

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, November 24, 2019

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Gospel According Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler 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 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 he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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Fr. Michael Kallaur
 Fr. Daniel Korba
 Dn. Frank Dickos

Altar Candles are sponsored in loving memory of Theodore (Stacey) Metrose by his wife Anastasia (Stacie) Metrose.

Trisagion: †Vasilia (Betty) Zisi 1 year (sister-in-law of Maria Kavoulakis)

General Assembly Meeting today. Lunch will be provided .

THIS WEEK:

Monday – November 25 *Great Martyr Catherine*
 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
 6:30pm Paracletis/Bible Study

Tuesday – November 26

Wednesday – November 27

Thursday – November 28 *Thanksgiving*
 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy

Friday – November 29

Saturday – November 30 *Apostle Andrew the First-Called*
 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
 5pm Vespers

Thank you to chairperson, Dena Yamalis and committee, who organized and served a bountiful Philoptochos sponsored breakfast last Saturday, November 16, for the Metropolis Folk Dance Festival!

LAST NOTIFICATION! Please join us for the Philoptochos Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 3, 6:30pm, at the beautiful setting of the Le Mont. Mary Zotis, chairperson, 412 835-2381, will take your reservations by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29. NO EXCEPTIONS! Entrée selections are Rack of Lamb \$42, Filet Mignon \$44, Salmon \$35, Chicken \$32. Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Philoptochos and mail to: Mary Zotis 419 Longleaf Drive Venetia, PA 15367

Save the Date for the annual Christmas bread making on Monday, December 9 at 10am. Many hands are needed for rolling, twisting, baking and wrapping. Wrapping and selling are from 2pm-5pm. Any of your time is appreciated! Bread, \$10 a loaf, will be sold on baking day, December 15 and if available December 22.

Ministry Opportunity: We have a Holy Cross Parishioner coming to completion of 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.

Kathy Pyros will be distributing the **FOCUS Christmas Angels** in the narthex and during coffee hour on TODAY and next Sunday, Dec 1st. All gifts will be due back at the church no later than Sunday December 8th. Thank you for your generosity with this project. I wish you and your families blessed holidays. ~Kathy Pyros



The Socrates-Daphne Lodge of Pittsburgh GAPA
 invites you to the
Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

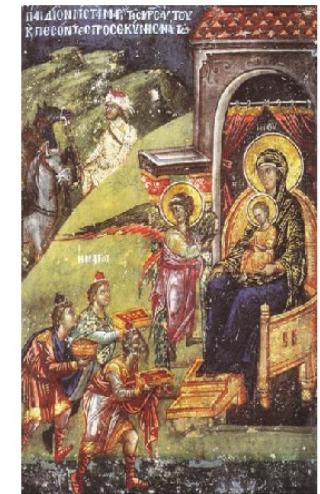
Saturday December 7, 2019
 Crowne Plaza Hotel - Fort Couch Road

Cocktails and Appetizers 6 pm
 Festive Dinner Menu 7 pm

Music by *The Grecian Flames*
 Featuring Ted Samaras and a performance by
The Grecian Odyssey Dancers

Dinner and Dance \$55
Dance only \$10
 Join us to ring in the holiday season,
 and don't forget your "kefi!"

Call for reservations by Dec 2nd
Becky Bertos 412-421-9427
Aliki Andrews 412-833-4596
Joanne Melacrinos 412-563-4609



**"COME, GATHER TO SEE A NEWBORN BARE,
 THE GOD BEFORE TIME"**

A Byzantine Musical Oratorio-Celebration
 of the Complete Kontakion of the Nativity
 by Romanos the Melodist

A Program by the Byzantine Choir
 of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh
 and Invited Musical Guests

Sunday, December 1, 2019,
 6 PM
 Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, 650 Schenley Drive,
 Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Open to the public

TO RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2020, please complete and return to church or to *Connie Carabalis, 224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd, Pittsburgh 15234*

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

***From your Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to National Philoptochos in NYC and \$10 is sent to the Pittsburgh Metropolis Philoptochos. Anything over \$25 goes to Holy Cross Philoptochos. Or see any Board Member to pay your dues!**