

# HOLY CROSS CROSSROADS



Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

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

It is always a challenge to leave the Paschal joy and liturgical celebration and return to a more “regular or subdued” form of worship. The joy of the Resurrection continues to shape who we are and what we do as Christians, yet now its pronouncement is not at forefront of our greetings and liturgical responses. In the month of June we experience the Lord’s Ascension on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Pascha, and also the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Lord’s Resurrection. Their significance should not be lost, even though one of the feasts falls during the week.

The Lord’s Ascension to the Throne of God is an unbelievable moment. Through the ascent of our Lord, our humanity is forever united to the Godhead. We have the potential and the calling to ascend into the depths of the Divinity of God. St. Athanasius said it so well, “God became man so that man might become god.” We have the potential by God’s grace to become what God is by His very nature. The saints who demonstrated this on the way to perfection, in every generation, have shown us a path that can be followed.

*The following has been written by St. Nicholas Velimirovic:*

“After all that they (the disciples) had seen and learned, they could not keep their hearts and minds from the Lord who had

*Continued pg. 4 →*

# THE 2022 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS GUIDE

*It's a great tradition, and it's back again in full strength and in person: 38 days of Greek Festivals in the Pittsburgh region, so plan well and you can eat Greek all summer! Post this schedule on your refrigerator and share copies with others. We look forward to seeing you!*

## LOCATION

## DATES

- ☐ St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh/Oakland) ..... May 1-7
- ☐ All Saints (Canonsburg) ..... June 6-10
- ☐ Holy Cross (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon) ..... June 14-17
- ☐ Kimisis Tis Theotokou (Aliquippa) ..... June 16-18
- ☐ Holy Dormition (Oakmont) ..... June 24-26
- ☐ Holy Trinity (Ambridge) ..... July 12-16
- ☐ St. Spyridon (Monessen) ..... July 15
- ☐ Greek Day at Kennywood ..... July 19
- ☐ Presentation of Christ/Ypapanti (East Pgh.) ..... August 18-20
- ☐ St. George (New Castle) ..... August 27-28
- ☐ Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh/North Hills) ..... September 1-4

SEE BELOW FOR FESTIVAL HOURS & HOST PARISH WEB SITES. CHECK FOR UPDATES.

## THE 2022 PITTSBURGH SUMMER GREEK FESTIVALS: ALL THE DETAILS

Don't cook tonight...go Greek! Please pass copies on to your friends! Greek food is always enjoyed best with good company!

Parish	Dates	Address	Phone	Website	Hours
Saint Nicholas	May 1-7	419 S. Dithridge Street Pittsburgh (Oakland)	412-682-3866	<a href="http://www.StNicksPgh.org">www.StNicksPgh.org</a>	Sun: 12p-8p; Mon-Thu: 11a-9p; Fri-Sat: 11a-10p
All Saints	June 6-10	601 West McMurray Road Canonsburg	724-745-5205	<a href="http://www.AllSaintsCbg.org">www.AllSaintsCbg.org</a>	Mon-Fri: 11a-9p
Holy Cross	June 14-17	123 Gillespie Road Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)	412-833-3355	<a href="http://www.HolyCrossPgh.org">www.HolyCrossPgh.org</a>	Tue-Thu: 11a-8p Fri: 11a-9p
Kimisis Tis Theotokou	June 16-18	2111 Davidson Street Aliquippa	724-375-5341	<a href="http://www.Theotokou.org">www.Theotokou.org</a>	Thu-Sat: 11a-8p
Holy Dormition	June 24-26	12 Washington Avenue Oakmont	412-828-4144	<a href="http://www.DormitionPgh.org">www.DormitionPgh.org</a>	Fri-Sun: 12p-11p Dinner until 8pm
Holy Trinity (Ambridge)	July 12-16	2930 Beaver Road Ambridge	724-266-5336	<a href="http://www.htgoc.org">www.htgoc.org</a>	Tue-Sat: 11a-10p
Saint Spyridon	July 15	1207 Grand Boulevard Monessen	724-684-5411	<a href="http://stspyridon.pa.goarch.org">stspyridon.pa.goarch.org</a>	Fri: 11a-8p
Ypapanti (Presentation of Christ)	August 18-20	1672 Electric Avenue East Pittsburgh	412-824-9188	<a href="http://www.greekburgh.com">www.greekburgh.com</a>	Thu-Sat: 11a-9p
Saint George	August 27-28	315 W. Englewood Avenue New Castle	724-654-8521	<a href="http://www.stgeorgewcastle.org">www.stgeorgewcastle.org</a>	Sat-Sun: 11a-7p
Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh)	September 1-4	985 Providence Boulevard Pittsburgh (across from Passavant Hospital)	412-366-8700	<a href="http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org">www.HolyTrinityPgh.org</a>	Thu-Sun: 11a-9p

Thank you for enjoying our great Greek food and visiting our churches. Want to also help these communities feed, minister to and provide health care for the hungry and needy of the Hill District and the Pittsburgh area? Support the Neighbor Resilience Project by visiting [neighborhoodresilience.org](http://neighborhoodresilience.org), a philanthropic ministry united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions for poverty-and-trauma-affected communities in the Pittsburgh area.

This free guide is provided as a public service of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Pittsburgh). Online at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide).

# Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

*Crossroads, published monthly Volume 22 Issue 6*

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](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 Elias Diamond

Philoptochos Pres. Thea Manos (412) 600-8640

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 Sophia Alfaras (412) 251-3209

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 Janet Conomos (412) 831-7997  
Committee

## \*Services:

Sundays: 8:15am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Mondays: 6:30pm Paraclesis

Wednesdays: 7 pm Bible Study *via Zoom*

Weekdays: 8:30am Orthros

9:30am Divine Liturgy

Saturdays: Vespers 5pm

\*See monthly calendar for all services.

## Parish Council 2022

**Dean Stambolis,**

*President*

**Jordan Nicholas,**

*Vice President*

**Nicholas Tripodes,**

*Treasurer*

**Nicholas Chakos,**

*Financial Secretary*

**Constance Zotis,**

*Secretary*

**Christopher Chaney**

**Mark Hummel**

**Frank Kalogeris**

**Rachel Kartofilis**

**Bob Kirschner**

**Deno Pappas**

**Christine Picard**

**Bill Poutous**

**Donna Staub**

**Annie Urso**

## 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.



gone away from their sight, but who was, because of this (resurrection and ascension), even more firmly implanted in their souls. He dwelt in their hearts with power and glory, and they cried out in praise and blessing to the Lord. And so He was back with them sooner than they expected. He had not returned to be seen of their eyes, but rather had come to dwell in their souls. He did not, though come alone into their souls, but came with the Father, for the Lord had said of any who loved Him: "I and My Father will come unto him and make our abode with him" (John 14:23). It was necessary only for the Holy Spirit to come and make His abode in them for them to be perfected men, in which the image and likeness of the Triune God is renewed. On account of this, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples had to wait in Jerusalem. Ten days after His Ascension the power from on high (i.e. The Holy Spirit) sanctified the first Christian Church, never to leave Christ's Church to the present day, and until the end of time.

We praise and bless the Lord who, by His Ascension, opened our understanding to see the path and goal of our life. We praise and bless the Father, who responds to our love of the Son with His love, and makes His abode, together with the Son, in all who hold and confess the Lord's commandments. And we keep the Father and the Son constantly in mind, praising and blessing them – like the apostles in the city of Jerusalem – waiting for the power from on high: the Spirit, the Comforter, to come upon us. He who comes upon us all at our Baptism, but who leaves us because of our sins. May the whole primal, heavenly man be renewed in us. May we, like the apostles, be made worthy to receive the blessing of our glorified and ascended Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and praise together with the Father and the Holy Spirit – the Trinity consubstantial and undivided, now and forever, through all time and all eternity. Amen."

As we enter into the summer, let us give thanks for all of our graduates, high school and college, who have achieved a measure of knowledge and wisdom. We congratulate their families



who have supported and sustained them in this time of study. We pray for their guidance by the Holy Spirit and that the Lord will lead them into a proper vocation for their salvation and for the benefit of all.

We are grateful that our camp sessions have returned in full force. Please take advantage of sending your children and grandchildren to Church Camp. Scholarships are available! It is important to offer our youth experiences that will enhance and deepen their Orthodox Faith. Also, at the end of July (25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) our Vacation Church School will be in session. The theme for this year is "Parables". Please be generous with your time and talents, we look forward to seeing everyone. There is always a place for you!

Finally, we are approaching our Food Festival (June 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>). This is a tremendous effort of love and philoxenia! We need you!!! "Many hands make light the work." It is an opportunity to enjoy one another's fellowship while serving our Church and the greater Pittsburgh Community as we welcome them into our spiritual home.

**I look forward to seeing all of you and  
I thank you for all that you do, it is appreciated!**

With much love, joy, and peace in the Ascended Christ,  
Fr. Michael

An excerpt from "The Way of the Spirit"  
by the Elder Aimilianos of Mt. Athos

Holy Week, the celebration of which we have just completed, is surely the most beautiful time in the entire ecclesiastical year. Who could deny the splendor and magnificence of our feasts? They are God's own feasts, and make our hearts' rejoice in Jesus Christ. Although Holy Week has now come and gone, the hymns of the Passion continue to resound within our ears, mingling with the cries of our heart, which we offer up to the Risen Lord.

*(continued next page→)*

Each of us, to greater or lesser extent, celebrated those feasts and took something from them. What did we take? To this question, each of us will have a different answer, because even though the Church is a unity, it is a unity of distinct personalities. It is an assembly of persons, each one of them whole and complete, standing before God, and not an anonymous, undifferentiated mass. Thus it is entirely possible for all of us to be gathered together in church, to be standing next to each other and chanting in unison, but for each of us to get something different out of the experience. What each of us receives is known only to that person, only to the spirit of the man, which is in him, as well as to God the Spirit. Who searches the depths of our own spirit. (I Cor. 2:10-11).

What then did we receive? In the first place, we received what we prepared ourselves to receive. Whatever food you've prepared, that is what you will eat. Whatever bed you have made, that is the one you are going to lie on. Whatever you have sown in your field, that is what you will reap. Throughout the liturgical year, then, we receive what we have prepared ourselves to receive. God will not bring something to fruition that we have not had a hand in cultivating; and what we cultivate, that which we expect to bear fruit, grows directly from the seeds we have sown within ourselves. Consequently, we will get whatever it is our heart has prepared for itself. One person will get God; another will be moved by the chanting; another will gain a few insights; someone else the kingdom of heaven. Each will receive whatever it is he desired. In each instance, the preparation of the heart is fundamental. One person cultivates the wind and reaps nothing. Another prepares to receive the Holy Spirit. It all depends.

We also receive, not simply what we have prepared ourselves to receive, but what we are capable of receiving; what we are able to contain within ourselves. He who receives is the one who is able to contain what he receives within himself (Mt.19:12). We receive then whatever we are capable of understanding; in proportion to the idea of God that we have. For example, I receive Holy Communion, and so do you, and so does somebody else. But each of us perceives the sacred gifts differently; each of us has a greater or lesser understanding of them, and thus we receive them in a manner that is distinctive to each. Our understanding of something is part of the way we experience it, and it cannot be separated from it, so much so that the experience of God and His kingdom is a form of under-

standing, for it is the experience of true knowledge (Jn.8:32, Lk.1:77, I Cor.1:5) the more you learn to cultivate within yourself the knowledge of God, the more you can receive Him in the fullness of His truth and perfection. As we said, each of us receives Him according to the capacities of our heart, mind, and will. We are all drawing from the same well, but we drink different water, depending on our thirst. Our capacity of God depends very much on the simplicity of our hearts, on the purity of our nights, on our spiritual reading and meditation, and on the degree to which we empty ourselves. It depends on our self-emptying; a kenosis of our substance and being (Phil 2:7). This is a great mystery of human freedom, which God never violates. We are filled to the degree that we are empty, to the degree that we voluntarily make room within ourselves for God. This is why we say, "You receive as much as you can contain."

We also receive according to the measure that we have loved. Such love is closely linked to the depths of our being, to our experience of pain and suffering, which reveal the depth of our love. If we are unwilling to suffer, we will not be able to love. Such love is also linked to the flight of the soul, to the distance it keeps from the world, which is also a kind of suffering, because it wants to ascend to God, since it has no peace apart from God's love, by which it is crowned and united to God. It follows, then, that the closer you are to God, the more you love Him. Our love for God is union with God, because it results from a certain kind of knowledge. Knowledge of God is acquired by participation in God, by making our existence an eating and drinking of God, an active communion in His life. The more our existence has been leavened by God, the more we love Him. The more we love Him, the more we receive from Him.

So the more we have prepared, the more room we have made, the more we have suffered, the more we have loved, the more we have cried aloud – wept and lamented without restraint – the more we will have received God Himself. Needless to say, all this remains hidden behind a cheerful countenance, beneath a smile, beneath the depths of true joy, beneath an entire life that witnesses to God by its tranquility, love, and truth, because we know that, no matter what happens, God for us is everything.

## CLERGY DINNER @ KAHLIL'S



## PRESVYTERA MARY MONIOS VISITS HOLY CROSS WITH HER DAUGHTER ATHENA



# ST. PHOTIOS AWARD RECIPIENTS

## TOM AND KATHY FROMMEYER



### SACRAMENTS

#### Baptisms

April 10 ~ Daniel, son of James and Laurie (Jacob) Griffith.  
Godfather is Theodore Georgiadis.

May 7 ~ William Christopher III, son of William and Kellie Rae  
(Santoline) Passodelis. Godmother is Katina Fanelli.

May 21 ~ Olympia Agapi. Daughter of Nicholas and Panagiota  
(Govas) D'Ardenne. Godmother is Irene Frantzis.

#### Chrismations

April 23 ~ John Klimko. Sponsor is Tom Frommeyer.

April 23 ~ Shelia Klimko. Sponsor is Kathy Frommeyer.

#### Marriages

May 21 — Andrew Jones and Elena Avlon Szymanowski.  
Koumbara is Stephanie Foltz.



# HOLY CROSS FOOD FESTIVAL JUNE 14-JUNE 17, 2022

## CALL AND SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY!!!

### OPA!!!

PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW TO SIGN UP FOR A SHIFT:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49ADAF22A0FBC34-holy>  
or Demetrios Mustakas [demetrios.holycross@gmail.com](mailto:demetrios.holycross@gmail.com) 305 606-5627

FOLLOW THE FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/PittsburghGreekFestival>

TUESDAY, JUNE 14 - THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

11:00AM-8:00PM ALL DAY

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 11:00AM-9:00PM ALL DAY

### June 14-17 Main Food Line chairpersons and Prep Room

OPENING 11:00AM and CLOSING, 8:00PM Tuesday-Thursday, June 14-16

OPENING 11:00AM and CLOSING, 9:00PM Friday, June 17

Much help is needed on the Main Food lines.

Lunch time duties are 11AM - 4PM. Dinner food line duties are 4-8 PM and 4-9 PM on Friday. Please contact a chairperson to donate your time: June 14,15,16,17. If you cannot commit to a full shift, please let the chairperson know what times are convenient for you, for example, 11AM- 2PM, or 5-8PM OR an ENTIRE SHIFT. Any time is appreciated! One Line is open from 2-4PM if you wish to work a lighter attended shift.

Tuesday, June 14, Lunch - Joan Zacharias, Cell 412 996-1674 or [joanandjohnz@gmail.com](mailto:joanandjohnz@gmail.com)

Tuesday, June 14, Dinner - Joan Zacharias, Contact info above

Wednesday, June 15, Lunch - Elaine Sofis, Home, 412 344-7046 or [esofis@comcast.net](mailto:esofis@comcast.net)

Wednesday, June 15, Dinner - Terpsie Katsafanas, Cell, 412 310-3851, Home, 412 831-2248 or

Thursday, June 16, Lunch - Terpsie Katsafanas, [tkatsafanas@comcast.net](mailto:tkatsafanas@comcast.net)

Thursday, June 16, Dinner - Elaine Sofis, Contact info above

Friday, June 17, Lunch - Terpsie Katsafanas, Contact info above

Friday, June 17, Dinner- Elaine Sofis, Contact info above

Food Line runners are needed for lunch and dinner hours. Please contact Elaine Sofis of your availability. [esofis@comcast.net](mailto:esofis@comcast.net) or Home 412 344-7046 Help is needed in the prep room anytime from 9:30AM to CLOSING to prepare salads and to cup tzatziki sauce, June 14-17.

Please contact Adrienne Dickos at Cell 412 400-4290 or [adickos@verizon.net](mailto:adickos@verizon.net)

Please volunteer anytime at your convenience!

Please volunteer. Your time is valued and truly appreciated!

Elaine Sofis, Home 412 344-7046 or [esofis@comcast.net](mailto:esofis@comcast.net)

Main Food Line Chairperson

# EXTRA EXTRA...FESTIVAL NEWS FROM DEMETRIOS

## "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK"

The festival is not only about food preparation but there is set-up and breakdown that is even more important. I will be having tents, tables and chairs delivered early morning Friday 6/10. The remote walk-in cooler and Ice Chest will also be delivered that morning.

We need everything set up & ready to go by Sunday the 12th so that we will only have to tweak & troubleshoot on that Monday before the Festival. Breakdowns must be completed by Sunday 6/19.

### PRE FESTIVAL SET-UP and POST FESTIVAL BREAKDOWNS

#### EVERYONE NEEDS TO HELP !

Please contact me directly to head up these projects and draft your teams to assist.

[Demetrios.holycross@gmail.com](mailto:Demetrios.holycross@gmail.com) 305 606-5627

#### Community Center Set-Up Sat and Sun 6/11-12

Move stage to under the basket

Break stage down into a smaller platform

Set up tables and chairs

Set up bar into corner of room

Fill refrigerator with water and soda

Set up bar in carpeted area

Fill refrigerator with water and soda

Set up tables and chairs into the carpeted area

#### Food line and Bakery line Sunday 6/11

Set up tables for bakery

Set up 2 food lines and warmers

Set up a bagging station

Set up POS tables

#### Drive Thru Set Up CC entrance Sat 6/11

2 Warming cabinets

Worktables 18ft and 2 6 foot

2 Warmers

Pos Station/Bagging station

#### Veranda Set Up Fri and Sat 6/10-11

Set up tables and chairs under tent

Set up bar and 2 tables

Fill Refrigerators with water and soda

#### Outside Tent Food Line Set-Up Fri and Sat 6/10-11

Set Up Booths and tables under tents

From front of church back

Souvlaki/Lamb Chops

Gyros/Loukanaki

Fryers

Baked Goods

Loukoumathes

Set up warmers, Fryers, Char Grills and Flat top

Place refrigerators

Place Cabinet Freezer

#### Breakdown Sat and Sun 6/18-19

#### Breakdown Sat 6/18

#### Breakdown Sat 6/18

#### Breakdown Sat 6/18

#### Breakdown Sat -Sun 6/18-19



People tend to be fascinated by things that are mysterious. I'm thinking of things like the Sphinx of Giza, or the ruins of Stonehenge, things that are remnants of a world long past. We see things like this, and our minds try to fill in the blanks of what we don't know, to make sense of the awe-inspiring traces that are left behind. That's what the feeling is like walking into the Church during Bright Week, especially if you missed the midnight Anastasi service. You get the sense that something tremendous happened here – the doors are open, flowers are strewn everywhere, the altar, the icon stands, all are arrayed in white. But unlike the ominous speculations that surround a place like Stonehenge, walking into the Church during Bright Week, brings a sense of peace – even if we didn't know what happened, we would get the sense it was something very, very good.

This first Sunday after Pascha is focused on someone else trying to make sense of what happened in the aftermath of Christ's Resurrection, that is, the Apostle Thomas. People often refer to him as “doubting Thomas” because even when all the other Apostles had seen Christ Resurrected and testified to Thomas what they had seen, Thomas nonetheless doubted, saying, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.” The Apostle Thomas's narrative in the Gospel of John speaks to us today, as our age is one obsessed with facts, with evidence, with objectivity.

Thomas doesn't want hearsay – Thomas wants proof. And the Lord gives him the proof he seeks. Christ comes to the Apostles, when their doors are closed, meaning He in His Resurrected state passed through physical matter to enter into the company of Apostles. He invites Thomas to place his hand into the wound into his side, so that Thomas, might not be faithless, but rather, believing. In many depictions of this event, we see Thomas reaching his hand towards the wound in our Lord's side, to test if it is indeed Him and not some phantom. However, the Gospel passage itself, doesn't mention whether or not Thomas actually touches the wound, but rather, Christ's injunction to his Apostle to be believing is immediately followed by Thomas's exclamation of “My Lord and my God!”, simultaneously showing Thomas's movement from doubt towards belief, while also being an acknowledgement of the fact that Jesus Christ indeed is God.

For those of us who are religious, we tend to think of this thing we call “doubt” as a purely negative phenomenon. Yet, just as it is difficult to conceive of light without darkness in contrast, or to conceive of happiness without sorrow, so too is faith difficult to grasp without some understanding of doubt. Thomas may have doubted, yes, but Thomas was *honest*, and lest we dismiss him for his doubts, perhaps first we should take a step back and consider that the claim that a man could rise from the dead would have seemed to Thomas improbable at best and impossible at worse. Certainly, some had risen from the dead before – in the Old Testament, Elijah and Elisha were able to raise young boys through their prayers, and Christ Himself, while alive, had raised the departed to life, the thought that He could raise Himself to life again, after three days in the tomb would have seemed impossible.



Little did Thomas know that no corruption could descend on Christ, who as God was by nature incorruptible. Yet, one can see why Thomas doubted. To frame it in modern scientific language, we live in a Universe which, as many a physicist has observed, generally moves towards a state of entropy, or chaos, disorder, and disintegration. The flowers you plant will eventually wither, food in your cupboard will grow moldy, and your cell phone will eventually stop working, the last of which seems to be happening sooner and sooner these days. Although this movement towards disintegration is a tendency of the fallen world we live in, at the same time we must not forget that Christ is the *Logos* of God. The word *Logos* was in use amongst the Ancient Greeks even before the time of Christ, and among its numerous meanings was that of order, of divine order brought to the chaos of the world. And this is what Christ did and continues to do for our world which has fallen into chaos with the primal transgression of Adam and Eve – Christ restores, Christ brings order out of chaos, Christ brings life out of death. It is truly a wondrous thing, and for the sheer amazement of it all, it is also no wonder that Thomas may have doubted.

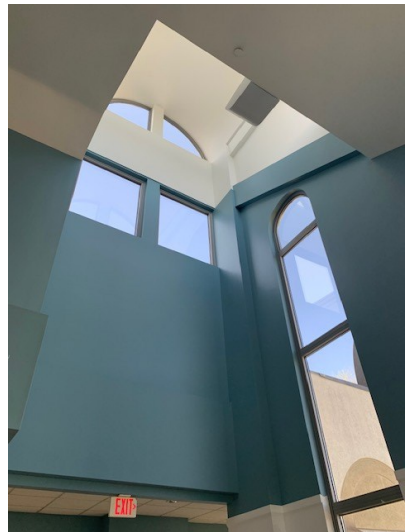
Yet, when Christ comes to meet Thomas, to invite him to touch the wound in His side and thus prove the objectivity of the Resurrection from the dead, Thomas's doubts are swayed. All of us at some point or another will likely struggle with doubt, to a greater or lesser degree. However, today's gospel passage should remind us of the Lord's love for all of us, even the doubters. He comes to Thomas, knowing exactly what Thomas needs in order to become believing. And while some of us may doubt, this is a reminder to us as well, that the real thing will stand, the real thing will provide its proof, if we are honest about our intent to seek. While we don't stand next to the physical form of the risen Lord like Thomas does, our tradition abounds in proofs, of healings, of miracles, of weeping icons and wonder-working relics, of changes of heart and of people finding peace in the most unfortunate circumstances.

Of course, we also must not forget that the Lord asks Thomas, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!" In our information age, where people are obsessed with facts and evidence, of trying fill in every gap and find every missing puzzle piece, we run the risk of exclusively equating believing with seeing. Certainly, we should not be ashamed if doubt should ever visit our minds. Doubt visited Thomas, and the Lord loved him nonetheless, and came to visit him, and provide Thomas with what he needed in that moment. And yet, we should not also forget that what we grasp with our senses is but a fraction of what actually is. One of my favorite books is a children's book called *The Little Prince*, and I think now of one quote from it in particular: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye." As Christians, this should always be our goal – to see clearly with our heart's eyes. And this week, with the light that has filled the world, the light that pours out from the empty tomb, perhaps with Thomas, our heart's eyes can see a bit clearer than they once could before.

*Sermon by Elias Diamond ~ Thomas*

# COMMUNITY CENTER GETS A NEW FACE

Painting of the walls, ceiling and door frames has been completed as Phase I of our Community Center facelift. Painting was awarded to MasterBrush Painting Co. following an extensive bid and negotiation process involving ten recommended contractors, coordinated by John Conomos and Bill Poutous of the Building Committee. Other phases planned for the near future include, carpet replacement, lobby door refinishing and hardware replacement, lighting upgrades, and new furnishings. Restrooms are also on the docket to be renovated, following our Food Festival and Summer School. Design work was provided and donated by Andrea Babb's organization, Babb and Mack Design Co. The Design Committee, including Janet Conomos, Eva Elderkin and Tessie Kucherauw, requested, selected and approved all finishes and decorating.



## COMMUNITY CENTER COOLER GETS NEW FLOORING AND SHELVING

New ¼" diamond plated aluminum flooring was recently installed in the two cooler units in the Community Center. The original 25 year-old flooring had deteriorated and was warping, causing a tripping hazard. The new flooring minimizes slipping. The flooring was awarded to Cameron Property Solutions, Inc., following a bid process, coordinated by Bill Poutous, Building Committee member. Much of the existing shelving was rusting and bowing, requiring it to be replaced with new green shelving, all in time for our June Food Festival. Thanks to Jim Mustakas, Tom Frommeyer and John Klimko for obtaining new shelving pricing, pressure washing and re-paring the old shelving, and assembling all the cooler shelving to be more efficient and accommodating our food service needs. It took much effort on the part of these parishioners.



*Sermon by Elias Diamond ~ Sunday of the Paralytic*

In today's Gospel reading, Christ cures a man from paralysis, an affliction which he has suffered with for 38 years. It is an example of the Lord's mercy and love for humanity, but also an example of the man's steadfast patience, as he waited all those years for a Messiah, a Savior to cure his ailment. However, the story ends with a detail which may seem odd at first – the man, having been cured, takes up his bed and carries it with him as he walks away. Why would the man carry this bed with him, a symbol of the affliction with which he had been cured? Why would he hold onto this object which was stained with the filth which comes with being frozen in one spot for years? The answer, I believe, is actually a fundamental truth of the Christian life.

A few weeks ago, on Thomas Sunday, we heard of Thomas's refusal to believe unless he could see the wounds of Christ and even touch them. When Thomas does see the Risen Lord in the flesh, he is overcome by the sight of death's wounds upon the flesh of the Living God. Those wounds of Christ bear witness to His victory over the forces of Hades. So too does this paralytic, having been cured, pick up his bed of affliction as a witness to the world. The bed which once bound him is now carried by one who once lay powerless upon it, one whose power to walk again has been given to him by Christ Jesus.

We all face challenges in life, and all our challenges come in various forms from person to person. Whatever those challenges may be, they are an opportunity to turn to Christ in faith and love and to beseech Him for intercession, just as the paralyzed man did. Sometimes, it may take a long time and much patience before we hear an answer – this paralytic suffered his affliction 38 years before help came! Yet, when the Lord does grant us aid, when the Lord does help us overcome our challenges, we should not be shy about it, we should not hide the scars of what was once an open wound. We should, at the risk of sounding a bit too "Southern Baptisty", "Testify!!!" We should testify that the Lord is good, that Christ has helped us overcome our maladies, we should carry our own bed of affliction as a witness to the power of God.

The word "martyr" has become so commonly used in the English language that we often forget what it literally means – the word itself in Greek means "witness." Those who the Church venerates as martyrs, those who died for their faith, were just that, they were witnesses to the power of God, because even in the face of death and suffering, they could show inner peace through their faith in God, and that was a sign to the rest of the world of the power of God. Yet, one does not have to be exactly like these martyrs to be a witness of faith. The paralytic man carried his bed as a witness of the mercy of the Lord. Saint Mary of Egypt, after years of lust and debauchery, became a martyr by a radical shift in her life towards repentance, and like the paralyzed man carrying his bed, her honest testimonial of the way her life used to be makes her final state all the more powerful because she didn't hide away the spiritual challenges she once faced.

*(continued →)*

## Circle of Angels - Pascha Outreach



Dear Parishioners,

We are very grateful for your generosity in baking koulourakia, paximadia, assorted cookies, Easter bread and candies for the Pascha baskets. Our shut-ins express their sincere thank you to all. Thank you Elias for having the Sunday school children create beautiful Christos Anesti greeting cards. Thank you to all our Angels and Holy Cross families for your generosity and support.

Christos Anesti, Carol and Christine

**Adult and teen volunteers needed for  
Vacation Church Schools!!!**



July 25-29, 2022

**Adults:** We need Teachers for every grade level.

We need a Chairperson for each of these areas:

- ♥ Recreation
- ♥ Music

**Teen** assistants to help in classrooms as well as areas listed above.

Please contact Elias Diamond at

724.413.7427 or [ediamondhcopgh@gmail.com](mailto:ediamondhcopgh@gmail.com) to volunteer

in any of the listed areas!

**THANK YOU** in advance!

In other words, the light we share will seem ever brighter if we are honest about the darkness which the Lord has helped us overcome. A writer I like a lot wrote something to the effect of this: when the wounds we have are cleansed, those wounds become the point of contact with the divine. A phrase like that immediately evokes images of the wounds in Christ's hands, feet, and side, wounds which once pointed the way towards death, and yet, when seen on the body of the Living God, show just how mighty our God is. Whatever challenges we may face today, like the paralyzed man, we should all strive to persist with patience as we wait for the Lord, and should the Lord grant us the cure we seek, let us then carry away the bed of our affliction with joy, so that we may be God's witness to the world.

# Landscaping Committee UPDATE

Your Landscaping Committee has been busy over the last 2 months on several fronts towards commencement of our Phase 1 revitalization and beautification -- planting and landscaping (as reported in our last notice in the May 'CrossRoads').

Phase 1 includes the lower curb portion of our property, proceeding up the serpentine drive to the first parking lot. (3 areas along driveway)

As you know, a new sign (designated costs donated by a parishioner) is to be installed very soon. Phase 1 incorporates the sign and its set off pad as well, along with the curb portions of our frontage.

Construction drawings and planting and grading descriptions have been completed by the Landscape Architect Firm, Laquatra Bonci, and our committee met with them to go over all the drawings as well as budgeting of anticipated costs. You will recall this Firm completed the detailed Master Plan for our entire Campus surrounding the Church and Hall. Approval by the Committee on the drawings and specs occurred on May 18th.

These Construction Drawings were necessary for several reasons:

- 1) To ensure the end result and give detail to any bidding landscape contractor;
- 2) To apply for grants, and to Foundations for financial aid, i.e., grants and/or possible plant and tree donations, which require exact plant lists and specs.
- 3) To ensure consistency in application throughout all Phases, as well as to meet key objectives -- aesthetics, color over seasons, low maintenance and utilization of species native to PA (which in addition to life, seasons and appearance, gives more possibilities for grant aid).

Great attention has been given to budget and costs! (...a valued tradition on all of our Capital improvements here at Holy Cross!)





# Holy Cross

SUN

MON

Tue

*Coffee Hours are back!  
Please call the church office to  
volunteer to sponsor and host one!*



*5 Fathers of the First  
Ecumenical Council  
8:15am Orthros  
9:30am Divine Liturgy*

**Graduate Sunday**

6

6:30pm Paraclesis

7

*12 Holy Pentecost  
8:15am Orthros  
9:30am Divine Liturgy*

*No Memorials*

FESTIVAL SET-UP

*13 Monday of the Holy Spirit  
8:30am Orthros  
9:30am Divine Liturgy  
@Holy Trinity, N. Hills*

14

50TH

*19 All Saints  
8:15am Orthros  
9:30am Divine Liturgy*

✻**Father's Day**✻

FESTIVAL BREAKDOWN

*20 Apostles Fast begins*

21

*26  
8:15am Orthros  
9:30am Divine Liturgy*

27

28



# June 2022

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Apodosis of PASCHA</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11am <i>Spanakopita</i> making  7pm Bible Study	<b>2 Holy Ascension</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11am <i>Spanakopita</i> making	<b>3</b> 11am <i>Spanakopita</i> making <i>(if needed)</i>	<b>4</b>    5pm Vespers
<b>8</b>    7pm Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11 Saturday of the Souls</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy  <div>FESTIVAL SET-UP</div> NO Vespers
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Apodosis of Pentecost</b>  <div>FESTIVAL BREAKDOWN</div> 5pm Vespers
ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL			
<div>No Fasting</div>		<div>No Fasting</div>	5pm Vespers
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Nativity of John The Baptist</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>25</b>   5pm Vespers
<b>29 Apostles Peter &amp; Paul</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy  10am-Noon First Steps	<b>30 Synaxis of the Apostles</b> 8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy	<b>1 July</b>	<b>2</b>

# HOLY WEEK





# HOLY WEEK





# HOLY WEEK



# HOLY WEEK





# PASCHA AGAPE MEAL



# High School Graduates 2022



*Anastacia Antonucci*, daughter of Chris & Sophia Antonucci, graduated from Bethel Park High School and will be attending Penn State University to study Finance.



*Tyler Hartlep*, son of Greg & Dina Hartlep, has graduated from Seton LaSalle High School. Tyler will attend John Carroll University and will major in Creative Writing.



*Jordan Paul Nyisztor*, daughter of Dr. Maria Paul, is graduating from Mt. Lebanon Senior High School and attending Boston College to study Human Centered Engineering in the fall.



# College Graduates 2022

*Michael Bell*, son of Brent & Rhonda Bell, has graduated from Westminster College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Finance and plans to be a Financial Advisor for Continuum Capital Advisors.



*Alexandra Maria Chakos*, daughter of Nicholas & Heidi Chakos, has graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Health Service and a Minor in Health Administration.

*Constantine Kallaur*, son of Fr. Michael & Presvytera Eleni Kallaur has graduated from Westminster College Summa Cum Laude with all college honors with a Bachelor Arts in Film Studies and Media Production.



*Jonah C. Moore*, son of Frank & Monica Moore, is a graduate of University of Chicago with a BA Degree in Economics. He will be an Associate Analyst at Federated Hermes.





*Athena Pyros*, daughter of Kyrk & Kathy Pyros, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Masters degree in Education from Arizona State University, while completing her 2 year commitment as a middle school teacher for TFA. She plans to remain in Phoenix and work as an Educational Consultant for Scoot Education.

*Sabrina Tatalias*, daughter of Basil & Dina Tatalias is graduating from Point Park University with a Bachelors of Science in Information Technology and will be working as an Analyst at Bounteous.



## Post Graduate

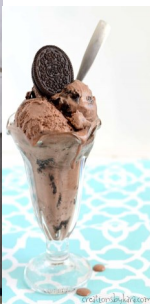


*Zachary E. Moore*, son of Frank & Monica Moore, is a graduate of University of Illinois-Chicago Law School with a Juris Doctor Degree and plans to work as an Assistant District Attorney.

*Fadi Youssef Addoum* has graduated from Tufts University as a Doctor of Dental Medicine.



# JOY ICE CREAM SOCIAL





# GOYA BONFIRE



# GOLDEN CLUB OUTING







# PHILOTOCHOS COMEDY NIGHT

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors and all who attended this night of laughter and dancing with Gus Constantellis and the Grecian Keys in support of our Holy Cross Philoptochos!







2022 *Orthodox Christian*  
***Vacation Church School***  
*at Holy Cross*

Bring your children to learn God's word at VCS!

VCS is dedicated to teaching our young children about Orthodox Christianity in a fun and exciting atmosphere. It is 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:



**Monday, July 25, 2022 thru Friday, July 29, 2022**  
**9:00 am to 12:00 Noon**

*\*Monday, July 25, children should arrive at 8:30 am*

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

2022 Registration Form - Please print.

Child's First & Last Name	Age on July 30	Grade Entering Fall 2022	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 25 - 29, 2022. 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\_\_\_\_\_

Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
**FAMILY CAMP**  
*Weekend*

Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA

**SEP. 16-18 2022**

*Save the Date!*

**REGISTRATION BEGINS JULY 1ST**



*Healthy Fun for Everyone*

All Ages / Families with Small Children  
Activities / Games / Bonfire / Hiking



*Family Lodging*

Families can stay together in clean, air-conditioned cabins with bathrooms.



*Worship & Learning*

Keynote discussion: "One Another" /  
Break-out Groups / Chapel Services /  
Confessions Offered



*Limited  
Space  
Available!*

Keynote Speaker: Alex Corkos  
Marriage & Family Therapist, MA, LMFT



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MONDAY OCTOBER 3RD 2022**

**THE 8TH ANNUAL  
HOLY CROSS GOLF OUTING**

**SOUTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

# Saturday of the Souls

June 11, 2022

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**

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**2022**



**JUNE 14-17**  
**TUES-THURS 11AM - 8PM**  
**FRIDAY 11AM - 9PM**