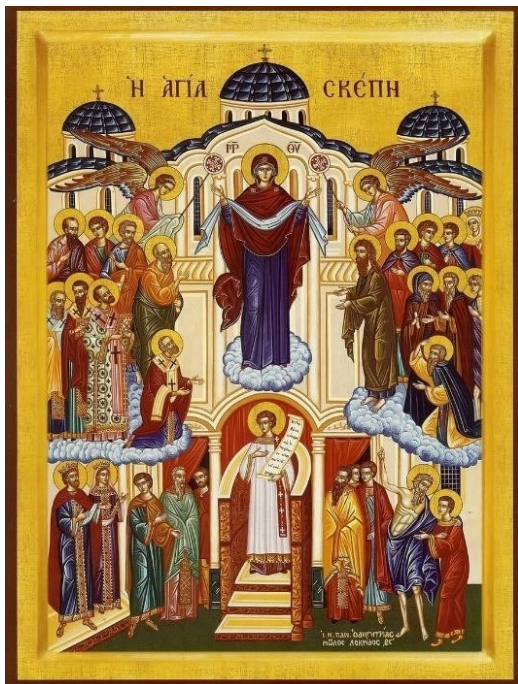


# HOLY CROSS CROSSROADS



Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Cross,  
**Christ is in our midst!**

The month of October begins with the celebration of the Feast, The Holy Protecting Veil of the Most Holy Mother of God. It is a commemoration of an event that took place in the year 911, in the city of Constantinople, in the Church at Blachernae. St. Andrew the fool for Christ was with his disciple Epiphanius at the church for a vigil service. At four o'clock in the morning, the



OCTOBER 2023

Continued pg. 4 →



# PHILOPTOCHOS AUTUMN FOOD FAIR

and

YiaYia Joan's Treasures & Market

at

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Community Center

123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon

(across from the Galleria)

Wednesday, October 4 &  
Thursday, October 5, 2023

11:30 am – 7:00 pm

Featuring GREEK favorites including Moussaka, Tiropita, Spanakopita, Pastitsio, Gyros,  
Chicken Rolls, rice pudding, soups and much more!

Bake Sale featuring delicious Greek pastries, pies, cakes, cookies and a variety of breads.

Inside seating...so come rain or shine! Elevator available!!

**NO PHONE OR ONLINE ORDERING**

All proceeds benefit the philanthropic efforts of the

Holy Cross Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Cash or Credit Cards accepted.



# Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

*Crossroads, published monthly Volume 23 Issue 10*

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, Presiding Priest**

**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

**\*Services:**

Sundays:	8:15am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Mondays:	6:30pm Paraclesis
Wednesdays:	7 pm Bible Study and <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) 600-8640
Phil. Membership	Adrienne Dickos	(412) 833-4980
Circle of Angels	Carol Halkias	(412) 276-5002
	Christine Peters	(724) 693-9290
	Dina Hartlep	(412) 720-9383
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		
First Steps	Sophia Alfaras-Melainis	(412) 251-3209
JOY	Elias Diamond	(412)413-7427
Young Adults	Elias Diamond	(412)413-7427
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.	Michael N. Zervos	(412) 833-6843
Sts. Mary & Martha	Adrienne Dickos	(412) 833-4980
Interior Design Committee	Janet Conomos	(412) 831-7997

**Parish Council 2023**

- Constance Zotis, President  
 Jordan Nicholas, Vice President  
 Nicholas Tripodes, Treasurer  
 Jim Mustakas, Financial Secretary  
 Rachel Kartofilis, Secretary  
 Nick Ambeliotis  
 Christopher Chaney  
 Mark Hummel  
 Frank Kalogeris  
 George Liadis  
 Tom Mourtaeos  
 Christine Picard  
 Dean Stambolis  
 Donna Staub  
 Annie Urso

**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



**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). For **Kollyva**, you may bring your own or contact Denise Melis directly (412) 341-9264.



Mother of God appeared above the people gathered for prayer and spread her veil over the congregation with her outstretched arms. She was dressed in a long purple and gold garment and surrounded by the apostles, saints, martyrs, and virgins. St. Andrew commented to Epiphanius, “Do you see how the Queen and Lady of all is praying for the whole world?” Epiphanius responded, “Yes father, I see it and I stand in awe.”

This important feast reminds us that our God is a transcendent God. He is not far away or dis-interested in our lives. When we call upon Him, He is in our midst. His Holy Mother, the saints, and our departed loved ones are also close at hand. We tend to think of them as being gone, but yet, they are very much alive in Christ and are not far away. On the contrary, they are very close to us and encouraging us to live our lives as holy people. Many are testimonies of this reality!

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, we commemorate the memory of the Holy Martyr Longinus. St. Matthew the Evangelist records, “Now when the centurion and they that were with him, watching Jesus (on the Cross), saw the earthquake and the things that were done, they feared greatly saying, ‘Truly this was the Son of God.’ (Mat. 27:54). That centurion was this blessed Longinus, who, with two other soldiers, came to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. Longinus was the officer in charge both at Lord’s crucifixion on Golgotha and on the watch that guarded the tomb. When the Jewish elders learned of Christ’s Resurrection, they bribed the soldiers to spread rumors that Christ had not risen, but that His disciples



had stolen His body. The Jews tried to bribe Longinus also, but without success. Because Longinus would not accept the bribes, the Jews sought to kill him. Discovering this, Longinus took off his military belt, received baptism from the apostles and together with his two other soldiers secretly left Jerusalem and went to Cappadocia. There Longinus lived a Christian life of prayer, fasting, and as a living witness to the Resurrection of Christ. By his personal testimony many pagans received the true Faith and became Christians. Longinus' family had property in a village outside of Cappadocia. When his whereabouts became known to the Jews who were looking for him, the Jews convinced Pilate to send soldiers and kill him. Foreseeing his death, Longinus, received the soldiers who were sent to kill him, without revealing his identity to them. Longinus gave them food and place to stay overnight. During the night, while the soldiers slept, Longinus prayed and prepared for his death. In the morning, Longinus went to his two friends and told them about their impending martyrdom. Longinus dressed himself in white grave clothes and showed his family where to bury his body. Longinus then revealed himself to the soldiers to whom he had provided hospitality. The soldiers were embarrassed and ashamed and would not think of beheading Longinus. Longinus knew that if they did not carry out their orders, the soldiers' lives would be in jeopardy. Longinus and his two friends were beheaded. Longinus' head was taken by the soldiers to Pilate. Pilate gave the head of Longinus to the Jews who discarded the head on a garbage pile outside of the city.

For many years the story of Longinus and his martyrdom had vanished from memory. A widow from Cappadocia became blind. Doctors were unable to help her and told her that her condition was permanent. The idea came to her, that if she were to travel to Jerusalem and visit the holy places, she might receive a miracle and her sight might be restored. She asked her son to accompany her to the ho-

ly land as she needed assistance and a guide. As soon as she arrived in Jerusalem, her son became ill and died. The grief of the blind mother was inconsolable. She had lost her eyesight and now she had lost her son, whose eyes had guided her until that time. In her grief and pain, St. Longinus appeared to her and comforted her with the promise that he would restore both her sight and show her, her son, in heavenly glory. St. Longinus told her about himself, then told her to go outside the walls of the city to the largest garbage heap and dig up his head, and then she would see what would happen next. The woman got someone to guide her to the garbage dump outside the city and leave her there. With a strong faith and determined will she began to dig and dig and found with her hands the skull of the martyr Longinus. Immediately she received her physical sight and rejoiced with great joy and thanksgiving to God. She took the skull of the saint, washed it, fumigated it, and kept it as the most precious relic in all the world.

The following night, St. Longinus appeared to the widow, bathed in a glorious light and holding her son by the hand. Her son was also in shining garments. Caressing the child like a father, St. Longinus said to the widow, 'See woman the son for whom you were shedding so many tears! Look at the honour and glory that are his! Look and be comforted, for God has raised him up into that heavenly company and he will never be separated from me. Take my head and your son's body and bury them in one coffin and then mourn no longer for your son, let not your heart be troubled, for God has given him great glory and endless rejoicing.' Seeing and hearing all this, the woman was filled with great joy and returned to her home in Cappadocia. She proclaimed, 'I asked for bodily sight, and have been given spiritual sight, also. I was in grief for the death of my son, and now I have him in heaven, where he stands in glory with the prophets and rejoices unceasingly with them.'

(From the *Prologue Vol.IV*, pgs. 72,78 – St. Nikolai Velimirovic)

Whether 100 years or 900 years after the saints lived in this world, time does not exist when you are alive in Christ. At the Transfiguration of our Lord, we see Moses and Elijah alive and conversing with Jesus on Mt. Tabor. Thousands of years separate these lives, yet they are united in a moment in Christ. My brothers and sisters, we live in a time and in a place for a specific purpose. God has called us to be here to fulfill His purposes for our salvation and for those around us. We must share the blessings of our Faith. As we acquire the “mindset” of the Church through our devotion to God, the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ (united to Him in Holy Communion), Holy Confession (a sincere repentance for all of our sins) & the sacraments, the reading of the Holy Scripture, learning about the lives of the saints, and our loved ones who have helped shape our faith through their witness and continual prayers, all of these things help us and strengthen our Faith and bring us to an awareness of God in our midst. God is present when we desire to know and commune with Him. The Holy Spirit comes to us and we pray “O Heavenly King, The Comforter, The Spirit of Truth, who is everywhere present and filling all things, treasury of blessings and the giver of life. Come and dwell in us, cleanse us from our sins, and save our souls, O Good One.”

This unity in God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a reflection of the love that we are called to have with one another. This “Christ-like” love (agape) is a sacrificial love that is willing to forgive, reconcile, suffer through, endure, and redeem. Our spouses, children, family, friends, and even strangers are all sent to us to help us acquire this sacrificial love. As we continue our walk of Faith, let us remember that God is with us and those who have united themselves to Him are never far from us. I leave you with a beautiful prayer for unity from St. Sophrony of Essex (canonized in 2019).

*Continued pg. 8→*

## Fr Sophrony's Prayer for Unity

**LORD JESUS CHRIST, Thou, Lamb of God, who didst take upon Thyself the sin of the world, Who by Thine ascent to Golgotha didst redeem us from the curse of the Law and didst restore Thy fallen image; Who didst stretch Thy most pure hands on the Cross, gathering together in one the scattered children of God, and by the descent of the most Holy Spirit didst call all men to unity; THOU, THAT ART the brightness of the Father, before going forth to this great and sacred work for the salvation of the world, didst pray to Thy Father that all may be one, even as Thou art one with the Father and the Holy Spirit: do Thou grant even unto us the grace and wisdom each day to fulfil this commandment, and strengthen us to strive for that love, which Thou didst command of us, saying:**  
**"LOVE ONE ANOTHER, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU."**

**By Thy Holy Spirit give us the power to humble ourselves, one before the other, mindful that he who loveth the more doth humble himself the more. Teach us to pray for one another, in patience to bear one another's burdens, and unite us with the unbreakable bond of love in thy holy Name. Grant us to behold in our every brother and sister the image of Thine ineffable glory, and never to forget that our brother is our life. Yea, O Lord, Who hast gathered us together of Thy good providence, make us truly into one family, living with one heart, one will, a single love, as one man, according to Thy pre-eternal counsel for Adam the first-born. Fill our house with the spirit of Thy holy fear, and let the prayers of Thy Most Holy Mother, of Thy Forerunner John, and our hallowed Fathers Silouan and Seraphim overshadow it always, blessing and defending each one of them that dwell therein (Names), preserving us from pernicious thoughts, from unseemly words or impulses of the heart that might destroy peace and concord; that this house may be built on the rock of Thy Gospel commandments as a place of prayer, of sanctification and salvation, for ourselves and for all who visit us, our laboring and burdened brothers and sisters, that we may all find rest in Thee, our meek and lowly King, now and forever; world without end.**





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 251/2023

**Archepiscopal Encyclical**

**On the Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross**

September 14, 2023

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

*O most glorious wonder! Today the Cross Which bore the Most High is beheld exalted from the earth, as a cluster of grapes full of life.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, we celebrate the Universal Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross – the special Feast day of our Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. In its Exaltation, the hymns of the day call to mind that this Cross is no piece of dried and dead wood, but a living and vibrant source of spiritual refreshment. For the Cross is the Holy Trellis upon which the True Vine stretched forth as a divine cluster of grapes granting spiritual nourishment to the world. The Cross is the Sacred Arbor upon which our human nature was washed clean of sin and death by the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, as the Scripture says, “washed His robe in the blood of grapes” (Genesis 49:11).

This “blood of grapes” is a prophetic image of the Mystical Offering that we receive in every Divine Liturgy. Through our Lord’s grace and love for mankind, we partake of His Body and Blood through the ministrations of our clergy. They participate in His High Priesthood for this singular purpose – to bring that “cluster of grapes full of life” into the experience of the Faithful, so that we may be filled with the hope of eternal life.

Our beloved School is the place where our clergy are trained and prepared to make these offerings for the life of the world. Through the integration of knowledge and right (Orthodox) belief that they receive at Hellenic College and Holy Cross, they serve the Body of the Church in the preparation and distribution of the Mystical Supper, as well as in the many aspects of ministry that enliven our parishes. Therefore, let us offer all of our support and strengthen this most precious Institution of our Sacred Archdiocese, so that the Divine Cluster of Grapes may always be pressed and shared in all our communities, through the Power of the Holy and Lifegiving Cross.

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

# HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

presents the 9<sup>th</sup> annual

# MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023**

South Hills Country Club  
4305 Brownsville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236



## PRICING

\$225/golfer or \$900/foursome\*:  
Includes entry fee, green fee,  
lunch, and dinner

Dinner only, \$70/person

## SCRAMBLE FORMAT

Skills prizes:  
Mens/Seniors/Women

First place team prizes:  
Men/Women/Seniors/Mixed

## ORDER OF EVENTS

10 AM: Registration

10:30 AM: Sit-down lunch

12 PM: Shotgun start

5-6 PM: Cocktail reception  
(cash bar)

6 PM: Dinner/silent auction

*Driving range open all day*

## UNDERWRITER OPPORTUNITIES

\$500: Beverage, skill prize,  
driving range, putting green,  
printing, website, or  
live auction underwriter

\$750: Dessert underwriter

\$800: Golf gift bag underwriter

\$1,000: Lunch underwriter

\$1,250: Co-dinner underwriter

\$1,500: Golf cart underwriter

\$2,500: Dinner underwriter

For more information, please contact:  
Nick Gagianas, 724-312-1100 or Manny Politis, 412-759-4659

## PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

To pay & register by mail,  
mail this form with payment to:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
Att. Golf Outing  
123 Gilkeson Road,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Make checks payable to:  
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
*Please mark "Golf Outing"  
in the memo line*

Golfer name/s:

Phone:

Email:

To register and pay online,  
please visit:

[www.holycrosspgh.org](http://www.holycrosspgh.org)

Follow the link near the  
bottom of the page labeled  
"9th Annual Golf Outing"

*\*In case of inclement weather or  
unforeseen circumstances, golfers will be  
provided a pass for a future tee time.*

Thank you to ALL who helped to prepare chicken rolls, koulourakia, meatballs and dolmathes for the upcoming Food Fair!

Thank you to ALL who helped at the Philoptochos sponsored Feast Day Luncheon on September 14. It was a lovely event. Thank you to All who donated the delicious pastries and delectable fruit.

The Autumn Food Fair Menu is now online!

### **Philoptochos Autumn Food Fair, October 4 & 5, 11:30am-7pm**

\*Please contact Dena Yamalis, [dyamalis@comcast.net](mailto:dyamalis@comcast.net) or cell 412 589-2646 to donate your delicious pastries for the Autumn Food Fair, October 4 & 5, so that our pastry table is bountiful with your tasty pastries.

\*Your jewelry, book & handbag donations will be accepted NOW on the carpeted area of the community center. Thank you for your donations.

\*Please contact Pauline Kitchen cell, 412 491-2365 to help in setting up and tearing down the Yiayia Joan's Treasures and Market. Pauline needs volunteers! October 1-6.

\*Elaine Sofis, [esofis@comcast.net](mailto:esofis@comcast.net), or cell 412 327-7017 is in need of volunteers for the food lines on October 4 & 5 for lunch, 11am-3pm and dinner, 3pm-7pm. ANY of your time is appreciated!

\*Help is needed to prepare gyros. Please contact Rita Manganas, cell, 813 390-5948 to volunteer anytime from 11am-7:00pm on October 4 & 5.

\*Please contact Sadie Stang, [Sadiestang@hotmail.com](mailto:Sadiestang@hotmail.com) or cell 412 915-2335 to help in the prep room with salads and cupping tzatziki sauce from 10am-7pm during the fair.

\*Set up for the Autumn Food Fair is Sunday, October 1 after coffee hour, October 2 & 3, 10am-2pm.

\*Clean up begins at the conclusion of the fair on October 5 at 7pm and continues at 10am on Friday, October 6 in the prep room and community center.

ALL ages and genders are welcome to help! We will sign your sheet for community service hours!

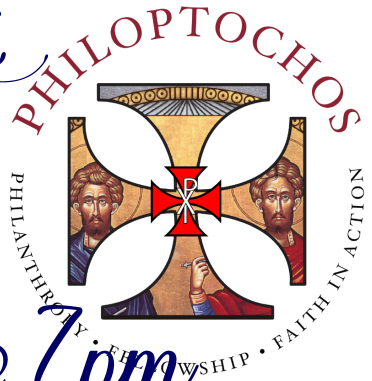
Thank you for your time and talents!

Elaine Sofis and Domenica Gulli, Co-Chairs

Next meeting:

Tuesday,

October 10th @ 7pm



6" Turkey w/ Provolone  
Cheese or 6" Italian  
(no substitutions)

\$10 each

Support the ladies of Philoptochos

Pre-order today by emailing  
your order to  
**HoagieswithLove@gmail.com**  
Pick up Sunday, 10/22 after  
church - limited hoagies  
available that day for purchase

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**



**Family Greek Night**  
**December 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Holy Cross Community Center**

**Food, Spirits, & Live Music**

*Brought to you by the wonderful women of the Holy Cross Philoptochos*



New exterior glass doors have replaced the wooden ones leading to the breezeway between buildings. They're handicap accessible and provide light in to the hallway. The exterior doors have also been replaced in the Community Center.



AXIOS! FATHER DEACON EMMANUEL MAGINAS (HC 2014, SOT 2018) WAS ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023, AT ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL IN PITTSBURGH, THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS BY HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SAVAS OF PITTSBURGH. HE WILL BEGIN HIS FULL-TIME MINISTRY THIS FALL AS THE ASSISTANT PASTOR AT STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CHURCH IN READING, PENNSYLVANIA. GOD WILLING, HE WILL BE ORDAINED A PRIEST AT THE CHURCH IN READING, IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AXIOS!!






# BEGINNING OF ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR



# Holy Cross

SUN	MON	Tue
<p><i>1 Holy Protection</i>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>2</i>  <b>Golf Outing            &amp; Dinner</b></p> 	<p><i>3</i></p>
<p><i>8</i>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p><b>Walk for Missions            30th Anniversary</b></p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>6.30pm Paraclestis</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p><i>7pm Philoptochos Meeting</i></p>
<p><i>15</i>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>6.30pm Paraclestis</p>	<p><i>17</i>  <b>9:45am Golden Club</b></p>
<p><i>22</i>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>23 St. James, Brother of God</i></p> <p>6.30pm Paraclestis</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>
<p><i>29</i>            8:15am Orthros            9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>6.30pm Paraclestis</p>	<p><i>31</i></p>

# October 2023

Wed	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>4</p> <p>Autumn Food Fair 11:30am—7pm</p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 7PM BIBLE STUDY</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>
<p>11</p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 7PM BIBLE STUDY</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>
<p>18 <i>Apostle-Evangelist</i> <i>Luke</i></p> <p>8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 7PM BIBLE STUDY</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>
<p>25</p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 7PM BIBLE STUDY</p>	<p>26 <i>Great Martyr</i> <i>Demetrius</i></p> <p>8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Wedding/NO Vespers</p>
<p>1 November</p> <p>4:30PM GREEK SCHOOL 7PM BIBLE STUDY</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm Vespers</p>



College students staying connected to their faith...

including our own young parishioners at Duquesne  
Nina Paliouras,  
Chloe Zervos  
and (not pictured)  
Zoe Kartofilis



duquesne\_ocf  
Duquesne University



Liked by alexisbobickbajich and 41 others

**duquesne\_ocf** Today, we had our first OCF meeting of the new semester! We were so blessed and overwhelmed with the amount of students we had, and can't wait to start a fantastic year! Please join us on Monday, September 11th @6pm in College Hall Room 346!



FEAST DAY AT NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS MONASTERY



## College Student Welcome Brunch at St. Nicholas



Nestled in the heart of Pittsburgh's Oakland area, Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral stands proudly among six prominent institutions: the Universities of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, Carlow, and Chatham, as well as the nearby Duquesne and Robert Morris Universities.

For the past eight years, the devoted Cathedral Moms & Dads have hosted an annual Welcome Brunch for both new and returning college and graduate students. This heartwarming tradition is scheduled on the Sunday right before the commencement of the academic term at the largest area universities. This year, the event coincided with the Orthodox Christian Fellowship's (OCF) College Student Sunday. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, a collection was undertaken to further the mission of the OCF.

Rev. Fr. Eleftherios Constantine, the recently appointed Cathedral Dean, extended a warm welcome to the students on behalf of the Cathedral community. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of finding a spiritual home during their academic tenure in Pittsburgh. He invited them to join in the parish life of the Cathedral or to explore other Orthodox parishes nearby.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the students were treated to a hearty brunch and were given take-out containers with more food. The Cathedral Moms and Dads also lovingly curated gift bags for each student. These bags included home-baked treats, a variety of snacks, and a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

This College Student Welcome Brunch can be mirrored in parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Other parishes are encouraged to host similar events, especially during September. The goal should be ensuring that the students know they have a parish home away from home and supportive parish clergy who are available if/when needed.

For those interested in the Orthodox Christian Fellowship and its Grant-matching Back to School Challenge, more details are available at [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net)

*Photo: Archdeacon Ryan Gzikowski*

“The woods are lovely, dark, and deep; but I have promises to keep; and miles to go before I sleep; and miles to go before I sleep.” The Robert Frost quote is less for the reference to the sleep of death, and more for the reason that the man in the poem doesn’t go into the snowy woods that are so alluring to him, because he has “promises to keep”, work to do, commitments to honor. And so do we. As such, especially with Labor Day just around the corner, it is appropriate to talk about the extent of labor in our lives and the profit we derive from it.

Activity is natural to humanity, yet comprehending the passage of time, and an understanding of our mortality, we feel a particular urge to do something with the span allotted to our lives. We have jobs to which a great deal of our labor is directed, but we also have families and pastimes, to which we also apply a tremendous amount of work. Our days are filled with toil. As the psalm of Moses says: “The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” Philosophers like Hobbes characterize man’s life as “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” It comes as no surprise then that we regret others taking the fruit of our labor; after all, we have little time, and have invested much, what reason would we have to share with others outside of our obligations? We don’t like paying taxes, we don’t like sharing our hard earned wealth with others. We worked for it, we should be allowed to enjoy it. Isn’t it enough that we provide for our families, why should the sweat of our labor go to someone else?

My brothers and sisters, this is a completely understandable attitude, one that many people in the world have, perhaps even some here. But if you think about it, this is precisely the attitude that motivates the wicked tenants of the vineyard in today’s gospel passage. They labored, and they wanted to enjoy the fruits of their work. And they made the mistake of thinking that because they worked for it, it was rightfully theirs. And so, when representatives of the true owner came to take what the tenants believed was their property, they fought to retain it. That is why they “took [the] servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.” And though the parable was directed to the Chief Priests and the Pharisees, don’t be so quick to dismiss it on that account, for it can apply to us as well. As long as we hold to the fallacy that the fruits of our labors rightfully belong to us, we make the same mistake of the soul that the Jewish authorities did. We buy into the selfish brutishness

that Hobbes' philosophy claims is the true characterization of men. As long as it's "me first", you will end up with suffering and death.

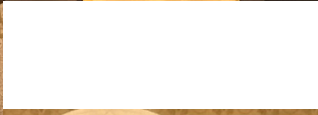
Of course the irony of this is that a life of "me last" also ends up in suffering and death. Today we commemorate Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia. During the Maximian persecution 20,000 were martyred in Nicomedia. Anthimus who was their bishop went to a village to care for his remaining flock. Maximian sent men in search of him. They found someone who promised to show Anthimus to them, but first took them in as guests, fed them, and only afterwards revealed himself as the man they sought. The soldiers, amazed at his kindness, offered to tell the emperor that they had not found him, but Anthimus refused and went willingly with them, converting and baptizing them on the way. After confessing his Faith before Maximian, he was tortured and beheaded around 303 or 304.

And so it is true that no matter if we view life as "me first" or "me last", suffering and death is the result. But that what the psalm says, "Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." The difference is not in the physical result; it is in the spiritual one. And "me first" only makes sense if you don't believe in the spiritual dimension of man. If you do believe that there is a metaphysical component to our existence, then it is no longer "solitary, poor, nasty, [and] brutish". Short, perhaps, but none of the others. For the psalm continues by saying, "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"; in other words, the point of our lives is wisdom and by extension, virtue. The laborers in the vineyard of the gospel today needed to see that their reward wasn't the fruit of the harvest; their reward was the health and vitality accorded them precisely because of their labor. In a similar way, we need to see that the point of our labor is not what we *earn*; it is on what we *learn*. The labor of the saints, whether they were martyrs or ascetics, resulted in the health and vitality of their souls as evidenced by their great virtue.

My brothers and sisters, as we celebrate Labor Day tomorrow, do not forget the real reason we work. It is not for material treasures, whether financial, political, or material. Ultimately these do not belong to us. We cultivate them in order to give them to our Lord, for we must be the good tenants "who will give him the fruits in their seasons." What belongs to us is the spiritual health and fitness that comes from such labor. "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands." To Him be the Glory, now and forever. Amen.

~Deacon Frank Dickos

# FEAST DAY VESPERS AT HOLY CROSS





SAINT TIKHON CHOIR  
SANG RESPONSES DURING VESPERS  
RECEPTION FOLLOWED IN COMMUNITY CENTER



**GOLDEN CLUB:** Please join us on Tuesday, October 17th for a tour of the beautiful home of Dr. Francis Julius LeMoyne in Washington. This historic landmark was a safe haven stop on the Underground Railroad.

We will meet at church at 9:45 am. Carpooling transportation will be arranged. Admission price is \$5.00 upon arrival. Following our visit, we will enjoy lunch and fellowship at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant.

Please *RSVP NO LATER THAN* Tuesday, October 10th by calling or texting Rene, cell # 412.559.1721 or Cynthia, cell #412.722.9512.

Celebrating 50 years of marriage!  
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Dean and Irene Zotis





**Golden Club  
trip to the  
Oglebay  
mansion in  
West  
Virginia**



# AUTUMN FESTIVAL COOKING



# ...AND BAKING



MOTHER ABBESS CHRISTOPHORA AND MOTHER  
MAGDALENA FROM HOLY TRANSFIGURATION  
MONASTERY SPEAK ON THE HERITAGE OF THEIR  
FOUNDING ABBESS, MOTHER ALEXANDRA ON  
SEPTEMBER 12 @ ST JOHN THE BAPTIST IN CANONSBURG



The *Landscape Committee* has exciting news on our next project! We will entirely focus on the front of the church with the following project phases:

1. Garden of Love
2. Cross Garden
3. Entry Court Paving (this will turn into a 'Platia' = Entry Plaza with decorative patterned paving)
4. Entry Drive Curbs
5. Hillside Steps & Wall
6. Parking Lot (this will be a large project to be initiated at a later stage)

These updated projects will have significant new elements and features enhancing the functionality and use of our Holy Cross entry:

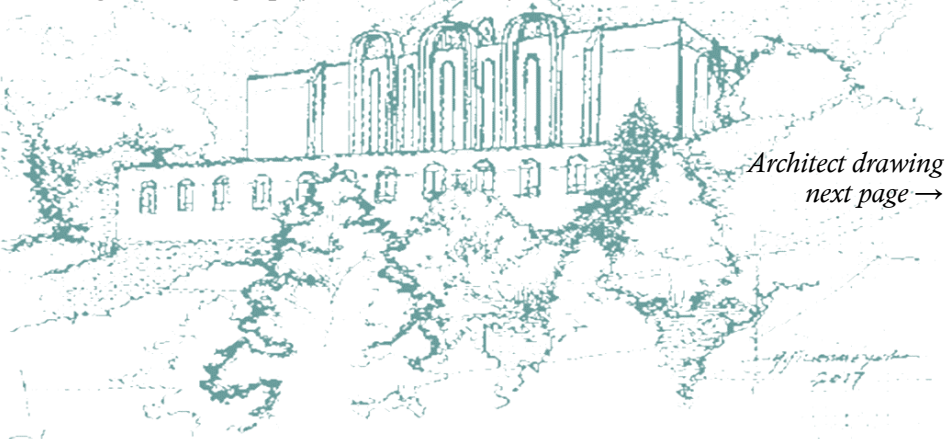
- most importantly, a separate sidewalk that creates better access for people with disabilities leading from the handicapped parking spaces to the church entry
- a Platia rendering the front into a more appropriate space for our processions, particularly during Holy Week and Easter, for weddings and other events
- options for memorial pavers
- an improved Cross Garden

We at the Committee would love your comments and feedback for these new developments & designs. Please use [HCLAsuggestions@gmail.com](mailto:HCLAsuggestions@gmail.com)

Last year, after we kicked off our Matching Donor Fundraiser, we quickly obtained the commitment of 23 matching donors totaling \$102,000. We now have more than \$100,000 paid into the campaign and due to the success of our Summer Garden Gala we have over \$130,000 in our bank account for our new project phases.

Due to the Matching nature of our Fundraiser, not all the funds are free to spend unless we can raise another \$70,000 from the Holy Cross community at large. To put these requested donations of \$70,000 in perspective, the total is not even half of what our Holy Cross community has been able to contribute in past years above and beyond our gracious stewardship donations.

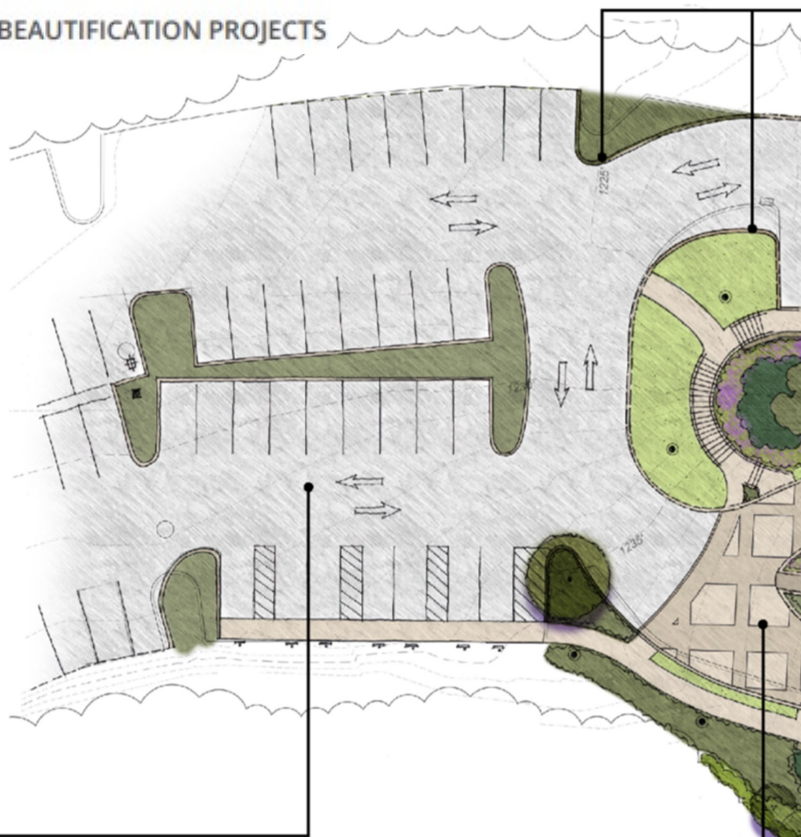
We are confident that our parish will step forward and complete our matching fundraiser campaign before we embark on our next exciting project—finishing the iconography in our sanctuary!



*Architect drawing  
next page →*

# Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

## LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS



### Parking Lot

#### Proposed Improvements:

- Long-term replacement of asphalt pavement, curbs, and lights
- Create landscape islands of trees and low-maintenance plants to improve traffic flow, capture and filter stormwater runoff, and visually break down the scale of the large expanse of pavement
- Correct drainage problems and repair erosion
- Repair/improve handicap-accessible parking

### Entry Court Paving

#### Proposed Improvements:

- Remove asphalt and replace it with decorative paving that aligns with columns at the Church entrance
- Use colors and textures that blend with the architectural character of the Church
- Create an elegant, beautiful "front door" that functions as a vehicle dropoff but can also be used for gatherings, Food Festival days, and outdoor group prayer

Projected Cost: +/- \$100,000





### Entry Drive Curbs

Proposed Improvements:

- Remove and realign the curbs to improve traffic flow between lots and define parking

Projected Cost: +/- \$13,000

### Hillside Steps & Wall

Proposed Improvements:

- Rebuild the retaining wall with durable materials
- Selectively remove invasive plants
- Plant hearty, native plants to stabilize the slope
- Plant vibrant, flowering plants around the perimeter of the space to create an inviting entrance
- Build curving steps and walkway to connect the lower-level parking lot to the Church entrance

Projected Cost: +/- \$137,000

### Garden of Love

Proposed Improvements:

- Add new stone block benches for seating that reflect the materiality of the Church
- Create a secondary path within the planters to create the shape of a cross
- Install decorative paving to differentiate the pathways from the roadway paving
- Preserve and realign the two existing ornamental trees
- Add vibrant, flowering plants to frame the Church entrance visually

Projected Cost: +/- \$45,000

### The Cross Garden

Proposed Improvements:

- Expand the drop-off lane to improve traffic flow
- Install a wider sidewalk from the parking lot to Church
- Build a low wall using rugged stone blocks to provide seating opportunities and control erosion
- Rebuild the existing wood cross with repurposed Belgium block to frame a planting bed of colorful annuals/flower bulbs
- Reinstall the historic stone cross from the former Church
- Install accent lighting to showcase crosses at night
- Add colorful planting to stabilize the hillside and create a backdrop for Church events and wedding photography

Projected Cost: +/- \$143,000



**Renewing You:  
Renewing Our Faith  
Renewing Our Mind  
Renewing Our Purpose**

Suggested Donation: \$25 per person (includes Continental Breakfast and Light Lunch)

Saturday, October 7, 2023  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
300 S. Fourth Street  
Stuebenville, OH

**RETREAT WITH  
REV. DR. NICHOLAS G.  
LOUH**

Fr. Nicholas is the senior priest of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Florida, Adjunct Professor of World Religions at the Florida State College (Jacksonville).

Co-hosts with his wife Dr. Roxanne Louh a live weekly call-in radio show at ancientfaith.com  
Co-Author with his wife of *Renewing You*, a book to give you the keys to fully experience the transformation God has in mind for you, combining spiritual growth with psychological tools.

To reserve your spot and purchase tickets please contact the church office at 740.282.9835. Deadline is September 30th.



**A St. George Cathedral Retreat...**

**The True Orthodox Mind and Lifestyle:  
Why it Matters**

**Retreat Speaker:**

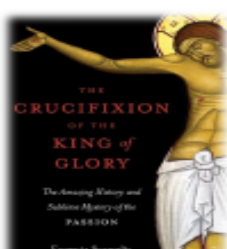
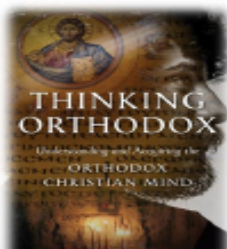
**Dr. Jeannie Scarvelis Constantinou, Ph.D**

Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 9:30AM to 4:45PM.

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral~3400 Dawson Street, Pittsburgh, PA

Please register and RSVP at [www.sgcoakland.org](http://www.sgcoakland.org) or call 412-681-2988

\$30 Donation~lunch, refreshments, and coffee will be provided



**Dr. Eugenia Constantinou hosts the popular podcast Search the Scriptures Live! on Ancient Faith Radio. She has been a professor and visiting lecturer on the Bible, patristic interpretation of Scripture, and early Christianity at Orthodox and non-Orthodox universities and schools of theology.**

# GLENDI

IN THE VILLE



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 PM

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

300 S. Fourth Street, Steubenville, Ohio

THE  
**GREEK COMPANY**  
ORCHESTRA



**ALL AGES WELCOME!!!**

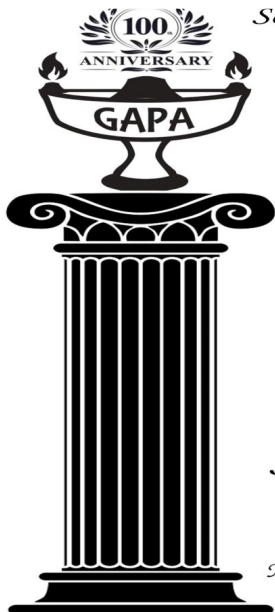
HOTEL ROOM BLOCK @ BEST WESTERN PLUS  
INN AND SUITES FRANCISCAN SQUARE  
RESERVE EARLY!

**\$25.00 PRE-SALE UNTIL NOVEMBER 1**

**\$35.00 AT THE DOOR**

**CASH BAR & MEZEDES**

**FOR INQUIRIES: [HOLY.TRINITY.GLENDI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HOLY.TRINITY.GLENDI@GMAIL.COM) OR CALL 740.314.0359**



*Save the date and please join us as we  
celebrate the*

*Greek American Progressive  
Association's*

*100 years*

*of preserving  
Culture, Religion and  
Education*

*with Dinner and Dancing on*

*Saturday December 9, 2023*

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

*More information to follow and we look  
forward to celebrating with you*

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

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**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

presents the 9<sup>th</sup> annual

**MEMORIAL  
GOLF OUTING**



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023**

South Hills Country Club  
4315 Brownville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

**PHILOTOCHOS  
AUTUMN FOOD FAIR**

Yia Yia Joan's Treasures & Market  
<sup>and</sup>

<sup>at</sup>  
**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Community Center

123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon  
(across from the Galleria)

**Wednesday, October 4 &  
Thursday, October 5, 2023**

11:30 am – 7:00 pm