

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 9, 2020

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel According Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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

Memorials:

†John Mantagos	40 days
†Francine Vozos	6 months
†Demetre Geronymos	1 year
†Despina Xenakis	1 year
†Anthony Xenakis	6 years
†Constantine Zotis	6 years
†Petko Nekegov	14 years (father of Ivanka Nikolova & grandfather of Jenny Nikolva)

☛ Coffee hour is sponsored by the Geronymos and Hardwick families. ☛

PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERS! There is a general Philoptochos meeting TODAY, February 9, at 12:30 pm, in the Philoptochos Room, following coffee hour. There will be a board election to fill a vacancy because of a resignation. Please make an effort to attend.

Fr. Michael is away through February 15th.
 In case of pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Dan 412.262.4589 or Fr. John 412.215.4829

THIS WEEK:

- Monday – February 10 **St. Haralambos—No services**
- Tuesday – February 11
- Wednesday – February 12 **Fast Free**
 4:30 pm Greek School
6pm Community Night
- Thursday – February 13 6:45pm GOYA Basketball
- Friday – February 14 **Fast Free**
- Saturday – February 15 **No Vespers**

Godparent/Godchild Sunday is next Sunday, February 16.

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

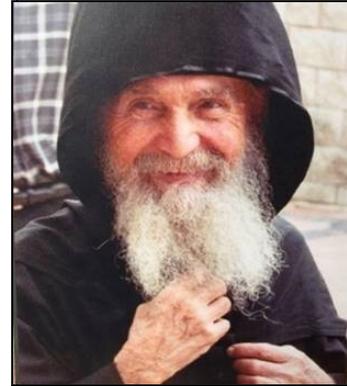


Kicks For Kids

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



COMMUNITY NIGHT, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
 6 PM VESPERS, FELLOWSHIP MEAL, TALK AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES
MEMORIES OF ELDER EPHRAIM: HIS VISITS TO HOLY CROSS
 by FR. JOHN CHAKOS

“The ministry of this humble priest is a real testimony to the apostolic power in our Church. I saw with my own eyes the embodiment of Orthodox spirituality. As each person walked into confession, Father Ephraim met him/her with a peaceful love that had the mark of divinity stamped on it. Through his gentle probing, he opened their eyes to the dark recesses of their souls, where many sins lay hidden and unconfessed. With the skill of a true spiritual doctor, he prescribed the right medicine for each one, according to their strength and the gravity of the offense.” ~Fr. John

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 are invited to attend.



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!**