



HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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✠ **SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026** ✠ **PALM SUNDAY** ✠

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9 Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel According to John 12:1-18 Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Coffee Hour is sponsored by Philoptochos today.

A basket will be passed during Liturgy TODAY, Palm Sunday, to help defray the costs of our beautiful Epitafio flowers. Please place your name on your envelope for credit. Thank you for your generous donations.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
Holy Week 2026 – Schedule of Services

Palm Sunday – April 5

8:15 am – Orthros and Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm – Orthros of Great Monday (First Bridegroom Service)

Great and Holy Monday – April 6

9:00 am – Presanctified Liturgy

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Tuesday (Second Bridegroom Service)

Great and Holy Tuesday – April 7

9:00 am – Presanctified Liturgy

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Wednesday (Third Bridegroom Service)

Great and Holy Wednesday – April 8

9:00 am – Presanctified Liturgy

3:00 pm – Sacrament of Holy Unction (Ιερόν Ευχέλαιον)

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Thursday (with second anointing)

Great and Holy Thursday – April 9

9:00 am – Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (The Institution of the Eucharist)

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Friday (Service of the Passion and Twelve Gospels)

10:00 pm – Vigil by the Cross, and GOYA making sandwiches for the homeless

Great and Holy Friday – April 10

9:00 am – Royal Hours

3:00 pm – Vespers (Taking down from the Cross/Αποκαθήλωσις)

6:15pm Trisagion by tomb

6:30 pm – Orthros of Great Saturday (With Praises at the Tomb of Christ (Εγκώμια), and Procession of the Epitaphios)

Great and Holy Saturday – April 11

9:00 am – Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil ("First Resurrection")

10:00 pm – Nocturnes

10:30 pm – Receive the Light/Procession, Paschal Orthros/Divine Liturgy

AGAPE MEAL

Great and Holy Pascha – April 12

12:00 Noon – *Agape* Vespers (Reading of the Gospel in various languages)

We fervently request the entire Holy Cross parish family to share fully in the fasting, prayer, and liturgical observance of Holy Week and in the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection on Pascha night.

No other parish activities will take place during Holy Week.

Please keep this schedule of services posted for easy reference.

As Holy Friday approaches, we are preparing our myrophores to participate on Friday, April 10th. If your daughter is in between 1st & 6th grade and would like to participate, please contact Marina Bouzos at: marinantourou@gmail.com

**If you need a white dress, there is one available in the office, size 12.*

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026		
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philipians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!	 BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Join us for a Special Coffee Hour!

MINGLE & MIMOSAS

Welcoming our newest members to Holy Cross!

3 MAY 2026 | WHILE MINGLING WITH OUR LONG STANDING PARISHIONERS! | FOLLOWING LITURGY

COME SEE WHAT HAPPENS "BETWEEN" SUNDAYS!
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL THE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS AND OUTREACH WE HAVE!



DID YOU KNOW ?

Our records suggest we should have **approx. 500+ members** of our parish. As of now, we have less than **200 pledged members for 2026!**

Have you completed your 2026 pledge yet? If not, please pick up a bright yellow card in the Narthex or request an account for Realm by contacting HolyCrossPgh.Stewardship@gmail.com.

Holy Cross Stewardship 2026

HOLY CROSS GREEK FESTIVAL

2026 Cooking Schedule *

Dear Holy Cross Family, We invite you to share your time—whether a little or a lot—as we prepare for the upcoming 2026 Festival! This year, our celebration will once again span five exciting days, and we'll need plenty of helping hands to make it all happen. To make volunteering easier for everyone, we've added both evening and Saturday opportunities to fit a variety of schedules. We encourage you to think about how you can contribute to making this year's festival another record-breaking success. Thank you for your continued dedication and generosity! Demetrios		
Spanakopita	5,500 pieces	Completed
Souzoukakia	2,500 pieces	Completed
Koulourakia	10,300 pieces	Thur April 16 th 5pm Wed April 22 nd 5pm Tue April 28 th and Thur April 30 th 5pm Saturday May 23 rd 10am
Baklava	5,760 pieces	Friday April 24 th 9:30am and 4pm
Tiropitas	2,150 pieces	Monday May 4 th 10am-5pm Tuesday May 5 th 10am-5pm
Patitisiso	1,550 pieces	Tuesday May 5 th Boiling Noodles Wednesday May 6 th 10am – 5pm Thursday May 7 th 10am – 5 pm
Galatouriko	1,275 pieces	Monday May 11 th 10 am
Kourambiedes	2,980 pieces	Wed May 20 th 10-5 Thu May 21 st 10-5 Fri May 22 nd 11-6
Finikia	2,500 pieces	TBD
Karidopita	1,550 pieces	Mon May 18 th 10-5 Tue May 19 th 10-5
Shank sauce		TBD
Syrup	5 Batches	Mon May 4 th thru Sat May 9 th Evenings

*Reminder texts and voicemails will be sent before each prepped item. Times and dates are subject to change As of 3.25.26

Baking with a Twist!

Festival Koulourakia Preparation

10,800 (900 DOZEN) TO MAKE!

- Thursday, April 16th, 5pm-9pm
- Wednesday, April 22nd, 5pm-9pm
- Tuesday, April 28th, 5pm-9pm
- Thursday, April 30th, 5pm-9pm
- Saturday, May 23rd, 9am-4pm and more dates if needed!



Refreshments will be provided! All are welcome! No experience needed!

For signup and questions: Contact Stephen Yamalis yamalis.stephen@gmail.com

Holy Cross Philoptochos presents:

The National Orthodox Baby Shower

Through April, we are collecting the following to benefit local pregnancy resource centers.



- diapers
- new & gently used clothing
- newborn care items, bottles, blankets
- new toys, car seats, strollers



Thank you for your support!

GREEK DANCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

FIRST PRACTICE SUNDAY, APRIL 19 DURING COFFEE HOUR.

SAVE THE DATE FOR AN

Afternoon Tea



HOLY CROSS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS INVITES YOU TO SPEND AND AFTERNOON WITH US FOR LUNCH AND TEA

SATURDAY **16** 11:00 AM MAY

TICKETS \$25

PLEASE CONTACT DENA YAMALIS 412-343-8355 DYAMALIS@COMCAST.NET