

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, September 8, 2019 ~ Nativity of the Theotokos
Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

The Gospel According to John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

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

Coffee hour is sponsored today by the Grekis family in loving memory of
 †Christina Grekis-Adnan and †Jean Grekis.

Memorials: †Christina Grekis-Adnan 40 days
 †Jean Grekis 3 years

Monday – September 9 Koulourakia Prep 10am - 2:30pm and 4:30-6:30pm
 4-7pm Farmer's Market
 6:30pm Paraclesis/Bible Study (Acts of the Apostles)

Tuesday – September 10 Koulourakia Prep 10am - 2:30pm and 4:30-6:30pm
 6:30 pm Blanket Ministry

Wednesday – September 11 4:15 Greek School Registration/4:30 Classes begin

Thursday – September 12 7pm Chant Class

Friday – September 13 **HOLY CROSS FEAST DAY** 7pm Great Vespers

Saturday – September 14 **HOLY CROSS FEAST DAY** 8:15 Orthros/9:30 Div Liturgy
 5pm Vespers

TODAY @ 3:33pm Holy Cross GOYA Annual Kickoff
 at the home of Kelly & Manny Kalogeris, 5603 Saddlebrook Dr, Bethel Park, PA 15102

NOTE TIME CHANGES! Please join us tomorrow, Monday, September 9 & Tuesday, September 10 from 10am-2:30pm & 4:30-6:30pm, BOTH days, as 3600 koulourakia are twisted, baked and packaged. Late arrivals always welcome. Your time is truly appreciated. *Demetra (Mimi) Kontoulis and Toni Manganas, chairpersons.*

The Blanket Ministry will meet at 6:30pm this Tuesday, September 10 in the Philoptochos Room. Please join us in this rewarding activity of fun and fellowship.

There will be a sign up table at coffee hour today for those willing to volunteer at the Autumn Food Fair, October 2,3,4. ALL areas are needed. Kitchen, prep room, cashier, food lines, drinks, cleaning tables, pastries and running.

Please join us **THIS Saturday, September 14** after Divine Liturgy as Philoptochos hosts a Feast Day Luncheon. Philoptochos will gratefully accept fasting desserts and fruit. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday School Teacher Gathering: Friday evening, September 20
JOY Fest: Saturday, September 21

Contact Manoli: emmanuelmaginas@gmail.com

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.

Please plan to join us **NEXT Sunday, September 15** following Divine Liturgy for our **Parish Picnic** (free of cost) and **Opening of the Time Capsule** in conjunction with our **Patronal Feast Day of the Elevation of the Holy Cross** and **Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the building of our Holy Cross Church.**



FOCUS Back To School Drive The drive will be held Sunday Sept. 15th, 22nd & 29th. Please place your items in the boxes in the vestibule marked FOCUS. The following items are requested: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, bath soap, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, deodorant and socks. As always we thank you in advance for your continuous generosity. Your new FOCUS rep, Kathy Pyros



Save the Date
Monday October 7th, 2019

The 6th Annual Holy Cross Michael Megaludis Golf Outing

Golf, Dinner,
 Fun, and Fellowship



Register Now! <http://www.holycrosspgh.org>