

# HOLY CROSS



## CROSS ROADS

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

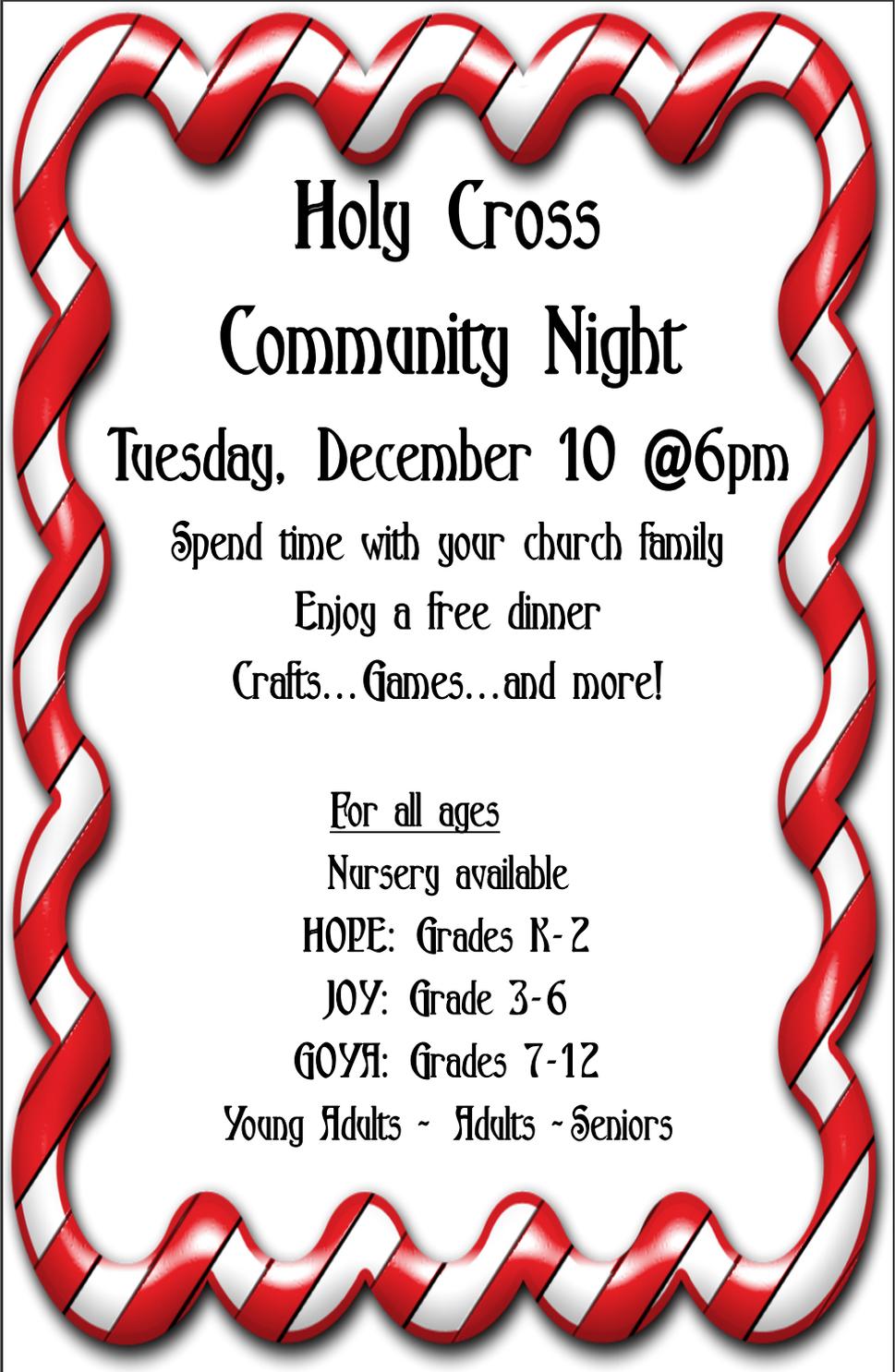
*“Bethlehem make ready! Behold, Eden is opening, Adam is being renewed together with Eve. For the curse has been taken away; salvation flourishes for the world. The souls of the just will soon carry as an offering and gift not myrrh, but their hymns receiving in return eternal salvation. Behold in the manger will lie the One who invites to spiritual songs the faithful who will ceaselessly chant, “O Lord, glory to You.” (Vespers, December 23<sup>rd</sup>)*

The invitation to receive and deepen our relationship with Christ is always with us! As we prepare for another celebration of our Lord’s Nativity, let us be mindful of the true cost of our freedom. Those who “hunger and thirst after righteousness” will not be filled with imitations or substitutes, in other words, we will not be satisfied with earthly things to replace our desire for the divine. The call to perfection in Christ is a non-ending quest of the soul to seek fulfillment in the only One who can truly bring a satisfaction or satiation to our soul’s desire. The Gospels leading up to the Lord’s Nativity show us this profoundly!

*At that time a ruler who came to Jesus and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to Him, “Why do you call Me good? No One is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.” And he said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that*

**DECEMBER 2019**

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# Holy Cross Community Night

Tuesday, December 10 @6pm

Spend time with your church family

Enjoy a free dinner

Crafts... Games... and more!

For all ages

Nursery available

HOPE: Grades K-2

JOY: Grade 3-6

GOYA: Grades 7-12

Young Adults ~ Adults ~ Seniors

# Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

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Under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios 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 traditions in conformity with the doctrine, canons, worship, discipline and customs of the Church.

**Fr. Michael Kallaur, Economos**  
**Fr. Daniel Korba, Presbyter**  
**Dn. Frank Dickos, Deacon**  
**Emmanuel Maginas, Pastoral Assistant**  
 Nena Jovonovich, Secretary  
 Website: [holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org](mailto:holycrosspit@mail.goarch.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	Jennifer Moorcroft	(412) 626-9143
Philoptochos	Elaine Sofis	(412)344-7046
Philoptochos	Connie Carahalis	(412) 561-4783
Membership		
Circle of Angels	Carol Halkias	(412) 276-5002
Angels	Christine Peters	(724) 693-9290
Garden of Love	Stacie Metrose	(412) 833-5164
	Didra Kirschner	(412) 561-2892
Greek School	Dena Yamalis	(412) 343-8355
Junior Dance	Kristina Gzikowski	(412) 257-5015
Senior Dance	Georgia Yamalis	(412) 728-2259
Choir	Thespina Christulides	(412)608-6418
First Steps	Denise Sokos	(412) 257-1610
JOY	Christine Chapas	(724) 986-2082
Young Professionals	Thespina Christulides	(412)608-6418
GOYA	Denise Melis	(412) 341-9264
Golden Club	Cynthia Kostelnik	(412) 833-9423
	Rene Koett	(412) 831-3142
Bookstore	Mary Portellos	(724) 941-8699
House Committee	Konrad Mayr	(412) 877-7780
Building Comm.	John Conomos	(412) 831-7997
Sts. Mary & Martha	Adrienne Dickos	(412) 833-4980

## \*Services:

Sundays:	8:15am Orthros
	9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Mondays:	6:30pm Paraclesis
	7:30 pm Bible Study
Weekdays:	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Saturdays:	Vespers 5pm

\*See monthly calendar for all services.

2019

## Parish Council

Konrad Mayr, Acting President  
 Konrad Mayr, Vice President  
 John Hoenig, Financial Secretary  
 Peter Teris, Treasurer  
 Dena Galie, Secretary

JoAnna Asvestas  
 Costas Grekis  
 Frank Kalogeris  
 Jennifer Liokereas  
 Stephanie Kladakis Myers

Peter Landis  
 Joy Palonis  
 Deno Pappas  
 George Sokos  
 Georgia Yamalis

**Funeral/Memorial information:** 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). Contact the church office for suggestions if you need a referral.  
 For **Kollyva**, you may bring your own or contact Denise Melis directly (412) 341-9264.



**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.



*you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." (Luke 18:18-27)*

Jesus pushes us towards unending perfection. The rich ruler was asked to distribute all his belongings to the poor and to follow Him. Essentially it was a unique calling, a dedication to complete his handing himself over to God. However, the rich ruler was unable. He was unable to cut the ties to earthly money and possessions. The Gospel states that "he became sad." He did not want to let go, to become free of his possessions.

We are free from this earthly life to the extent that we are able to separate ourselves from our possessions and earthly minded thinking. Jesus asked the rich ruler to "come and follow Me." The ruler could not, because he was beholden to many obligations. Jesus is inviting the rich ruler to be His disciple. He invites each one of us as well. St. Theophylactos writes, "For if something remains, you are its slave." Even the slightest thing or will that we are holding on to "in honor and glory" of our ego will become our boss. It will prevent us from enjoying the only true freedom which makes us "servants of God."

The parable is neither an obligatory invitation to the monastic life, nor is it an insult to rich people. Both mis-interpretations are not helpful. Christ, the only One who knows human nature's illness well, notes that the salvation of us all is in danger from some attachments, which are not always related to money. Money, of course, is more contagious and with difficulty the person related to it is broken off. With such difficulty, that, for Christ to make its likening with the camel's difficulty to pass through the hole of a needle. However, we do not lack rich people who managed to be unattached to their riches like; Abraham, Job, David, Zacchaeus, and many others, among whom are even kings and rulers.

There are many other passions, biases, and attachments. These are all fruits of selfishness and of egotism (pride). They also bind us from reaching eternal life. St. Anthony encountered some brothers who asked, "How shall we be saved?" Showing them the Gospel path of humility, St. Anthony responded, "If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other one also." They answered him, "We are not able to do

this." The Saint responded, beginning the downgrade, "Then at least forbear the one slap." Again the brothers responded, "We are not able to do this." The Saint responded, "Then at least, do not render back the slap." The brothers responded, "Neither this are we able to do." Then Saint Anthony turned to his assistants and said them, "make them a little porridge for them to eat, because they are sick." And then addressing them again, "The one you are not able. The other you do not want. What can I do for you? You need much prayer."

Consequently someone may not be rich in money, but in "justified" stubbornness, in self-justification and blaming others, in secret haughtiness, in unseen vainglory. We might be proud that from our youth we kept all of God's commandments but in the end, we are glued to "our rights" which are little else than our sinful will. The more stuck we become in our ways, the more we become not only like a camel incapable of passing through a pin hole, but rather we raise a giant wall between God and ourselves. Who then is able to be saved? What is impossible with men, is possible with God!!! If we allow ourselves to be dragged down and our heart's desire is on earthly things, how can we be free to follow Christ? Only when we lift up our eyes to God, and trust the divine will and seek His aid, is there hope we can approach such freedom, so that we can be able to follow Him with our whole heart.

My brothers and sisters in Christ! Christ is born! Glorify Him! In glorifying our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we make the first and important step in separating ourselves from the things that pull us away from God. Set aside the time to be with God, your family, and your friends. Remember the poor, the less fortunate, those suffering in every type affliction, including loneliness. Separate yourself from those things that make you sad and do not draw you into the presence of God. For the Lord has come to set us free from sin and death! Let us follow Him and not be held back by our possessions or our pride.

Wishing you a blessed Advent  
and Nativity Celebration!  
With love and prayers,  
Fr. Michael



# Metropolis Folk Dance Festival



















