and your family be blessed for what you can offer this project. All donation amounts are appreciated and can be contributed to the overall project or join with others for a specific icon.

Icons still available include:

The Four Evangelists: St. Mark\*

The Old Testament symbols for each evangelist:

Eagle, Ox, Lion, Young Man

Saints:

St. Andrew of Crete\*

St. Cyril of Alexandria

St. Gerasimos of Abydos\*

St. Nicholas Velimirovich

St. Innocent of Alaska

St. Raphael of Brooklyn

Large Icons: Pentecost

*\*Some icons listed may already have a partial donor, and your commitment may help complete that one."*

Please contact Vasso Paliouras at  
[vassopaliouras@gmail.com](mailto:vassopaliouras@gmail.com)  
or 412-606-4314 with any questions or specific requests.

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

Now through Epiphany...

# GIVE A GIFT

LET HOLY CROSS HELP YOU WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!  
MAKE A DONATION IN HONOR OF A LOVED ONE, AND A CARD WITH RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT WILL BE SENT TO THEM.

ANY DONATION IS A BLESSING AND WILL LAST FOR GENERATIONS AT HOLY CROSS

CHECKS MAY BE MADE PAYABLE TO:  
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH WITH  
ICONOGRAPHY IN THE MEMO.  
PLEASE INCLUDE A NOTE OF GIFT RECIPIENT'S NAME &  
ADDRESS

ALL DONATION AMOUNTS ARE ALWAYS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL  
AND NOT SHARED WITH GIFT RECIPIENT

A collage of religious art. At the top left is a golden icon of the Holy Trinity. To its right is a painting of a white vase with flowers and fruit. Below these are three smaller icons of saints. At the bottom right is a painting of a woman in a red headscarf playing a guitar. The text 'CALLING ALL HOLY CROSS ARTISTS' is overlaid on the collage.

CALLING  
ALL HOLY  
CROSS ARTISTS

To support our iconography project, we will have an online art auction in March! We'd love to showcase the many talented artists in our community. To learn more, contact Vasso Paliouras:

412-606-4314  
[VASSOPALIOURAS@GAMIL.COM](mailto:VASSOPALIOURAS@GAMIL.COM)