

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 29, 2019

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19 Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

The Gospel According Matthew 2:13-23 When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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

Memorials: †Betty Kehayas 40 days
†John Cominos 40 days
†Lydia Taylor 1 year

THIS WEEK:

Monday – December 30

Tuesday – December 31 4pm Great Vespers
5pm Matins
6pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Wednesday – January 1 *St. Basil the Great*

Thursday – January 2

Friday – January 3 10am Royal Hours
6-9pm JOY Christmas/Theophany Party
@Myers Home
6-10pm College Student open house
@Kallaur home

Saturday – January 4 *Saturday before Theophany*
8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
5pm 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.

ATTENTION graduating High School seniors & 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.

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

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



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!**