

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 2, 2020 ~ The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:7-17 Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Gospel According Luke 2:22-40 At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Symeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

Coffee hour is sponsored by Philoptochos today.

Fr. Michael is away through February 15th.

In case of emergency, please call Fr. Dan 412.262.4589 or Fr. John 412.215.4829

THIS WEEK:

Monday – February 3 **6:30pm Paraclesis only**

Tuesday – February 4 7pm GOYA Meeting

Wednesday – February 5 4:30 pm Greek School
6:45 GOYA Basketball
6:45 Blanket Ministry

Thursday – February 6 **St. Photios 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy**
@St. George Chapel (of Holy Trinity GOC)
7pm Chant Class

Friday – February 7 **St. Parthenius 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy**

Saturday – February 8 11am IOCC Soup Fundraiser 
5pm Vespers - Triodion begins

The **Blanket Ministry** will meet this Wednesday, February 5 at 6:45pm in the Philoptochos Room.

Attention Philoptochos Members! There will be a special board election for a recently resigned board member at the **General Philoptochos meeting next Sunday, February 9, at 12:30pm**, following coffee hour in the Philoptochos Room. There will be NO Philoptochos meeting this Tuesday, February 4.

Looking ahead:

Godparent/Godchild Sunday has been rescheduled to **February 16**.
General Assembly Meeting will also be held on Sunday, **February 16**.
A luncheon will be provided.



Kicks For Kids

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 from 2/2 to 2/23.

Collection box will be in the vestibule.

If there are any questions contact

Jimmy Kartsonas at jimmykarts11@gmail.com

Hello everyone! We have just opened up a Holy Cross spirit wear store online. You can get your HC gear now through THIS WEDNESDAY February 5. This is a fundraiser for our GOYA.

Here's the link: <https://shieldsewembroidery.tuosystems.com/shopping/1297426>



Health Kit Drive and Assembly

Youth Volunteers and Monetary Donations Needed!

February 8, 2020 | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Kit assembly will take place during International Soup Sampling to Benefit IOCC.

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
123 Gilkeson Rd. (Mt. Lebanon) - Pittsburgh, PA 15228

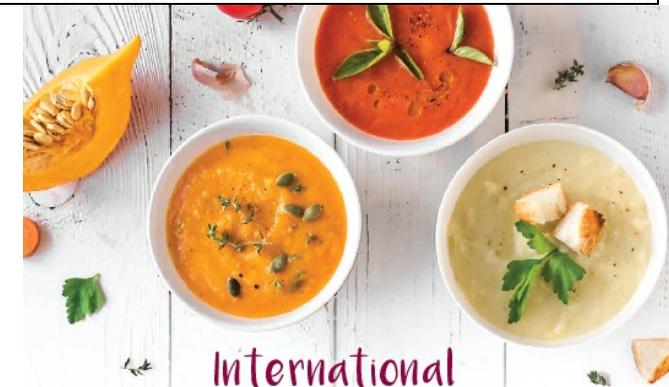
All Orthodox Youth Groups are asked to participate.

Students, please bring your volunteer forms for school credit.

**OUR GOAL IS TO ASSEMBLE ONE THOUSAND HEALTH KITS.
DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO PURCHASE BULK HEALTH KIT SUPPLIES.**

To donate, please make checks payable to "Holy Cross Agape Fund" with "IOCC Health Kit Project" in the memo, and mail to Nick Terezis, c/o IOCC, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215.

Please contact Deno at 412-833-8771 or dmpappas22@gmail.com to coordinate your youth group attendance.



International Soup Sampling

TO BENEFIT IOCC

Saturday, February 8, 2020 | 11-2

Experience tastes from around the world!

Sample five homemade soups for \$10,
and take your favorite quart home for a \$10 donation.

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
123 Gilkeson Rd. (Mt. Lebanon) - Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Register at iocc.org/pittsburgh

For questions or to pre-order soup (by January 25), contact
Marianne at 412-668-0420 or marianne.carmack@gmail.com



Youth groups & children's ministries from all jurisdictions will assemble health kits. All area youth are invited!
Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies.
To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 740.282.5198

