

# Holy Cross



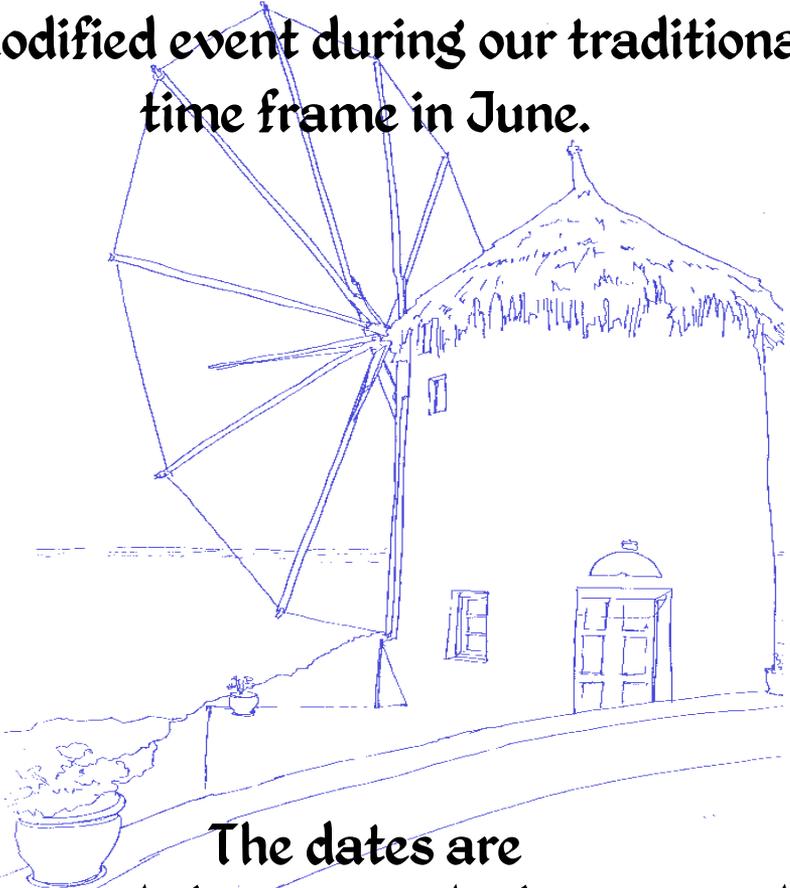
# Crossroads

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

**Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!!!**

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, ‘If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, ‘This is really the prophet.’ Others said, ‘This is the Christ.’ But some said, ‘Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?’ So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, ‘Why did you not bring him?’ The officers answered, ‘No man ever spoke like this man!’ The Pharisees answered them, ‘Are you led astray also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who does not know the law, is accursed.’ Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ‘Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?’ They replied, ‘Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no

**The 2021 Holy Cross Drive thru Food Fair committee is excited to announce that we will host our annual Food Festival as a modified event during our traditional time frame in June.**



**The dates are  
June 16th (W) June 17th (Th) June 18th (F)  
from 11:30 am to 8pm.**

**Once again, we will execute the event as a drive-thru only.**

**For more information, use web link below:**

[Holy Cross Greek Food Online-Only Sale- June 16, 17 and 18 \(pittsburghgreekfestival.org\)](http://pittsburghgreekfestival.org)

# Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

*Crossroads, published monthly Volume 21 Issue 6/7*

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: [holycrosspgh.org](http://holycrosspgh.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	Thea Manos	
Philoptochos	Adrienne Dickos	(412) 833-4980
Membership		
Circle of Angels	Carol Halkias	(412) 276-5002
	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 pm Bible Study <i>via Zoom</i>
Weekdays:	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Saturdays:	Vespers 5pm

\*See monthly calendar for all services.

2021

## Parish Council

Dean Stambolis, President  
 Jordan Nicholas, Vice President  
 Nicholas Chakos, Financial Secretary  
 Jennifer Liokareas, Treasurer  
 Constance Zotis, Secretary  
 Dena Galie  
 John Hoenig  
 Frank Kalogeris  
 Rachel Kartofilis  
 Bob Kirschner  
 Deno Pappas  
 Christine Picard  
 Bill Poutous  
 George Sokos  
 Donna Staub

**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.



prophet is to rise from Galilee.’ Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” (*John 7:37-52, 8:12*)

This is the Gospel reading for the great feast of Pentecost. Jesus identifies Himself as the One who quenches peoples’ (spiritual) thirst. A few weeks ago, on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, we heard Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman and telling her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” (John 4:10) “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14) This spring of water is none other than the Holy Spirit. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ and receives Holy Baptism and Holy Chrismation receives this “deposit of grace.” This deposit of grace allows us to reach our full potential as human beings created in God’s image and likeness. The transforming power of God’s Holy Spirit is able to lift us from the depths of sin and delusion and allow us to ascend into the heights of heaven. Christ ascended in glory into the heavens and we were reconciled with our Heavenly Father. Human nature was deified when it was enthroned at the right side (the place of honor) of the Father. By virtue of Christ’s Ascension and placing our humanity on the Throne of the Godhead, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and are able to ascend to the heights of glory.

St. John Chrysostom describes this new reality: “This day earth became Heaven for us. Not because stars descended from the heavens to the earth, but because the apostles ascended to Heaven by the grace of the Holy Spirit, which was abundantly poured forth, so the whole world was transformed into heaven; not because human nature was changed, but because there was a change in the direction of the will.”

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can change the direction of our will. We can break down the bonds of sin and selfishness and reach heavenward to fulfill our potential as God’s chosen, His saints.

St. John Chrysostom, “For there was found a tax collector, and he was transformed into an evangelist (St. Matthew). There was found a persecutor, and he was changed into an apostle (Saul – St. Paul). There was found a robber, and he was led to Paradise (the wise thief crucified next to Christ). There was found a prostitute, and she was made equal to virgins (St. Mary of Egypt). There were found wise men (Magi from the East), and they were taught the Gospels. Evil fled away, and gentleness took its place. Slavery was put away, and freedom came in its stead. All debts were forgiven, and the grace of God was conferred. There, Heaven became earth; and from repeating this again and again I will not cease.”

The fulfillment of Christ’s mission is found in each and everyone of us. Christ will have died in vain if we are not touched and transformed by this reality. The direction of our will must be transformed! When we open our hearts to the will of God, the impossible becomes possible.

The gifts that come from the Holy Spirit are infinite. They have one source, the Holy Spirit, yet adorn each person so that they may humbly love, help, and lift-up one another. Just as Sunday is a celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection, we are renewed in the Holy Spirit at every Divine Liturgy, when we ask the Father to “send down Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts here presented.” As the disciples received the Holy Spirit in the upper room in Jerusalem, we also ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us and “change the direction of our will”, open our hearts and minds, and receive us, unworthy as we are, as members of His precious Body.

As we have been blessed again to celebrate this glorious feast of Pentecost, let us make every effort to be together and invoke the Holy Spirit, so that heaven may pierce our hearts and take possession of our will. May His will be done!

Kalo Paradiso! A blessed Paradise! (May we experience paradise now!)

With love and prayers,  
Fr. Michael

## The PASCHAL Miracle of St. Nektarios

The peasants in a mountainous village of Romania had been without a priest for years. Times was going by, but nothing was changing. Lent came, but they still had no priest. The people were worrying. In the first and final weeks of the Great Lent (2009), most Romanians put their work and daily business on hold to dedicate themselves to prayer. Everywhere, they lower the flags as if in mourning for the crucified Christ. Every day, the people stand long hours at the Lenten services, walk in processions around their parishes, keep a dry fast, and some do not eat at all. Few in the village could imagine spending all this time without a priest.

The peasants wrote a letter to the bishop asking him to send them a priest. *“Your Holiness, could you please appoint us a priest, at least for the Holy Week and the Pascha,”* they implored. *“We need him to lead and guide us in our preparation, prayer and repentance, and in the celebration of the Bright and Holy Pascha. Do not let your flock go without a shepherd, do not let our pleas go unanswered. Your Holiness, please send us a priest of Your choosing.”*

The bishop read the letter and conveyed the request of the mountain dwellers to the participants in the next episcopal meeting. *“Fathers, who can travel to this village for the Lenten weeks?”* he asked. But none of the priests could, and each gave a valid reason. As the meeting continued, the request from the mountain dwellers was lost among the other agenda items and the current documents. Everyone forgot about the letter, busy with the other errands and preparations for the Pascha.

Finally, the Great and Holy Pascha came, which all Romanians celebrate together in great awe and piety. The Pascha week was over, and the episcopate’s priests were back at work. The bishop saw a letter on his table, and again it was from the mountainous village. It read, *“Your Holiness, we have no words to*

*convey to you our gratefulness and deep appreciation for your consideration and attention to the needs of our parish. Forever we will praise the Lord and be thankful to you, Your Holiness, for sending is this pious and blessed priest to lead our Paschal celebrations. Never before have we prayed together with a priest of such exceptional grace and humility.”*



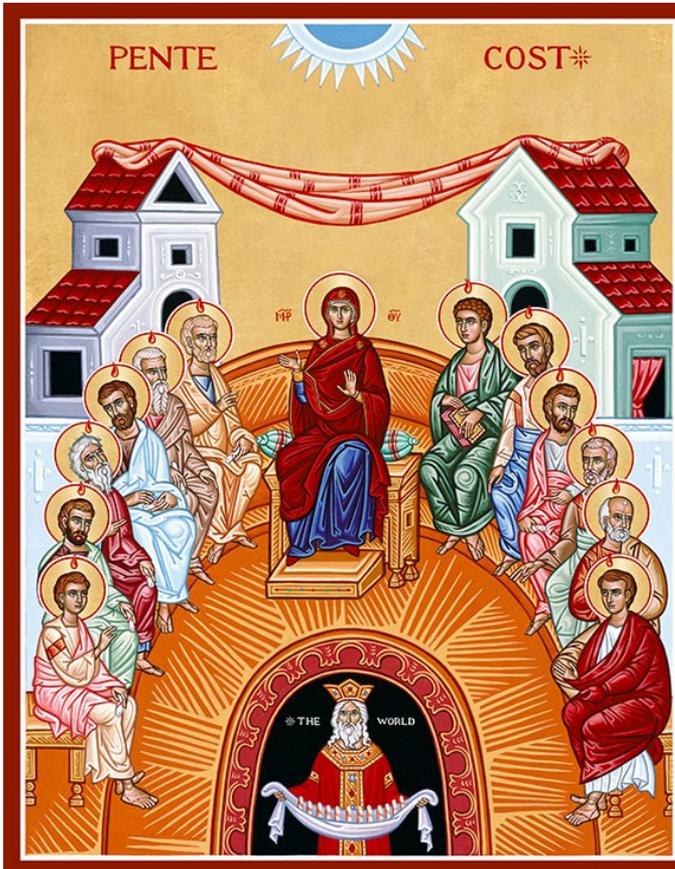
At the next episcopal meeting, the bishop asked the attending priests, “*Last time, I read a letter from the peasants of a mountainous village who requested a priest. Who travelled there?*” Everyone was silent, no one said a word. The bishop was intrigued and curious. So he put together a delegation and days later, dust was clouding over the mountainous village as the bishop and his group approached the village. It was the bishop’s first visit there with such a large group of people. The parishioners greeted him with paschal cakes, festive drinks, painted eggs and bunches of flowers. In a solemn procession, they all went to the small church.

In Romania (as in Greece), all priests are civil servants, and they are required to enter their names in a designated logbook of the church, even they serve there only once. The bishop bowed before the icon of the church’s patron saint and went into the altar. The Royal Doors were open, and all the people at church saw him pick up the logbook and take it to the nearby narrow window. Hastily, he paged through it and found the last entry. The inscription, made in elegant handwriting and beautiful ink, read, “*Nektarios, Metropolitan of Pentapolis.*” Awe-stricken, the bishop dropped the book and fell on his knees right where he was standing.

As the news of the great miracle sank in, everyone was awe-stricken. After some moments of ringing silence, everyone was overwhelmed with emotions. The people fell on their knees, raised their hands, hugged, wept and gave thanks to Jesus and Saint Nektarios. Only now were they beginning to realize what had happened. The Almighty Lord had heard the tearful prayers from His people in a remote mountainous village and sent them a shepherd from His Kingdom of Heaven. Their shepherd on earth had forgotten about his smaller flock, but not the Lord of the Heaven and Earth. It was the moment of truth. Metropolitan Nektarios who departed this world in the 1920s, spend an entire week in the flesh with the simple shep-

herds and their families. He headed their processions of the Cross and to the Empty Tomb, sang hymns and said prayers, gave them comfort and guidance. He spoke to them about the Lord like nobody else had ever spoken to them before.

Only now did the people begin to realize what had filled their hearts with heavenly joy, inspired them to repent tearfully and made them cry with endearment, unrestrained and unashamed. Now they knew what was keeping them awake and eager to stand in prayer. The icon of Saint Nektarios was displayed at their church in a visible location, but nobody recognized him. Perhaps God had willed to hide from the people the identity of their good priest while he was with them.



**"NO ONE  
CAN HAVE  
GOD FOR  
HIS FATHER,  
WHO DOES  
NOT HAVE  
THE  
CHURCH  
FOR HIS  
MOTHER."**

**-ST. CYPRIAN  
OF CARTHAGE**

## ❧ Holy Cross Philoptochos June News Letter ❧

Twenty-six members attended the May 11 in-person & Zoom General Philoptochos meeting. The 2021-2023 Board members were announced at the meeting.

The next General Philoptochos meeting will be Tuesday, June 8th at 7pm in the Philoptochos Room. I hope that you can attend. There will be NO Zoom.

Christine Peters reported for Circle of Angels that 25 baskets were given with cookies, breads and Easter cards. Thank you to Carol Halkias, Christine Peters and ALL the Angels who share their time with the shut ins.

There are currently 111 members who have paid their 2021 dues.

Thank you to Dena Yamalis for chairing the Bake Less Bake Sale. Almost \$5,000 has been donated. Philoptochos is grateful to our generous parishioners.

Thank you to Kathy Pyros and helper Dina Hartlep for their time devoted to NRP and to ALL who donate to Neighborhood Resilience Project. Non-perishable foods may be continuously donated outside the inner office doors. The need is great. Spring and summer clothing and household goods may be donated at the end of May. Please contact Kathy Pyros if a student would like to volunteer for community service hours at NRP.

Georgina Callas would like to resume Blanket Ministry, possibly meet afternoons.

The Mt. Lebanon High School Philanthropy Award will be given at the end of May at an award ceremony. The Holy Cross Philanthropy Award(s) will be announced at Graduate Sunday, June 6.

The Autumn Food Fair or Fundraiser will be determined by the new Philoptochos board.

Dena Yamalis and I have been co-chairing the Coffee hours since Popi passed away in January 2017. We are reaching out to Holy Cross members for dedicated volunteers to assist on Sundays for coffee hour set-up, serving and clean-up. Dena and I cannot assist at coffee hours every Sunday. Please contact me at [esofis@comcast.net](mailto:esofis@comcast.net) or Dena at [dyamalis@comcast.net](mailto:dyamalis@comcast.net) if you are interested. We will show you what needs to be done and how to make coffee.

Thank you to Adrienne Dickos who has graciously offered to become the new Philoptochos Membership Chairperson!

Thank you to ALL who have served as chairpersons and board officers with me the last two years.

This is my final Philoptochos News Letter. I wish much success to the new Philoptochos President. It has been an honor and privilege to be your Holy Cross Philoptochos President from 2019-2021.

~Elaine Sofis

## ❧ Holy Cross Philoptochos ❧

### Outgoing 2019-2021 Philoptochos Board Members

Thank you for your time, talents and dedication to Holy Cross Philoptochos

JoAnna Asvestas

Cynthia Kostelnik, Recording Secretary

Connie Carahalís

Dina Petrakis

Rene Koett

Cathy Terasavage, Treasurer, 2019-2020

Jane Kokanos

Mary Zotis

Demetra (Mimi) Kontoulis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

### Congratulations to the New 2021-2023 Holy Cross Philoptochos Board

Executive Board Elections were held on May 23, 2021

Thea Manos, President

Ria Kartsonas, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Rita Manganas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

Angela Panos, Recording Secretary

Dena Yamalis, Corresponding Secretary

Terpsie Katsafanas, Treasurer

Irene Zotis, Assistant Treasurer

Elaine Sofis, Advisor

Board Members

Pam Lagios, Parliamentarian

Katina Galie

Mary Kladakis

Denise Sokos

Pam Volakis



Celebrating Elias Diamond upon his graduation from the Holy Cross Seminary taken with fiancée Maria at Coffee Hour.

Celebrating Mother's Day: Matt Szymanowski with mother Elena Avlon Szymanowski and grandmother Genie Gooding.

## Sermon on Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women -by Elias Diamond

Christ is Risen!

When we say we “love” someone, what do we mean? Do we mean that they give us a warm, fuzzy feeling inside? Do we mean that seeing them makes us hum love songs to ourselves? Do we mean that they fit into whatever mental mold we have, for what the shape of this thing called “love” is? Maybe “love” means these things in some sense... There certainly are a lot of ideas we have about this thing called love. But a lot of those things we call love have to do with what we get, not what we give. They have to do with how the other person makes us feel, and not what we do for them. So what about when things get hard? Are we still loving when the object of our love isn’t kind to us in return, when they might even be mean to us? Are we still loving if someone is sick and can’t do all the things they used to be able to do? Are we still loving if the one we love is dead?

I bring this last point up because the myrrh-bearing women, the first ones to find that empty tomb and the angel shining there, are one of the most beautiful examples of love and of service we have, for this very reason. In their act of going to that tomb, very early in the morning, three days after the crucifixion of Christ, there was no hope in their minds that Christ could give anything back to them. This act was love in its purest sense - an act completely selfless, to anoint the body of one who in life was a friend, a son, a teacher, a kinsman, who, in life, healed so many, loved so many, and yet, from the perspective of those myrrh-bearing women, would never do so again, would never speak to them His words of wisdom or sit at supper with His disciples. And yet, in spite of this, in spite of the fact that this man could give no more to them, in spite of the fact that, as far as they knew, His body would be on its way to decomposition, they nonetheless came with their spiece to anoint with tenderness the body of the Lord... And that shows us what it means to love and serve.

And even more than not looking for anything in return from their acts of service, these women had shown themselves

willing to love in spite of shame or the threat of harm. Three of those myrrh-bearing women, that is, the Theotokos, Mary Magdalene, and Mary, Wife of Clopas, are all described by the Evangelist John in his gospel as standing by the Cross of Christ during His crucifixion, when so many of His other disciples fled and scattered and denied Him for fear of persecution and for fear of being associated with a man that the world had labelled a criminal. And yet, these myrrh-bearers stood firm, and continued to visit His tomb, in spite of the fact that they would be associated with a condemned man, in spite of the fact that the tomb would be guarded by armed soldiers. They are a living, shining example of what it means when Saint John writes that perfect love casts out fear.

These women show us what real love and real service looks like. And believe it or not, it doesn't sound like The Beatles singing "I Want to Hold Your Hand," and it doesn't look like a Nicholas Sparks movie. What it looks like is these women, moving across the land in the darkness before dawn, not doing their deeds to be seen by humanity, but only going for the sake of an act of love, an act of love for someone that would never be able to thank them... Or so they thought. Because we know that what they found was the stone rolled away and the angel shining, asking them, "Why do you seek among the dead the One Who is Alive? Why do you seek among the corruptible the Incorrupt?", telling them to announce that Christ indeed is Risen!

And while we should hold the Resurrection in our hearts always, we should also keep in our hearts the pure love that those myrrh-bearing women had even before they received those glad tidings from the angel. The epistle reading for today is from the Acts of the Apostles, and tells of the institution of the diaconate, and this is such a perfect connection, because *διακονία*, service, is so perfectly embodied by these myrrh-bearing women. So let us fulfill our calling to service and to love, love pure and without guile, without selfishness, so that we may stand with these myrrh-bearing women and see for ourselves the empty tomb and understand that the Saviour has indeed risen from the sepulchre!

Χριστός Ανέστη!



# Lazarus Saturday





# HOLY WEEK



Emmanuel Maginas's sermon from May 23, 2021  
Sunday of the Paralytic

Christ is risen!

Today's commemoration of the Paralytic comes first and foremost from the Gospel passage that we heard this morning (John 5:1-15), though many of the hymns appointed for today also reference this beautiful miracle.

To refresh our memory, Jesus went up to Jerusalem, to the sheep's pool. This pool was near the Jewish Temple, and it was where they would wash the sheep that were going to be sacrificed. It was known for its miraculous healing properties. An angel would stir the water every so often, and whichever sick person stepped in first was healed of any ailment he had. Today's paralytic had been lying there for 38 years! Jesus was there by the pool, and he encountered the man. Before completely healing him from his paralysis, the Lord asked the man, "Do you want to be healed?" This may seem like a ridiculous question. The man had been lying there for 38 years – wouldn't it be self-evident that he wanted to be healed?! But nevertheless, Jesus asked him. The Lord will not force himself onto anyone. He waits for our assent.

Some of us here today are physically ill, perhaps with severe chronic illnesses, or possibly with something less serious. We all probably know of at least a few people who are suffering, or have suffered and recovered, from the coronavirus. But the common denominator that links all of us here present today, is that we are first and foremost spiritually sick. We are sick with the disease of sin. Today's paralytic was physically paralyzed; we are spiritually paralyzed.

Let us put ourselves in the place of this man for a moment. How many of us have problems, real problems, that have plagued us for years? Maybe it's a sibling we can't stand, a long-standing argument with our parents, a resentment towards our spouse. Maybe it's a habit we can't break, a cycle of sin we can't escape. Whatever it is, we just can't seem to get better on our own. Like the paralytic, we are stuck, unable to do anything but wait.

But it is this paralysis, this waiting, that allows us to realize that we need help. Christ came and asked if the paralytic wanted to be healed. He answered the Lord by saying that he had been trying to get into the pool but had been continuously unable to get in. After 38 years, he knew very well that he couldn't do it on his own; he "had no man" to put him into the water when it was stirred up. One of the hymns for today provides a beautiful meditation on this detail. It expands the conversation between Christ and the paralytic that is found in the Gospel, and presents Christ as saying to him, "For thee I became man, for thee I am clothed in flesh,

and sayest thou: ‘I have no man?’” (Doxastikon of the Entreaty, Vespers for Sunday of the Paralytic) [Paraphrase: I became man for you, and you’re telling me you have no man?]. In becoming human, the Son of God became accessible to us. He identified completely with us in our humanity. We can no longer say, “I have no man to help me.” He is God and Man, and he will help us whenever we ask. But he will not force it.

After receiving the paralytic’s answer of helplessness, the Lord transcended the man’s expectations. If the paralytic had thought that Jesus could help him, he might have imagined Jesus “giving him a lift” into the pool, to facilitate his healing. But Christ did not help the paralytic into the pool to be healed by the miraculous water; he did not work in the way that the man expected. Instead, Jesus healed the man immediately with a command. The man expected healing from the pool, but Christ, the living water, heals him directly. God heals our wounds with running, living water, not stagnant pools. And the life he gives is so much more than we could ever imagine. Rather than placing us in the pool, Christ calls us to come and taste the fresh water of *his* fountain.

Where can we come to access that water? In the Church we will celebrate the Feast of Mid-Pentecost this coming Wednesday. Mid-Pentecost marks the midpoint between Pascha and Pentecost – a fifty-day period – by falling exactly twenty-five days after Pascha, and twenty-five days before Pentecost. But it is more than a nice halfway marker or a mere signpost – it is a great Feast of the Lord, and connects the Resurrection of Christ on Pascha with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. On *Mid-Pentecost* we are called to come to Christ who pours out the “waters of piety” (Dismissal Hymn/*Apolytikion* of Mid-Pentecost). In the Gospel according to John, Christ invites us to come to him and receive our refreshment, since he is the water of life, and whoever believes in him, “out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38 KJV). This outpouring of water is the same outpouring of grace and mercy that the paralytic receives today.

We are all spiritually sick. We cannot walk in the commandments of God. We cannot do the good we want to do, even though we try, unless Christ helps and heals us. Let us come to the Water of Life, the living water offered to us by the Wellspring of Life, Christ himself. Let us be open to his healing. Unlike today’s paralytic, we do not have “no man” to help us. God became man in the person of Christ, and it is he himself who will give us the living water. He will stretch out his hand and heal our physical and spiritual ailments, if we allow him in. May it be so.

Amen.

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!

# Holy Cross

SUN	MON	Tue
		<p>1</p> <p><b>6:36pm GOYA</b></p> <p><b>End of Year Party in Community Center</b></p>
<p>6 <i>Sunday of the Blind Man</i>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>Graduate Sunday</b>            and Greek School Recognition</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>7pm Philoptochos Meeting</i></p>
<p>13 <i>Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council</i>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>15</p>
<p><b>20 PENTECOST</b>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p><i>Father's &amp; Day</i></p> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <p>No Memorials</p> </div>	<p>21 <i>Day of the Holy Spirit</i>            8:30am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy            @Holy Trinity, N. Hills</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>7Pm Vacation Church School Mtg. in Library</b></p>
<div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>GOYA</p> </div>	<p><b>Camp Nazareth</b></p>	
<p>27 All Saints            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>28 <i>Apostles fast</i></p> </div>	<p>29 <i>Apostles Peter &amp; Paul</i>            8:30am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>
<div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>GOYA</p> </div>	<p><b>Camp Nazareth</b></p>	
	<p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	

# June 2021

Wed	THU	FRI	SAT
2  7pm Bible Study <i>via Zoom</i>	3	4	5  5pm Vespers
9 <i>Apodosis of</i> <b>PASCHA</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	10 <i>Holy Ascension</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	11	12  5pm Vespers
16 	17 	18 	19 <i>Saturday of the Souls</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy  5pm Vespers
<b>Drive Thru Food Festival</b>			
23 <div style="background-color: #e0ffe0; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">No Fasting</div>	24 <i>Nativity of John The Baptist</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	25 <div style="background-color: #e0ffe0; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">No Fasting</div>	26 <i>Apodosis of Pentecost</i>  5pm Vespers
Week One			
30 <i>Synaxis of the Apostles</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	1 <i>July</i>	2	3
Week Two			

# Holy Cross

SUN	MON	TUE
<p><i>27 All Saints</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>28</p>	<p><i>29 Apostles Peter &amp; Paul</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>
<b>GOYA</b>		<i>Camp Nazareth</i>
<p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>		
<p>4 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Independence Day</b></p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<b>GOYA</b>		<i>Camp Nazareth</i>
<p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>		
<p><i>11 St. Euphemia</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>12 St. Paisios</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>		
<p>18 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>19</p>	<p><i>20 Prophet Elias</i> 9am Divine Liturgy @ Monastery in Saxonburg</p>
<p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>		
<p>25 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>26 <b>8:30am—Noon VCS</b></p>	<p>27 <b>9 am—Noon VCS</b></p>
<b>Vacation Church School</b>		
<p>4pm Vespers/5pm Matins 6pm Divine Liturgy <i>St. Panteleimon/St. Paraskevi</i></p>		

# July 2021

Wed	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>30 Synaxis of the Apostles</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>1 July</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Week Two</b>			<b>5pm Vespers</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8 St. Prokopios Great Martyr</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Week three</b>			<b>5pm Vespers</b>
<b>14</b>  <b>7Pm Vacation Church School Mtg. in Library</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 St. Marina</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy  <b>5pm Vespers</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22 St. Mary Magdelene St. Markella</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>5pm Vespers</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9 am—NOON VCS</b>	<b>29</b> <b>9 am—NOON VCS</b>	<b>30</b> <b>9 am—NOON VCS</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Journey to the Promised Land</b>			<b>5pm Vespers</b>

## Sacraments

### Funerals

April 19 ~ †**Sophie T. Pappas** (Theros), age 89, beloved wife of 55 years of the late George, loving mother of Leon (Andrea), Deno, Gina, Tom (Lisa) and Theresa Pappas (Sean), sister of the late Gloria Maras, grandmother of Georgiana (Zach), Nicole (Logan), Danielle (Connor), Nathaniel, Tessa, Kaylen, Maximos, Julia, Evelyn and the late Angelica. Godmother to Dr. Michael Medich and Fr. Nicholas Halkias.



April 27 ~ †**Irene (Ourania) A. Patrinos**, age 92, wife of the late Theodore Patrinos and Gus Tsouris. Survived by brother, Chris Kazalas and sister, Chickie Kazalas. Predeceased by her sister, Mary Chakos. Loving mother of Jim Patrinos (Kathe), Nikki McClure and the late Athena Mahramas. Also survived by son-in-law, Don Mahramas. Grandmother of Demetri Mahramas (Shanon), Aaron Mahramas (Katie), Alexis Salonica (Chris), Jessica Butt (Jason), Lara Bentz (Michael), and the late Teddy Mahramas and Tarrah Patrinos. She also has 11 great grandchildren.



## Sacraments

### Baptisms

April 24 ~ *Faith Evangelia*, daughter of Sophia (*nee Williard*) and Konstantinos Alfaras-Melainis. Godparents are Sandra Castro and Athena Castro.

May 8 ~ *Amelia Marie*, daughter of Jacquelyn (*nee Esper*) Adam Vicaro. Godparent is Jessica Embrescia.

May 15 ~ *Benjamin Burton*, son of Rebecca (*nee Pattonrick*) and Samuel Baroody. Godparents are Steven Baroody/Samantha Baroody.

May 16 ~ *Lucina Vasilias*, daughter of Maria Krinis and James Kampetis. Godparent is Renee Konzier.



### Births

Michael and Aundrea Ambeliotis  
welcome daughter  
*Marie.*

Funeral Sympathy to the family of †*Christopher David Schultz*, 44, of Odenton, Maryland, who passed away suddenly at home on April 28. He is survived by his loving wife Suzana, his son, George Christopher, and his beloved mother, our Holy Cross parishioner Chrissa Schultz. He was preceded in death by his father, David R Schultz in 2019. Funeral services were held on May 7th at St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Annapolis, Maryland.

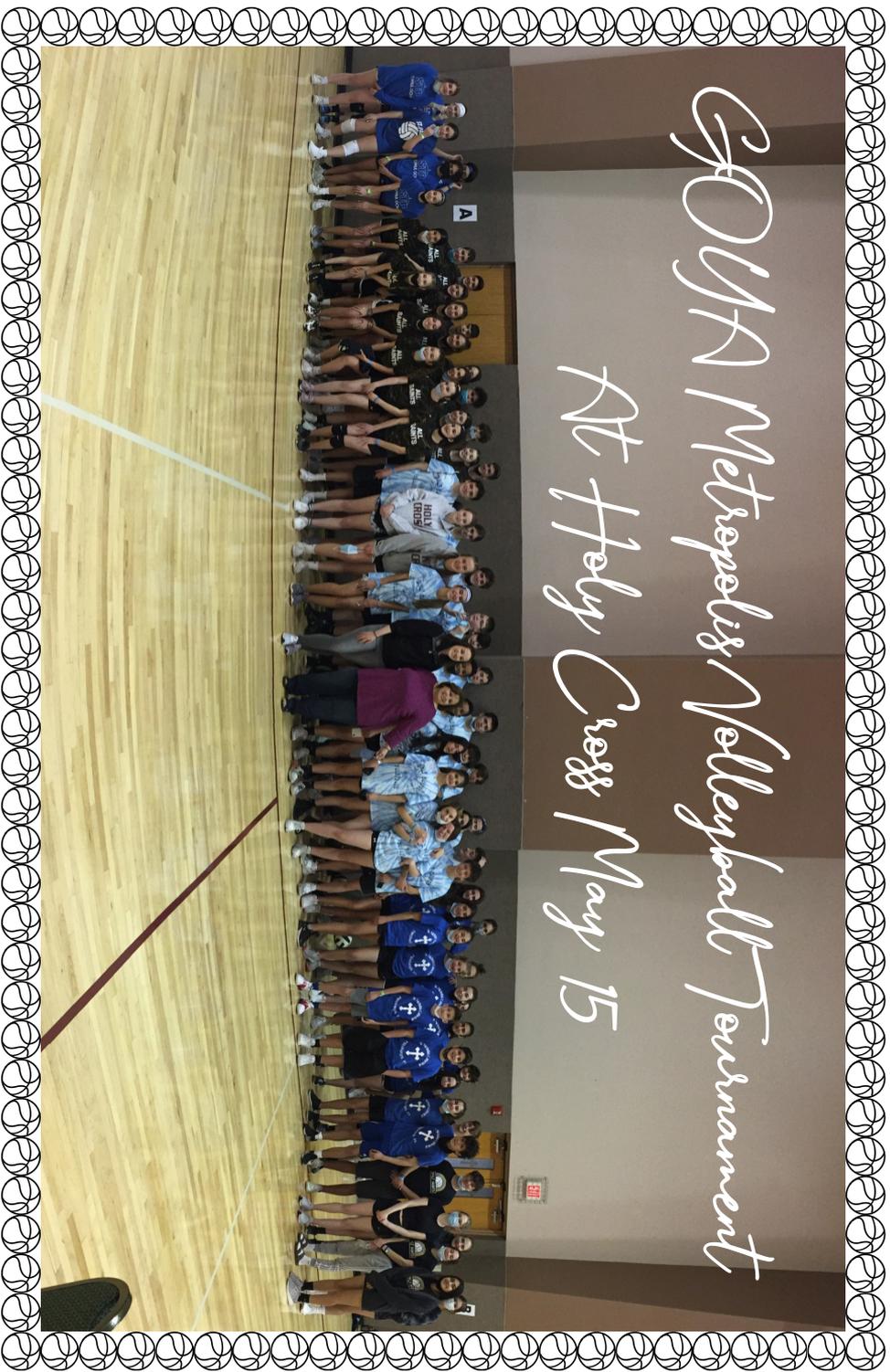




*GOYA Metropolis  
Volleyball Tournament  
at Holy Cross May 15*







*GOVA Metropolitan Volleyball Tournament  
At Holy Cross May 15*



*GOYA making lunches for the homeless  
during Holy Week*





*To the reverend Clergy and Presvyteres, esteemed Metropolis, Philoptochos, and Parish Council members, dedicated Parish Secretaries, and devout faithful of the Holy and God-Protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh:*

## **Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!**

For the past fifteen years, the dynamic and spiritually rich Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Metropolis have been stewarded by **Ms. Rhea Ballas**, who served faithfully as our long-est tenured Director in the history of the Diocese-turned-Metropolis. Through the Summer Camp program, Athletic ministry, Young Adult gatherings, and retreats for many ages, Rhea has demonstrated her numerous God-given talents, and has allowed the vision of the Metropolitan (beginning under Metropolitan Maximos before my arrival) to be translated into a Christ-centered program for our young ones to fully engage in all aspects of the Christian life.



For much of that time, she has also worked tirelessly to study, develop, and implement appropriate policies for the safety of our youth, and rising to the challenge of doing so in step with the expectations of 3 states and our Holy Archdiocese. In all her work, she has exemplified Christian humility and love, going above-and-beyond the job description to be a meaningful part of the lives of many.

This month will mark the final month in her exemplary tenure as our Metropolitan Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director. However, Rhea is not moving anywhere, as she will continue to serve the Church in an Archdiocesan ministry beginning this summer which will allow her to continue to live in the Greater Pittsburgh area. We are grateful for her offering of time and talent over these many years, and look forward to the wonderful work she will continue to do on behalf of Christ.

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of **Mrs. Alyssa Kyritsis** as the new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. A daughter of our Metropolis, she grew in faith through the All Saints GOC of Canonsburg, and pursued undergraduate studies in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut. Inspired by a deep calling, and through her participation in the ministries of her parish and Metropolis, she pursued further education at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, where she graduated from the Master of Divinity program with High Distinction.



Following Graduation, Alyssa began a 6.5 year tenure as the Pastoral Assistant of the St. John the Divine GOC of Jacksonville, FL where she served not only the youth and young adults of the community, but also worked diligently for their capital campaign to build a new Church, for their Centennial celebration, and coordinated the youth events for the Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly hosted by her community. During that time, she also served as a logistics coordinator for the St. Stephen's Summer Camp program (Metropolis of Atlanta) and served on our Metropolis's Summer Camp Committee assisting with Curriculum Development.

May the Lord grant Rhea and Alyssa His abundant grace, wisdom, strength, and love, that they each continue to glorify Him in their new positions, and that through their labors people of all ages may find the light, life, and compassion of Christ.

With Archpastoral blessings and love in the Risen Lord,

+ SAVAS

Metropolitan of Pittsburgh

*GOYA during Holy Thursday night vigil*



*Recently, Fr. John and Presvytera Sandy received the sad news that their dear young Guatemalan friend, †Isabelle, had died of the Covid virus. She was 16 years old. Below is her photo, which was part of an article Presvytera wrote several years ago for their blog. Please read it in her honor and remember her precious soul in your prayers.*

<https://www.thewordfromguatemala.com/2016/10/22/flower-power/>

## Flower Power



*Young Mayan girl with her hand made flower on display*

Flower Power- *by Alexandra Chakos*

The ability of flowers to enhance our lives and touch our hearts has been acknowledged and celebrated since the earliest of times. Indeed, God has filled our world with such a myriad of flower colors, shapes, sizes, and aromas as to dazzle our minds. Flowers proclaim joy at a wedding, whisper condolence at a funeral, express love on Mother's Day, bring cheer to a hospital room, and add beauty wherever they exist. So strong is the influence of flowers, that even artificial ones can have a transformative effect on a person's life.

My thoughts go back many years to the days of my Peace Corps service in Brazil, where I taught sewing and crafts to impoverished women. In one class, I taught the women how to make artificial flowers. This struck a chord with one of the most forlorn in the group.

The delicate paper flower and her ability to create it, suddenly lifted her heart and mind above the devastating years of poverty that had beaten her down. She made quite a few flowers that day and took them into the city, where she sold them in the street. With her newly-earned money, she bought more flower making supplies. Her imagination took wing. She began to create bigger, more elaborate flowers which also sold quickly. Those artificial flowers changed the definition of her life. She was no longer a downtrodden beggar. She was a flower creator — a woman with a marketable skill.

While in my Guatemalan mission, I recently observed another floral impact. At Mayan Artisan Studio, the ecclesiastical sewing workshop I established to employ women and support the Guatemalan Church mission, we have a lot of fabric scraps. I showed the seamstresses how to create flowers out of the scraps. These, I will attach to headbands, wreaths, and other accessories and sell them in the U.S. to raise funds for the mission.

As the women stitched flowers one day, I glanced up and was startled by a wide-eyed face, peering in through the open workshop window. It was Isabelle, the twelve-year-old daughter of our groundskeeper. I invited Isabelle in, gave her a needle and thread, some fabric scraps, and an opportunity to create. She carefully fashioned the fabric into a large red and yellow flower. The next morning, I saw Isabelle marching off to school, proudly sporting her flower on her headband. It has become her daily adornment. And she has become a daily visitor in our workshop, stitching flowers out of every fabric scrap she can gather. Isabelle is one of six children, living with their parents in a small wooden shack. While they are a loving and supportive family, their poverty leaves little space for creativity and beauty. Isabelle has brought this gift to her family.

God, the Creator of All, instilled a bit of His essence in each one of us. Creativity is an important part of this essence. I believe that creating flowers is one way that we can grow and bloom in our God-like nature.

# 2021 Orthodox Christian Vacation Church School

at Holy Cross

Bring your Children to learn God's word @VCS!

VCS is Dedicated to teaching our young Children about Orthodox Christianity in a fun and exciting atmosphere. It's an extension of the Sunday School experience that can greatly enhance a Child's sense of Belonging to the Church, while Providing our Children with an opportunity to make lifelong friends in the Church Community.

Activities include Daily skits illustrating lesson, Brief Classroom instruction, religious music lessons, hands-on Crafts relating to lesson, recreation time, snack & social time.



This year's theme is:

## Journey to the Promised Land

**Monday, July 26, 2021 ~ Friday, July 30, 2021**

**9:00 am to 12:00 Noon**

*\*Monday, July 26, Children should arrive at 8:30 am*

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

If you have questions, or in case of emergency during VCS, call (412) 833-3355

Welcoming all Children age 3 years through entering 6th grade

High School students, Parents, interested adults needed to volunteer.

Nominal registration fee of

\$20 Per student is Due By June 30th

\$30 if received By July 15th,

\$40 if received after July 15th

**Please register early so we can prepare  
nametags, snacks & Crafts!**

Make Checks Payable to Holy Cross VCS and send to:

123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

Should you need financial assistance, Please contact

Fr. Michael Kallaur (Holy Cross) at (412) 833-3355

# Orthodox Christian Vacation Church School at Holy Cross

2021 Registration Form - Please print.

Child's First & Last Name	Age on July 30	Grade Entering Fall 2021	Allergy information (Food, Medicine, Other)

Parent's Name(s):

Home Phone:

Address:

Church Parish you belong to:

Mother's Cell Phone/Work Phone:

Father's Cell Phone/Work Phone:

Email address:

Emergency information, OTHER THAN parents

1st Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parental Consent: \_\_\_\_\_

I give my child(ren) listed above permission to participate in the Vacation Church School held July 26 - 30, 2021. I understand that my child(ren) will be responsible for obeying the rules and regulations of VCS as enforced by the directors, teachers, and staff. I hereby release Holy Cross church, its VCS teachers and staff from liability for the safety and/or conduct of my child(ren). I also give permission for emergency medical care to be administered to my child(ren) if necessary.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For administrative use:

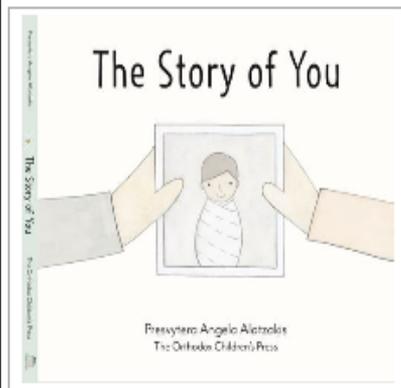
Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Recd/Check \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Recd/Cash \_\_\_\_\_

# HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE

## FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH

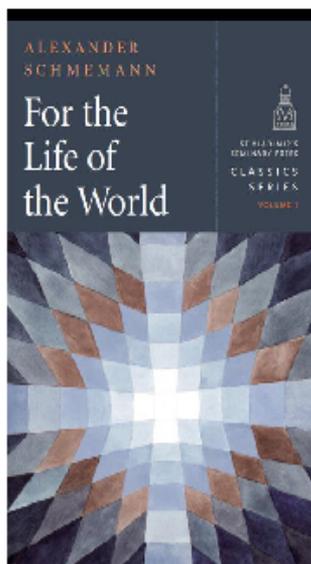
### THE STORY OF YOU

*The Story of You* is a parent's re-telling to their child of their first steps into the Orthodox Christian faith. It walks the reader through praying for them before they were born, the prayers on their first day, special naming prayers on their 8<sup>th</sup> day, their entrance into the church on their 40<sup>th</sup> day, choosing their godparents, the steps of their chrismation and baptism and beyond as a member of the body of Christ. It's the perfect book for 3-year-olds, and a great option for a baptism or name-day present.



### FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

Father Alexander Schmemmann suggests an approach to the world and life within it, which stems from the liturgical experience of the Orthodox Church. He understands issues such as secularism and Christian culture from the perspective of the unbroken experience of the Church, as revealed and communicated in her worship, in her liturgy—the sacrament of the world, the sacrament of the Kingdom. For over half a century *For the Life of the World* has challenged, illumined, and inspired readers from many backgrounds. For some it is an introduction to the Orthodox Church, while for others it is a call to plunge more deeply into the life of the Kingdom, both manifested and anticipated here and now in the liturgy of the Church.

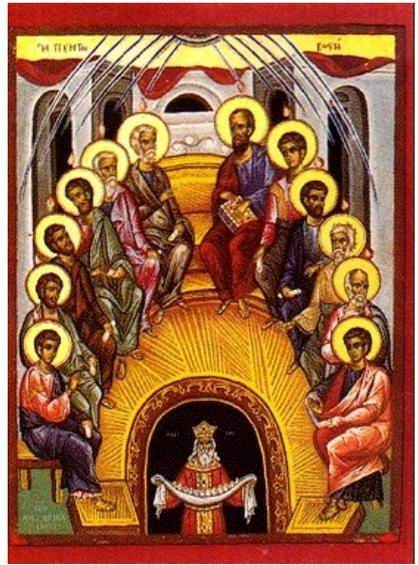


Our Holy Cross Orthodox Bookstore is located in the carpeted area of the Community Center. Please be sure to stop by any Sunday following Divine Liturgy. We offer a great selection of Orthodox Greeting Cards and Books for all ages. For additional information, please contact Mary Portellos at 724-941-8699 or [maryportellos@comcast.net](mailto:maryportellos@comcast.net)

# Saturday of the Souls

June 19, 2021

On Saturday of Souls before Pentecost, the Church remembers her departed loved ones in anticipation of the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday Vespers. The third prayer in particular uses very graphic language to show us that even Hades itself is invaded by the power of the Holy Spirit. On this day not only are the very bonds of death and bolts of Hades shattered, the hordes of evil spirits are trampled underfoot. This demonstrates to us in the most compelling way the outer reaches of prayer.



God's Spirit not only extends to the most remote places but the deepest recesses of the human heart. "The glorious wisdom of the Father, You are the great help of those in peril, giving light to those in darkness and the shadow of death. Lord of everlasting glory, beloved Son of the Most High, eternal light of eternal light, Sun of righteousness, hear our supplications and give rest to the souls of Your servants, our fathers and brothers and other kin by blood, and all of the household of faith who have since fallen asleep and whose memorial we keep this day." -From the Vespers of Pentecost


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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**2021 Orthodox Christian**

**Vacation Church School**



**Journey to the  
Promised Land**

**Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> Friday, July 30, 2021**

**9:00 am to 12:00 Noon**

**Details P. 20**

**Register now! Volunteers needed!**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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