

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, January 12, 2020 ~ Sunday after Theophany

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The Gospel According Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412)833-3355 website: www.holycrosspgh.org

Fr. Michael Kallaur
Fr. Daniel Korba
Dn. Frank Dickos
email: holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org

Vasilopita cutting today.

Coffee Hour is sponsored by the family of Popi Hagelios.

Memorial: +Popi Hagelios 3 years

THIS WEEK: House Blessings Continue

Monday – January 13

Tuesday – January 14 10am First Steps
4-8pm GOYA Basketball Fundraiser
@ Chipotle, Washington Rd.

Wednesday – January 15 4:30 pm Greek School
6:30pm Blanket Ministry
6:45 GOYA Basketball

Thursday – January 16 6pm Community Night

Friday – January 17 *St. Anthony*
8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
GOYA Basketball in Cleveland

Saturday – January 18 *St. Athanasius & Cyril*
8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy
5pm Vespers
GOYA Basketball in Cleveland

ATTENTION graduating High School seniors & 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. 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.

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!**