

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, December 1, 2019

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Gospel According Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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

Altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Polixeni Brincka  
by her husband William Brincka.

Altar Candles are sponsored in loving memory of Polixeni Brincka  
by her brother Ted Kalas and family.

Coffee Hour is sponsored by GAPA today.

Memorials: †Regina Spanos 40 days  
†Polyxeni Brincka 10 years  
†Paraskevi Kalas 23 years (mother of Ted)

<b><u>THIS WEEK:</u></b>	
Monday – December 2	6:30pm Paraclesis/Bible Study
Tuesday – December 3	6:30pm Philoptochos Christmas Party @ LeMont 7pm GOYA Meeting
Wednesday – December 4	<b>St. Barbara</b> 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School 6:45pm GOYA Basketball
Thursday – December 5	<b>St. Savas @ Holy Cross</b> 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy 7pm Vespers at St. Nicholas, Oakland
Friday – December 6	<b>St. Nicholas @ Holy Cross</b> 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy 7:12pm GOYA Christmas Party
Saturday – December 7	5pm Vespers/Confessions

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  
Aliko 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  
Prick 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 Carahalios, 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!**