



HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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✠ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 ✠

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

†Fr. William Zotis 1 year

Altar Flowers are sponsored in loving memory of
†Fr. William Zotis by the Zotis family.

Coffee Hour is sponsored in loving memory of
†Fr. William Zotis by Mary Zotis and family.

THIS WEEK:

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30 7:30 PM YAL Pickleball

Wednesday, December 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
4pm Great Vespers
5pm Matins
6pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Thursday, January 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Friday, January 2

Saturday, January 3 Wedding/ NO Vespers

Dear High School Seniors and Parents: Holiday free time is here! A reminder that the Popi Hagelios Memorial Philanthropy Award of the Philoptochos Society of Holy Cross Church is available NOW to download online at [holycrosspgh.org- events- Holy Cross Philoptochos Philanthropy Award](http://holycrosspgh.org-events-Holy-Cross-Philoptochos-Philanthropy-Award), in the narthex, esofis@comcast.net or Denise Melis, dmelis@comcast.net, electronically. The award is available to a PLEDGED 2026 Holy Cross family member who is a 2026 graduating high school senior. Two \$1500 philanthropy awards are a possibility. The application is due by Sunday, March 29, 9pm. Elaine Sofis, 412 327-7017

*Please contact the church office to sponsor a coffee hour.
More information can be found on our website:*

<https://www.holycrosspgh.org/coffee-hour>



Parishioners have asked if donations are still needed for this project. The answer is Yes!

No donation is ever considered small. All commitments made can be paid in installments through the end of 2027.

The following is a current update on icons available and amount needed for each:

Eagle - \$16,000
Ox - \$24,000
Lion - \$25,000
Young Man - \$25,000

St. Andrew of Crete - \$12,300
St. Cyril of Alexandria - \$25,000
St. Gerasimos of Abydos - \$5000
St. Innocent of Alaska - \$25,000
St. Raphael of Brooklyn - \$24,250

Nativity of the Theotokos - \$50,000

Assumption of Mary - \$47,000

*Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration
of supporting this historic project.
It is truly a blessing for the many future generations
of Holy Cross.*

CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED

Reaching out to our community to see if anyone has interest in leading our Choir. If you or someone you know has the talent and a desire to direct the incredible voices at Holy Cross please reach out to a member of the Parish Council or Father Michael.



Dear Beloved Holy Cross Family,
As we celebrate the miracle of Christmas, we proclaim with joy: **Christ is born! Glorify Him!** The Nativity of our Lord is not only a beautiful moment in history—it is God’s living invitation to each of us, right now, to open our hearts to His presence and His work in our lives.

Christ’s birth teaches us that God enters the world quietly—often in ways that the proud overlook and the busy miss. The first to worship Him were the humble: shepherds watching in the night, and wise men who followed a star with patient faith. Christmas reminds us that miracles are not only “then,” but also “now”—when we remain spiritually awake, when we pray with sincerity, when we repent and return, when we forgive, and when we make room for Christ in our homes and hearts.

In this holy season, let us also renew the way we live as devout Orthodox Christians: **to love one another, to encourage one another, and to extend grace to each other.** When we are tempted to feel discouraged or divided, may we instead choose patience, understanding, and compassion—remembering that every person is carrying something we may not see. The joy of Christmas is that Christ comes to bring light, healing, and peace—not only to the world, but also to our relationships and our parish family.

As we give thanks for God’s blessings, we also continue to care for the practical needs of our parish community. **We are still fundraising for the Gas Line Project.** By God’s grace, and through your generosity, we have raised a **little over \$53,000**, but we still need to raise **\$220,000** to reach our goal. If you are able, please prayerfully consider a gift toward this important project. Every offering—large or small—moves us forward, and every sacrifice is an expression of love for our church home.

- We also ask everyone to help us finish the year strong with stewardship:
- Please make any final payments for your 2025 Stewardship Commitment** if you still have a balance.
 - Please fill out your 2026 Stewardship Card** as soon as possible. Cards are available in the **Narthex**, and your commitment helps us responsibly plan and support our ministries in the year ahead.

Beloved in Christ, thank you for being such a faithful, caring, and vibrant community. Your prayers, your kindness, your service, and your generosity are a true witness of Christ’s light among us. We are deeply grateful for each of you, and we ask God to bless you and your families with peace, health, and spiritual joy in the new year.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
(Luke 2:11)

With love in Christ and deep gratitude, The Holy Cross Parish Council