

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

Christmas Pageant following Divine Liturgy.  
 Coffee Hour sponsored by Philoptochos today.

Trisagion: †Mary Nicholas 30 years  
 †Spyridon Sam P. Gidas 55 years

**THIS WEEK:**

Monday – December 23 6:30 pm Paraclesis/Bible Study

Tuesday – December 24 **Christmas Eve**  
 3:30 pm Royal Hours  
 5:00 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Wednesday – December 25 **Christmas Day: 8am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy**

Thursday – December 26

Friday – December 27 **St. Stephen** 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy

Saturday – December 28 4:30pm Baptism – NO Vespers

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.

*Philoptochos Christmas bread, \$10 a loaf will be sold TODAY after Divine Liturgy!*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Philoptochos! Thank you for supporting Philoptochos in ALL our fundraising endeavors to assist those in need! Thank you to ALL our fantastic volunteers who give of their time so unselfishly! ~Elaine Sofis

*(Continued from cover) ... So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

**ATTENTION**

*Graduating High School seniors and parents!*

Applications are now available in the narthex, Elaine Sofis or office for the *Popi Hagelios Memorial Philanthropy Award of the Philoptochos Society of Holy Cross Church*. The application is due by Sunday, March 22. The application is available to a PLEDGED Holy Cross family member who is a graduating high school senior in 2020. A similar application is available at Mt. Lebanon High School. You may apply to both awards. You will only be eligible for one \$1500 award.

Thank you to all of our Baking Angels, who very generously offered their sweet treats to our parish home-bound and those in nursing homes, for the Circle of Angels Christmas baskets. And thank you to those who offered monetary gifts also. Thank you to chairpersons Carol Halkias and Christine Peters who organize and deliver the baskets and their great assisting "Angels" who also deliver the much appreciated baskets to those who cannot come to church, maintaining year-round relationships with them and reminding them that they are not forgotten. Thank you also to Georgina Callas, who crocheted 30 beautiful crosses for us to offer as additional gifts. We appreciate the Blanket Ministry, that always has blankets ready for us to deliver whenever we need one.

**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!**

Fr. Michael and Presvytera Eleni  
 Invite You to Their Home  
 for an  
 Open House  
 for the  
 College and Graduate Students  
 of  
 Holy Cross!

Friday, January 3, 2020  
 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

3100 Eastview Road  
 Bethel Park, PA 15102

Please RSVP to Presvytera Eleni  
 412-443-5873 or  
[elenikallaur@gmail.com](mailto:elenikallaur@gmail.com)

Please bring your appetite!  
 Lots of food, fun, and  
 fellowship!



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 22, 2019

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**The Gospel according to Matthew 1:1-25**

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ... *(Continued next pg)*