

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, March 1, 2020 ~ Forgiveness Sunday

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

The Gospel According Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

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

*Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Portellos and Elderkin Families in loving memory of
†Angie Portellos (5 years), †Maria Elderkin (17 years), and †Hariklia (Clara) Markis (27 years)*

Tonight: 5pm Forgiveness Vespers, beginning of the Great Fast

THIS WEEK:

Monday – March 2	Great Lent Begins ~ Clean Monday 6:30pm Great Compline
Tuesday – March 3	6:45pm, Philoptochos Meeting; 7:30pm Speaker, all welcome 7pm GOYA Meeting
Wednesday – March 4	4:30pm Greek School 6pm Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday – March 5	6:30pm Blanket Ministry 7pm Chant Class
Friday – March 6	9am Presanctified Liturgy 6:30pm Salutations
Saturday – March 7	5pm Vespers <i>*Daylight savings; Spring forward tonight!*</i>



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.

The general Philoptochos meeting will begin at 6:45pm THIS Tuesday, March 3 in the Philoptochos Room. Fr. Paul Abernathy will guest speak at 7:30pm. 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. ALL Holy Cross parish members are invited to attend.

Ladies and Gentlemen of Holy Cross - High School Grads and Beyond! The 2020 Philoptochos membership drive is ending in March! There will be a Philoptochos membership sign-up table TODAY, March 1 and Sundays, March 8 and 15, at coffee hour. Please consider joining our very worthwhile, philanthropic group! Please stop by and renew or join Philoptochos for 2020! Or fill out the membership form in today's bulletin and mail it in!

A reminder to PLEDGED (families) high school seniors who are applying for the Popi Hagelios Memorial Philanthropy Award of Holy Cross Philoptochos Society, that your applications must be received by 4pm Friday, March 20 in the church office or to Elaine Sofis at church or her home, 121 Woodhaven Drive, Mt. Lebanon on Sunday, March 22. NO exceptions.

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 or Cynthia 412-833-9423; 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!**