

Visitors, please read

We warmly welcome all visitors and seekers in our midst today.

Holy Communion is the greatest gift on earth. It is given by God to baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians, who have prepared themselves with regular prayer, fasting (from midnight, unless there is a medical condition), and confession, and who have the blessing of their spiritual father or confessor to receive it.

We welcome anyone visiting for the first time, and we trust that your experience here will be an uplifting and enriching one. The Orthodox Christian Church is actually a community of local Churches, whose roots are the ancient and native Christian communities of the biblical world, with centers in Jerusalem, Syria, Egypt, and Asia Minor, and by extension in Greece, Cyprus, Russia, North America, and throughout the world.

As a continuation of the ancient Church, we engage the whole person, heart, mind, and all senses in divine worship. This experience has been so powerful to seekers in the past that it was often said "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. We knew only that there God dwelt among men" (Russian Primary Chronicle). That experience of heaven on earth and God in our midst forms the heart of all Orthodox worship.

Our worship culminates in the sharing of Holy Communion, which not only unites us with the Divine, but also expresses the deep unity in faith and life among all Orthodox believers. Since Holy Communion expresses that deep unity in belief and practice alike, it is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians, who have properly prepared themselves with prayer, fasting, and recent confession. This is because the Orthodox choose not to make an external display of unity with other Christian groups when actual unity of faith and practice does not exist.

While working to restore the full communion that did exist among Christians in antiquity, today we offer the blessed bread (*antidoron*) at the conclusion of the Liturgy, as a gift of hospitality and of growing unity that is offered to all present. If you would like to learn more about the Orthodox way of life, or have any questions about worship or Holy Communion, please approach Fr. Michael or one of the other clergy following the Liturgy.

Thank you for joining us, and again, we welcome you all.

We hope you enjoy your visit with us here at Holy Cross, and we thank you for joining us today.

We formally invite you and/or your guests to join us for coffee hour in the community center next door. If you can stay, we would love to have you!

Sunday, May 5, 2019 ~ Thomas Sunday

The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

The Gospel According to John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412)833-3355 website: www.holycrosspgh.org email: holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org

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

Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti!

Coffee hour is sponsored by **Annie Urso and Presvytera Kassiani Callos.**

This Week:

Monday – May 6 3:30pm Blessing of Farmer's Market
4-7pm **Opening Day of Farmer's Market** →

Tuesday – May 7
6:30pm Philoptochos Election Meeting
7pm GOYA Meeting

Wednesday – May 8 St. John the Theologian
8:30/9:30am Orthros/Divine Liturgy
10:30 am—2:30 pm and 5:30 - 8:30 pm Baklava prep
4:30 pm – Greek School

Thursday – May 9
10am-2pm and 5:30-8:30pm Baklava prep

Friday – May 10

Saturday – May 11 St. Photios Banquet

During coffee hour TODAY:

- Plain (*no sesame seeds*) frozen Pascha bread is still available at \$10 loaf. Checks payable to Holy Cross Philoptochos. Thank you for supporting Philoptochos! Christos Anesti! Frozen bread keeps for months!
- Please stop by the **June Food Fair Sign Up Table** to commit to volunteer for:
Food Line: Elaine Sofis **Prep Room: Adrienne Dickos**
Pastry Booth: Dena Yamalis **Cashiers: Denise Sokos**



Community Night
Thursday May 16, 6pm
Holy Cross's Got Talent is coming back to our Community Night next month!

We are looking for people of all ages who sing, dance, do comedy, magic, variety, and play musical instruments.
No Pressure, Just Fun

If you are interested contact Ponny Jahn 412.835.5079 or Denise Melis 412.855.5661



Philoptochos Fashion Show is just a couple weeks away! **Reservations and checks are due NO LATER than May 8th.** Please RSVP to Rene Koett at 412-831-3142 or by email at holycrossfashionshow@gmail.com

Graduate Sunday is Sunday, June 2nd: Graduating High School & College Seniors (post graduate degree earners as well) will be recognized by the Parish. Families, please send in your graduates' information to the Church Office: holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org

Information to submit:

- ~Name of Graduate and their parents.
- ~Name of school graduating from - High School or College.
- ~What he/she intends to study or what degree has been earned.
- ~Where he/she plans to further their education (school) or future employment plans.

Christos Anesti!

There will be a Philoptochos Meeting on Tuesday May 7th at 6:15. Elections for the new Board will take place immediately following the meeting in the Community Center. Thank you!

With love in the Risen Lord,
Andrea Milinkovic
Philoptochos President

Please join Holy Cross Philoptochos for a
FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

Showcasing Brides Through the Decades



Saturday, May 18, 2019
Holy Cross Church Community Center
123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

11:00 a.m. Cocktails
Tuscan Table during cocktail hour featuring Phyllos, Cheeses, Fruits, Meatballs, Dolmades

12:00 noon Luncheon and Fashion Show
Asparagus and Goat Cheese Salad, Creamy Lemon Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Glazed Carrots, Rolls and Butter, Wedding Cake

\$40.00/person

Be sure to visit our Benefit Silent Auction and "Pittsburgh" Cookie Table

For reservations contact Rene Koett by Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at holycrossfashionshow@gmail.com or 412-831-3142

All tables will be assigned on a first-come, first served basis upon receipt of payment. To reserve a table of 8, please submit payment of \$320.00. For guests paying individually or with fewer than eight, seating will be assigned once payment is received and once a total of eight guests has been reached.

Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Philoptochos and mail to: Rene Koett - 2285 Sidgfield Lane - Pittsburgh, PA 15241



Festival Cooking

Wednesday 5/8	10:30 – 2:30 5:30 – 8:30	Baklava	Angela Athanas 724-344-6040
Thursday 5/9	10:00 – 2:00 5:30 – 8:30		
Monday 5/13	11:00 -3:00 5:30 – 8:30	Finikia	Maria Krinis 412-417-7306 Demetra Kontoulis 412-298-6542
Monday 5/20	10:00 – 2:00 5:30 – 8:30		
Wednesday 5/22	10:30 – 2:30 5:30 – 8:30	Koulourakia	Demetra Kontoulis 412-298-6542