

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 23, 2020 ~ Meatfare/Judgment Sunday

The reading is from St. Paul's St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Gospel According Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

*Welcome visitors! Please join us for brunch in the Community Center.*

**THIS WEEK:**

Monday – February 24 **OFFICE CLOSED** Power will be out due to repair of utility pole at driveway entrance on Gilkeson.

**NO Paraclesis or Bible Study**

Tuesday – February 25 7pm Sts. Mary & Martha (Details opposite page)

Wednesday – February 26 4:30 pm Greek School

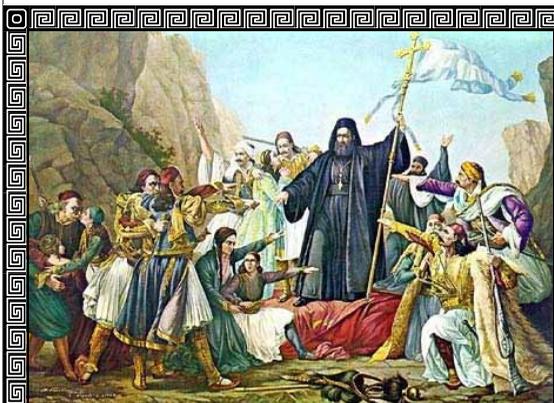
Thursday – February 27

Friday – February 28

Saturday – February 29 **Saturday of the Souls 8:30/9:30am Orthros/Div Liturgy  
5pm Vespers**

**Next Sunday, March 1 *Forgiveness Sunday*  
8:30/9:30am Orthros/Div Liturgy  
5pm Forgiveness Vespers, beginning of the Great Fast**

*Looking ahead:*



Greek School will celebrate the  
Annunciation of the Theotokos and  
Greek Independence Day  
on Sunday, March 22 after Liturgy,  
in the Community Center with a  
**Spaghetti Luncheon & Program.**

No charge; donations accepted.

**Saints Mary & Martha Women's Fellowship**

And then what happened?: A look at the life of the Church after the pages of the Bible.  
The Inner Circle: Peter, James and John  
Fr. John Chakos, Speaker on Tuesday, February 25 7pm - 9pm  
at the home of Irene Zotis, 76 Woodland Drive, Mt. Lebanon 15228 RSVP 412-721-0146  
PLEASE RSVP SO OUR HOSTESS CAN PLAN!

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.

**GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERS/NEW MEMBERS:**

After our holiday/winter hiatus, we will start the New Year off with our yearly Lenten, covered-dish luncheon on Tuesday, March 17th, starting at 11am in the Community Center. We will begin serving at 11:30 am. We're suggesting Lenten items/dishes, such as vegetables, salads, fruit and desserts. Following lunch, we will welcome our own parishioner Bryan Elderkin, who will speak on his pilgrimage to Mt. Athos. We're looking forward to seeing all our members and, of course, any new members to our first Golden Club meeting of the year! That day we will also be collecting dues of \$10.00 for 2020. ***Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 11th*** to Rene 412-831-3142; [rjkoett@yahoo.com](mailto:rjkoett@yahoo.com) or Cynthia 412-833-9423; [cakostelnik@yahoo.com](mailto:cakostelnik@yahoo.com).

**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!**