



Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

Christ is in our midst! He is and shall always be!

Rejoice! A new Church year has arrived. What new challenges will await our journey? Who will God bring into our lives to help us on our path to salvation? We look forward to serving and welcoming all whom God sends to us and pray for His guidance and wisdom in all our decisions.

The two great feasts that immediately engage us are the birth of the Theotokos (September 8th) and the Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14th). The devotion and love of the parents of the Panagia, Joachim and Anna, give birth to the one who will be the “Living Temple” of God. God has been waiting for her. The one who will say yes to His plan and will humbly and obediently follow His plan even though she may not understand it. Her faith in God will never waiver or her love for Him grow cold. This type of love and obedience requires a cross. A sacrifice that will place God’s will before our own and a desire to serve that will require a trust and faith that will defy logic. This is how we begin the new church year, with expectation and a cross. “Whoever wishes to follow after Me, let him/her deny him/herself, take up their cross, and follow Me.” (Mk.8:34)

The lives of the saints help us visualize this journey in Christ. In every generation, there are those who dedicate themselves to acquiring the grace of the Holy Spirit and God chooses to reveal

continued p.4 →



Vacation Church School 2026

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 26 Issue 9

Under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh

The mission of Holy Cross is to keep and proclaim, pure and undefiled, the Orthodox Christian faith and

Fr. Michael Kallaur, Presiding Priest

Fr. Daniel Korba, Presbyter

Deacon Elias Diamond

Philip Yamalis, Cantor

Nena Jovonovich, Secretary

Website: holycrosspgh.org

Office (412) 833-3355 FAX (412) 833-3357

Community Center Phone: (412) 854-6001

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Organizations & Committees

Church School	Elias Diamond	(412) 833-3355
Philoptochos Pres.	Dina Hartlep	(412) 720-9383
Phil. Membership	Christine Picard	(412) 951-7258
Circle of Angels	Carol Halkias	(412) 276-5002
	Christine Peters	(724) 693-9290
Landscaping	Frank Kalogeris	(412) 855-4155
	Rebekah Krakora	(412) 728-4842
Greek School	Dena Yamalis	(412) 343-8355
Junior Dance	Marina Bouzos	(412)-736-7455
Senior Dance	Rachel Facaros	(412) 323-6298
Choir		
First Steps	Sophia Alfaras-Melainis	(412) 251-3209
JOY	Elias Diamond	(412)413-7427
Young Adults	Elias Diamond	(412)413-7427
GOYA	Denise Melis	(412) 341-9264
Golden Club	Cynthia Kostelnik	(412) 833-9423
	Rene Koett	(412) 559-1721
Bookstore	Mary Portellos	(724) 941-8699
House Committee	Constance Zotis	(412) 736-7145
Building Comm.	Michael N. Zervos	(412) 833-6843
Sts. Mary & Martha	Dina Hartlep	(412) 720-9383
Interior Design Committee	Laura Zervos	(412) 287-5679

Coffee Hour fellowship is an extension of our Divine Liturgy! Please gather with family, koumbari or friends to sponsor/prepare one Sunday. See the calendar on website for open dates, and call the church office to confirm.



***Services:**

Sundays:	8:15am Orthros
	9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Mondays:	6:30pm Paraclesis
Wednesdays:	7 pm Bible Study and via Zoom
Weekdays:	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Saturdays:	Vespers 5pm
*See monthly calendar for all services.	

Funeral/Memorial information:

For **Kollyva**, you may bring your own or contact Denise Melis directly (412) 341-9264.



Use of the Community Center is available for parishioner funeral lunches at no charge. Parishioners may contact any caterer they choose to purchase and prepare their **Makaria** (Mercy Meal).

Parish Council 2026

Anthony Cuneo, President
Stephen Yamalis, Vice President
Angela Athanas, Treasurer
Socrates Zacharias, Financial Secretary
Sophia Milinkovic, Secretary
Bryan Elderkin
Eleni Maneta
Rita Manganas
Tom Mourtacos
Jordan Nicholas
Ted Sofis
Sadie Stang
Zachary Stevens
Mark Urso
Constance Zotis

their holiness to us. We are humbled by their devotion and sacrifice. They inspire us to strive for holiness and often show us practical ways to help us in our spiritual journey. We are grateful for their witness and have also been the beneficiary of their prayers and holiness.

At Holy Cross, in the Altar area, which is not readily visible to the entire congregation, there are two areas where we would like to add two groups of saints. These saints have had direct impact upon our community of Holy Cross.

On the North side (looking at the Altar to the left), we would like to add the following saints – Saints Joseph the Hesychast, Ephraim of Arizona, Gerasimos Bishop Abydos and Pittsburgh, and Herman of Alaska.

On the South side (looking at the Altar to the right), Saints Porphyrios of Kavso-kalyvia, Paisios of Mt. Athos, Sophrony of Essex, and Justin Popovich of Serbia.

The saints on the North side of the Altar all directly came to America and served, with the exception of St. Joseph. St. Joseph was the spiritual father of Elder Ephraim of Arizona and was instrumental in preparing him to serve and establish monasteries in America.

The saints on the South side of the Altar are all contemporary saints (living in the last century) who witnessed and suffered through the world wars and provide us with spiritual insight and wisdom to help us in our everyday struggles. Their impact upon the Church in the world and especially America cannot be overstated. Many of their writings have been and are currently being translated into the English language and we are able to receive this tremendous resource of grace and wisdom.

In this Crossroads is a computer-generated rendering of how the icons would look in the Altar space. The additional cost to add these icons is \$35,000.00.

On Sunday September 20th, we are holding a special General Assembly to discuss this addition of icons. Please plan to attend.

The Pursuit of Holiness

This beginning of the new Church year challenges us to press forward in our journey to holiness. In the Old Testament in the Book of Leviticus, God commands His people on three separate occasions – “And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.” (Lev. 19:1-2)

Holiness, being set apart for God, is something that is not easily understood or thought about. In the Book of Leviticus, holiness has very clear directives from God. These directives are the basis for the 10 Commandments. Listen to some of the directives of God:

“Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths; I am the Lord your God. Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods: I am the Lord your God.” (Lev. 19:3-4)

“You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear by my name falsely and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him.” (Lev. 19:11-13a)

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” (Lev.19:17-18)

“You shall not practice witchcraft. You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh on account of the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the Lord.” (Lev.19:26b-27)

In the life of the Church, we are continually challenged to become more holy. We strive for perfection, but understand that “One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ...” The intention of becoming holy is where we seek wisdom and grace from the Holy Spirit, the Holy Scripture, the Saints (Holy Ones) who have succeeded with great effort in their journey toward holiness. God has created us for this very purpose – to become children of God! To become what God is by His very nature, we are called to be through His divine grace and mercy.

There was a famous story of Fr. Bulgakov, the Dean of St. Sergius Seminary in Paris, France. He attended an ecumenical gathering where the topic was the Church. He began his talk speaking about the Mother of God and they interrupted him, "Father Bulgakov, we said we would speak about the Church, not the Mother of God." Fr. Bulgakov responded, "We cannot talk about the Church unless we talk about Mother of God. She is the face of the Church. She is the place where the new life of the Kingdom of God, Paradise, life in the Holy Spirit, finds its fulfillment and thus is being fulfilled because the Church was not built in abstraction. The Church is very concrete."

We celebrate the birth of the Mother of God at the beginning of the new Church year. It is the first feast (September 8th). We remind ourselves not only of the nature of time, but the whole process of saving the world, of coming to the Kingdom of God, inaugurated in history, in time, through the fulfillment in the Mother of God. We are called to prepare ourselves by making the life of the Kingdom of God our own. We partake of His baptism and resurrection here and now. We become participants in the life of the age to come. When Christ comes again or we die and go to Him, we will appear with Him in glory. St. Paul writes, "You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, our God who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." (Col.3:3-4)

The Church year begins with the birth of the Mother of God and concludes with her death, her dormition. She is taken bodily into the Resurrection reminding us of our high calling to be HOLY!

The question we must ask, is what are we becoming? Born to be a child of God, but what we are pursuing? I am often perplexed that we would subject our families to outlandish schedules, practices, and games of sport, often at great distances from home, and yet provide little or no time for spiritual growth and edification. The idea that our spiritual life takes less effort and time than any of other activities or interests is misguided. The new Church year is a time for reflection on priorities. What are becoming?

God's creation, we, as human beings are constantly evolving. Species continue to go extinct and new species are continually being discovered. Our own understanding of the universe continues to grow as we learn more and discover new tools to examine it. We too as human beings are constantly changing, aging, and developing. Spiritually we are challenged. Will we ascend to our God? Will we turn to Him in prayer and gratitude? Will we give in to hatred, anger, lust, and immorality? Or will we fight against such sins? Each day we are given the opportunity to choose.

"Many of us go through life wishing for the ideal – the ideal parent, the ideal child, the ideal husband or wife. We forget that none of us is a finished product, complete like a piece of polished jewelry. Each of us is in the process of becoming. How many divorces occur because there is the foolish idea in our minds that some perfect mate exists somewhere; and that we must shed the present mate to find the perfect one. We forget that the perennial problem in marriage is not to find the ideal partner, but to become the ideal partner. It is the power to become better than we are, a new creation, sons and daughters of God, gods by grace, that Christ offers to those who receive Him and believe in Him; power to overcome the world; power to crucify every besetting sin; power to shout in triumph over every trouble and temptation in life, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Power to become what we are by baptism, children of God!" (Fr. Anthony Coniairis, *"Power to Become."*)

Holiness is not elusive or abstract. It is a discipline, a way thinking, looking at and experiencing everything as a gift from God. Here an encounter of man with a saint.

A saint is not a remarkable person on the surface; all his/her riches are internal in his soul. A peasant came a long way to the monastery to hear and speak with the famous elder St. Sergius. When he asked for the abbot, he was told that he was working in the garden. The peasant went off to the garden and observed a man there in poor and dirty clothing, hoeing along with the other workers. The peasant returned to the monastery dissatisfied,

thinking within himself that the monks were making fun of him, and repeated that there might be no mistake, that he wanted to see the famous holy elder Sergius. Sergius arrived back at the monastery just then, and welcomed the peasant, serving him at the table. The saint looked into the heart of his guest and saw there the thoughts about himself. To calm his guest, he told him that he would see the elder if he waited a little. Just then, a prince arrived at the monastery with his entourage. Both the prince and his nobles bowed low to elder and asked his blessing. The monks then removed the peasant from the room to make space for the new guests. The peasant looked on with wonder from afar, and he peered to see that which he had spurned. The peasant was upset with himself for his ignorance and was deeply ashamed. When the prince departed, the peasant quickly went up to the saint and fell at his feet and asked for his forgiveness. And the elder was gentle with him and said; "Do not grieve my son, you thought a true thing of me, reckoning me as nothing, while others are deluded in thinking me something great." (From the Prologue of Ochrid, Vol. III, pg. 374-375)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we begin a new Church year, let us heed the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians:

"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...." (Phil. 4:8)

On our journey to holiness, let us be mindful of our calling, to be the children of God, "You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy."

With love and prayers,
Fr. Michael

Ιερά Μονή Γεννήσεως Τῆς Θεοτόκου
Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery

Gerontissa Theophano & the Sisters invite you to:

The Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos &
Θυρανοίξια (Thyranixia) - Opening of the Doors
of the newly completed Church

September 5, 2026 (Saturday)

September 4th (Friday)

5:00 pm Great Vespers & Orthros

September 5th (Saturday)

9:00 am: Θυρανοίξια followed by
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Lunch Follows

Monastery of the Nativity of the Theotokos - New Church→



As the presiding Heirarch knocks on the main doors of a newly completed Church,
Psalm 24:7 is chanted:

“ἄρατε πύλας, οἱ ἄρχοντες ὑμῶν, καὶ ἐπάρθητε, πύλαι αἰώνιοι,
καὶ εἰσελεύσεται ὁ βασιλεὺς τῆς δόξης.”

“lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.”



New church altar

This signifies Christ The King entering His Church in triumph,
and opening the gates to
Paradise previously closed to humanity because of sin.
The physical Church represents the
Kingdom of God, and Christ the Door:
“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.” (John 10:9)

**We ask that you please RSVP via email:
info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org or
by calling us at 724-352-3999**

121 St. Elias Lane; Saxonburg, PA 16056

All visitors must be modestly dressed:

Men must wear long sleeves and long pants. Women must wear long sleeves
and a long dress or skirt. Socks must be worn with sandals or shoes.

SAVE THE DATE

SPECIAL ICONOGRAPHY GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Immediately following Diving Liturgy

Special Lunch to be provided by Parish Council

A vote is needed from the community

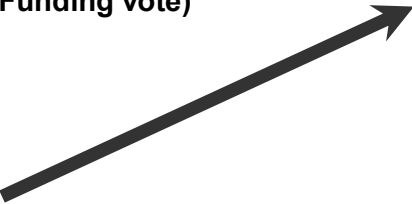
September General Assembly Agenda

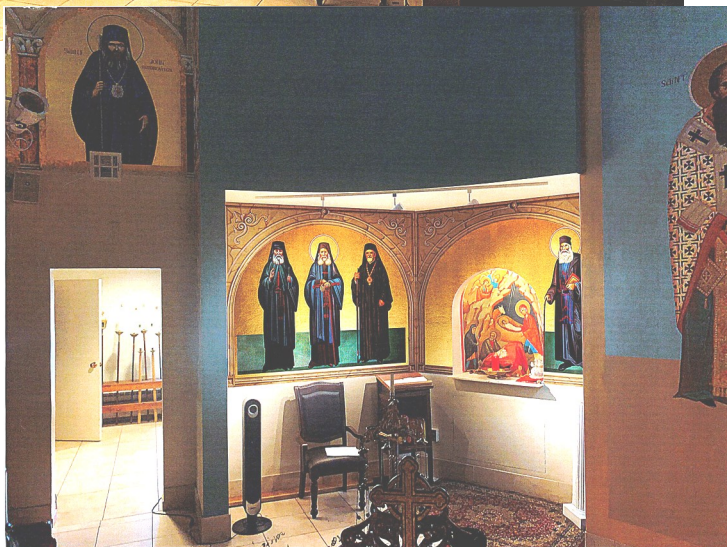
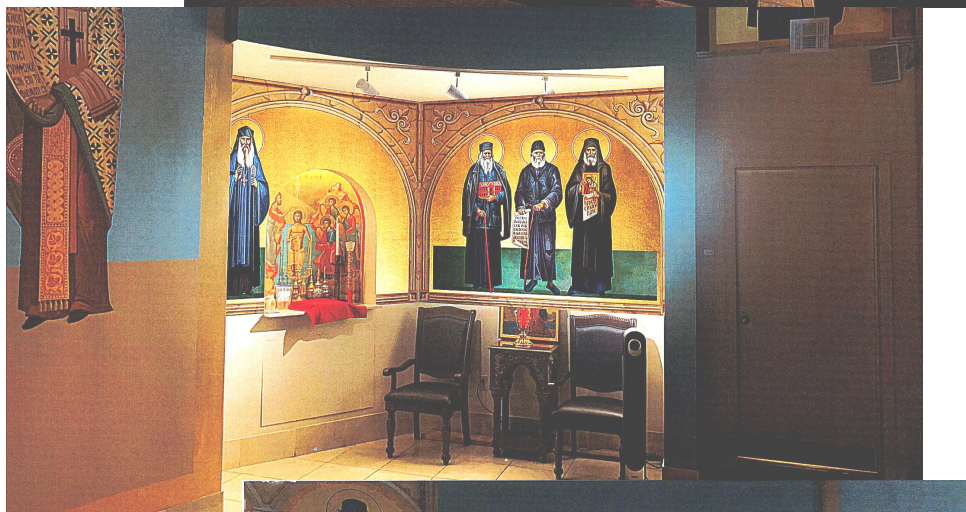
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

**Sunday, September 20th, 2026 |
Holy Cross Community Center**

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Elections of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for that Assembly**
- 3. Reading of minutes of the previous meeting**
- 4. Iconography discussion and vote**
- 5. HVAC for the church (Funding vote)**
- 6. Stewardship Report**
- 7. Old Business**
- 8. New Business**
- 9. Closing Prayer**

Proposed Icons in Altar





The Faithful and Secularism, Part Three

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

In view of the new and continually unfolding challenges that secularism poses to faith in general, and to the Christian in particular, within the society of modernity — which has now come to be called "postmodernity" — believers differ in their ways of confronting it. This is not surprising, because many of these challenges are entirely new, and the Church has not previously experienced them.

Until recently, people lived in a religious society. Even if everyone were not a believer, people were nevertheless born into a social atmosphere marked by religious customs, traditions, and values. In contemporary society, however, the religious character is absent and has been replaced by a secular, worldly character, shaped by human experiences, expertise, and both sweet and bitter trials.

This change has begun to accelerate greatly throughout the whole world over the past two decades. Although the speed of this acceleration differs from one society to another, it now affects all societies. Religious bodies, therefore, find themselves before a real challenge, one they have not previously faced with such intensity. It is thus natural that opinions and experiences should multiply regarding the ways of dealing with it, the questions of preserving and transmitting the faith to contemporary humanity, the language of evangelization, and the embodiment of Christian principles in today's world. This has produced diverse currents, which we may place under two broad categories, while recognizing within each of them varying degrees of strictness and leniency.

The first current boycotts what this world produces whenever it differs from what people were accustomed to in the past. For this current, every new thing becomes suspect, every innovation stirs fear, and every unfamiliar form of communication is viewed as demonic and as a path toward abandoning the uprightness of the faith. It is worth noting that the followers of this current do not boycott the use of technological tools themselves. Rather, they reject the new possibilities these tools produce in terms of rapprochement, communication, and encounter among human groups.

They reject dialogue because they sense, behind its various forms, aims that are dangerous to the Church and to the Orthodox faith. Thus, they reject rapprochement altogether instead of rejecting only the specific form in which they perceive danger. They see every engagement with the other as the beginning of a new heresy and as an abandonment of the Orthodox faith.

They confine faith to the forms produced by the action of the Holy Spirit among the ancients, and they are eager to imprison it within those forms, forbidding it to produce new expressions. They do not appreciate the extent of the change that has come upon contemporary humanity because of secu-

larism and modernity. They do not see the increasing challenges to faith as a field of witness for them through their engagement with those challenges. They are content with the truth they possess. Whoever wishes may come and see.

They speak in a language that they themselves understand, but which may mean nothing to others—or, if it does mean anything, may communicate distorted concepts of the faith. They do not wish to enter the contest or confront the challenge. Nor do they accept the use of modern culture and the language of today in evangelization. They are moved by a constant anxiety over the preservation of the purity of the faith more than they are impelled to face the accumulating and rapidly increasing challenges to faith.

Thus, in the best of cases, they become like someone carrying cold water while waiting for the thirsty person to come to him. They do not require of themselves that they go out to him. They are like someone sheltering securely inside a strong, stormproof building, while showing little concern for those facing hurricanes in their collapsing homes. In the best of cases, they are prepared to receive them if they knock on their door.

The adherents of the second current are enchanted by modernity and by what it produces. They adopt everything it offers without caution or discernment. They engage positively and energetically in dialogue, whatever it may be and wherever it may be found. They approach new ideas, patterns, and philosophies with admiration, even when these are opposed to their Gospel. They wish to reconcile the world with the Gospel easily, and often superficially.

They do not distinguish between the spirit of the world and the spirit of the Gospel. They hasten toward compromise in every discussion or dialogue. They find it easy to interpret the Gospel texts in ways that agree with their own ideas. They are influenced by prevailing patterns of life and wish, with good but naïve intentions, to clothe these patterns with a Christian garment.

Their motives may be pure, and many of them may be sincere in their efforts with intentions free of deceit. But they are captivated more than they should be by the glitter of modernity, by what it produces and establishes in minds and souls. They wish to modernize the faith through it, imagining that by doing so they are "evangelizing" it. It is no surprise, then, if many of them are found to be more influenced by the prevailing culture than by the culture of their faith.

In both currents, one finds those who go too far and harden themselves in one direction or the other, reacting violently toward the followers of the opposing current. The clash between the two sides may reach a dangerous point, threatening the unity of the Church and sowing a spirit of hatred and bitterness among her children. Perhaps the most dangerous thing in both groups is that each, in its own way, leans toward extremism in positions built more upon convictions than upon prayerful and tearful love, burning

with longing for the salvation of the other side.

They are also driven by a zeal that may perhaps be sincere but motivated by emotionalism rather than by the quiet Spirit of the Lord, who enlightens, traces the straight path, and inspires one to walk in it. Their rigidity prevents them from meeting and engaging in dialogue within an atmosphere of prayer, peace, and love, drawn from their shared supplication for the presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst. Humility is lost—the humility that springs from the joy of encountering the brother "for whom Christ died," whatever his position may be.

Moreover, the accusations exchanged between the two sides often take on a sharp and harsh tone, using absolute labels such as heretic, fundamentalist, liberal, un-Orthodox, rigid, destructive, and so forth. This creates an atmosphere in which people become unable to clarify their perspectives to one another. Ordinary believers see, within the ecclesial atmosphere, nothing but conflict, attack, criticism, accusation, noise and confusion, to the point that many of them can hardly understand what is happening.

Fear for the faith moves the followers of the first current to such a degree that they may forget that God is present in the midst of His Church. They assume the role of the policeman defending God's rights—even if, in doing so, they remove God Himself and replace Him with themselves. The followers of the second current are moved by the influence of the ideas of this age, to the point that they almost seem to believe that the Gospel is incomplete and needs to be completed by what human civilization has achieved.

The hesychastic life of prayer, which gives birth to love, remains absent on both sides. Without it, there can be no clear and pure vision. Let us remember that God did not speak to the prophet Elijah in the fire, nor in the storm, but in the gentle breeze. Let us make room for the Lord of the Church to express Himself, and let us not obscure Him by a false zeal that often springs from our passions rather than from our purity.

The immense efforts that were undertaken for the convening of the Great Council in 2016 ended in failure, and so many began calling it the Council of Crete. Yet what happened revealed the great chasm within the Church between the two currents mentioned above. It is the secular mentality that makes some close themselves off to the point of death, while others open themselves up to the point of losing their identity.

Olivier Clément, speaking as an Orthodox Christian, called for "the necessity that our action correspond to our word, that we free it from everything marked by hostility toward others, and that we unleash the Holy Spirit to act in history and restore to it the possibility of openness and creativity."

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

OPA!

YOU'RE INVITED TO A GREEK VILLAGE-STYLE GLENDI!

Get ready for an unforgettable night in Pittsburgh with
GREEK MUSIC, DANCING, FOOD AND KEFI!

FEATURING NEW YORK CITY'S
Apollo Orchestra
WITH LETERIS BOURNIAS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

beginning at 6:00 PM

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228



Visit [HolyCrossPGH.org](https://www.HolyCrossPGH.org)

for more information and to
purchase your tickets or scan
the QR code.



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Love one another as I have loved you" - John 15:12. This is the central teaching that Jesus gave to us. Loving others in this specific way is the primary mark by which all people recognize His followers. Our faith can get us to heaven, but our works bring heaven to Earth. We are called to be loving of others, forgiving of others, to regard others more highly than ourselves, to teach and correct one another, to encourage one another, to pray for one another, to bear other's burdens, to be devoted to one another, to be kind and compassionate to one another, and to be generous in hospitality.

What a beautiful calling! I am amazed at all the ways we at Holy Cross emulate and strive to fulfill this commandment. Our work with our ministries touches countless lives and is inspiring. Whether it's through the work of the Philoptochos, our support of Walk for Missions, sandwiches for the homeless, or even a friendly greeting from our welcoming committee, we are truly embodying Jesus's commandment.

With this in mind, please join us throughout the remainder of the year with all of the ongoing wonderful ministries:

A **Special Iconography General Assembly** will be held immediately following Diving Liturgy on **September 20th**. Please join us as a vote is needed from the community.

Our 2nd annual **Glendi** will take place on **Saturday, September 26th** and will start at 6 PM. The night will be filled with Greek music, dancing, food, and kefi! The music will be provided by New York's Apollo Orchestra. Gather your friends and loved ones to celebrate. Visit Holy Cross's website to purchase tickets.

The **Walk for Missions** will take place on Sunday, **October 11th** at 1:30 PM. Save the date!

The **Golf Outing** is scheduled for **October 12th**. Whether you're a golfer or not, there's something for you. Stop by for dinner and take part in the silent auction.

The **Philoptochos Autumn Greek Food Festival** will be **October 14th and 15th**. This is a major fundraiser for the Philoptochos where all proceeds are donated to outreach.

Our church member directory is being updated for the first time in a decade! Please



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

123 Gikeson Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15228 | (412) 833-3355 | Fax: (412) 833-3357 | www.holycrosspgh.org



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

email hcmemberdirectory@gmail.com with your submission by the **September 26th** deadline. For families that would like a professional photo, we are offering a photographer on September 26th during the Glendi. There will be a fee associated with use of the photographer.

Our **stewardship campaign** is in full swing. Thank you so much to all that have already pledged! We are asking all parishioners to consider increasing their stewardship by an average of 10% per year until the year 2031. This would allow us to use stewardship alone to cover all operating expenses for the church, freeing up fundraising monies to go towards facility improvements, outreach, and re-establishing our emergency fund.

Please consider making a **planned gift** to Holy Cross to support our **endowment**. Once the endowment fund reaches \$500,000, interest from the fund will be used for extraordinary purposes including: ministries, projects, and/or philanthropy. Mark your calendars for **November 15th during coffee hour** when our own Chris Chaney will discuss how to give a planned gift!

With love in Christ,

Anthony Cuneo

President of Holy Cross Parish Council

Goals for 2026 and beyond include:

- 1) Strengthen our sense of community while at the same time growing closer to Jesus through serving others by using our time, talent, treasure, and influence.
- 2) Stewardship - cover ALL operating expenses with stewardship alone by 2031.
- 3) Endowment - Have 75 people/families commit by our 75th anniversary (2029).
- 4) Emergency Fund - Reestablish 3 months operating expenses.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming events planned for 2026:

9/20/26: Special Iconography General Assembly (immediately following Divine Liturgy)

9/26/26: Glendi

10/11/26: Walk for Missions

10/12/26: Golf Outing

October 14th-15th: Philoptochos Autumn Festival

11/5/26: Gyro Thursday

11/8/26: November General Assembly

11/15/26: Planned Giving Coffee Hour

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

123 Gikeson Road | Pittsburch. PA 15228 | (412) 833-3355 | Fax: (412) 833-3357 | www.holvcrosspah.org





HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Dear Holy Cross Family,

As we are over half-way through the year, we wanted to provide a brief update on the status of our 2026 stewardship campaign. As of 8/24/2026, we currently have 314 pledged members. As a reminder, A **pledged member** refers to a single adult, a married couple, or family (including children under age 18) who has completed a Stewardship Card/pledge for pledges for 2026.

As we enter the new Ecclesiastical year, it is a good time for us to be reminded of why we are called to be stewards of the church. We are called to give all of ourselves back to God, and thus by participating in sacraments and the various ministries of the church— through giving our time, talents, and treasures— we are demonstrating our understanding of this calling. Just by giving *some* of our time and treasures to the church we are representative of stewardship. And furthermore, by practicing this example, we are able to share Christ's light with each other and the world. At our parish, we "pledge" our commitment to good stewardship by annually signing a stewardship card or completing a pledge. By completing this **annual pledge**, we are acknowledging our status as members and therefore establishing ourselves as members in good standing for the year.

If you haven't already, we prayerfully request you to complete your pledge to "renew" your membership **by the end of September 2026**. Please join us in acknowledging our membership/stewardship to Holy Cross. Please take a moment to take one of the following actions:

- (1) **Completing a signed Stewardship Card**, available in the Narthex. This can be returned via hand-delivery in the Stewardship box in the Narthex, via email to HolyCrossPgh.Stewardship@gmail.com, or via mail to the Church Office.
- (2) **Entering a pledge on Realm** with an account. Once logged in, please navigate to "Giving", where there is an option "+ Pledge". Please select this option to set your pledge amount and frequency.

In order to pledge via Realm, an invitation to create an account must be accepted. To request an invite to Realm, to check your pledged membership status for 2026, to make any adjustments to your pledge, or to ask any other questions, please contact HolyCrossPgh.Stewardship@gmail.com. Please help to spread the word to your family and friends.

Thank you!

Stephen Yamalis

2026 Vice President, Stewardship Chair

HolyCrossPgh.Stewardship@gmail.com

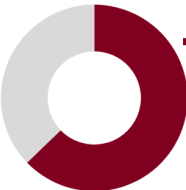
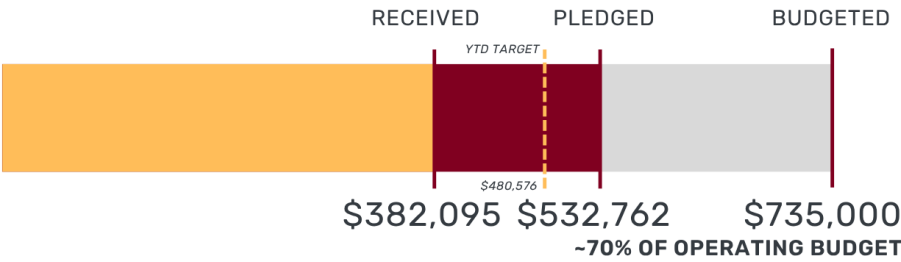


HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

123 Gikeson Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15228 | (412) 833-3355 | Fax: (412) 833-3357 | www.holycrosspgh.org

STEWARDSHIP 2026 SNAPSHOT

AS OF 8/24/2026



314 PLEDGED MEMBERS
OUT OF AN EXPECTED 500+ MEMBERS

Membership status includes completion of **annual 2026 pledge**, via Stewardship Card or Realm. **To pledge on Realm, please request an account first** (see below).

Thank you to those who have pledged and/or contributed to our 2026 Stewardship campaign thus far! We are at approx. ~70% towards our pledge goal, and targeting to have all 2026 pledges returned by the end of **September 2026**.

If you have not yet returned your pledge, please drop off your Stewardship Card in the Stewardship box in the Narthex or complete your pledge on Realm.

For any questions, to check your pledge status, or to request an invitation to Realm, please contact Stephen Yamalis at holycrosssphg.stewardship@gmail.com. To pledge and manage stewardship on Realm, an invitation and account creation are required.

ROAD TO 100%

Please join us on the **Road to 100%**, as we aim to cover 100% of the Operating Budget with Stewardship, by 2031, allowing other income sources to be dedicated to major projects, outreach, reserves, and more! To join in this effort, please prayerfully consider a **10% average annual increase** in your stewardship pledge/contributions.



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Dear Holy Cross,

We would like to provide you with a financial report for the month of July 2026. Total income for the month was \$74K, of which \$52K was from your generous stewardship. As a reminder, our budgeted monthly stewardship goal is ~\$62K per month.

Expenses for the month (excluding Food Festival expenses) totaled \$103K, resulting in operating income of \$(29)K for the month of July. We are \$78K behind budget related to our stewardship so far this year. If you have not already done so, please consider fulfilling your stewardship pledge this Fall.

We look forward to continuing to provide the parish with more detailed financial updates. Please contact Socrates Zacharias, Financial Secretary, with any questions.

Socrates Zacharias

2026 Financial Secretary

sgz16@gmail.com

(412) 680-0735

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



123 Gikeson Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15228 | (412) 833-3355 | Fax: (412) 833-3357 | www.holycrosspgh.org

Dear Holy Cross family,

We are excited to announce that we will be updating our **Church Directory** after almost a decade. To help do this, we are asking families to submit recent photos that are (see below for examples):

- Clear, high quality (jpg or png format), landscape orientation
- Taken within the last two years
- Faces are easy to see, photos taken or cropped from the waist up
- Members over 18 are encouraged to submit an individual photo
- Can use either indoor or outdoor photos
- No pets please

The **deadline** to submit photos is **September 26th**. Please email your family photo along with names, updated address, phone number and email to hcmemberdirectory@gmail.com. Make sure that the information given is accurate, as the provided information will be directly added to the directory, without editing. If you would like to opt out of the directory, please let us know.

For families that would like a professional photo, we are offering a photographer on September 26th during the Glendi. There will be a fee associated with use of the photographer. More details will follow closer to the date. This is a member only directory for Holy Cross. To be a member at Holy Cross, one has to submit a stewardship card.

We are looking forward to putting together a church directory that helps keep our church family connected!

Thank you for your participation.

With love,

The Membership Directory Committee

Example of Submission:

Oikonopoulos, Dimitrios and Mary

Sarah, George, and Michael

123 Gilkeson Rd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

hcmemberdirectory@gmail.com

Dimitrios 412-833-3355



ORTHODOXY

On Tap

FOR YOUNG ADULTS



FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Fr. Matthew Moore

HEAD PRIEST OF ALL SAINTS GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH IN WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

AUGUST 30, 2026 AT 5:00 PM

Fresh Start Cafe

46 W Pike Street Canonsburg, PA 15317

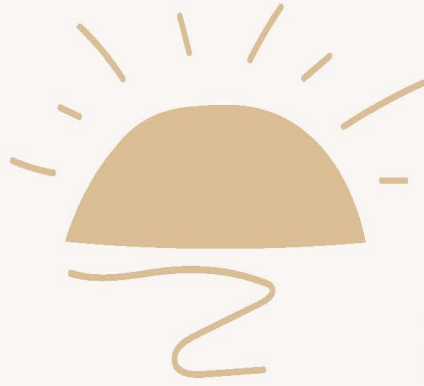
TOPIC

"TAKING CONTROL OF OUR TIME"

Following our speaker, we invite you to enjoy fellowship
and a lively discussion!

Questions? Contact Nina Casella at nina.p.casella@gmail.com





ALL
WELCOME

VISITING
ANGELS

Be the sunshine

FOR
CIRCLE OF ANGELS
VISITING MINISTRY

Sunday, August 30
after church in the
Community Center

ARTS/
CRAFTS

BAKERS

Introducing...

Holy Cross GOYA band.

All 7th-12th Graders & Parents/Guardians:

Join the new **band.** app for updates on all things GOYA.

Keep up to date on events, announcements, polls, and more throughout the year!



To join, use the QR code or visit:
<https://band.us/n/afa9b8F525L9z>



GOYA CARNIVAL KICKOFF

GOYANs (7th-12th) and families welcome for an evening
of food and fellowship

GAMES
AND
PRIZES

POPCORN
COTTON
CANDY



Join band to RSVP:



COFFEES AND
DIRTY SODA
BAR

SEPTEMBER 20

FOOD SERVED AT 5:36PM

HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY CENTER

Questions? Contact Denise: 412-855-5661



Sun	Mon	Tue
SPECIAL ICONOGRAPHY GENERAL ASSEMBLY Immediately following Diving Liturgy Special Lunch to be provided by Parish Council A vote is needed from the community		1 Ecclesiastical New Year 6pm Philoptochos Fellowship 6:30pm Philoptochos Meeting
6 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Noon ~ Tiropita Prep 7pm Church School Teacher Meeting
13 Sunday before Holy Cross 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy  Church School Begins 5pm Feast Day Great Vespers 	14 Elevation of the Cross 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy <i>Feast Day Luncheon</i>	15 7pm Parish Council
20 Sunday after Holy Cross 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy *SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY* GOYA Kickoff	21 6:30pm Paraclesis	22
27 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	28 6:30pm Paraclesis	29 7:30pm PickleYAL 

September 2026

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 	3 7PM CATECHISM CLASS	4 5pm Great Vespers/Orthros <i>@ Nativity of the Theotokos</i> Monastery, Saxonburg	5 9am Divine Liturgy <i>@ Nativity of the Theotokos</i> Monastery, Saxonburg No Vespers
9 7PM BIBLE STUDY RESUMES	10 Spanakopita Prep 7PM CATECHISM CLASS	11 	12 Baptism 5pm Great Vespers
16 4 15 GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND CLASSES BEGIN 7PM BIBLE STUDY	17 7PM CATECHISM CLASS	18 	19 Koulourakia Prep Mum Pick-up Baptism 5pm Great Vespers
23 Conception of St. John the Forerunner 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Div Liturgy 11am Pastitsio Prep 4 30 GREEK SCHOOL 7PM BIBLE STUDY	24 Pastitsio Prep 7PM CATECHISM CLASS	25 Parish Directory submissions due	26 Metropolis Clergy/Laity @ Metropolis Center 5pm Great Vespers <i>Holy Cross Glendi</i>
30 4 30 GREEK SCHOOL 7PM BIBLE STUDY			

PHILOPTOCHOS FALL MUM SALE

Mums are about 20 inches across, in 9 inch pots,
and are sourced from a local nursery.

\$11 each

ORDER DEADLINE: SEPT 7

PICK UP DATE: SATURDAY, SEPT 19

(Church community center starting at 10 AM)

Ways to Order:

- email order to: holycrosswomen@gmail.com
- Contact Katina Galie: kagalie@comcast.net, 412-951-8383
- order at coffee hour

Mum Color	Quantity	Amount
Yellow		
Orange/Bronze		
Red		
Pink/Purple		
White		
TOTALS		



Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

HOLY CROSS GREEK SCHOOL

begins its new academic year!

**Registration and first class on
Wednesday, September 16th at 4:15pm**

Greek School meets every Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 pm. There will be classes for beginners in the Conversational Class and our traditional First thru Sixth Grades.

The adult class meets Wednesdays from 5-6:30pm. Registration and first class is also on September 16 at 5pm. Bring your children to learn our language and enjoy wonderful fellowship.

On the first day, there will be a beginning of the year blessing (*Agiasmos*), class assignment and book distribution.

For further information, contact Dena Yamalis at (412) 343-8355 or dyamalis@comcast.net.

GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERS:

Please note that there will be no Golden Club trip in September. See below for two events scheduled for October.

1) On **Friday, October 9th**, our trip by van will take us to The Frick Pittsburgh for the docent-led tour, **Clayton: Gilded, Not Golden** (tour approx. 75 min). The year 1892 was a critical year for our nation, Pittsburgh and the Frick family. Considered to be the height of the Gilded Age, the early 1890's brought the era's extremes into stark relief--both the progress of technological advancements, economic growth and the harsher realities of issues like wealth disparity, social unrest and environmental degradation. Tours of Clayton explore how these extremes affected the lives of everyone who lived in Pittsburgh at the time, though in dramatically different ways and emphasizes the stories of real people--those who lived within Clayton's walls and those who did not.

Please RSVP NO LATER than Thursday, October 1st. Your RSVP must be accompanied by your tour payment of \$24/person. Payment is to be sent to Rene Koett, 2285 Sidgefield Ln, Pittsburgh, PA 15241, as she is collecting money for this tour. Please makes checks payable to: **Golden Club of Holy Cross**. The tour begins at 10am. Please arrive at the church no later than 8:15am for boarding of the van. Following the tour, we will have lunch at The Porch/Schenley in Oakland. Please call Rene at 412-559-1721 with any questions and to RSVP before mailing of your check.

2) *"I've got a Golden Ticket
I've got a chance to make my way.
And with a Golden Ticket
It's a GOLDEN CLUB DAY!"*

Please join us on **Tuesday, October 20th** for a tour of the **new Sarris Candy Factory**, 135 Meadow Lane, in Canonsburg. The tour begins at 2p; please arrive at 1:45pm. Following the tour, we will proceed to the Sarris Ice Cream Parlor, 511 Adamas Ave, for ice cream and fellowship.

Cost of tour is \$8. Please RSVP NO LATER than September 29. Your RSVP must be accompanied by your tour payment of \$8 per person. Please send payment to: Cynthia Kostelnik, 6364 Crest view Dr, South Park, PA 15129 Phone 412.722.9512 Please makes checks payable to: **Golden Club of Holy Cross**

What a thing we heard of in the Gospel passage just now. (Matthew 14:22-34) Imagine being one of the disciples, on a boat in the middle of the sea in the dark of the night. The wind is howling, the waves are beating against the boat, and your friend, Jesus is nowhere to be seen. Then, you see Him, walking to you upon the water through the midst of the waves. The disciples are filled with fear, thinking it is a ghost, but the Lord tells them, “Be not afraid.”



In this is a sign of the Lord’s great power. He is not bound by the laws of nature as we are, for He Himself is the author of those very laws. The water supports His feet, even as the wind obeys His voice. This would be a sign of Christ’s divinity and power, certainly, but what sets this story apart, the real heart and beauty of this story, is that Christ, in spite of His awesome divinity and power, wants to share it with us, because He loves us, just as Peter was given the grace to walk on the water because the Lord walked on the water.

Yet Peter shows us something else about us, namely, how easily we are shaken, how easily our faith is disrupted by the weakness of our own flesh. What is remarkable about this Gospel passage is that Peter walks upon the water! He is doing the impossible through the grace of the Lord! But what is almost more remarkable is that, even when he has had his faith proven by such a powerful sign as walking upon the water, his faith is shaken not by the water, but by the wind. Saint Chrysostom points out that Peter is shaken by the lesser thing, haven already overcome the greater!

We too suffer from the same weakness as Peter. We may have tasted and seen the great beauty of God’s love, we may have witnessed weeping icons, we may have experienced great healings, yet, when the winds of life come, how easily our faith is shaken by the winds of life. Let us take a lesson from Saint Peter when the winds of life batter us, and remember that Christ has us. He reaches out His hand to save Peter, saying to him “O man of little faith, why did you doubt?”

We may have little faith, like Peter, but the Lord elsewhere tells us that all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed, which in case you don’t know is an incredibly tiny seed which grows an incredibly massive plant. Focus on the Lord, focus on His great love for us, love so great that He would even let us walk upon the water with Him, and hold that love close, so that we may keep our eyes fixed upon Him always, even when the storms of life come our way.

~Deacon Elias

Vacation church School 2026





Vacation Church School 2026







Philoptochos

Autumn **FOOD FAIR**

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
OCTOBER 14 & 15

YiaYia Joan's Attic:
Accepting donations of
jewelry, books, and purses
starting October 5.

Questions?

holycrosswomen@gmail.com

Dina Hartlep 412-720-9383



Holy Cross Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair

Wednesday & Thursday, October 14&15, 11am-8pm

**Food Line help needed BOTH DAYS @Lunch, 10:45am-2pm or 4pm,
Lighter shift from 2pm-4pm. Dinner shift from 4pm -8pm. OR
whatever fits your time frame. ANY of your time is appreciated.**

**Food Runners needed for the lunch shift, 10am-2pm or 4pm.
Dinner shift from 4-8pm. OR choose a time that fits your schedule!**

**Thank you for volunteering your time supporting Holy Cross Philoptochos
in its philanthropic endeavors.**

Elaine Sofis, Food Line Chair esofis@comcast.net

Cell 412 327-7017 Home 412 344-7046

SACRAMENTS

Chrismations

July 25 ~ **Shane Indyk** Sponsor is Nicholas Diamant.

July 25 ~ **Cecelia Hauser** Sponsor is Marcia Diamant.

Marriages

July 25 ~ **Shane Indyk and Cecelia Hauser**
Koumbari are Nicholas and Marcia Diamant.

Funerals:

†**Robert Kirschner** ~ August 7, age 86 Survived by wife Didra of over 54 years and nine children (and spouses), Scott Wurster (Teresa), Todd Kirschner, Julie Leckenby (Kim), Lisa Peartree (Brian), Sean Kirschner (Amy), Rev. Deacon Robert Kirschner (Claudine), Harry Kirschner (Carrie), Jessika Kirschner and Cesar Kirschner; and 11 grandchildren. He is also loved deeply by the thousands of people whose lives he touched, healed, mentored, and inspired through a lifetime spent putting others first. His life was defined by devotion: to his family, his faith, his country, and to countless people around the world he never stopped helping. A devoted member of Holy Cross, Bob poured himself into service for decades, as a member of the Parish Council, chairman of the Outreach Committee, head of Food Fair, director of Sunday School, and in numerous other leadership roles as recently recognized by him receiving the St. Photios award in 2023, from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. Retirement did not slow Bob down, it simply opened the door to his "second" career as a healthcare volunteer. He earned his EMT license and worked part-time in the ER at St. Clair Hospital, to refine the skills he would carry around the world, during mission trips with SurgiCorps International in Bhutan, Nepal, Vietnam, and Guatemala to name just a few. He also served the homeless of Pittsburgh through Operation Safety Net, and gave his time to the Alzheimer's Association in honor of his late mother. He co-founded the Father Andrés Medical Clinic in Aguacate, Guatemala, guiding its fundraising and strategic planning until it became a fully self-sustaining source of care for the community. A true renaissance man, Bob could turn his hand to nearly anything he set his mind to. A gifted ceramic artist, he sold his handmade pieces to help fund the medical clinic in Guatemala, turning his craft into yet another way to care for others. Bob's legacy is not measured only in the years he lived, but in the lives he changed, through his years of naval service, tireless work in his church, medical missions across the globe, and the clinic in Guatemala that continues to serve its community today because of his vision and generosity.

ROBERT “ROBERTO” KIRSCHNER

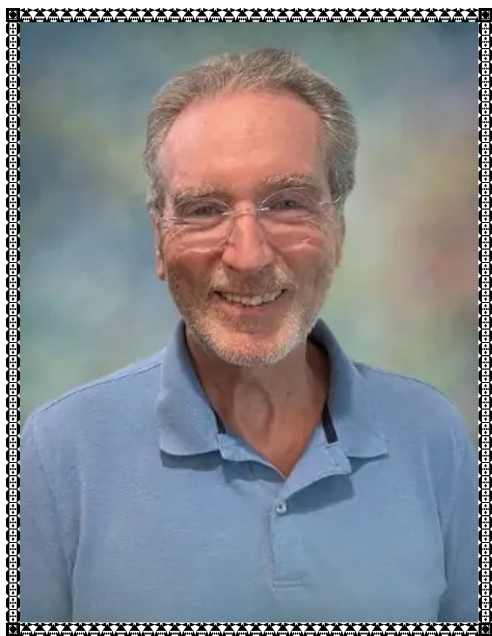
I begin this eulogy with an anecdote taken from the life of Mother Teresa. I believe that it reflects the kind empathy that Bob demonstrated in his life of service to others. A reporter once asked Mother Teresa if he could come to India to see what made her tick. She answered, “You want to know what makes me tick? Take the money you would spend to come over here, and personally go to some poor person who has nothing and help him with it. And don’t just give it and run. Walk with that person and help him. And don’t try to get anything out of it. Don’t write a story on it. Give. Lose yourself completely. Obey simply to God’s glory and your neighbor’s good. Then you will understand what makes me tick.”

What makes us tick? This is the essence of what I would invite us to ponder. Why this questioning of our basic humanity? Because to be human in the most complete and dignified sense of the word is to be a *person* and not just an *individual*, a giver and not a taker, one who cries with and doesn’t scoff at those who seek our understanding and love.

In my ministry of over 30 years at Holy Cross, and now over the last 15 years of my retirement, I have met and worked with many wonderful and blessed human beings, filled with the love of Christ. Among the many, one stands out in a unique and exemplary way. In Guatemala the Mayan people affectionately call him Roberto, a name he gladly embraced as an emblem of respect and honor. Roberto, for me, was as close as anyone that I have known that could live up to the strict criteria of a Mother Teresa. At Holy Cross he was her male equivalent. He willingly would lower himself to perform the so-called “dirty work” that most of us would be repulsed by. At our medical clinic in Guatemala that he helped to found, design, build, equip and serve in, I saw him stoop to wash the feet and debride the puss-filled wounds of the humble Mayan patients without any hesitation. Like another Christ, washing the feet of His disciples, Roberto removed the mantle of privilege and his many talents, turning it into the towel of service. He unashamedly stood up for the highest human values.

What was it that Roberto saw that so many of us fail to see? To understand this is to see what made him tick? He saw people as living icons of Christ. Their well-being and healing was more than a mere concern of his but a real passion. He wanted the Church to reach out more to those who laid claim to our love. It troubled him that we spent so much on church buildings and not the person in need. As head of our outreach committee at Holy Cross he advocated for the maximum possible help that we could give, not just to our own, but to all. People were the icons that he revered more than anything else. He would often tell me that he wanted the last check that he wrote to bounce, meaning by this that he had expended all of his resources in helping others.

Every day we encounter people struggling in life, whether from material want or emotional need. Maybe it's someone sitting next to us on a plane or the shopper we run into at the check-out line of the supermarket. Do I stop and talk or stoop down to help, sensing their pain. Sometimes even a smile can be the remedy, a show of some kindness that restores hope. The universe doesn't have to be a hostile place if we take the time for each other. This is what it takes to be truly human, asking ourselves, is Jesus talking to me through this person. This was the creed by which Roberto lived. I witnessed it in action each



time we traveled to Guatemala together. He put flesh on the beliefs of his faith. The practice of his religion was incarnational.

What is it that makes us tick? This is what we need to ask ourselves on a regular basis. Is there a gnawing pain in our souls for those who hunger and thirst, is there sympathy for the dejected and outcast of the world, is there room in our lives for the stranger? If not, then maybe we need to rewind the clock of compassion in our hearts, thereby renewing our humanity. In Roberto's heart the clock of compassion was wound very tightly.

Today, we are celebrating the Transfiguration of Christ on Mt. Tabor. It was here that his disciples saw Him for the first time in all his radiant glory. It is notable, however, what Jesus said to them just before their ascent on the mountain: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). This was a cross that Roberto carried throughout his life, not grudgingly, but with joy. Because of this, we know that the privileged moment atop the mountain is now his as well. Heaven and earth intersect frequently any time we carry the cross of self-denial in service to others. Jesus is there all the time, but mostly in the distressing disguise of the poor and neglected of the world. Roberto gave of himself to them without limit.

The last check that he wrote was his dying breath, because he had given everything of himself until there was nothing left to give. That's what made him tick. May his memory inspire us to do the same.

~Fr. John Chakos



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Cultural Performances

October 4, 2026 | 4:30 p.m.

**Holy Cross Greek Orthodox
Church**

123 Gilkeson Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Join the Assembly of Bishops for an evening of dance and choral performances from local Orthodox Christian parishes featuring their distinct cultural traditions.

Scan QR code
or visit
bit.ly/aob2026
to register



Everyone is welcome, but please register so we can have ample seating.



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

presents the

12TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 2026

SOUTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

4305 BROWNSVILLE ROAD



PRICING

\$225/GOLFER;
\$900/FOURSOME

(INCLUDES ENTRY FEE,
GREEN FEE, LUNCH
AND DINNER)

DINNER ONLY
\$75/PER PERSON



SCRAMBLE FORMAT

Skill Prizes:

Mens/Seniors/Women

First Place Team Prizes:

Mens/Womens/
Seniors/Mixed



ORDER OF EVENTS

10:00 AM Registration

10:00 AM Sit Down Lunch

11:30 AM Shotgun Start

5:00 PM Cocktail Hour
(cash bar)

6:00 PM Dinner/
Silent Auction



SPONSORSHIPS

\$500: Beverages, skill prizes,
putting green, printing,
website, or live auction
sponsor

\$750: Dessert Sponsor

\$800: Golf Gift Bag Sponsor

\$1,000: Lunch Sponsor

\$1,250: Co-Dinner Sponsor

\$1,500: Golf Cart Sponsor

\$2,500: Dinner Sponsor

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

ZACH MOORE: 412-735-8343 | LIA MOORE: 412-760-6879

NICK KARTSONAS: 412-849-9467 | MICHAEL BELL: 724-825-2268

PAYMENT & REGISTRATION



To pay & register by mail,
mail this form with
payment to:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
Att. Golf Outing
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Make checks payable to:
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

Please mark "Golf Outing"
in memo line.

Golfer name(s):

Phone: _____

Email: _____



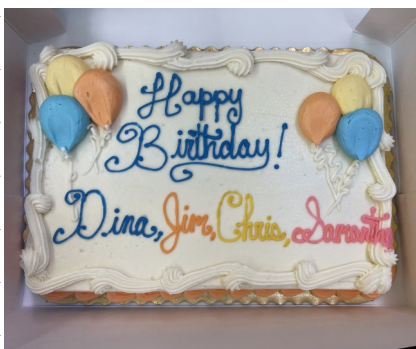
To register and pay online,
please visit:

www.holycrosspgh.org

Follow the link near the
bottom of the page labeled
"12th Annual Golf Outing"

**in case of inclement weather or
unforeseen circumstances, golfers
will be provided a pass for
future tee time.*

The Gyro Thursday Team celebrates
several birthdays and an anniversary
at the August Gyro Thursday!



HOLY CROSS YOUNG ADULTS ATTEND WEDDING OF CAMP FRIENDS IN KILKIS, GREECE IN JULY!



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

NEW METROPOLIS CENTER

"One Generation Shall Proclaim Thy Works to Another." (Psalm 144:4)

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1015

Dear Fr. Michael,

Please accept our gratitude and that of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh for the gift of \$10,000.00*, towards building the new Metropolis Center received July 27, 2026 towards your pledge of \$100,000.00. You honor God with your generosity as a faithful steward of His blessings and are among the most significant and generous supporters to this project.

We are very excited to see the progress of construction and look forward to the day we can expand our ministries and enable our faithful to more deeply engage in Christ-centered activities for generations to come.

With Archpastoral blessings, and love in the Lord,

+SAVAS
METROPOLITAN OF PITTSBURGH

Your gift of \$10,000.00 was received via check #6926 dated 7/6/2026.

* No tangible benefits, goods, or services were provided to you in exchange for this gift.

Young Adult Fall Retreat

at Camp Nazareth

October 23–25, 2026

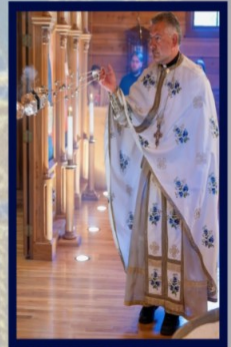
Open to those 18–35 years of age from all jurisdictions!

Physicians of the Soul: Spiritual Fathers and the Mystery of Confession

With Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Fr. Stephen Loposky

Chancellor of the American Carpatho-Russian
Orthodox Diocese of North America



Register
Here:



or tinyurl.com/smxbprp

Questions? youngadultretreats@gmail.com



HOLY CROSS PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS

GUS CONSTANTELLIS

Comedy Night!

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2026**

7 PM
HOLY CROSS, MT. LEBANON
COMMUNITY CENTER

TICKETS:

\$40 INDIVIDUAL

\$300 TABLE OF 8 ✨ \$350 TABLE OF 10

Table purchase includes 2 mezze platters



FAMILY FRIENDLY ✨ LIVE BAND ✨ CASH BAR

**Bring your family and friends for a
fun-filled night of laughter, followed by
dancing to the music of the Filarakia!**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DENA YAMALIS
HCcomedynight@gmail.com - 412-589-2646

PAYMENT LINK FOR TICKETS AT THE QR CODE
CASH/CHECKS/ZELLE ALSO ACCEPTED



Be There

FOR EVERY COLLEGE STUDENT

COLLEGE STUDENTS:
Use the QR code below to
find **YOUR** community!



Faith • Friendship • Community

Because college changes everything.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship keeps students connected to Christ, His Church, and one another throughout their college years.



FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

OCF.NET



Once, not too long ago, a Protestant missionary to the Middle East came to a little Christian village in the desert. He struck up a conversation with a young man, and asked, in the boy's language "Son, do you know about Jesus Christ?"

The young man responded and said "Of course! Everybody in this village is a Christian!"

The evangelist, delighted, inquired "Wonderful! Who brought you the Gospel? The Lighthouse Baptists? The Presbyterian Gospel Coalition? Lutheran World Missions?"

The young man responded and said "You know, I actually don't know. Everybody has been a Christian here for as long as I can remember. Let me ask the village elders."

The young man then walked over to a group of old men sitting under a shade tree, drinking Arak and trying to keep cool. He spoke to them in their language briefly, and walked back over to the missionary.

"They said it was Paul"



**HOLY
CROSS
at
CAMP**





NOVEMBER 6-8

Celebrate the beauty of Greek culture, dance, and Orthodox faith through dance workshops, performances, music, worship, and fellowship! Join us and build lasting friendships and glorify God through the joy of community.

Open to dance groups and individuals 7 years old and up.

**Scan
for
more
info!**



Questions? Contact us:

htcholympicflames@gmail.com

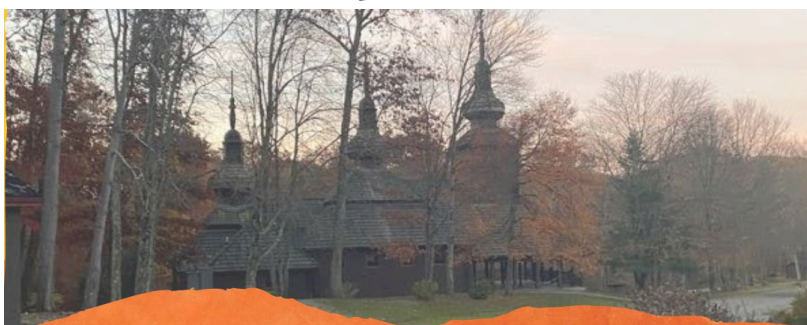
mmk8317@hotmail.com

akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org

Metropolis of Pittsburgh YOUTH CALENDAR

Mark your calendars! Here are some other important dates for the
2026-2027 Ministry Year:

- September 26: Youth Worker Track at Clergy Laity
- October 23-25: Young Adult Fall Retreat
- November 20-22: GOYA Fall Retreat
- February 5-7: GOYA Basketball Tournament 1 at Holy Trinity, Pittsburgh and St. Demetrios, Rocky River
- February 19-20: GOYA Bball Tournament 2 at St. Haralambos, Canton
- March 5-7: GOYA Bball Tournament 3 @Holy Cross, PGH** & Sts. Constantine & Helen, Reading
- March 13: Northwestern HOPE/JOY Lenten Mini Retreat @St Paul, North Royalton
- March 20: Southwestern HOPE/JOY Lenten Mini Retreat at St. Spyridon, Clarksburg
- April 3: GOYA Indoor Volleyball
- April 9-11: GOYA Spring Retreat at Camp Nazareth
- April 16-18: Young Adult Spring Retreat at Camp Nazareth
- April 17-18: Weekend of Service
- May 14-16: Summer Camp Staff Training
- June 20-26: Week 1 of Summer Camp
- June 27-July 3: Week 2 of Summer Camp
- July 4-10: Week 3 of Summer Camp
- July 11-17: Week 4 of Summer Camp



GOYA FALL RETREAT

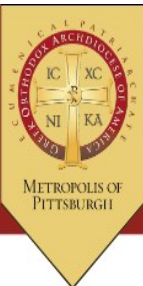
November 20-22, 2026

Staff Applications opening in the fall!



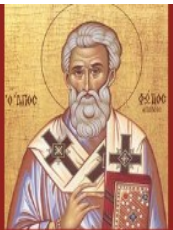
Questions? Contact Sophia at camp@pittsburgh.goarch.org





A Good Word - Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH



SUMMER CAMP

"What a beautiful season of our Metropolis of Pittsburgh Summer Camp at Camp Nazareth! Glory to God!!! We welcomed 409 campers and over 100 staff members, including cabin, support, arts & crafts, activities, media, administrative, medical, and Clergy. We are truly grateful for their time, dedication, and love for our program! We are appreciative of all of the support and prayers that we received from our families, parishes, and donors.

This year's theme was about the Apostolic Succession and the foundation of Orthodoxy from Christ, through the Apostles, Martyrs, Bishops, Elders, Saints, and everyone who continued to pass on the Word, eventually reaching us to where we are today. Through the curriculum and the many spiritual leaders who joined us this summer, the campers and staff were taught about Pentecost, Sts Peter & Paul, many Martyrs and Sts. Equal to the Apostles, and what our call to action is as Orthodox Christians. We learned about the importance of being strong in our faith and having the courage to spread the Love and Light of Christ to the next generation. We grew as a camp community closer to God and built many awesome relationships along the way. We are Christ's army and left camp excited to continue to be a part of that Apostolic movement. We pray that God continues to give us all of the support and strength that is needed in today's society, which can be difficult to navigate, but through Him all things are possible.



Our days at camp, which many feel is the only place that they have experienced Heaven on earth, were full of excitement and activities. While at camp, we are able to live the way that God intended. We put away the electronics and all cares of this world and focus on Him! We eat together, pray together, play together, we learn the music of the church and sing ALL DAY LONG, we work with our hands in arts & crafts, we have pool days, quiet time, campfires, Olympic games, we completed a service project, and the list goes on. We try to provide a moment of peace for our youth to step away from the heaviness that this world creates. We try to show them that what God has in store for us is beautiful, just keep your head in the game and focus on the Light, He will always provide.

Camp is an incredible opportunity to watch God's miracles unfold right in front of your face. He is the reason for it all and when we remember that, things all work out. Thank God for God!"





Join us!

2026 CLERGY-LAITY, PHILOTOCHOS, YOUTH WORKER & RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR ASSEMBLY

 **Sat September 26**
7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Registration \$100pp

 **Metropolis of Pittsburgh Center**
 100 Enterprise Road,
 Washington PA 15301

 www.pittsburgh.goarch.org/2026-assembly
 Registration closes
 Sept 18 | 11:30 PM

REGISTER NOW

HOTEL
 \$129.00
 + TAX
 Ends Sept 1

Courtyard by Marriott
 Pittsburgh Washington
 Meadow Lands
 Call: (724) 222 5620
 Group Rate Code:
 GOMOP GLA 26



2026 GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

FAMILY CAMP

GRACE IS ENOUGH: GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S EMBRACE

"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN
WEAKNESS." 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9



Join us for a beautiful weekend where your relationship
with Christ and one another will grow and flourish!
Open to families of all ages and sizes!

Youth Keynote:
 Gavriela Constantine
 Orthodox Service Leader Supervisor at St.
 Basil Academy
 Former Orthodox Volunteer Corp Member

Adult Keynote:
 Fr. Tom and Pres. Vasiliki Constantine
 Head Priest of St. George, New Castle
 English as a Second Language Teacher
 Parents of 9 children!

**SEPTEMBER
18-20**

AT CAMP NAZARETH
 339 PEW ROAD MERCER, PA



**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO
REGISTER**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ALYSSA AT
ARYRITSIS@PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG



2026 GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

WONDERFULLY MADE RETREAT

Open to all youth and young adults with disabilities.

**OCTOBER 17, 2026
AT HOLY CROSS G.O.C.**
 123 GILKESON RD, PITTSBURGH, PA

"LET'S TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS!"

Based off of our summer
camp theme, participants
will learn about the
disciples and their mission
by learning songs, acting in
plays, and so much more!



**LEARN MORE
& REGISTER
USING THE
QR CODE!**

Questions? Contact Alyssa Kyritsis at akyritsis@pittsburgh.goarch.org



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES!

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis - including Metropolitan Savas's Archpastoral visitations, preparations for summer camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry, and more.

Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis:

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

412-621-5529 (Main) 412-465-0460 (Camp) 412-621-8543 (Youth)
pittsburgh.goarch.org info@pittsburgh.goarch.org



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
123 GILKESON ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15228

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Elevation of the Cross

Sunday, September 13

5pm *Feast Day Great Vespers*

Monday, September 14

8:15am *Orthros*

9:30am *Divine Liturgy*

Feast Day Luncheon

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2412
Pittsburgh, PA