

Holy Cross



Crossroads

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

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

Perhaps one of the most joyful and memorable experiences of my twenty-two years as a clergyman was celebrating the Divine Liturgy for our children. Our catechetical liturgies for the Sunday School and also for our children who attended our school (Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School - THEOS). The foundation of faith in Christ is to know, to participate in, and to worship together our Lord and Savior. Not an intellectual exercise, but rather a knowledge built on experience and communion with God. Hearing His word, chanting the hymns of praise, communing the precious Body and Blood of Lord and Savior, all of these together build a foundation of Faith. We are called to make present the presence of God and to offer to Him everything that we are and hope to be; "For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them." Mt. 18:20. This gift of Faith that we offer our children is without price. Most of us sacrifice all that we earn to offer something to our children, so that they might find their calling and profession in this life. Often, we forget that this temporary world and its successes of material wealth and power are empty and without fulfillment unless we have a foundation and a living Faith in God. Our Church must have this as its priority, instilling this foundation of Faith in our children.

General Assembly Meeting Notice

DEAR PARISHIONERS:

There will be a **GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING** on Sunday, November 21, 2021 after the Divine Liturgy following a light lunch provided by Parish Council. Please make every effort to attend.

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Elect Assembly Chairperson
3. Reading of minutes of last General Assembly
4. Priest's Report
5. Report by the President of the Parish Council
6. Report of the Chairman of Building Committee
7. Election of members to Building Committee
8. Nomination of Candidates for election to the 2022 Parish Council
9. Election of five member Board of Elections
10. Election of three member Board of Auditors
11. Unfinished business
12. New business
13. Closing Prayer

Yours in Christ,

Fr Michael H Kallaur

Economos

Dean Gambolis

Parish Council President

MHK:DS:nj

10/21/21

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Crossroads, published monthly Volume 21 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

Elias Diamond, Pastoral Assistant

Nena Jovonovich, Secretary

Website: holycrosspgh.org

Office (412) 833-3355 FAX (412) 833-3357

Community Center Phone:(412) 854-6001

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

***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.

Organizations & Committees

Church School	Elias Diamond	(412) 833-3355
Philoptochos Pres.	Thea Manos	(412)
Phil. Membership	Adrienne Dickos	(412) 833-4980
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 Adults	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
Interior Design Committee	Janet Conomos	(412)

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.



As secular circumstances have dictated what are children are receiving in our education system is without regard to their salvation and even worse, detrimental to their character and view of humanity, we must act to re-establish a school program for our children. It is my hope that during this Advent period, in preparation for our Lord's Nativity, we would all pray about this endeavor and consider what is best for our children. I have spoken about this in my reports to the General Assembly since I have returned to Holy Cross in October of 2012 and now with the prompting of several families, we must consider this request seriously. Prayer and fasting are essential in discerning God's will, may we enter this time of Advent with purpose and humility.

A pastor said to his congregation, "My friends, it takes faith to make the Church walk..." They shouted, "Let it walk, pastor, let it walk!" The pastor continued, "Brethren, it takes love to make the Church run..." Again they shouted, "Let it run, pastor, let it run!" "Beloved, he continued, it takes money to make the Church fly..." Back came the response, "Let it walk, pastor, let it walk!"

Unfortunately, the Church does not have the option to choose whether or not it will walk, run, or fly. The Church MUST fly or else it ceases to fulfill its mission in the world. We are now entering our stewardship campaign for 2022 and we must carefully assess our efforts of contribution and sacrifice to help our community continue its mission.

Many of us think that giving to the Church has no bearing on our spiritual life. We feel that this idea of stewardship and commitment to the Lord has nothing to do with paying the bills and "keeping the lights on." This misconception has led us to believe that rather than offering a percentage of our income as a means of thanksgiving and sacrifice to God, we would rather spend our time and energies looking for fund-raisers and other means to cover the expenses of the Church. This is a great travesty. It leads us to a spiritually bankrupt situation where we are even indignant when someone asks us for money for the Church. Our defenses heighten and we justify our position by saying things like, "Well I worked at the Food Festival." Or, "I did this or that for the Church." To be sure, we are all capable of doing more for the Church and some may only be able to give the Church their time and talent. We understand and thank God for their service and by no means do we minimize their contribution. However, by far, the vast majority of us do not fall into this situation.

Listen to the following story:

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it forced its body through a hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further. So to help the butterfly, the man took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly and expected that at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand and the body would contract. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing the fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it could fly.

I believe that our stewardship is based on the same principal. We must be willing to make a sacrifice for God. For those who give generously and without hesitation, this process of stewardship brings great joy into their lives. They receive a blessing one hundred times over. They look to the beauty of the flight, knowing that they have given the Lord something with which to work. Those of us who do not wish to make the effort or as in the case of the butterfly, to avoid the "squeeze" are never able to experience this joy. The alternative is that we are so caught up in worrying about the bills and obligations, we never have the opportunity to get off the ground and do what the Gospel requires of us. Instead of a Church, we become known as a place to get a good meal.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, the goal of stewardship is to cover all of our expenses as a Church through our commitment. The cost to run Holy Cross is \$2,500.00/day. Are you willing to sponsor a day, a week, or more? Please consider your gift to God, whatever it might be, as a reflection of your gratitude and offering back to Him for all that He has done for you and your family. We all enjoy our festivals and especially offering our local community a taste of Greek Cuisine, let us use these events to enhance our fellowship and philoxenia, and whatever profits the Lord blesses us with, to do His will in a manner pleasing to Him. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Mt.5:16)

There is much work to be done!
May the Lord guide and help us!
With love and prayers in Christ,
Fr. Michael



THE GREEK NATIONALITY ROOM COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
WITH THE AMERICAN HELLENIC FOUNDATION OF WESTERN PA, THE PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
AND
THE EUROPEAN ART CENTER OF GREECE (EUARCE)
PRESENT

A CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE GREEK NATIONALITY ROOM



NOVEMBER 5TH – NOVEMBER 7TH, 2021
VIRTUAL PROGRAM

AT

[HTTPS://PAHELLENICFOUNDATION.ORG/80TH](https://pahellenicfoundation.org/80th)

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND KEYNOTES OVER THE 3-DAY EVENT PERIOD

HIS EMINENCE ELPIDOPHOROS, ARCHBISHOP OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
HER EXCELLENCY MRS. ALEXANDRA PAPADOPOULOU, AMBASSADOR OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC TO THE USA
THE HONORABLE MR. VASILEIOS LAMBRINOS, MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HERAKLION, CRETE
MR. JAMES BOUTZOUKAS, PRESIDENT OF THE PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
MRS. ESTHER BUSH, CEO, URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER PITTSBURGH
DR. JORDAN GOLIN, JEWISH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DR. ZIPORA GUR AND ELLEN RESNEK, CLASSROOMS WITHOUT BORDERS
REV. FR. PAUL ABERNATHY, NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT

SPECIAL GUESTS

FAMILY DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS
AND
STEWARDS (1950-2015) OF THE GREEK NATIONALITY ROOM

THE METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

2021 GOYA FALL RETREAT

UNDER HIS



UMBRELLA

Dn. Jonathan McClish will be presenting on how we keep our focus our life in the message of Christ in today's often divisive world.

NOVEMBER 19 - NOVEMBER 21

At Camp Nazareth | To register visit:
y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/retreats

FIRST STEPS OF CHRIST

...is a program for preschool age children and their parents. This will be an opportunity to have some of our youngest Orthodox Christians together for games, song, stories, snacks, and prayer. We plan on having this program running on a bi-weekly basis! If you are interested in participating, please contact Sophia Alfaras (sophia.alfaras@gmail.com)

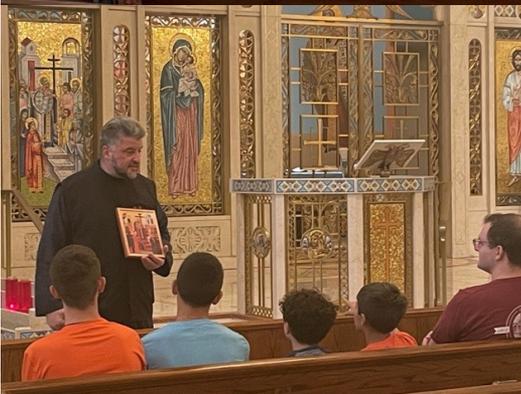


TRAIN UP A CHILD
IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO,
AND WHEN HE IS OLD
HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.
-PROVERBS 22:6



ACOLYTE WORKSHOP

Altar boys gathered on a Saturday for service and fellowship, cleaning in the church followed by a pizza lunch.





GOYA KICK-OFF





Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Autumn Food Fair. It was a great success and a tremendous blessing!
Thank you to the volunteers, pastry makers and donators, and to all those who came and ate with us! We grossed over \$50,000! We are very grateful!
Love, Thea Manos & Ria Kartsonas and the Autumn Food Fair Committee



Saints Mary & Martha Women's Fellowship

Everything Old is New Again: The New Testament revealed in the Old Testament

October 26, 2021

**The Holy Trinity revealed
in the Old Testament**

Fr. John Chakos, speaker
At the home of: Angel Krenzela
571 Brownlee Road
Eighty-Four 15330
RSVP Text 412-296-1519

November 16, 2021

**The Church revealed
in the Old Testament**

Dn. Frank Dickos, speaker
At the home of: Stellani Coleman
105 Cedarbrook Ct.
Mc Murray 15317
RSVP Text 724-255-6178

January 25, 2022

**The Cross revealed
in the Old Testament**

Fr. George Callas, speaker
At the home of: Domenica Merante
43 Ridgewood Drive
McDonald 15057
RSVP Text 412-302-9093

February 22, 2022

**The Theotokos revealed
in the Old Testament**

Fr. Michael Kallaur, speaker
At the home of: Irene Zotis
76 Woodland Drive
Mt. Lebanon 15228
RSVP Text 412-721-0146

March 22, 2022

**Christ revealed
in the Old Testament**

Fr. Daniel Korba, speaker
At the home of: Vasso Paliouris
114 Hoodridge Dr.
Mt. Lebanon 15228
RSVP Text 412-606-4314

April 12, 2022

**Pascha revealed
in the Old Testament**

Fr. Paul Abernathy, speaker
At the home of Vasso Paliouris
114 Hoodridge Dr.
Mt. Lebanon 15228
RSVP Text 412-606-4314

May 24, 2022

**Baptism revealed
in the Old Testament**

Elias Diamond, speaker
At the home of: Adrienne Dickos
1840 Kent Road
Upper St. Clair 15241
RSVP Text 412-400-4290

**Remember,
all meetings run
from 7pm-9pm.**



Save the Date for the Philoptochos Annual Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 7th at 6:30pm
Stay tuned for further details

Philoptochos Membership Coffee 2022

All are welcome to attend the Philoptochos Membership Coffee Hour on **Sunday, November 7** in the Community Center. Ladies 18 years old and up are welcomed and encouraged to join Philoptochos and become a Friend of the Poor. No experience necessary! Dues are \$25 per year (National Membership Dues are \$15 per year plus \$10 for Metropolis of Pittsburgh). Anything over and above goes to our Holy Cross Chapter.



RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2022 *online!*

- **GO TO:** holycrosspgh.org
- On the drop down menu choose **Donations & Stewardship**
- On the **DONATE** page, choose **Donate Online**
- On the **Online Donation** page, choose **Philoptochos**.

*Or you can still send in a check using the
Philoptochos Membership form*

TO RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2022, please complete and return to church or to *Adrienne Dickos, 1840 Kent Rd. Pittsburgh 15241*

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!

Philoptochos Christmas Bread Making is BACK! Save the date!

Christmas bread will be prepared on Thursday, December 9th.

Kitchen help is needed at 8:00am. Rolling and twisting will be done at

10:00am. Egg washing at 11:30am. Wrapping of bread will be about

1:45pm-4:00pm Selling of bread will be 2:00pm-4:30pm. The Christmas

bread, \$10 a loaf, will be sold on baking day, December 9th and Sundays,

December 12 and 19. Your help is needed and appreciated! Thank you

for supporting Philoptochos in the return of this Annual Fundraiser.

Co-Chairs Elaine Sofis, esofis@comcast.net and

Domenica Merante, meranteboys@comcast.net

GOLDEN CLUB: Attention old members/new members!
Please join us for our annual membership luncheon on
Thursday, November 11th, 11:30am in the carpeted area of
the Community Center. Following lunch, Bryan Elderkin
will be speaking to us on his pilgrimage to Mt. Athos,
along with a slide show. Dues of \$10 will also be collected.
If paying by check, please make checks payable to:

GOLDEN CLUB OF HOLY CROSS

To reserve your spot, please call or
text Rene (412) 559-1721
or Cynthia (412) 722-9512.

Your **RSVP** is required
NO LATER THAN November 4th.

We hope to see you there!



**National Clergy Retreat in Florida
attended by Fr. Michael**



Dear Holy Cross parishioners,

November will be a busy month at **Neighborhood Resilience**, and as always we need your help. Starting Sunday, November 7th, we will hold a **Thanksgiving food drive** until Sunday the 21st. Items like boxed stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn and green beans are welcomed. Also canned meats, although expensive, are always a welcomed item.

Secondly, on Sunday November 21st and 28th, the **Christmas Angels** will be distributed and the gifts will have to be returned to Holy Cross by Sunday, December 6th.

I thank you in advance for all of your generosity and participation. We could not accomplish this without you.

Thank you,
Kathy Pyros



You're invited to join the
Holy Cross Ladies Philoptochos for

AN AFTERNOON WITH GERONTISSA

Enjoy a special opportunity for
conversation with Gerontissa Theophano,
fellowship, Mediterranean Lenten treats &
Christmas shopping all to support
the Nativity of Theotokos Monastery

Saturday, December 11
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Community
Center

123 Gilkeson Road

11 AM - 2 PM

\$40/person

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-afternoon-with-gerontissa-tickets-196512332677>

Metropolis GOYA Basketball Tournament

Hosted by **Holy Cross**
February 25-27, 2022



AD FORM

Deadline: February 1, 2022

Please attach to this form or email your message to

ADGOYA2020@gmail.com

Quarter page \$25.00, Half page \$50.00, Full page \$100.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Ad size and amount paid: _____

Please make check payable to **HOLY CROSS GOYA** and mail along with this form to:

**Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
ATTN: Basketball Tournament
123 Gilkeson Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228**

Any questions, call Denise Melis at 412.341.9264

Please return no later than February 1, 2022.



Are you ready for some **BASKETBALL**?!!!



Holy Cross GOYA is honored to host the 2020 GOYA Regional Basketball Tournament February 25, 26, 27, 2022

This year, there will be over 300 GOYAns participating in our tournament. Hosting a Diocese Basketball Tournament is truly a community effort. Much help and many items are needed. Please choose to help in whatever way you can. In doing so, you will not only be supporting our youth, you will be helping Holy Cross be the best we can be in welcoming our young people from our Diocese.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Sponsor:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Night Social Event Snacks..\$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Concession Stand.....\$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Night Paper Products.....\$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast Food.....\$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Night Beverages..... \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Paper Products..... \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Night Event Snacks..... \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Beverages..... \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Night Paper Products ...\$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Supplies\$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Night Beverages..... \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water for all players.... \$125 |

Or for those desiring to make a substantially larger donation.... Various opportunities exist for underwriting the larger costs of renting gyms, paying referees, buying trophies and providing the DJ for the social events. Please contact Denise Melis 412.341.9264

All donors will be acknowledged in the Tournament Program Book.

Give of your time:

Set up and Clean upHelp set up Thursday night at 6pm, Saturday at 5pm before dance, and clean up Sunday after breakfast

Monitor Gyms....Spending 2 hours at gym representing Holy Cross to make sure everything goes as planned

Chaperone Dance....Saturday night from 8:30pm in the Community to watch young people having a good time

Score Keepers....3 hours of keeping the score book or time clock at local gyms

Hotel Security...Walking halls at Crowne Plaza hotel Friday and Saturday nights

Registration....Friday 4pm in the Community Center registering players

Call Denise Melis if you would like to *volunteer your time* 412.341.9264

I have enclosed \$ _____ as a TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to Holy Cross GOYA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please return this form no later then January 30, 2022.
Holy Cross GOYA 123 Gilkeson Road Pittsburgh, PA 15228



A GOOD WORD — Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

VOLUME 5 No. 6 (ISSUE 40) — METROPOLIS ASSEMBLY EDITION



40TH METROPOLIS ASSEMBLY REACHES FORWARD



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas convened the Metropolis Clergy-Lay Assembly from Sept. 23-25 at St. Haralambos GOC in Canton, OH. During the invocation, delegates heard the passage from Philippians 3:8-19 which served as the Assembly's theme. Following regular reports, delegates heard greetings from Archbishop Elpidophoros as conveyed by his representative, Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos. His Eminence then offered his keynote address.

On Friday, informative presentations were offered by Rev. Dr. George Parzenios, Fr. Jon Boukiz, and William Pananis and break-out sessions were held by Fr. Boukiz, Fr. John Touloumes, and Fr. Theodore Petrides. In addition to committee reports, the Assembly heard a presentation on the progress of the New Metropolis Center project. It voted – unanimously – to approve construction of the Center, the formation of an Operational Endowment, the request for the deed to the Ellsworth Ave. office and its eventual sale (after moving to the new office) and securing a construction loan (as needed). A successful Regional Archon Lunch was held with His Eminence and His Grace present.

On Saturday, delegates were treated to speeches of our 2021 National Oratorical Festival Finalists – Evan Jordanides and Stavros Spanakis. His Grace, Director of Religious Education for the Archdiocese, expressed his admiration for the talent of the participants from our Metropolis. The Assembly approved the proposed structure for a Metropolis Camp Endowment, which will begin with just over \$160,000 in principal. It also approved the proposed 2022 Budget presented by the Finance

(Continued on page 2)

METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCHOS ENJOYS PRODUCTIVE ASSEMBLY

The Metropolis Philoptochos Assembly convened Friday, Sept. 24 with 32 women in attendance. It was a productive day filled with discussion, presentations, and fruitful decisions. Among the agenda items discussed was the St. Nicholas National Shrine Fundraising appeal. An appeal was made to the members (especially those from larger chapters) to hold fundraisers and/or encourage members to donate in order to fulfill the remaining assessment.

In response to the letter regarding the allocation of Camp Mt Tabor funds, it was decided unanimously to reallocate Philoptochos's donation of more than \$51,000 to the new Camp Endowment Fund. Denise Cramer, a representative of the local JRC Agency (a non-profit that serves low to moderate income children, seniors, and families) showcased the work the center does for pre-school children and seniors. A donation will be presented to this organization on behalf of the Philoptochos.

Participants were grateful to have Fr. George Parzenios, Dean of Holy Cross School of Theology present to encourage members of Philoptochos to visit Holy Cross and see the improvements being made there. Rev. Fr. Matthew Moore from Holy Trinity GOC in Steubenville, OH, touched everyone's hearts as



(Continued on page 2)



SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis.

To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>

(Continued from page 1)

he shared the work being done in his community to help victims of poverty, drug abuse, human trafficking, etc. He is doing God's work to help raise up those whom life has left at rock bottom.

Delegates also met and heard from new Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Director, Alyssa Kyritsis, and Camping Ministries Coordinator, Marina Papafil. Alyssa discussed an upcoming project that combines Youth Ministries and Philoptochos. It is an opportunity for youth and adult volunteers to participate in a Day of Service on the weekend of March 12-13. Stephanie Ocker informed the Assembly on the status of the new Metropolis Philoptochos website and the goal of having it live within the next two weeks. Barbara Pasalis gave a presentation on the St. Nicholas National Shrine and shared a video of the Sept. 11 Lighting Service held by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.



After other official Philoptochos business, members finished their meeting by approving the following disbursements: New Metropolis Center: \$12,575; Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery: \$2,655; Metropolis Good Samaritan Fund: \$2,380; Seminarians: \$2,000 to each seminarian; Fr. Matthew Moore (for The Hub project in Steubenville): \$5000 (\$2,500 now and \$2,500 after the acquisition of the 501c3 status); Metropolis of Pittsburgh Youth and Young Adult Ministries: \$2,500 (in addition to \$10,000 given in January 2021 that has not yet been spent). The Metropolis Philoptochos is grateful to the parish of St. Haralambos for hosting the Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Assembly and thanks the parishioners for their hospitality, for preparing and serving meals and working to clean up for three days.



(Continued from page 1)

Committee and elected eight to the 2022-2024 Metropolis council: Archon Harry Athanasiou, Dr. George Bellios, Michelle Kotsagrelou, Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, Archon Steve Poulos, Harry Ruska, Archon Steve Sellas, and Archon Philip Yamalis. The Assembly also elected two lay people to the 2022-2024 Archdiocesan Council: Archon Michael Kusturiss, Jr. and Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos.

Following reports from Y2AM, Camping, Family, and administrative ministries, the Assembly then approved resolutions of appreciation for the Ecumenical Patriarch's 30th anniversary; the Archdiocesan Centennial; the Ministry of Metropolitan Maximos and for the founding of the Metropolitan Maximos Youth Endowment by the Hages Family & His Eminence; of prayer for those affected by COVID19 and the various wildfires in the U.S. and Greece; for the

long-time ministries of Pres. Eileen Sedor and Rhea Ballas; and the Clergy-Laity Assembly Committee and Hosts. The Assembly concluded with information about two initiatives offered in Memory of Metropolitan Maximos: the Metropolitan Maximos Endowment for Youth & Young Adult Ministries (which has received \$120,000 in donations to date) and the Metropolitan Maximos Memory Book (contributions of fewer than 1,000 words, with 300+ dpi photos, can be sent to metromax1935@gmail.com).

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 - <http://pittsburgh.goarch.org> - info@pittsburgh.goarch.org
412-621-5529 (Main) - 412-465-0460 (Camp) - 412-621-8543 (Youth) - 412-621-1522 (Fax)

His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar

Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

Alyssa Kyritsis, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Stacey Stathulis, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator

Maria Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

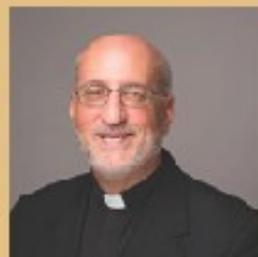
A COUPLES RETREAT

Renewed Day by Day:

Enlivening Our Marriage
Committment

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 | 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
123 GILKESON ROAD, PITTSBURGH, PA, 15228

Our speaker, Fr. Alexander Goussetis, serves as the Director of the Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. He hosts the podcast on Ancient Faith Radio entitled Family Matters. The couples retreat will feature video clips, couples exercises, wisdom from Church saints on the purpose/goal of marriage - all in an interactive and joyful setting!



To Register, Go to: tinyurl.com/st2u8r92





Dinner with Wine Pairings

Net proceeds to benefit
IOCC's relief efforts in Beirut

Sunday, November 14

5:30 ~ 7:30 pm

HOSTED BY

Khalil's II Restaurant

4757 Baum Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

*Come enjoy a traditional family-style
Middle Eastern feast with four wine pairings.*

Tickets: \$75 per person

Seating is limited

RSVP by Nov. 6 to reserve your space!

Tickets & Sponsorships at:

ioccc.org/pittsburgh

The fair-market value (FMV) for each ticket is \$35.
Only the portion of the payment that exceeds the FMV
is deductible as a charitable contribution.



International Orthodox Christian Charities

Holy Cross

SUN	MON	TUE
	<p><i>1 Holy Unmercenaries</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm GOYA Meeting 7pm Philoptochos Meeting</p>
<p><i>7 Youth Sunday</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy <i>Philoptochos Membership</i> <i>Coffee Hour</i></p>	<p><i>8 Synaxis of Archangels</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis to St. Nektarios</p>	<p><i>9 St. Nektarios</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>
<p><i>14 Apostle Philip</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>1:30pm Diamond/ Chiarel Wedding</p>	<p><i>15 Nativity Fast Begins</i></p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p><i>16 Apostle and Evangelist Matthew</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>7pm Parish Council Meeting</p>
<p><i>21 Entrance of Theotokos</i> 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy <i>General Assembly Meeting</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** <i>GOYA Fall Retreat</i> *****</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm JOY Service Night</p>
<p>28 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>2:30pm YAL Book Club @TBD</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm Paraclesis</p>	<p><i>30 Apostle Andrew the First-Called</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>

November 2021

Wed	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>3</p> <p>10am-Noon First Steps 4:30pm <i>Greek School</i> 6:45-8pm GOYA Basketball 7-8pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30pm JOY Bonfire @Holy Cross</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5pm Vespers 7pm YAL Dinner @Ypapanti</p>
<p>10</p> <p>4:30pm <i>Greek School</i> 6:45-8pm GOYA Basketball 7-8pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:30am Golden Club Luncheon & Speaker</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 St. John Chrysostom 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10am-Noon First Steps 4:30pm <i>Greek School</i> 6:45-8pm GOYA Basketball 7-8pm Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <i>GOYA Fall Retreat @ Camp Nazareth</i>  </p>	<p>20</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25 <i>Great Martyr Catherine</i> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>

Golden Club October





Springdale Farm and Glass Museum



Sermon—October 17, 2021

As I was preparing to give today's sermon, I did some research to help me, and if you'll bear with me, I think you'll understand why I decided to Google search what I did. I decided to look for a Google search for the "dumb arguments people have." Now, many of these arguments were quite humorous. One regarded two brothers getting into a heated argument over which kind of fruit would win in a fight. Personally, I think it would be a pineapple, but ultimately, it does seem like a silly thing to fight about. Another argument which I read about was over whether or not the computer game called "the Oregon Trail," causes Communism. And, in fact, I actually found a whole list about silly things church members fought over. One church had people leave the congregation because of the controversy over whether Folgers or Starbucks brand coffee should be used at the coffee hour. And another church actually had an argument over the appropriate length of the pastor's beard.

Now, hopefully I won't receive any angry emails over the length of my beard. But, moving on, I decided to do this little bit of research after I read the section of today's Epistle, the Epistle from the Apostle Paul to Saint Titus. Now, Saint Titus was one of Saint Paul's greatest helpers, and Saint Titus would actually go on to become the first bishop of Crete. Saint Paul's letter to Titus, while short, is a brief guide for good practices in ministry, and contains much advice which we should still heed today. Take for instance these lines we hear in today's reading: "...avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned."

Saint Paul is telling Titus, and us, that those who are factious, those who deliberately fan the flames of disputation and controversy, are self-condemned, they bring their own judgment upon themselves. This vice, of being factious, is quite common, in the church, in this country, and the world at large. I am reminded of another story I read while doing my search, about a father and son, who got into an argument about who likes to argue more! It just goes to show that a lot of us actually find some kind of pleasure in digging our heels in, being argumentative and combative. And yet, this kind of mentality is what Saint Paul warns against, because it runs counter to what Christ Himself said when He declared that, "Blessed are the peacemakers." How can we show the love of God, if we are always trying to prove ourselves right? How can we make true peace, if we are more concerned about being the winner than with peace itself?

Of course, there are certainly always some instances in life where we have to take a stand. But we also must always ask ourselves if the things we choose to argue and quarrel about are truly worth the energy we pour into them, or if instead, we are making mountains out of molehills, as the saying

goes. Or as another saying goes, we must choose the hill we are going to die on, and for many, it is as if they are dying upon every hill they come across. As always, we should consider the Lord's example. Now, when He was put on trial, accused and mocked by those around Him, He was interrogated as to whether or not He was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, and the King of the Jews. We know Him to be all these things, and yet, it is telling that in that moment, He was not argumentative, He was not combative, in fact, He was mostly silent, even though He could have easily summoned more than twelve legions of angels to prove Himself unto the judges.

There is a deep truth in this, I think, which is that, when we are faced with one like Saint Paul describes, one who is quarrelsome and factious, we ourselves are faced with two alternatives. In one case, we can choose to become defensive and argue right back, but in such a case, it as if we only pour more gas on the fire, and more often than not, an argumentative person, when faced with pushback, will only further entrench themself in their stance of self-righteousness. Yet, as the example of Christ shows us, there is a strength in silence and prayer, there can be a strength in choosing not to engage in argument, there is a great strength in choosing first to know we are right in the eyes of God, and not in the eyes of mankind, and in trusting that the Lord will sort the wheat from the chaff.

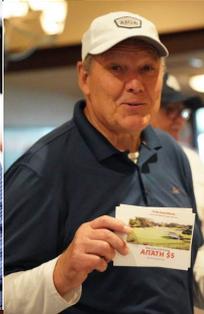
In the Epistle of Saint James, we can read that, "the tongue is a small part of the body, but it boasts of great things. Consider how a small spark sets a forest ablaze." How many of us have failed to control our tongue? How many of us have rather allowed it to take control of us, like a charioteer who has lost control of his horses and is pulled wildly in every direction? And just as a small spark sets a forest ablaze, how many of us might have severely damaged or even ruined a valued relationship through failing to control our tongue?

Being faced with an argumentative person is not easy, and in our day, where people are suing others left and right, where Facebook and Twitter threads spiral on into endless depths of mudslinging and pettiness, in such a world, it is hard to avoid arguments, and even harder to rise above them, even harder to keep ourselves from becoming like that factious person that Saint Paul tells us is "self-condemned." It is a battle, my brothers and sisters, but if we fight the good fight, if we practice that divine stillness and silence of the heart which can rein in the acid words which we might want to hurl at those who confront us, if we remember the Lord's own divine silence, then perhaps, through the prayers of the saints, we can attain some of that blessed image which the Lord presents to us. And even if you really feel like it is just too hard to let a slight go, if you feel like you want more than anything to let that person across from you, that person who is also God's image, if you really want to just let them have it, consider the truth which was so well summed up by the poet Alexander Pope, that "to err is human; but to forgive, divine.

~Elias Diamond

Golf Outing

















St. Photios National Shrine 2021 NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

\$1000 Prize

In an essay, please discuss why or why not the lines from the poem, "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus found at the Statue of Liberty in New York City are still relevant for our nation.

*Give me your tired,
your poor,
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of
your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside
the golden door!*



- 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
- 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, 2021** via email to:
Polexeni Maouris Hillier, Executive Director of St. Photios National Shrine at
phillier@stphotios.com

Winner will be announced Sunday, January 9, 2022.

The St. Photios National Shrine 2021 Essay Contest is made possible by the generosity of The Kathie D'Anna Charitable Fund.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Polexeni Maouris Hillier

September 28, 2021 Phone: 904-829-8205

Email: phillier@stphotios.com

St. Photios National Shrine 2021 NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The St. Photios National Shrine is proud to announce the theme for its annual essay contest, reflecting on the welcoming of immigrants to this nation. The St. Photios National Shrine commemorates the first Hellenic settlers to arrive in the New World, as well as celebrating the many immigrants to the United States and their experience in this nation.

Many of those immigrants came to America through Ellis Island in New York City and would have viewed the Statue of Liberty upon entering New York Harbor. There, at the pedestal of Lady Liberty, is memorialized a plaque with the poem "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus, with the most famous line reading, " Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."

Essay contest theme

In an essay, please discuss why or why not the lines from of the poem, "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus found at the Statue of Liberty in New York City are still relevant for our nation?

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is made possible by the generosity of The Kathie D'Anna Charitable Fund.*

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING ON THE VERANDA



YOUTH Sunday is November 7

Congratulations GOYA Officers 2021 -2022

Co-Presidents

Anastacia Antonuncci

Tyler Hartlep

1st Vice President

Alexandra Kartsonas

2nd vice President

Hanna Murphy

Webmaster

Chloe Zervos

Treasurer

Luke Kallaur

Sec/PR

Katie Kucherawy

John Tripodes

Congrats to all!

Looking
forward to
an exciting year.

Junior named to national advisory council for mental health awareness

An Upper St. Clair High School junior has been named to the Work2BeWell National Student Advisory Council. Marina Gzikowski will work with other student leaders from across the nation to increase mental health awareness.

The National Student Advisory Council provided an opportunity for Marina to further her passion for supporting mental health initiatives. At Upper St. Clair High School, she is a co-founder of Mending Mindsets, a student club that aims to increase awareness of mental health.

The Work2BeWell National Student Advisory Council is a group of teens dedicated to the Work2BeWell program and its vision of empowering teens to thrive through access to mental health resources, authentic connections with peers and educators and digital platforms for resiliency.

According to the organization's website, "the NSAC is committed to making mental health a top priority in schools and communities across the nation through access, education and activation."

As a National Advisory Council member, Marina will represent Pennsylvania students and join a group of 31 other teen council members, from around the country. They will be involved in using their voice to amplify the W2BW movement, including planning summits/events, sharing their voice and opinions on a variety of mental health topics, participating in Talk2BeWell Podcasts and/or advocating for legislation locally and nationally.

"I am really excited about the number, quality and diversity of this year's National Student Advisory Council applicants! Because of these factors, we chose to increase the size of the NSAC by 72% (31 total members compared to 18 last year)." Jawanza Hadley, Work2BeWell director, said. "Their desire to advocate for leadership, mental health and wellness, passion to reduce stigma, and to support teens will help W2BW to move toward fulfilling its vision: All teens have better mental health support and increased emotional well-being."

Marina and other advisory council members are expected to attend at least one virtual meeting each month as well as additional team meetings.



From Washington Post and RNS:

Led by ‘Father Revolutionary,’ Indigenous Guatemalans turn to Orthodox Christianity

Spurred by the conversion of a beloved former Catholic priest, Orthodox Christian communities have popped up in some 120 villages across northern Guatemala and southern Mexico.



The Indigenous Orthodox Christian community participates in a procession for Palm Sunday around the village of Aguacate, Guatemala. Photo by Fr. Evangelios Pata and Fr. Thomas Manuel

By David I. Klein | Religion News Service September 27, 2021 (RNS)

— When the clergy and seminarians of the St. Andrew’s Seminary in Aguacate, Guatemala, roll into town they have their work cut out for them.

“On day one, we did the liturgy, 10 baptisms, and seven chrismations,” explained the Fr. Thomas Manuel, an Orthodox Christian priest. “Then the next day, we did another visit, we had nine confessions, the Divine Liturgy, four chrismations, three weddings and a baptism.”

The men’s workload is their own doing. Established only a decade ago in a country traditionally dominantly Roman Catholic, Guatemala’s Orthodox Christian community is so successful that its few clergy are in a constant state of being overwhelmed.

Guatemala’s border with Mexico is a region of volcanic mountains and fertile farmland. For centuries, this area has been largely occupied by the Indigenous Maya people, whose great pre-Columbian Mesoamerican civilization once spanned from Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula to El Salvador’s Pacific coast.

Like the rest of Latin America, since the arrival of the Spanish, for centuries religious expression in the region had mostly been dominated by the Roman Catholic Church.

That’s changing fast. Guatemala has been in a state of religious flux since in the mid-1990s and the end of the country’s decades long civil war.

Guatemala, red, located in Central America. Image courtesy of Wikipedia/Creative Commons



While in 1970 Guatemala was more than 90% Catholic, today less than 45% of Guatemalans identify that way. Another 42% identify as Protestants, according to a 2019 report by the U.S. State Department.

One aspect of the country's changing religious landscape is the conversion of Indigenous people in the north of the country to the Orthodox Church in 2010, the work of a charismatic former Catholic priest and one-time parliamentarian, Fr. Andres Giron.

Long before he left the Catholic faith, Giron became a pariah to many in Guatemala's establishment for his impassioned support of land reform.

As a priest, Giron associated himself with the most impoverished and dejected portions of Guatemalan society: Indigenous communities that had barely survived an attempted genocide by the Guatemalan army in the early 1980s. According to a 1988 profile in *The New York Times*, Giron earned himself the nickname "Father revolutionary" by both his supporters and opponents.

Though not Indigenous himself, five of Giron's own family members were slain amidst the violence of the civil war, and in a country where land is jealously held by a tiny but powerful elite, advocating for land reform put a target on Giron's head, forcing him, at times, to carry a weapon for his own protection or hire armed guards as he traveled from village to village.

It was in those villages that Giron became disillusioned with the Catholic Church.

"They never had a favored status within the scheme of things" explained Fr. John Chakos, who knew Giron well. "but Father Andres began to speak on their behalf."

Many Indigenous people flocked to Giron's worship services. "He was their hero, their Moses," Chakos explained. "One community after another joined his church."

He was soon expelled from the Catholic Church for his efforts, dampening his movement. After a series of assassination attempts, he went into exile in Mexico.

The Orthodox Christian parish of St. John the Baptist in Los Angeles Ixcán, Guatemala. Photo by Fr. Evangelios Pata and Fr. Thomas Manuel



The Maya were also disenchanting with Catholicism. Largely ignored by the official leadership, they had also had enough of the liberation theology espoused by dissident Catholic priests, which helped to inspire anti-government rebels.

“The people were not happy with the political focus of the Catholic Church,” Chakos said.

Some opted out of religion entirely. About 11% of Guatemalans identify as non-religious today. Others were attracted to Pentecostal and other evangelical sects, but their appeal was limited, as the leaders of these groups were aligned with U.S.-backed government troops. Yet others adopted pre-Christian Indigenous traditions.

In short, they were hungry for a new direction when Giron came to lead them to Orthodoxy.

Giron had spent much of his exile in Rome, where he had discovered the Greek Orthodox Church. Upon his return, he introduced his former flock to so-called “Non-canonical” movements that are Orthodox-adjacent.

At the same time he reached out to Chakos, who spent more than 30 years as an Orthodox priest in the U.S., to discuss the possibility of bringing his community into the Orthodox mainstream.

By 2010, Giron completed his conversion to Orthodox Christianity and was followed by masses of his followers. He passed away in 2014, but others have continued his work.

The Orthodox Christian community holds a traditional funerary procession for Jesus on Good Friday, after commemorating his crucifixion that morning, in Aguacate, Guatemala. Photo by Fr. Evangelios Pata and Fr. Thomas Manuel



Estimates of how many converts there are vary widely. Claims that the community numbers more than 100,000 seem exaggerated: The last time the Eastern Orthodox Church saw a mass conversion on such a scale, it was the pagan Slavs of Kievan Rus, a precursor to the Russian Empire in the 9th century. Manuel is far more conservative, putting the total between 10,000 to 15,000 at most.

What’s inarguable is that in the last decade, Orthodox Christian communities have popped up in some 120 villages across northern Guatemala and southern Mexico. The largest is in Aguacate, where the seminary is located, with about 1,000 members. Most churches draw closer to 100.

“It’s still a pretty staggering number of people,” said Manuel, a U.S.-trained missionary who relocated to Guatemala with his family to help build the community into a self-sufficient parish of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Even if you put it at 8,000, or 10,000, you know, that’s still a huge population of people that go from one tradition to another overnight.”

Clergy and seminarians of the St. Andrew's Seminary in Aguacate, Guatemala. Photo by Fr. Evangelios Pata and Fr. Thomas Manuel

There are only five native priests to serve the community, including their vicar, Fr. Evangelios Pata, but Manuel is hard at work training more.

Right now, there are 10 students in the St. Andrew's Seminary — named for Andres Giron. The usual Orthodox curriculum has been adapted for Guatemalan circumstances. Unlike in the U.S. where seminarians must have already completed a college degree, at St. Andrew's, they only require a high school diploma, a more common terminal degree in Guatemala.



Another requirement is that they speak Spanish: For most of the Indigenous Orthodox faithful in Guatemala, Spanish is a second language. But it is a necessary lingua franca, as in their home villages, some 22 different languages are spoken.

Manuel's students have also had a more hands-on training than most Orthodox priests receive.

"I think of them as super-seminarians, because they do everything from study to building construction," he said.

In addition to building churches and community centers, the priests have also helped to set up a much-needed medical clinic at the cathedral in Aguacate.

"This medical outreach is quite extensive," Chakos explained. "We bring doctors in from the United States, and they come in to offer medical services, because people in these villages that we serve have relatively little access to medical care professionals."

Manuel dreams of what could be done with more help. "I would like to see it so that this first batch of 10 seminarians multiplies to 50," Manuel said. He also hopes the community will be able to set up more educational institutions and medical clinics as they spread.

But most of all, he believes his job is to help them become self-sufficient communities who can chart their own spiritual path within the Orthodox Church without outside help.

Though Manuel has come from a foreign land to build churches, "the real missionaries," he said, "are the five Indigenous priests, the seminarians and all the people for whom this is their country, this is their home."

Thank you to everyone who donated and walked during the Walk for Missions. Over \$10,000 was raised for the mission work in Guatemala.

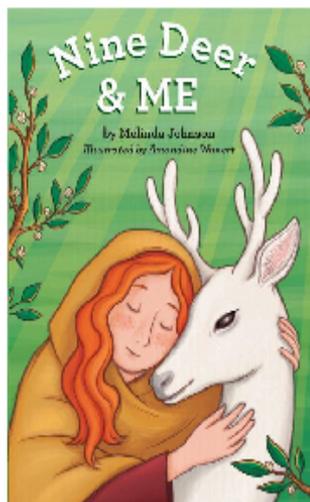


Lunch and fellowship capped off the beautiful afternoon!



HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE

FEATURED BOOKS OF THE MONTH

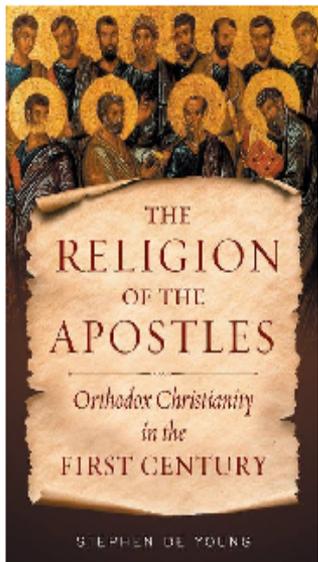


NINE DEER AND ME

Abigail is happy on the island of Inisheer, but God has other plans for her! An angel asks Abigail to search for nine white deer in the woods across the sea. When she finds them, Abigail will also find the place where God wants her to be. Journey with Abigail as she listens to ONE angel, sails with TWO fishermen, finds THREE deer, then SIX, then more! Count with Abigail all the way to her true home. Saint Abigail lived in Ireland in the early sixth century. This charming board book is appropriate for ages 1 to 5 years.

THE RELIGION OF THE APOSTLES: ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Father Dr. Stephen De Young traces the lineage of Orthodox Christianity back to the faith and witness of the apostles, which was rooted in a first-century Jewish worldview. *The Religion of the Apostles* presents the Orthodox Christian Church of today as a continuation of the religious life of the apostles, which in turn was a continuation of the life of the people of God since the beginning of creation.



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

Paraclesis Service to Saint Nektarios

Monday, November 8, 2021 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.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

General Assembly

Sunday, November 21, 2021



To receive email updates
from Holy Cross,
please send
your email address to
holycrosspittsburgh@mail.goarch.org
to be added.

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