

HOLY CROSS



CROSS ROADS

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

Christ is in our midst! He is and shall always be!

This month of February is a month of transitions liturgically. We begin the month with the great feast of The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. Christ enters the Temple not only to fulfill the Law, but also to encounter St. Symeon, the Prophetess Anna (the daughter of Phanuel), and those who were there. These faithful and devout servants of God were waiting, with all the faithful people of Israel, for the Messiah. Jesus enters the Temple to encounter the faithful. **Each time we enter the Church, we come with that same anticipation that we will encounter Christ.** We will receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and we will leave refreshed and renewed, knowing that we can indeed depart in peace, according the Word of the Lord, for we have beheld the salvation of Christ. We can embrace the cross that Christ has given us, knowing that we are victorious, if we hold fast to the source of our joy and love.

As we leave the Church we should recite the prayer of St. Symeon:

“Lord now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people. A light to enlighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of Your people Israel.” (Lk. 2:29-32)

With the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, we conclude our celebrations of the Lord’s Incarnation (His birth), Theophany (the revelation of the Holy Trinity at the baptism of Christ), and now His Meeting in the Temple (the prophecy of His Messianic work for all peoples of the world, and the fulfillment of the Messianic prophesies to Israel). The Church now directs our attention toward the most intense work of the liturgical year, the Triodion. We prepare for our journey to enter into the **Great Fast that begins on March 2nd.**

FEBRUARY 2020

Continued pg. 4 →

Fast Free Week

Holy Cross Community Night

Wednesday, February 12
@6pm

Spend time with your church family
Enjoy a free dinner... Crafts... Games...and more!

For all ages

Nursery available • HOPE: Grades K-2
JOY: Grade 3-6 • GOYA: Grades 7-12
Young Adults • Adults • Seniors

FOR GOD
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON, SO
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL
LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 20 Issue 1

Under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh

The mission of Holy Cross is to keep and proclaim, pure and undefiled, the Orthodox Christian faith and traditions in conformity with the doctrine, canons, worship, discipline and customs of the Church.

Fr. Michael Kallaur, Economos
Fr. Daniel Korba, Presbyter
Dn. Frank Dickos, Deacon
Emmanuel Maginas, Pastoral Assistant
 Nena Jovonovich, Secretary
 Website: holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org
 Office (412) 833-3355 FAX (412) 833-3357
 Community Center Phone:(412) 854-6001
Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Organizations & Committees

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Church School | Jennifer Moorcroft | (412) 626-9143 |
| Philoptochos | Elaine Sofis | (412)344-7046 |
| Philoptochos | Connie Carahalis | (412) 561-4783 |
| Membership | | |
| Circle of Angels | Carol Halkias | (412) 276-5002 |
| Angels | Christine Peters | (724) 693-9290 |
| Garden of Love | Stacie Metrose | (412) 833-5164 |
| | Didra Kirschner | (412) 561-2892 |
| Greek School | Dena Yamalis | (412) 343-8355 |
| Junior Dance | Kristina Gzikowski | (412) 257-5015 |
| Senior Dance | Georgia Yamalis | (412) 728-2259 |
| Choir | Thespina Christulides | (412)608-6418 |
| First Steps | Denise Sokos | (412) 257-1610 |
| JOY | Christine Chapas | (724) 986-2082 |
| Young Professionals | Thespina Christulides | (412)608-6418 |
| GOYA | Denise Melis | (412) 341-9264 |
| Golden Club | Cynthia Kostelnik | (412) 833-9423 |
| | Rene Koett | (412) 831-3142 |
| Bookstore | Mary Portellos | (724) 941-8699 |
| House Committee | Konrad Mayr | (412) 877-7780 |
| Building Comm. | John Conomos | (412) 831-7997 |
| Sts. Mary & Martha | Adrienne Dickos | (412) 833-4980 |

*Services:

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| Sundays: | 8:15am Orthros |
| | 9:30 am Divine Liturgy |
| Monday: | 6:30pm Paraclesis |
| | 7:30 pm Bible Study |
| Weekdays: | 8:30am Orthros |
| | 9:30am Divine Liturgy |
| Saturdays: | Vespers 5pm |

*See monthly calendar for all services.

2020 Parish Council

Stephanie Kladakis Myers, President
Konrad Mayr, Vice President
Nicholas Chakos, Financial Secretary
Jennifer Liokereas, Treasurer
Joy Palonis, Secretary
Dena Galie
John Hoening
Frank Kalogeris
Bob Kirschner
Jordan Nicholas
Emanuel Panos
Deno Pappas
Bill Poutous
George Sokos
Georgia Yamalis

Funeral/Memorial information: Use of the Community Center is available for parishioner funeral lunches at no charge. Parishioners may contact any caterer they choose to purchase and prepare their **Makaria** (Mercy Meal). Contact the church office for suggestions if you need a referral.
 For **Kollyva**, you may bring your own or contact Denise Melis directly (412) 341-9264.

Coffee Hour fellowship is an extension of our Divine Liturgy! Please gather with family, koumbari or friends to sponsor/prepare one Sunday. See the calendar on website for open dates, and call the church office to confirm.



Shortly, on February 8th, we will enter the season of the Triodion. This will mark our preparations for the Great Fast. This is the tithe of the year, the 10% that God asks of us to continue our spiritual renewal and embrace a discipline of fasting, prayer, and acts of mercy. All times are given to this effort, but we especially set aside this time of Lent to embrace a new regiment of prayerful struggle. Great Lent does not begin until March 2nd, however, the Church gives us almost an entire month to prepare ourselves for this important undertaking. The Church understands that unless we prepare to make this effort and fully understand why, we will not be ready to enter the Lenten season.

Lent is referred to as the “School of Repentance.” We begin an ascetical effort that helps soften our hearts that we might see our sins and confess them before the Lord. This discipline of fasting, prayer, and Church services breaks the routine of our daily schedules and forces us to place a higher priority on our relationship with God and fulfilling His commandments. The Triodion begins this year on Saturday (at Great Vespers), February 8th and the theme of humility is emphasized with the Gospel of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14).

There are four Sundays that prepare us to enter into Lent. Each Sunday focuses on a theme that is necessary for our spiritual growth.

The first Sunday (February 9th) is of the Publican and Pharisee and focuses on humility. (Luke 18:10-14) To emphasize the point, that we make spiritual progress through humility and not by boasting of our deeds before God (or man), the Church forbids fasting during this week.

The second Sunday (February 16th) is of the Prodigal Son (The Loving Father) and focuses on forgiveness and the desire of God to receive all of us into His Heavenly Kingdom. (Luke 15:11-32) This week is a normal (Wednesday and Friday) fasting week.

The third Sunday (February 23rd) is of the Judgment and focuses on the Second Coming of Christ and how the Lord will judge mankind. The judgment is based on how we have loved, or failed to love, one another. (Matthew 25:31-46) This Sunday is called “Meatfare Sunday” and is our last day for meat products.

The fourth and final Sunday (March 1st) is Forgiveness Sunday. The Lord commands us to forgive one another as He has forgiven us. We enter our Lenten journey asking forgiveness from all. (Matthew 6:14-21) This Sunday is called “Cheesefare Sunday” and is our last day for dairy products. On Sunday evening we gather for the Forgiveness Vespers where we begin our Lenten journey by asking forgiveness of one another. Without forgiving one another, God cannot forgive us! Lent begins on “Clean Monday” (March 2nd).

PASCHA is April 19th !

St. Nicholas Velimirovic writes,

“What does God seek of men, and what does He give them? He seeks repentance and gives forgiveness of sin. He seeks little and gives all. Men have only to repent of the committing of sin and stop sinning, and they will receive all from God, all indeed! Not only that which their hearts are able to desire, but more, much more. All is promised to the sinless. The sinless will be inheritors of the Kingdom of God, sons of God, children of light, children of immortality, companions of the angels, brothers of Christ. The sinless will have abundant life, abundant peace, wisdom, power and joy. The sinless will have all, for all is promised to them.

Man must only repent, and he will receive all. The beggar must only cleanse himself and bathe and clothe himself in clean clothes before the gates of the heavenly court, and he will immediately be led into that heavenly court and be met and greeted by the King, seated at the King’s table, and he will have all, in abundance and flowing over. Oh, my brethren, these are not only words, but are living and holy truths, for we know that many repentant sinners have received all that has been promised. Many have appeared from the other world and confirmed the truth of these words, witnessing how they now live as sons and daughters of the King. They repented in good time, but we have yet to repent if we want to be together with them as heirs of the Kingdom.

O merciful Lord, help us to repent before the hour of our death, that we may live in eternity.” (*Prologue*, Volume I, pg. 208-209)

Lent is our opportunity to focus on our repentance! We do not deny our sinfulness, rather we confess our sins and ask God to help us overcome that which separates us from Him. As simple as this sounds, it does require effort and determination on our part. Our efforts will not go unrewarded.

Each year

(for we do not know how many we will have) we are given another opportunity to enter into this arena of spiritual warfare. Let us not give excuses or be distracted from our task at hand. As we grow spiritually, let us allow the Grace of the Holy Spirit to help us attract the holiness of God. Let us walk humbly before our God, and with faith and with love seek to approach Him.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us not lose this opportunity and seek to encounter our Loving God in all that Church provides for us! May our preparations and desires be blessed!

With love in Christ,
Fr. Michael

January Holy Cross Community Night

Join us on **Wednesday, February 12 @6pm** during Fast Free Week
with Fr. John Chakos and Bob Kirschner





OCMC Mission Teams are now open for 2020.

Locations are Alaska, Albania, Colombia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Kenya.

Apply today at www.ocmc.org.

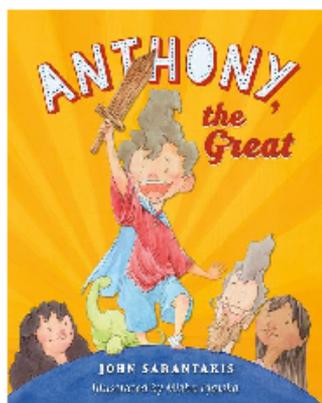
2020

MISSION TEAMS

Now Open! Apply Today!



HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH

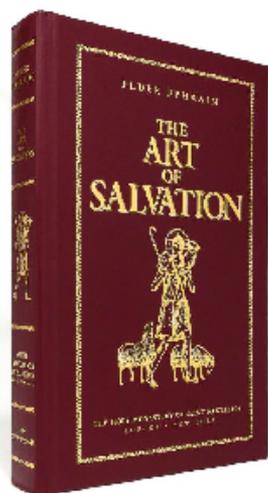


ANTHONY, THE GREAT

It's hard not getting what we want. It's hard not doing what we want. It's hard . . . eating Brussels sprouts! For Anthony, some lessons are BIGGER than others. Fortunately, he has some help along the way. Join Anthony and his favorite stuffed animal, Mikey, as they learn about the power of prayer, the importance of our spiritual struggles, and ultimately, the love of God. For ages 2 to 10 years.

THE ART OF SALVATION

Spiritual words shaped by the personal experiences of Elder Ephraim. Thirty-three homilies that are indeed alive, informative, inspiring, and which outline, with profound simplicity, the means that securely lead to salvation. The text contained in this book are homilies to the monks of the Holy Monastery of Philotheou and Mount Athos, as well as to laypeople, primarily of the United States, who are his spiritual children and whom he guides in the spiritual life. Hardcover, 400 pages, beautifully bound and illustrated in full color. Elder Ephraim of the Holy Monastery of St. Anthony in Arizona fell asleep in the Lord on December 7, 2019.



Our Holy Cross Orthodox Bookstore is located in the carpeted area of the Community Center. Please be sure to stop by any Sunday following Divine Liturgy. We offer a great selection of Orthodox Greeting Cards and Books for all ages. For additional information, please contact Mary Portellos at 724-941-8699 or maryportellos@comcast.net

2020 Stewardship Cards have been mailed out.
If you did NOT receive one, please pick one up in the narthex or
contact the church office at 412.833.3355 or
holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org

Happy 98th Birthday (this past December) to
Mary Chakos,
shown with her 13 great-grandchildren.



Youth of all ages welcome!



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 locc.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

Holy Cross Philoptochos February News Letter

Twenty-three members attended the January 7, 2020 meeting. The next general Philoptochos meeting will be Sunday, February 9 at 12:30pm, following coffee hour. A board member election will occur at the meeting for a resigned board member. There will NOT be a Tuesday general meeting.

The 2020 budget was reviewed and approved.

Approved in budget was a \$1000 donation to Holy Cross GOYA for ad & tournament expenses and a \$1000 donation to IOCC to purchase health kits to be assembled at Holy Cross on Feb 8. Philoptochos will now handle the checks for the Garden of Love. Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Philoptochos and mark Garden of Love on the memo line. Stacie Metrose and Didra Kirschner continue to co-chair.

Ria Kartsonas & Eva Elderkin will co-chair the Philoptochos Room furniture upgrade project. There will be a NO Bake- Bake Sale this month chaired by Dena Yamalis.

The Blanket Ministry will meet on Wednesday, February 5 at 6:45pm in the Philoptochos Room. They are donating blankets to the Linus Project and making baby hats on looms.

Thank you to Georgina Callas for organizing the group efforts.

Kathy Pyros is our Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly FOCUS) representative. She will take clothing, food and other needed items to NRP. Please set the items outside the office door and mark NRP on the bags. Thank you to Kathy for donating many hours to serving FOCUS and now NRP.

Fr. Paul Abernathy, an Orthodox priest who had headed FOCUS Pittsburgh and now is spearheading the NRP, will speak at the Tuesday, March 3 meeting. The March meeting will begin at 6:45pm and Fr. Paul will speak at 7:30pm

The application for The Popi Hagelios Memorial Philanthropy Award of the Philoptochos Society of Holy Cross Church is NOW available in the narthex, office and from Elaine Sofis. Application must be returned by March 22. Please see the application for necessary criteria to apply for the award. 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. Your Philoptochos membership is important to us. Please use the 2020 membership form in the Cross Roads to join or renew. Your ideas and enthusiasm are welcome!

Future Philoptochos and Orthodox Events,

Wednesday, February 5, Blanket Ministry, 6:45pm, Philoptochos Room

Saturday, February 8, Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC, 11am-2pm, \$10 Health Kit Assembly, 11:30am-12:30pm both at Holy Cross

Sunday, February 9, General Philoptochos Meeting, 12:30pm, following coffee hour, with the election of a new board member.

Wednesday, February 12, Community Night, 6:00pm

Sunday, February 16, General Assembly and Godparent/Godchild Sunday

Fri, Sat, Sun, February 21-23, GOYA Basketball tournament at Holy Cross

Tuesday, March 3, General Philoptochos Meeting, 6:45pm Fr. Paul Abernathy guest speaker at 7:30pm

Thursday, March 19, Community Night, 6:00pm

Sunday, March 22, Applications due for the Philoptochos Philanthropy Award

Mon, March 30, 10am, Pascha bread making & sales 2-4:30, Sales on April 5 & 12

Tuesday, April 7, General Philoptochos Meeting, 7:00pm

Sunday, April 12, Philoptochos Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon.

Sunday, April 19, Pascha

Thursday, April 23, Community Night, 6:00pm

Much is planned. Please share your time and talents with us.

Reminders will be sent via-email and hope to see you at ALL of our events!

PLEASE consider joining Philoptochos!

Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President

There is a vacancy on the Philoptochos board because of a resignation. A special election will occur at the general **Philoptochos meeting on Sunday, February 9** at 12:30pm in the Philoptochos Room. I hope that you can attend.

Save the Date for **March 3rd Philoptochos Meeting at 6:45pm**. Fr. Paul Abernathy will be a guest speaker at 7:30pm that evening in the Philoptochos Room. Fr. Paul, previously of FOCUS Pittsburgh, now spearheads the Neighborhood Resilience Project. Fr. Paul is pastor of St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church on the Hill. Fr. Paul will discuss his new Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP). All are invited to attend.

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. NO exceptions! 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.

**Sts. Mary & Martha
Women's Fellowship**

And then what happened?

A look at the life of the church after the pages of the Bible.

February 25 : Hostess: Irene Zotis,
76 Woodland Dr, Mt Lebanon 15228
RSVP to 412-721-0146

March 17: Hostess: Domenica Merante,
43 Ridgewood Dr, McDonald 15057
RSVP to 412-302-9093

April 28 : Hostess: Carol Halkias,
1401 Meadowlark Dr, Scott Twp 15243
RSVP to 412-276-5002

May 26 : Hostess: Pres Joanna Ferencz,
address TBA RSVP to 724-953-1091

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!**

Snapshots of Philoptochos the past year



2020 Officers

Meetings





Autumn Food Fair



Membership social



Brides through the Decades Fashion Show guests



Philoptochos 89 years strong, the largest women's Christian organization in the US

All ladies of Holy Cross Church are invited to become a Philoptochos member. If you missed our delightful membership social in November, it's never too late to renew or become a member for 2020. Come be a part of these dynamic women comprising the philanthropic arm of our Holy Cross Church.

We are women of all ages and from all walks of life. We have three-generations of active families. We have younger women who present their ideas of charities and philanthropies for Philoptochos support. Come with your ideas, energy, support and God-given talents!

We have Philoptochos projects where you may serve, if interested, some of which include: **Circle of Angels** who visit home-bound senior members of our church, distributing holiday baskets, simple prayer books, holy water and oil, and good cheer by spending much appreciated time with them, with love. **Blanket Ministry** who meet to socialize and make lap blankets and prayer shawls for our own parishioners (distributed by Fr. Michael and Circle of Angels), Project Linus blankets for children in need. They also make other items for local charities. Volunteer with our **Kuzina Gals** who make soups and meals for our convalescing-at-home parishioners. Give us a few hours during our biggest fundraiser, the **Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair** be it cooking, baking, preparing, serving and so forth. This is a beautiful way to meet Philoptochos sisters and gentlemen - our Philoptochos "supermen".

We also have fun fundraisers such as teas and fashion shows. Volunteer your help and expertise to event chairmen or chair a project yourself! We are open to all manner of new ideas!

Our younger women are the future of Philoptochos creating their own footsteps continuing our legacy. The new **Holy Cross Farmers Market** inaugurated last summer is not under the auspices of Philoptochos but two of our younger members are spearheading the project and welcome help for the upcoming season. If this interests you, please contact the church office!

As humans we may err, as humans, we come and go, however, the church built on a rock at the top of the hill, our beloved Holy Cross Church with its philanthropic arm, our charitable and successful Holy Cross Philoptochos will continue to be here for our children and grandchildren. Be a part of it!

With sisterly love, Connie Carahalis, Philoptochos Membership Chairman

Metropolis GOYA Basketball Tournament

Hosted by **Holy Cross**
February 21-23, 2020



AD FORM

Deadline: February 1, 2020

**Please attach to this form or
email your message to**

ADGOYA2020@gmail.com

Full page \$120.00 Half page \$60.00 Quarter page \$30.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Ad size and amount paid: _____

Please make check payable to **HOLY CROSS GOYA and mail along
with this form to:**

**Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
ATTN: Basketball Tournament
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228**

**Any questions, call Denise Melis at 412.341.9264
Please return no later than February 1, 2020.**



Are you ready for some **BASKETBALL**??!!



**Holy Cross GOYA is honored to host the
2020 GOYA Regional Basketball Tournament**

February 21, 22, 23, 2020

This year, there will be over 300 GOYAns participating in our tournament. Hosting a Diocese Basketball Tournament is truly a community effort. Much help and many items are needed. Please choose to help in whatever way you can. In doing so, you will not only be supporting our youth, you will be helping Holy Cross be the best we can be in welcoming our young people from our Diocese.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Sponsor:

- Friday Night Social Event Snacks..\$250 Concession Stand.....\$200
- Friday Night Paper Products.....\$150 Sunday Breakfast Food.....\$250
- Friday Night Beverages..... \$125 Sunday Paper Products..... \$150
- Saturday Night Event Snacks..... \$250 Sunday Beverages..... \$125
- Saturday Night Paper Products ...\$150 Coffee Supplies\$150
- Saturday Night Beverages..... \$125 Bottled water for all players..... \$125

Or for those desiring to make a substantially larger donation.... Various opportunities exist for underwriting the larger costs of renting gyms, paying referees, buying trophies and providing the DJ for the social events. Please contact Denise Melis 412.341.9264

All donors will be acknowledged in the Tournament Program Book.

Give of your time:

- Set up and Clean up**Help set up Thursday night at 6pm, Saturday at 5pm before dance, and clean up Sunday after breakfast
 - Monitor Gyms**....Spending 2 hours at gym representing Holy Cross to make sure everything goes as planned
 - Chaperone Dance**....Saturday night from 8:30pm in the Community to watch young people having a good time
 - Score Keepers**....3 hours of keeping the score book or time clock at local gyms
 - Hotel Security**...Walking halls at Crowne Plaza hotel Friday and Saturday nights
 - Registration**....Friday 4pm in the Community Center registering players
- Call Denise Melis if you would like to *volunteer your time* 412.341.9264

I have enclosed \$ _____ as a TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to Holy Cross GOYA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

**Please return this form no later than January 30, 2020.
Holy Cross GOYA 123 Gilkeson Road Pittsburgh, PA 15228**



Thanks to everyone who attended the **JOY Christmas/Theophany** party at the **Myers' home**, and thanks to Keith, Stephanie, Grace, and Lizzie for hosting. JOY had a blast icing cookies, putting stickers on Holy Water bottles and rock climbing!





HOLY CROSS

SUN

MON

Tue

There will be a **GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING** on **Sunday, February 16, 2020** after the Divine Liturgy following a light lunch provided by Parish Council.

**2 Meeting of the Lord
Ypapanti Feast Day**
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

3

6:30pm Paraclesis only

4

7pm GOYA Meeting

9 Publican and Pharisee
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy
*Coffee Hour sponsored by the family
of †Demetre Geronymos* 
Memorials:
†John Mantagos 40 days
†Demetre Geronymos 1 year
†Despina Xenakis 1 year
†Anthony Xenakis 6 years
†Constantine Zotis 6 years
12:30 Philoptochos Meeting

10 St. Haralambos

11

**16 Prodigal Son
Godparent/Godchild
Sunday**
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17

6:30pm Paraclesis/
Bible Study

18

10am First Steps of
Christ

23 Meatfare/Judgment Sunday
8:15am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

24

6:30pm Paraclesis/
Bible Study

25

7pm Sts. Mary & Martha

GOYA Basketball @Holy Cross

FEBRUARY 2020

| Wed | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|
| | | | 1 7pm Vespers in East Pittsburgh @Ypapanti |
| | | GOYA Basketball in Akron | |
| 5 4:30 Greek School 6:45pm GOYA Basketball | 6 St. Photios 8:30/9:30am Orthros/Divine Liturgy @St. George Chapel (of Holy Trinity GOC) 7pm Chant Class | 7 St. Parthenius 8:30/9:30am Orthros/Divine Liturgy | 8 11am IOCC Soup Fundraiser 5pm Vespers Triodion begins |
| 12 Fast Free 4:30 Greek School 6pm Community Night | 13 7pm Chant Class | 14 Fast Free | 15 5pm Vespers |
| 19 4:30 Greek School 6:45pm GOYA Basketball | 20 7pm Chant Class | 21 | 22 Saturday of Souls 8:30/9:30am Orthros/Divine Liturgy 6pm Vespers |
| | | GOYA Basketball at Holy Cross | |
| 26 4:30 Greek School | 27 7pm Chant Class | 28 | 29 Saturday of Souls 8:30/9:30am Orthros/Divine Liturgy 5pm Vespers |





GOYA at Basketball Tournament





















Hello everyone! We have just opened up a Holy Cross **SPIRIT WEAR STORE** online. You can get your HC gear now through February 5. **This is a fundraiser for our GOYA.** -Alexandra Kartsonas
Here's the link: <https://shieldsembroidery.tuosystems.com/shopping/1297426>

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



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
ISSUE 27 — JANUARY 2020



METROPOLIS FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL ENJOYED (ATTENDED) BY 300+

The Metropolis FDF brought together Dancers & their families from parishes throughout the Metropolis, including those as far away as Holy Cross, Stroudsburg and St. Nicholas, Bethlehem, on November 16th – 17th. The weekend event hosted by Holy Cross, Pittsburgh and chaired by Neolea Dance Director, Georgia Yamalis.

Our Metropolis FDF is non-competitive and the environment is one of fellowship and learning. Folk Dance Instructors from various areas of the country to come teach dances that will be new to the participants. Did you know there are over 500 Greek Dances, many specific to islands & villages? This is what Keith Mastorides, Director of the Hellas Dancers of Holy Trinity, Clearwater, FL told us. His Instructors gave lessons on dancing from Crete, Cyprus, the Ionian Islands, Karpethos, Megara and the Pontian region.

On Saturday, there were instructional workshops and in the evening was full with a delicious dinner, performances by Senior dance groups and Greek dancing featuring the Greek Company Orchestra. His Eminence, Metropolitan Sevas honored 3 long-time Dance Directors who have given over 100 years (combined) to the Folk Dance Ministry and other ministries of their parishes: Mary Doreza (Ypapanti, East Pittsburgh – Grecian Odyssey Dancers), Maria Nacopoulos (Koimisis Ti: Theotokou, Erie Hellenic Dancers) and Eleni Paxos (St. Haralambos, Canton – St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers). On Sunday following Divine Liturgy and brunch, the Junior Dance Groups performed. His Eminence remarked that he never expected to see such complicated dances from the Juniors, who gave performances that you would normally see at the Senior level.



SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Sevas's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ISSUE 28 — FEBRUARY 2020



EXPLORING MUSICAL CONNECTIONS

"How Sweet the Sound" is an innovative musical event taking place February 1 at 3:00 p.m. at Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus. Through the performances and presentations, the conference asks: What can a musical style from one Christian tradition reveal about another? What can we learn about one another through musical collaboration and experimentation? And how can music help us build bridges across communities? This event will explore the connections between Eastern Orthodoxy and Black Gospel music by presenting a newly-composed setting of the Orthodox Vespers in a Black Gospel style. The composer, Dr. Shawn Wallace, is a professor of jazz at The Ohio State University and a convert to Orthodoxy. The performers are experts in the Black Gospel tradition.

The performance will be preceded by presentations from Dr. Peter Bouteneff, a professor of Systemic Technology at St. Vladimir's Seminary (who also directs of the Arvo Part project there) and Father Moses Berry, a priest of the Orthodox Church of America who specializes in the connections between African Orthodoxy and the African-American experience.

Tickets are free but obtaining one before January 31st is requested. For more details, visit: <http://www.howsweetthesound.net>



OCF COLLEGE CONFERENCE

Testimonial by Nicholas & Sophia Goussetis

As Orthodox college students, we are often at odds with the experiences we are subjected to on our



campuses. For many of us, attending university presents the first time in our lives where we must consciously choose to be practicing Orthodox Christians. While we have countless opportunities to make choices consistent with the teachings of the faith, and many of us are blessed to take part in events and fellowship with our local OCF chapters, being an Orthodox Christian student at university can be a challenge.

We know we speak for others when we say that College Conference is a highlight of being an Orthodox college student. College Conference is a wonderful opportunity to develop knowledge of the faith, discuss meaningful and relevant topics, and cultivate connections with a pan-Orthodox group of students. We are always eager to enter an environment in which shared beliefs and backgrounds allow us to form lasting bonds and learn from our peers and the esteemed speakers.



After participating in the keynote address, workshops, discussion groups, and church services, we leave College

(Continued on page 2)



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(Continued from page 1)

Conference with many tools to enrich and reinvigorate our campus lives. Inspired by beautiful examples of Orthodoxy, we feel encouraged to share the same joy, love, and wisdom on our campuses.

Year after year, College Conference has been essential to our college experience.



Though the conference only lasts a few days, it truly has a lasting effect on our spiritual journeys, giving us a renewed sense of the

meaning of our faith. College Conference is the perfect opportunity to learn, reconnect, and continue to choose Orthodoxy.



Cleveland CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

JUNE 28 - JULY 3, 2020

More information for the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress will be in the next issue, or visit the official Congress website, where things will be posted as they become available: <http://www.clergylaity.org/>



YOUTH SAFETY UPDATE

Want to work with youth in your parish? Then you must become a Youth Worker.

Register. Screen. Train.

Visit our parish's youth website or search directory

All parishes must be complaint by 1.31.2020

Youth Workers must be registered screened - trained

SAVE THE DATE!

Young Adult Spring Retreat

ENGAGING the non-religious with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: FR. SERGIUS HALVORSEN

MARCH 13-15 | CAMP NAZARETH, MERCER, PA

Y2AM.PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG

CROSSROAD PRIORITY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1

CrossRoad is a ten-day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. Participants from all over the country come together to experience daily worship, take theology classes from some of the best professors in the country, visit local parishes, serve their neighbor, tour the city, and even spend a day at the beach.

Numerous students from the Metropolis have participated in the program since its inception. For more information or to register, visit: <http://www.crossroadinstitute.org>



CROSSROAD
HELLENIC COLLEGE - HOLY CROSS



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarchy

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

Pres. Eileen Sedor, Receptionist

Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar

Rhea Bellas, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Marie Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture

Stacey Stathuliz, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

News Release January 30, 2020

ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL FOR THE FEAST OF THE THREE HIERARCHS

Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers and the Day of Greek Letters

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this day we celebrate the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. We name this also as “the Day of Greek Letters.” For in this Feast, we honor both the virtues of their hierarchical deaconate, as well as the excellence of their writings. In prayers and liturgies, in homilies and commentaries, in prose and poetry, they employed the panoply of rhetorical arts in the service of Christ and the Church.

But there is a moral lesson in the Feast as well. In the eleventh century, a dispute arose among scholars in Constantinople: Which of these three Fathers was the greatest? Some touted St. John for his Golden Mouth; others favored St. Basil for his sterling character; others promoted St. Gregory for his unparalleled intellect and skillful speech. The disagreement became contentious and counterproductive to the interests of true religion and against the word of God.

The matter was resolved by St. John Mauropous, Metropolitan of Euchaita. In a dream the three Holy Hierarchs appeared to him and spoke as if with a single voice. They declared that among themselves in the Kingdom of God, there is no division and no rivalry—no first or second or third. As shepherds of the Church of Christ, they were and remain equals. They were hierarchs without a hierarchy, each one having served Christ in his own way and to the best of his ability. The Saints instructed that a day of common commemoration should be established, in which the Three Hierarchs would be celebrated jointly and equally, as in fitting for the Church of Christ. Thus, do we celebrate their great Feast on the Thirtieth of January.

As we observe the Day of the Three Holy Hierarchs, we honor them best by imitating their virtues: ways of scholarly excellence, rhetorical power, and purity of thought and word. But we honor them also by following their example of humility and their spirit of Christian equality. With fervor we chant the troparion of the 9th Ode of their Feast’s Canon:

There is no second best in these sacred three. Each is thought to be foremost in precedence and to prevail over his co-rivals of equal rank. But rather each with joy has made the success of the other two to be his own as well. There is no room among them to envy one another and thus destroy their unanimity.

This spirit of equality is the way of Christ. It is the life of the Holy Trinity. It is the everlasting glory of the Three Holy Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers. Through their intercessions, may Christ our God bless us with the same spirit of humble brotherhood that inspired their holy festival.

With paternal love in Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America

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**FEBRUARY 16
GODPARENT / GODCHILD
SUNDAY LUNCHEON**



**AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**