

HOLY CROSS CROSS ROADS



Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

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

As we are in uncertain times, it is always a comfort and source of strength that the seasons of the Church year help us to focus on what is essential to our faith and spiritual growth. We pray for God's guidance and wisdom in all things. May God be merciful to us in our time of need!

A prayer to enter the season of Advent:

Lord Jesus, You have come so many times to us and found no resting place, forgive us for our over-crowded lives, our vain haste and our preoccupation with self. Come again, O Lord, and though our hearts are a jumble of voices, and our minds overlaid with many fears, find a place however humble, where You can begin to work Your wonder as you create peace and joy within us. If in some hidden corner, in some out of the way spot, we can clear away the clutter and shut out the noise and darkness, come be born in me again, and I shall kneel in perfect peace with the wisest and humblest of mankind.

Lord give us Christmas from within, that we may share it wherever there is need. God help us, everyone, to share the blessing of Jesus, in whose name we keep Christmas holy.

Amen.

(adapted from Daily Meditations and Prayers for the Christmas Advent Fast and Epiphany, by Presvytera Emily Harakas and Fr. Anthony Coniaris)

Continued pg. 4 →

NOVEMBER 2020

General Assembly

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 20 Issue 11

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
Mondays:	6:30pm Paraclesis
Wednesdays:	7:30 pm Bible Study via Zoom
Weekdays:	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Saturdays:	Vespers 5pm

*See monthly calendar for all services.

2020

Parish Council

Stephanie Kladakis, President
 Konrad Mayr, Vice President
 Nicholas Chakos, Financial Secretary
 Jennifer Liokareas, Treasurer
 Joy Palonis, Secretary
 Dena Galie
 John Hoenig
 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.



Liturgically we know that the Christmas Fast (Advent) is near when we hear the Gospel of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The forty days of preparation for the birth of Christ begins on November 15th. The words of Christ resonate in our ears and in our hearts, we must be willing to humble ourselves and serve one another. This sacrifice is pleasing to God, when we put the needs of another before our own. The birth of Christ reminds us that He came into the world for this very purpose, to bind up and heal our wounds and to take us to the best place possible, the Church (the inn). It is in the Church, the spiritual hospital, where we are restored to health and find our way to the Kingdom of God.

St. Luke records:

“And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?’ So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’ And He said to him, ‘You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.’ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’

Then Jesus answered and said: ‘A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when the priest saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves? And he said, he who showed mercy on him. Jesus said, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

St. Cyril of Alexandria wrote the following:

“A crown of love is being twined for him who loves his neighbor, and proves to be a Samaritan. Nor is he rejected on this account; for he who was foremost among the disciples, the blessed Peter testified (Acts 10:34) ‘In truth I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons; but in every nation, whosoever fears Him, and works righteousness, is accepted of Him.’ For Christ, Who loves our virtues accepts all who are diligent in good pursuits; by Whom and with Whom, to God the Father be praise and dominion with Holy Spirit.”

God accepts and receives all those who show love and mercy to their neighbor. St. Luke again records in the book of Acts (Chapter 10) that a certain centurion named Cornelius was granted a vision by God.

“About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, ‘Cornelius, your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa, and for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.’

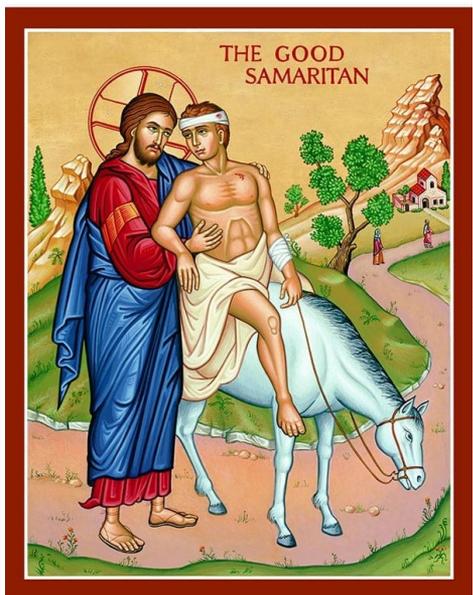
St. Peter comes to Cornelius, a Gentile, and the Holy Spirit descends upon Cornelius and his entire household. St. Peter then realizes that God shows no partiality, but calls all to salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. St. Peter baptizes the household of Cornelius and instructs them.

“Let us make our mercifulness abundant, let us give proof of much love to man, both by the use of our money, and by our actions....Even a word has its reward, and still more have sighs. The blessed Job said, “but I wept for every helpless person, and I sighed when I saw a man in distress’ (Job 30:25). Go then, and put a stop to the evil, pull out those who are drowning, though you descend into the very depth of the surge... And whereas the Samaritan, seeing a wounded man, unknown to him, and having nothing to do with him, both stayed and set him on his own beast, and brought him to the inn, and gave money, and promised more....

Do you hold back and hurry by cruelly and unmercifully? And how do you think calling upon God you will ever find Him propitious?” (St. John Chrysostom)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, the words of Christ convict our conscience. We must not be slow to assist those in need, our neighbor. For in serving our neighbor, we find our salvation. As we prepare for another Christmas season let us remember to give of ourselves, for it is more blessed to give than to receive. Certainly we face many unique challenges this year, I encourage all of us to be mindful of opportunities to serve and give thanks.

Wishing you a blessed Advent!
With love and prayers,
Fr. Michael



Eulogy ~ Mother Mary

by Father John Chakos

Life as created by God was always intended to be a communion, a living of our lives in and through others. By ourselves, we are individuals, detached and living in the prison of selfhood. From the very beginning the Lord said, "it is not good for a man to live alone." We need one another to become true persons, seeing our reflection and defining ourselves

in the eyes of the other. I believe that this was how my mother saw life and lived it, always towards the other. It's true that she had a strong will, some might say pushy, but never in a malicious way. She always spoke her mind and had an opinion about everything. At the same time, very little bothered her, and most things bounced off her as though she were made of teflon. She bore no grudges.

She was undeterred by obstacles that stood in her way. Nothing would stop her if she wanted something done. At times it seemed that even God Himself had to stand aside if things were not happening the way they should. Her persistent faith and boldness were hallmarks of her spiritual life. She believed that God could do anything and expected a miracle. She had no shame in asking for His favors. Her faith was simple, direct and powerful. She would say, "God doesn't want me. He's afraid that I'm going to tell him what to do."

Her keen interest in other people and the world around her was a defining feature of her life. She was very engaged and engaging as a person. She was most certainly a people person. She loved social outings and was the first to arrive and last to leave at any social function. Her favorite place to be was the church in all its dimensions and activities. No one could walk through the doors of Holy Cross and escape her notice. She would make it a point to get to know them. I always said that she should have worked for the CIA. She had a way of engaging people and getting to know them. Here is one example of the many from a person who started coming to our church. This is what she wrote to me: "As I was a young mother growing up at Holy Cross and THEOS, your mom and Popi made me feel so welcomed at the church. She accepted me right away even though at first she said, You're not Greek. Your not married to a Greek, why do you want to be here? I said to her because it's people like you who put a smile on my face and show me everyday how to live within the church."

Another feature of her interaction with others was her remarkable memory. She could recount interesting stories in great detail, many of



them humorous, as though they had occurred yesterday. To us her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, she was completely devoted. Though the age range spanned many generations, she was totally involved from the youngest to the oldest. Every family event was special to her. To her grandchildren and great grandchildren she was known as “Super Yiayia.”

Living in isolation through the Covid pandemic was really hard for her. She did not take well to “sheltering in place.” Loss of contact with the outside world and her social network created a real void in her life. For her it was like a foretaste of hell. Up until that time she experienced the joy of serving others in so many ways. As a woman of profound faith and founding member of Holy Cross Church, she devoted herself to its mission. As a stalwart Philoptochos member, she shopped for, cooked and served the mercy meals (makarias) for hundreds of grieving families. Until recently, she prepared the boiled wheat (koliva) for the Sunday memorial services. The annual food fair, all Philoptochos fundraisers, hospitality for parish sponsored meetings and meals, and feeding the homeless found her in the kitchen cooking and serving the food. Her regular visits to and prayers for the homebound or hospitalized over many years touched the lives of those in need of healing and comfort in their affliction. Her home always welcomed converts, visiting missionaries and monastics, bishops, priests, and many gatherings for prayer and fellowship. She derived some of the greatest joys of her church life from her active participation in the liturgical services, weekly Bible Studies, parish and diocesan retreats, Holy Land pilgrimages, visits to monasteries and mission trips to the orphanage in Guatemala.

Let me finish with this counsel from the Elder Paisios, who said: “Take your own self out of your activities. When someone goes beyond himself, he goes beyond the earth. He moves in another atmosphere. As long as he remains in the self, he cannot become a heavenly person. There is no spiritual life without sacrifice.” Today, let us, in the words of St. Paul, “present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God... (Romans 12:1). The more we forget ourselves in this way, the more we will be remembered by God.

We were made to live in communion with one another, and through each other to live in Christ. The Holy Eucharist is the highest form of this communion, and this is what motivated my mother to be all in all with everyone she knew. She showed her love for Christ by loving other people. We thank God for her and pray that her new life will present her with wonderful vistas unimagined by us, ones that will never end. All of us are called to reach out in this way through love, “with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord and changing into His likeness from one degree of glory to another” (2 Cor. 3:18).

May her memory be eternal. †

1st Sunday of Luke, September 27th, 2020 ~by Deacon Frank Dickos

"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." This remark of Peter in this morning's gospel is intriguing because it's not the reaction we would expect. Astonishment, yes, that would be expected but to ask Jesus to leave? That's an odd response. And to give sinfulness as the reason is even stranger. So this morning we turn our attention to our sin in an attempt to understand Peter's reaction and what it means to us.

Sin has acquired a bad reputation in the modern world. It has become a watchword for all that is wrong with religion. Its critics claim that its purpose is to use our sense of guilt to enslave the population to a particular faith, threatening them with adverse and everlasting consequences if they choose to ignore it. Modern, enlightened people don't need sin to accomplish great things. It's an antiquated notion that no longer has a place in a healthy society.

The problem with this is in thinking this is a new attitude. In reality people in all generations have rejected an awareness of sin, especially among those who are successful. It's easier to believe we're in control of our own destiny when we're well to do. We don't need anyone telling us we're neither of these things. People in Jesus' time felt no different than we do. The existence of sin and being aware of it was just as much an inconvenience to them as it is to us.

That could explain Peter's reaction. He might have seen that the awareness of his sinfulness was an inconvenience and by asking Jesus to leave he could get back to his normal life where he was in control of his destiny. But that is inconsistent with the account. The gospel states that the reason for Peter's reaction was astonishment, not frustration, so there is more to it than that. Besides all this, Peter was a fisherman, and people who work on the water are acutely aware that destiny is outside of their control. Fishermen have always been a superstitious lot, so a sense of Jesus interfering with Peter's "convenient" life doesn't ring true.

In fact, of all the explanations the only one that fits is an awareness of sin coupled with an awareness of who Jesus was. Both are needed. If Peter were aware of Jesus' identity without a sense of his own sinfulness, he would have reacted with a sense of wonder. His response would have been more like "Cool! How did you do that?" And if he had been aware of his sinfulness without being aware of Jesus' nature, he would have either fallen into depression, or fallen back his own self reliance in an attempt to dig himself out of his feelings of inadequacy.

So only the combination of the two can account for Peter's reaction. To

catch that glimpse of Jesus' greatness coupled with a sense of his own unworthiness led him to realize that he was in the presence of someone so vastly greater than he was that there was no way he could live up to it. Better to ask Jesus to leave instead. Yet in this moment of defeat, Peter finds victory, for Jesus responds in an unexpected way. He tells Peter to not be afraid and calls him into his service. He does not punish Peter for his awareness of sin, he rewards it.

And herein lies the lesson for us. We have fallen into the wrong pattern of thinking regarding sin. It is not meant to inspire guilt as the detractors would have you think. It is meant to inspire astonishment at the greatness of God. It is not intended to put us in our place, it is intended to help us realize where we truly are. Humanity has accomplished some amazing things, especially in the past one hundred years. And more amazing things are to come. But as we explore the vastness of the universe we become increasingly aware of how insignificant we are and how vulnerable as well. If an asteroid were to strike or a nearby star go supernova, there is nothing we could do to stop it. But what does that do? It serves as an inspiration to scientists to find a way to rise above it. Instead of defeating us, it spurs us on to greater heights.

And that's exactly what our awareness of sin is intended to do. As vast and wonderful as the universe may be, God is infinitely greater and more wonderful. That should make us aware of how insignificant and vulnerable we are. Our spiritual enemies are greater than we are and could easily destroy us. But what does God do? He calls us to rise above our sin. So instead of defeating us, it spurs us on to greater heights. As a demonstration of this, look at the great ascetics, especially ones who have lived in recent times like Paisios. They have attained great spiritual heights, many of them achieving the vision of the Uncreated Light. Yet all have this in common. They are acutely aware of their sinfulness; in fact, the closer to God they become, the more they realize how much sin remains. The irony is that those who have the least sin are the ones who are most aware if it in themselves.

And so my brothers and sisters, we need to renew our understanding of sin and especially our awareness of it within ourselves. We need to restore its reputation not as an inhibitor to our growth and spiritual development but rather as a promoter of it. For God's reaction to our awareness of our spiritual inadequacy is not fire and brimstone, but rather the same reassurance He gave to Peter: to not be afraid, and to follow Him, leading us to greatness. And so the awareness of sin can serve its true purpose; namely, to bring us closer to Him to whom is due all Glory, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Cross Philoptochos November News Letter

Twenty-five members attended the October 6, Zoom General Philoptochos meeting.

Our next general Philoptochos meeting will be Tuesday, November 10 at 7pm via Zoom with the same link. The agenda and link will be provided via email to members. I hope that you can attend our virtual meeting. There will be NO December meeting. The January meeting will be determined because the executive board and the board must meet to determine the 2021 budget.

Thank you to Stephanie Myers, Parish Council President, who continues to be our Zoom administrator.

Christine Peters reported for Circle of Angels that greeting cards are continuing to be sent to those in nursing homes and the homebound. This will continue with the pandemic with no visitations. Thank you to Carol Halkias and Christine Peters and their crew of Angels.

Thank you to Kathy Pyros, our Neighborhood Resilience Project representative and to all who donate to NRP. There will be a Thanksgiving food drive on November 8, 15 and 22. There will be a Christmas food drive and gift drive in December for NRP. Fall clothing continues to be accepted for NRP. Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Philoptochos membership drive will be from November thru March, 2021, Membership will be encouraged thru Philoptochos emails, church eblasts and a monthly Cross Roads form. Checks should be mailed to Connie Carahalis, 224 Mount Lebanon Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15234. \$15 is the National membership dues and \$10 is the Pittsburgh Metropolis dues. Anything over \$25 remains in the Holy Cross account. At this time, there will be no membership coffee hour. IF coffee hour resumes, a membership coffee hour will occur prior to April. Thank you to Connie Carahalis, for her dedication as our membership chairperson for many years.

The Philanthropy Award applications will be available on December 13 for Holy Cross graduating high school seniors in 2021. The application is due on March 14. The families of the high school seniors MUST be 2021 PLEDGED Holy Cross Church members. More details in December.

There are completed blankets from Blanket Ministry if anyone would like one. Please contact Georgina Callas if you would like material to make a blanket.

Presvytera Sandy gave a wonderful presentation of the Mayan people and missionary work in Guatemala. Philoptochos donated \$1,000 to Walk for Missions.

Philoptochos donated \$7,000 to the Agape Fund.

Philoptochos donated \$2,500 to the KDKA Turkey Fund. The check was taken to PNC Bank and was matched, making a completed donation of \$5,000.

\$950 was donated to Nicholas Terminato to help in his medical expenses after a serious car accident. He is the grandson of Georgia and Nick Burkhardt

Mediterra Bakehouse will generously donate 300 loaves of bread to Philoptochos to sell as a fundraiser in December. The Christmas bread, \$10 a loaf, will be sold on Thursdays, December 10 and 17 from 1-3pm and Sundays, December 13 and 20 after Divine Liturgy. More details next month!

Thank you to ALL volunteers who helped at the October 20 Makaria honoring *†Mary Chakos*. Mary was a lifelong member and board member of Philoptochos and helped in so many ways. Mary will be missed. May her memory be eternal.

Thank you for your continuing support of Philoptochos. Please join Philoptochos during our membership drive. We hope to “see” you on Tuesday, November 10, 7pm at our Zoom General Philoptochos meeting.

**Reminders, Announcements and Updates will be sent via-email to our members.
Elaine Sofis, Philoptochos President**

Philoptochos - 89 Years Strong - We've been around a long time!

We are friends of the poor and the philanthropic arm of our Holy Cross Church functioning on local, diocesan, national and international levels.

We are the largest women's Christian organization in the USA. We are comprised of women of all ages and from all walks of life. My dear Holy Cross family, it is now time to renew your membership, or, to join this worthy organization!

On the local level our Holy Cross Philoptochos supports the Agape Fund, provides summer camp scholarships for our Holy Cross youth, and offers college scholarships for our Holy Cross high school graduates. On the national level, we recently donated a substantial amount which was distributed to the needy afflicted by Covid - 19. Internationally, we donate to victims of natural disasters, fires, floods, tornados and so forth.

Because of the pandemic, our fund-raising events have mostly been eliminated. However, a big thanks to the dedicated members of our Holy Cross family who recently performed magic in our church kitchen. They safely prepared and cooked the most delicious Greek food and pastries that we sold on-line with curb-side pick up over a two day period. It was a sell-out!

As your Philoptochos Membership Chairman for many years, it has been my privilege as I watched your children grow. I share your pride on their accomplishments! Our support is now needed to continue Holy Cross Philoptochos for our children and to continue Christ's ministry on earth.

Thanks to the leadership of Elaine Sofis, our Philoptochos president, who keeps us "Philoptochos-informed!"

In sisterly love, always,

Connie Carahalıs - Holy Cross Philoptochos Membership Chairman

Please join or renew your 2021 Philoptochos membership. We are a wonderful philanthropic society. Your membership is valued! See membership form.

TO RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2021,

please complete and return to church or to

Connie Carahalıs, 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!*

Christmas bread is coming in December!

Mediterra Bakehouse is generously donating 300 loaves of Christmas bread to Philoptochos to sell as a fundraiser. There will be four selling days:

December 10,13,17,20, \$10 per loaf. Bread will be sold on Thursdays December 10 and 17 from 1-

3pm in the lower community center entrance and Sundays, December 13 and 20 after Divine Liturgy.



Saints Mary & Martha Women's Fellowship

He made everything beautiful in its time... (Ecc. 3:11a)

✠ A Historical Perspective of the Arts in the Orthodox Church

Hello Beloved Ladies,

Our fellowship is alive and well in these unusual times! We have five meetings schedules for this season. Hopefully, two more will come in the Spring. Here's what we have so far.

All meetings will be via ZOOM. The link will be sent a few days before the meetings.

November 17, 2020

Liturgical Items

I have filled him with the divine Spirit...to design artistic works...and to work in every manner of workmanship. (Ex 31:3-5)

Speaker: Fr. Stelyios Muksuris

January 26, 2021

Architecture

How lovely is Your dwelling place, oh Lord of Hosts. (Ps. 83:11)

Speaker: Fr. George Callos

February 23, 2021

Iconography

He is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:13a)

Speaker: Diane Hoenig

March 23, 2021

Vestments

You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as a priest. (Ex. 40:11)

Speaker: Presbytera Sandy Chakos

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Love,

Adrienne Dickos

412-833-4980

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH PRESENTS

GOYA FALL VIRTUAL RETREAT

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2020

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD" PSALM 46:10

*"THE LONGEST JOURNEY IS FROM YOUR HEAD
TO YOUR HEART"*

Fr. Nicholas Manuel will explore authenticity and
how to find your authentic self in Christ.

This retreat will be free to attend, and will take place
on Zoom. For more information or to register,
please visit y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org

Our **GOYA Fall Retreat** will be held virtually this year from **Friday, November 13th through Saturday, November 14th**. The format will be similar to that of our virtual summer camp program, where we were very mindful of everyone's capacity to sit in front of a computer. We will gather more than once, but each time will not be longer than a couple hours. We'll meet briefly Friday evening for an introduction to the Zoom space and one's cabin. On Saturday, we'll meet in the later part of the morning for chapel, OL, discussion, and activities -- until we break and resume in the evening for chapel and evening activities. **This retreat will be free of cost.**

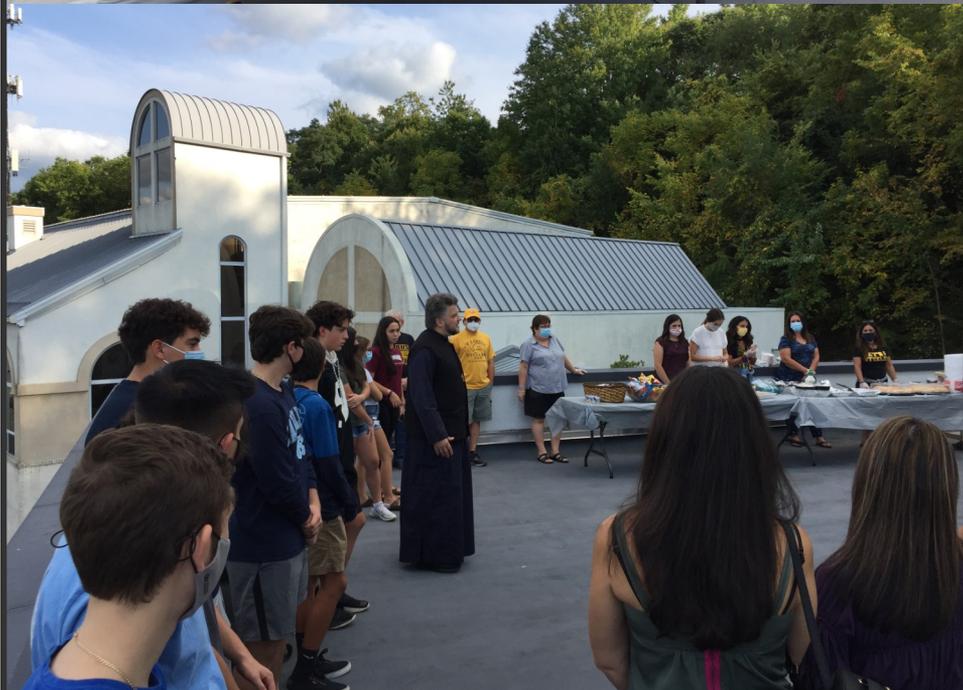
Registration opened Tuesday, October 13th on our website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at camp@pittsburgh.goarch.org or 412-465-0460.

Thank you!

Marina, Camping Ministries Coordinator, Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Phone: (412) 465-0460 E-mail: camp@pittsburgh.goarch.org

GO YA Kick-off







The first **GOYA meeting** on October 6 was a success, meeting outside in the nice weather. It was productive as they discussed GOYA activities for this academic year.



Looking for something special for someone special???

Holy Cross Sportswear

T-shirts, caps, beanie, 1/4 zip pullovers and more....

<https://shieldsembroidery.tuosystems.com/stores/holycross20>

Sneak peek...





THE PANHELLENIC

Building a better America through Education & Hellenism

The 2020/2021 Application is Open!

Chicago, IL - Do you or an exceptional undergraduate you know qualify to be a PanHellenic Scholar? The 2020/2021 application is now open and accepting applications! The Foundation will accept applications from eligible Greek American college students and will distribute \$250,000 in scholarship awards (\$20,000 given specifically for students studying music or arts) to exceptional undergraduates as follows:

- \$200,000 (20 Awards) of \$10,000 each based on academic merit and financial need.
- \$50,000 (20 Awards) of \$2,500 each based solely on academic merit.

Undergraduate students of Hellenic descent **from all fifty states** are encouraged to apply. Applications should be submitted electronically as instructed by **January 31, 2021**.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, applicants must:

- Be US Citizens or US permanent residents.
- Be of Hellenic descent.
- Be a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited 4-year university this Fall 2020 (High school students are not eligible to apply).
- Have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA.

For inquiries please email pkorbakes@panhellenicsf.org or call (312) 357-6432. As of June 2020, the Foundation has awarded \$3.5 million+ in scholarships to 550+ Greek American students.

VIA ZOOM

ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULT FALL RETREAT

"IN YOUR PRESENCE, THERE
IS FULLNESS OF JOY."

Are you finding peace & joy in the midst of this storm?

How do you block the noise?

How do you find stillness, peace and even, joy?

METROPOLITAN GREGORY OF NYSSA,
VERY REV FR STEPHEN LOPOSKY,
FR GREGORY JENSEN, FR ANASTASIOS ATHANASIOU

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14TH

9:30 AM-12:00 NOON AND 6:30-8:30 PM

SIGN-UP FREE: [TINYURL.COM/2020YAFALLRETREAT](https://tinyurl.com/2020YAFALLRETREAT)

[LINK IN BIO]

Join us for our Journey of Hope and Resilience!

This year has been quite remarkable for the **Neighborhood Resilience Project**. Our organization moved into a new building, created new programming to support medically underserved communities during COVID-19 and continued providing food, clothing, free health care, acute support after gun violence, micro-community interventions and leadership development to the region.

Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of 2020 in our Journey of Hope and Resilience. The event is free to attend and donations will be requested at the event. To attend the event, please sign up at: https://bit.ly/NRP_Tour

Through this event, you will experience 7 different stops at our new facility - **2038 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219** - and hear from people who work diligently each and every day to make the work of the organization possible. You'll hear and learn about the impact of the work and how each part of the programming works to fulfill the organization's mission.

Through the event you will be escorted throughout the building with a group of seven people. You will stay with your group and not pass other groups along the way - such as to keep all safe during COVID-19. At each stop, you will be provided with a stamp for your passport so you can complete your Journey of Hope and Resilience.



Neighborhood Resilience Project Hosts

JOURNEY OF HOPE & RESILIENCE

NOVEMBER 17, 18, 19, 2020

6 - 9 pm each night

**2038 Bedford Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

Come take a trip through our facility, learn about our programs, and meet the people who make the work possible.

Due to **COVID-19**, we are hosting smaller groups to come through the building. At the link, you will sign up for your desired time to come to the event in one of those three days.

Sign up using the QR code or visiting http://bit.ly/NRP_Tour.



HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH



Beautiful Things



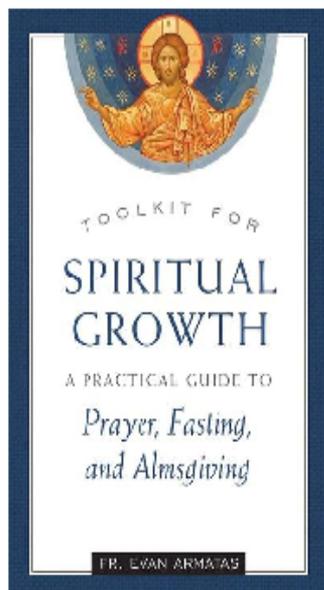
AN ORTHODOX COLORING BOOK FOR CHILDREN

BEAUTIFUL THINGS: AN ORTHODOX COLORING BOOK FOR CHILDREN

The Orthodox Christian experience is infused with beauty. God calls to us through the presence of beautiful things—from the elegant chalice that houses Christ's very body to the icons of beloved saints hanging in our homes. *Beautiful Things* is a 64-page coloring and activity book for our littlest believers. For ages 3 to 6 years.

TOOLKIT FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PRAYER, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING

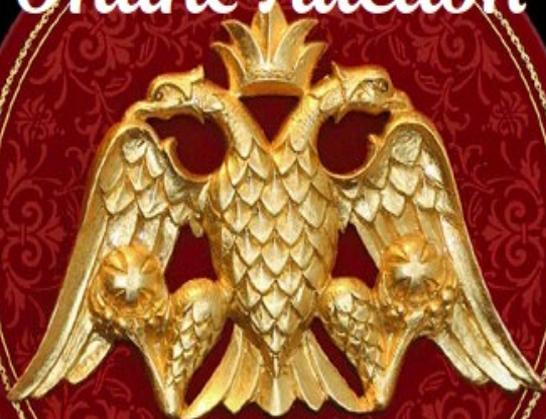
Are you a new Orthodox Christian, confused about what you need to do to grow in your Faith? Or perhaps you've been Orthodox for some time but could use a refresher course in basic spirituality. Popular podcaster Fr. Evan Armatas explains the fundamentals of the three-legged stool of Orthodox practice - prayer, almsgiving, and fasting - in terms that everyone can understand and implement. Let Fr. Evan help you establish your life in Christ on firm footing.



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

Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery

Online Auction



Noon November 24th –
Noon November 30th

2020

We want to thank all of you who have supported our annual capital campaign fundraiser Dinner Banquet. Please participate and continue your support in a different way. Because of the challenging times we are all facing, the Monastery is presenting our hand-made items through an Online Auction.

*Please join us over the Thanksgiving holidays
with your family & friends.*

**Browse our items, Register, & Bid online at:
www.biddingowl.com/NativityTheotokos**

*You can also make a donation to our capital campaign by visiting us at our **NEW** web site:*

www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

*and select **Donate** from the menu.*

121 St. Elias Lane - Saxonburg, PA 16056

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another" (John 13.34)

RACISM

A VIEW FROM THE HEART

A FORUM ON THE EXPERIENCES OF AND
RESPONSES TO RACISM AS SEEN FROM THE
HEARTS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020 | 6:30-8:30PM

Forum presenters:

Father Paul Abernathy - CEO, Neighborhood Resilience Project

Father Joseph Gardner - Retired Military Chaplain

Vasilios Scoumis - CEO, Manchester Academic Charter School

Ted Stewart - United States Navy Veteran

Alexandra Abboud - LSW, City of Pgh. Victims Assistance Coordinator

HEAR THE PRESENTATIONS AND ASK YOUR
QUESTIONS IN ONE OF TWO WAYS:

- 1: IN-PERSON IN THE HOLY TRINITY GRAND ROOM
- 2: ONLINE VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT
[HOLYTRINITYPGH.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.holytrinitypgh.org/events)

(NOTE: IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE IS CAPACITY-LIMITED AND REQUIRES SAFE PRACTICES!)



PRESENTED BY HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH | 985 PROVIDENCE BLVD. PITTSBURGH PA 15237 | [HOLYTRINITYPGH.ORG](https://www.holytrinitypgh.org)

HOLY CROSS

SUN	MON	Tue
<p><i>1 Holy Unmercenaries</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm GOYA Meeting 8pm GOYA basketball open gym (girls only)</p>
<p><i>8 Synaxis of Archangels</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>9 St. Nektarios</i> 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis to St. Nektarios</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:45pm GOYA basketball open gym (girls only) <i>7pm Philoptochos Meeting</i> <i>via Zoom</i></p>
<p><i>15 Nativity fast Begins</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy <i>Youth Sunday/Orth Soup & Bake Sale</i> General Assembly Meeting</p> <p>GOYA Bonfire (evening)</p>	<p><i>16 Apostle and Evangelist Matthew</i> 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:45pm GOYA basketball open gym (girls only) 7pm Parish Council 7pm Sts. Mary & Martha</p>
<p>22 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:45pm GOYA basketball practice (girls only)</p>
<p>29 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>30 Apostle Andrew the First-Called</i> 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</p> <p>NO Paraclesis</p>	

NOVEMBER 2020

Wed	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>4</p> <p>4:30pm Greek School 6:45pm GOYA basketball open gym (boys only) 7pm Bible Study <i>via Zoom</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm <i>Effective Christian Ministry via Zoom</i></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>
<p>11</p> <p>4:30pm Greek School 6:45pm GOYA basketball open gym (boys only) 7pm Bible Study <i>via Zoom</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm <i>Effective Christian Ministry via Zoom</i></p>	<p>13 St. John Chrysostom 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</p> <p>GOYA Fall Retreat (see p.15)</p>	<p>14 Apostle Philip <i>Young Adult Retreat (see p. 19)</i></p> <p>3pm JOY~Craft 5pm Vespers</p>
<p>18</p> <p>4:30pm Greek School 6:45pm GOYA basketball open gym (boys only) 7pm Bible Study <i>via Zoom</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>7pm <i>Effective Christian Ministry via Zoom</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Entrance of the Theotokos 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>
<p>25 Great Martyr Catherine 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:45pm GOYA basketball open gym (boys only)</p>	<p>26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>



A number of years ago, I was doing that thing that a lot of people do when they're bored. I was flipping through the channels, catching fragments of shows, or the news, or whatever I could find. Most of the things you see are forgettable, but I remember one scene in particular, where there was this crowd of guys standing around a small TV, watching a boxing match, and these men are all shouting at the TV, shouting at each other, arguing about which one of the two combatants on the screen will knock each other out first. And amongst these men there's one of them, an older fellow who is silently watching the game with this very placid and peaceful expression on his face. And one of the guys arguing about the match turns to this man and asks

him which boxer he's for. And this man, who identifies himself as a retired professor of physics, says that from his perspective its not so important who wins the match. He watches the clash of these combatants like a dance, like waves breaking upon the surface of the ocean, for from the perspective of this physicist, indeed these two boxers are but two waves made of the same waters, made of the same stuff, shaped by the same forces that shape every human being. The other men stare at him for a second, then start berating him, calling him a host of names, while he silently shrinks back a little, continuing to watch the match.

Now, this scene as I remember it was a humorous little vignette, but as is often said, every joke contains an ounce of truth, and I think the truth of that scene is this - that in this world, which we so often define upon lines of combat and competition, when, in a

world such as this, we begin to try and rise above the prevailing mentalities that tell us that we must be winners and winners at any and all costs, that bloody competition and struggle is the highest goal, we are often met by resistance, and even hostility, because so many still abide by the old adage, "If you're not for us, you're against us." And though we, as Christians, may not have an understanding of quantum physics like that of the professor in the scene, we have something even better, and that is the knowledge that every single person who is or was or will be has been made in the image of God and is beloved of God the same as every other person. Chapter 2 of the Epistle of James asks us: "...if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?" Yet, how often do we divide, show partiality amongst ourselves, not just between rich and poor, but in a thousand and one other ways, from what language we speak, to where our ancestors were from, from the way we shape and style our hair, to what our political affiliation is.

Right now, we are torn, as a nation, and torn within ourselves, as we face one of the most fraught presidential elections in quite some time. Though only God knows, it seems quite providential, then, that the Gospel reading for this Sunday is one that is especially worth meditating upon in these days. The Lord tells us, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same." And today, the Lord's words ring true, for we far too often congratulate ourselves on the love we show to those already favorable to us, but indeed, this is no credit to us. We must rather do as the Lord commands when He says, "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

We are called to be vessels of the Holy Spirit, for our lives to be living expressions of grace, love, compassion, generosity, self-

(continued next page→)

lessness, and all the virtues that pour down to us from the Father of Lights, and we are called to bring that gift of light to all, even those who hate us. And yet, when I said a moment ago that we are torn within ourselves, I mean that this image of God that we all bear, this virgin point within us untouched by sin, has to contend against the realities of the fallen world in which we live. It is the nature of our world to be stricken by sin, from the Fall of Adam and Eve, through Cain murdering his brother Abel, through the manifold wars and decadences found in the Old Testament, which set the stage for the times of Christ, our times. This fallen world casts its shadow over us, locking us into a struggle against sin, a struggle which Saint Paul describes in the 7th chapter of his Epistle to the Romans when he writes, "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will do, that I will not practice; but what I hate, I do. If now I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but the sin that dwells in me." How often do we really want to love our sister or brother, to really see the image of God in them, but no matter how hard we will, we find irritation rising, tempers begin to flare, we might even feel like lashing out, whether verbally or physically? These forces within us, that pull our minds and hearts away from the love of God and our fellow humans, are what the Church Fathers call the passions, and a significant portion of patristic writing is devoted to the ways in which we combat the passions.

The way we begin to move towards God, the way we begin to love both our friends and our enemies, is through Christ, and specifically, on taking up our crosses, and following Christ. The Church shows us many ways to aid in this mortification of the passions of our flesh, and this includes prayer, for those we love and those we feel we don't love, fasting, to remind us of the perishability of these bodies, and the mysteries of the Church, especially the Eucharist, which bring us into contact with the Trinity, the Source of All That is Bright in all the Kosmos. But trying to love those who hate is also a cross. When we choose to turn the other cheek, when we pray for those who hate us or those we feel we hate, when we follow Christ's model of self-sacrifice, we undergo a little death as we kill those passions which separate us from God and our fellow human beings, bringing us into true communion with one another.

But it is one of the hardest things we can do. It is truly a struggle. But with God, all things are possible.

Recently, I was reading about Father Arseny, a Russian priest monk who spent years in the Soviet Death camps. Before he became a priest monk, Father Arseny was a well-known and respected art historian who had written extensively about the connection between the Orthodox Church and the history of early Russian culture. Many of the prisoners in the camp Father Arseny was in were “political prisoners,” men who were part of the so-called “intellectuals” of Russia. Confined to the prison camp, they would pass their evenings after work by engaging in high-flown intellectual debates on numerous subjects of Russian culture. These men, who were often critical or even hostile to religion, saw Father Arseny, and didn’t see a distinguished art historian, they only saw a small, old priest monk. And yet, in spite of their mocking, Father Arseny would refuse to engage them in debate, remaining silent while he silently prayed. It is this same ethos that our Lord showed to us in accepting his voluntary sacrifice upon the Cross.

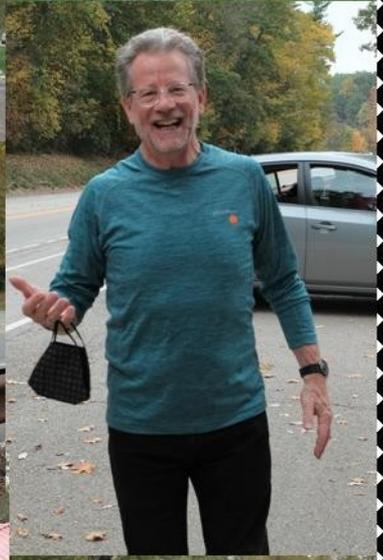
These days, when we flip through the channels, we may see a number of things that should disturb us - movies and films that fetishize violence, and the realities of our world that we witness on the news, ornamented by some of the vilest, most hateful, and all around upsetting words to have entered into the public discourse for some time. Yet, in some sense, things haven’t changed that much since the Roman days where gladiatorial matches were the spectacle of the day. Christians have always been called to a different way of being in the world, one that runs counter to the ethos of egotism, competition, and superiority. Rather, we are called to take that hard challenge of loving our enemies, of laying down our egos and our bodies so that our spirits may rise like incense up towards God. It is a cross to love our enemies. It is a cross to love our enemies. But our calling is towards the cross. So I pray that this community, this nation, and this world comes to have the strength to bear Christ’s cross, and that when we make the sign of the cross, it is not a mindless gesture, but that we really grasp what that Cross means when we say In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.







MEDICAL MISSION TO GUATEMALA MARCH 2020

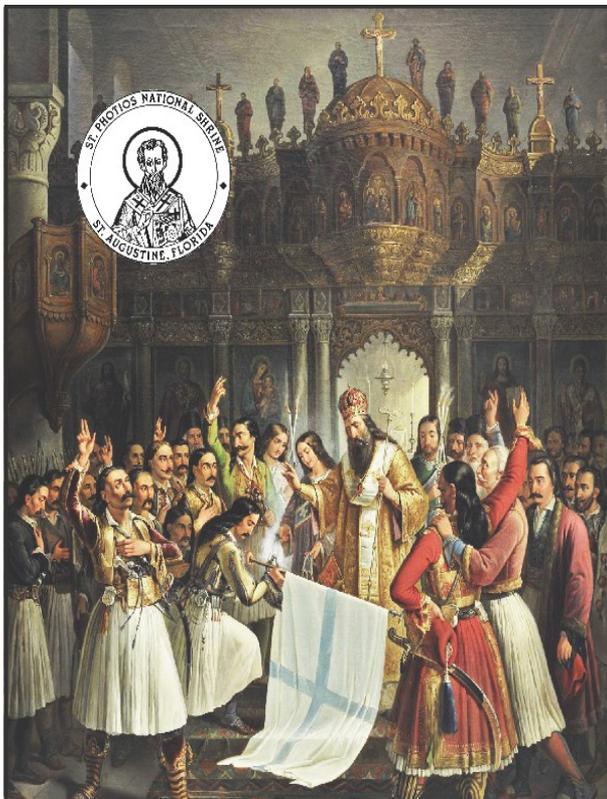












2020 Essay Contest Remembering the American Philhellenes of Greece's War for Independence

In honor of the 200th anniversary of the Greek War for Independence, which will be celebrated globally in 2021, the St. Photios National Shrine is proud to announce the theme for its annual essay contest, commemorating the great connection shared between the nations of Greece and the United States.

The quest for freedom is an underlying theme in the story of the first settlers who arrived in the New World and whose memory is honored at the St. Photios National Shrine.

This same yearning for freedom is what inspired the people of Greece to raise the banner of independence against the Ottoman Empire for their right to be free after 400 years of subjugation.

This independence movement-- the yearning for freedom, inspired numerous Americans to support the Greek cause, both at home in the United States and in Greece, where some even lost their lives fighting alongside Greek rebels during the War for Independence.

Known as the "American Philhellenes," these individuals contributed greatly to Greece's efforts and have left an indelible mark in the history of Greece-U.S. history and the relationship between the two nations.

Essay contest prize: \$1,000

*The St. Photios National Shrine
2020 Essay Contest is made possible by
the generosity of
The Kathie D'Anna Charitable Trust.*

Essay contest theme: Select one of the following "American Philhellenes" and write a historical essay about their unique contribution and significance to the Greek struggle for independence.

Samuel Gridley Howe | Congressman Daniel Webster | Congressman Henry Clay
George Jarvis | Capt. Jonathan Miller | William Townsend Washington

Essay contest details:

Participants must be ages 13-19
Maximum word count: 1,000

A single essay will be selected as the winner by a committee **and will receive a \$1,000 prize**. All participants will receive a certificate.

The committee will also select certain essays that will be used in the Shrine's upcoming exhibition in 2021 that will feature the Greek Independence Bicentennial. Essays selected will also be shared in various national publications to further expand on the information about the important role these American philhellenes played in the Greek War for Independence. All essays become property of St. Photios Shrine and can be used for various publicity purposes, always with the byline of the author.

Submit essays **NO LATER THAN** December 16, 2020 via email to: Polaxeni Maouris Hillier, Executive Director of St. Photios National Shrine at phillier@stphotios.com Winner will be announced January 4, 2021.

JOY families made sandwiches for the Neighborhood Resilience Project, and then enjoyed a hayride and bonfire at Simmons Farm.



6th Sunday of Luke, October 25th, 2020 ~by Deacon Frank Dickos

With the current resurgence of COVID-19 cases across the country, it is important to remember the reason we continue to practice social distancing measures. Although not contracting the disease is certainly the best case, it is not the primary purpose for the measures we are taking. The main reason has always been to “flatten the curve”; that is to say, to slow the current number of cases so as not to overwhelm the health care system, in order to provide the best care to those who do contract this highly contagious and potentially fatal disease. As we bring this to mind, it seems opportune to realize that there is a spiritual analogue to this scenario, and that the focus of this morning’s message is spiritual overwhelming.

In this morning’s gospel, we see an extreme case of someone who was spiritually overwhelmed. The man was a victim of extreme demonic possession, so much so that “for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs.” When asked his name, the demons replied “legion.” For context, a Roman legion consisted of between four and six thousand soldiers, so it is no exaggeration to say this man was overwhelmed. He had little if any control over his actions, and was controlled by the will of the malicious spirits which possessed him. Yet even in this case, these thousands of demons recognized the even greater power of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, for they literally begged Him for mercy when He asked them to come out of the man they had overwhelmed for so long.

Now demonic possession has always been a rare thing, and even more so after the foundation of the Church, for we understand that after we are baptized into Christ, we have put on Christ, and no demon can bear to enter us. And while this can still occur outside the Church, there is an even more common and insidious condition which has replaced it; namely, the passions. We have discussed this topic many times, but it bears repeating that the greatest focus of our spiritual lives is the battle against the passions. These desires affect each of us differently: some are prone to the pursuit of power or fame; others to the allure of food or sex; still others to the pursuit of possessions and beauty. And as surely as the demoniac found himself unable to resist, if we do not fight against these temptations we will become overwhelmed by them, unable to resist their allure. We find that demonic possession is no longer necessary, we become enslaved instead to our own appetites and desires.

This struggle has been acknowledged for a long time in the Church. In the writings of the Desert Fathers, Anthony the Great said, “I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world, and I said, ‘What can get through such snares?’ Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Humility.’” So we not only see how great and how prevalent the passions are in this life,

we also see the cure. Humility, that virtue so often disavowed by the successful and well to do, is the key to overcoming the passions that rage against us. And this is wise from many perspectives. For if we look at people caught up in their passions, many times they deny that they even have a problem. Or if they do, they either downplay its severity, or place the blame elsewhere. Only when we take responsibility for our actions can we realize our condition and begin the journey to recovery. That is a hallmark of humility. But as Christians, we also realize that we need help beyond our capacity, and so in humility we cry out to God to help us in our struggle.

We also call out to the Saints, for they have endured and triumphed over this struggle before us. Today we celebrate the Holy Martyrs Marcion and Martyrius. They are not much heralded, and certainly do not have the fame of Dimitrios the Great Martyr whose feast is tomorrow, but they are wonderworking, and perhaps because of the circumstances of their lives they are even more inspiring to us, for they were ordinary men. The *συναξάριον* calls them notaries, which in the Byzantine empire was part of the legal profession, concerned with documents as our notary publics are today, but with stronger than paralegal training, so they were considered among the ranks of lawyers. They also both held minor ecclesiastical rank. Marcion was a chanter, and Martyrius was a subdeacon. Nowadays these offices are only ceremonially conferred, but correspond to members of the choir and senior acolytes; that is to say, they were active parishioners, and not members of the higher orders.

And they are also witnesses to one final way of being overwhelmed. For they were not slain by pagans, they were beheaded by those who called themselves Christian. Marcion and Martyrius were disciples of the bishop Paul the Confessor, who was sent into exile by the Arians during that great controversy. They overwhelmed Marcion and Martyrius and beheaded them. Yet later, when miracles continued to be performed at their tomb, St. John Chrysostom himself oversaw the construction of a church dedicated to them.

My brothers and sisters, the world is filled with spiritual pathogens, highly contagious and potentially deadly to our souls. We may try to distance ourselves from them, but regardless find ourselves afflicted. The case may be mild at first, but if we do not struggle, we will surely be overwhelmed. Yet through humility, which leads us both to accountability for our actions and a call for God's mercy, we can overcome it. And we can also call upon Saints like Marcion and Martyrius, who had professional jobs like many of us, and also stood strong in their faith, becoming saints, and were honored by God, to whom is due all Glory, now and forever. Amen.

Paraclesis Service to Saint Nektarios

Monday, November 9, 2020 Paraclesis - 6:30 pm., anointing to follow

Saint Nektarios is one of the most well-known and beloved modern Saints of the Orthodox Faith. He was an accomplished scholar who was eventually ordained a bishop and appointed dean of the theological school in Athens. After an active tenure as a renowned preacher and theologian, he retired to the island of Aegina, where he had established the Monastery of Holy Trinity. He lived a pious and humble Christian life there until his death on November 9, 1920, when he was buried in a special chapel built on the grounds of the Monastery.

This beloved bishop was officially declared a Saint by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the year 1961. He has been given the tide "Wonderworker" and is considered the patron saint of people stricken with cancer, heart trouble, arthritis, epilepsy and many other diseases. Many miraculous cures have been reported by those who have visited his tomb or asked for his prayers.

The Apolytikion of St. Nektarios.

*Selybria's offspring and Aegina's guardian,
the true friend of virtue, revealed in these last times,
Nekatrios let us, the faithful, praise as inspired servants of
Christ; for he pours out healings of every kind for those who
devoutly cry:*

Glory to Christ who gave you glory!

Glory to Him who made you wondrous!

Glory to Him who through you works healings for all!

We, too, will be offering our requests to this powerful Saint that he might entreat Christ, our God, to heal us of all our spiritual and bodily illnesses. Following the service, we will be anointed with holy oil from his shrine in Aegina. Please use the list below to submit the first names of living Christians for whom you would like prayers offered.

Order your poinsettia for the church

♥ in memory of or

♥ in honor of or

♥ for the health of

a loved one by returning the form below with your payment.

Plants are \$15 each.

Please order by Friday, December 11.

Order a poinsettia to beautify our church for Christmas.

Choose one

In Honor of _____

For the health of _____

In memory of _____

From _____

\$ 15 per plant

Please return to church office by

Friday, December 11

Total # of plants requested _____



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, Pa 15228

Christmas Card 2020

Dear Parishioner:

Our annual campaign for the HOLY CROSS CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD has begun. In keeping with the blessed season, a very beautiful Christmas Card has been designed especially for our church family at no charge to you this year because of your generosity with the Matching 2020 campaign. You, as a family or as an individual, can be listed in the card by completing and returning the form below or emailing the church office.

If you would like to be listed in our 2020 Christmas Card, please email the church office at holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org with Christmas Card as the Subject, OR complete the form below and return to the church office **by Monday, November 30, 2020**. Please include your email or telephone number if you would like confirmation it was received.

Christmas Card Listing Form

Please list me/us as follows. **(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name(s) to be listed:

✓ Please confirm receipt at: _____

Email or telephone

Thank you!

**HOLY CROSS CREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
123 GILKESON ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15228**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



General Assembly

Sunday, November 15, 2020



To receive email updates
from Holy Cross,
please send
your email address to
holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org
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Updated Tuesday October 27 1pm