

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, February 16, 2020 ~ Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The reading is from St. Paul's St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

The Gospel According Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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

Today is Godparent/Godchild Sunday.

*Join us for a luncheon in the Community Center sponsored by Parish Council,
 followed by the General Assembly Meeting.*

*Altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of her parents, Jane and Harry Tsironas,
 by Dina Hartlep and family.*

Memorials: †Georgia Diniaco 2 years
 †Nicholas Bonaros 7 years
 †Jane (Polixeni) Tsironas 10 years
 †Harry Tsironas 23 years

THIS WEEK:

Monday – February 17 **6:30pm Paraclesis/Bible Study**
 Tuesday – February 18 10am First Steps of Christ
 Wednesday – February 19 4:30 pm Greek School
 6:45pm GOYA Basketball
 Thursday – February 20 7pm Chant Class
 Friday – February 21 GOYA Basketball Tournament HERE at Holy Cross
 Saturday – February 22 **Saturday of the Souls 8:30/9:30am Orthros/Div Liturgy**
 GOYA Basketball Tournament HERE at Holy Cross
5pm Vespers

Kicks For Kids is an organization that is run by the GOYA and collects new or gently used athletic shoes for less fortunate kids in our area. We accept any type of athletic shoes including spikes and cleats. We are also taking monetary donations. We will be collecting until 2/23. Collection box will be in the vestibule. If there are any questions, contact Jimmy Kartsonas at jimmykarts11@gmail.com

Congratulations to Jane Kokanos, newly elected Philoptochos board member. Jane was elected because of a vacancy on the board.

Ladies and Gentlemen of Holy Cross - High School grads and beyond! There will be a Philoptochos membership sign up table, TODAY, February 16, at coffee hour, before the general assembly. Please consider joining our very worthwhile, philanthropic group. Please stop by and renew or join Philoptochos for 2020. Your membership is important to us! Or fill out the membership form in Crossroads and mail it in!

SAVE the DATE!! Fr. Paul Abernathy will guest speak at 7:30pm at the next general Philoptochos meeting on March 3. Fr. Paul, formerly of FOCUS Pittsburgh, now spearheads the Neighborhood Resilience Project. Fr. Paul is pastor of St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church on the Hill. The meeting will begin at 6:45pm in the Philoptochos Room. ALL Holy Cross parish members are invited to attend.

TODAY immediately following Liturgy and lunch, we will have our semi-annual
General Assembly Meeting in the Community Center

Your attendance at this meeting is very crucial as we need the parishioners approval for

- the 2020 Holy Cross Budget as prepared by the Parish Council
 - a major renovation campaign for our aging facilities and urgently needed landscaping
- Please find below the Summary of the 2020 Repair and Maintenance Project Proposal:

The Parish Council recommends to the General Assembly that a series of priority projects to repair and maintain our facilities and grounds be approved for completion in 2020.

\$373,074 is available for these projects. Below is a summary of the origin of these funds.

Date	Amount	Source of Funds	Designated Use
10/31/2019	\$124,717	Estate Donations	\$24,000 for choir loft
12/31/2019	\$101,722	End of Year Surplus Income	Priority 1 projects
12/31/2019	\$93,635	50 for 50 Campaign	Priority 1 projects
12/31/2019	\$28,000	Building Fund	Building repairs
Pledged	\$25,000	Individual Donor	New roadside sign
Total	\$373,074		

Committee	Amount	Priority 1 Projects
Building	\$197,750	(Detailed Description of Projects by Letter in Appendix A) - Exterior repairs (both buildings) C,D,Q,R,S,V: \$75,750 - Interior Community Center, carpeted area G,H,T,J, P: \$73,000 - Choir loft/stairs, carpeting U: \$18,000 - Church sign replacement W: \$25,000 - Choir loft seating modifications X: \$6,000
Maintenance	\$45,000	- Men's room grab bar: \$500 - Repair closed circuit TV system: \$3,500 - Additional coating on gym floor: \$5,000 - Security key FOB system: \$15,000 - Replace fluorescent light bulbs: \$5,000 - Exterior safety lighting on circle and driveway: \$16,000
Decorating	\$30,000	- Reupholster and/or buy new furniture for Community Center: \$30,000
Grounds	\$75,000	- Tree shrubs removal and pruning all 11.5 acres: \$50,000 - Landscape architect: \$10,000 - Belgium block wall repair: \$15,000
TOTAL	\$347,750	

All project costs are estimates at this time. Formal quotes will be obtained for all work.

In addition to the funding available, the Parish Council has reserved \$100,000 as an emergency fund for unforeseeable cash needs.

At Sunday's meeting, we will inform the parish of the overall grounds keeping, maintenance, repair, and decorating needs, i.e. Priority 2 projects and longer term needs

Thank you, and see you all next door in the Community Center.

~Parish Council