

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, July 7, 2019

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The Gospel According to Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

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

Altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Louis Melis by his family.

Altar candles are sponsored in loving memory of Tulia Bonaros
from John and Nasia Hareras & family.

Coffee hour is sponsored today by Vasil and Konstandina Papakroni.

They are moving to Philadelphia and would like to thank everyone at Holy Cross for their friendship.

Memorials: †Costa Makrinos 40 days
†Tulia Bonaros 3 years
†Louis Melis 5 years

This Week: Camp Nazareth Week Four (Fr. Michael @ Camp)

Monday – July 8 4-7pm Farmer's Market
NO Paraclesis or Bible Study/7pm Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday – July 9

Wednesday – July 10

Thursday – July 11 *St. Paisios @Canonsburg* 6pm Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Friday – June 12

Saturday – July 13 5pm Vespers

Filming of the **50th Anniversary Video** will take place in the church on July 9 & 10. If interested in participating, please contact Mike Politis (412) 759-4659.

The Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair, YiaYia Joan's Treasures, will **ONLY** be accepting jewelry and books this year in September. Please honor our wishes.

*** Ministry Opportunity - We have a Holy Cross Parishioner who is coming to the completion of their incarceration. The parishioner has the possibility to finish their sentence and transition to a home setting with a stable family. If you are willing to open your home to this parishioner please see Fr. Michael for the details.

**NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY**

*With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas & their Spiritual Father Elder Ephraim,
Gerontissa Theophano and the Sisters invite you to join them for the*

**Feast Day of the Prophet Elias
July 19th & 20th, 2019**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

July 19th - Friday
6:00 pm: Vespers, Orthros

July 20th - Saturday
9:00 am: Hours, Divine Liturgy

Lunch follows

A variety of hand-crafts made by the Sisters will be available for purchase.

*Buses are welcome and we ask that the Monastery be informed
in advance of buses or large groups.*

Visitors should be modestly dressed.
Women are asked to wear long skirts and men to wear long pants.

121 St. Elias Lane; Saxonburg, PA 16056; Phone: 724-352-3999
www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org



Thank you to our July Coffee Hour sponsors!!!

July 7- Vasil and Konstandina Papakroni

July 14- Elaine Sappas and family IMO Harry Sappas (5 years)

July 21- Farmer's Market Committee

July 28 - Chryssa Schultz & family IMO David Schultz (40 days)

Please sign up to sponsor a Coffee Hour. Call the church office to confirm your date. Dates available all of August and beyond.

New Website & e-GIVING launched

You may have already noticed that we have a new Holy Cross Website with live stream of our services! The new Website also launches the new E-giving we have already announced earlier.

All parishioners are now able to:

- ✓ Make a one-time payment on-line with your credit card or directly from your checking account
- ✓ Set up recurring credit card or check payments by creating your own private log-in Profile

With this initial launch, the following funds will be available for contribution:
*Stewardship (Pledge), Agape Donations, Building Fund (General),
and Building Fund (Memorial)*

Here is how you can access the on-line donation portal:

Go to the www.holycrosspgh.org

Either select the top menu item: 'Donations & Stewardship'

Or: just click the button 'Stewardship Pledge'

In both cases, you will be directed to the 'Donation' page:

Click the 'Donate online' button or within the highlighted section,

Click on the button: 'Click here to access the e-Giving site'

In both instances, you will be directed to the form section to enter all your payment or log-in details

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact any member of the Parish Council or the Stewardship Committee and/or Committee Chair, Konrad Mayr (412) 877 7780 or via E-mail at mayr.konrad@me.com