SUFFERING BRINGS GLORY

At this midpoint of Lent, which the Orthodox Church designates as CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY, the symbol of the Cross is put before us. Let these words by Matthew the Poor serve to strengthen and refresh us:

"For Christ, the mystery of the Cross is the mystery of His glory. The overwhelming suffering the Lord underwent, His psychological torment at the injustice and crookedness of His trial, the desertion of His disciples, the treachery of Judas, and the knowledge that the high priests had agreed with one of His disciples to put a value of just thirty pieces of silver on His life — all this was a path for Him to leave the world of passing trivialities and enter into the glory of the Father. We in every time and place must tread the same path. The Cross with its enormous suffering cannot be compared with the glory it brought forth. The Cross did not come by chance into the life of the Lord; He was born for it. "For this purpose I have come to this hour" (Jn. 12:27). Man is born for suffering, and suffering was born for man. But at the same time the Cross was not an irrevocable imposition on the Lord. We feel this from His words and are sure of it in view of His holiness and divinity. He made it irrevocable for Himself — "Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?" (Jn. 18:11) — in order to share with us the inevitability of the suffering."

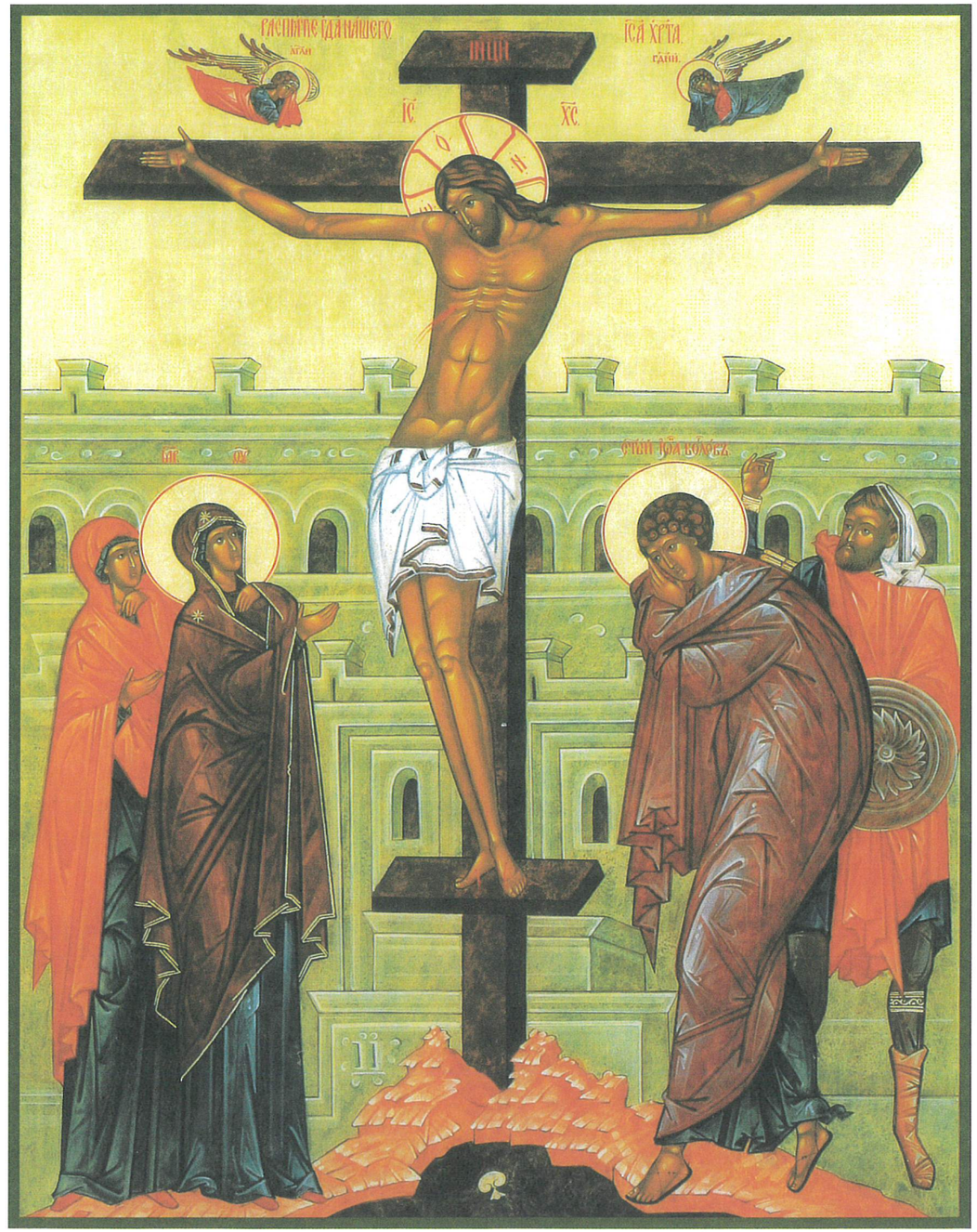


Icon by Nataliya Zharsky

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

Sunday of the Holy Cross

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

March 23, 2025

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Halkias
Parish Priest
Home: 330-956-9039
Email: frnick@htgoc.net

Deacon Michael El-Bardawil
Cell: 330-209-7235

Dan Speece
Parish Council President
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Office: 330-494-8770
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Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(Closed noon-1pm for lunch)

Sunday Services
Orthros 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Orthros Liturgy

Epistle
Hebrews
4:14-16; 5:1-6

Gospel
Mark
8:34-38; 9:1

Attendance
3/16/25
148

Today's Prosfora & Communion Wine

Given by the Vellios Family
In Loving Memory of John Vellios

Bookstore Coffee Hour - TODAY



Please join us for a Bookstore Coffee Hour TODAY following Divine Liturgy. Stop by and see what's new in your bookstore!



Donation envelopes for flowers that decorate the church during Lent and Pascha are still available on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.

GOYA COLLECTION FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY



GOYA is collecting the 5 most needed items for our Food Pantry again today. Those items are 1) 4 pack of toilet paper, 2) individual rolls of paper towels, 3) Sugar, 4) Pudding snack packs, and 5) Flour

Help GOYA stock the HT pantry! Over 30 families in the community are helped monthly by our pantry.

YOUTH LUMINARY PROJECT - GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18



Luminary Forms are available in the cubbies outside the Church Office and after Divine Liturgy on Sunday with a Youth Representative to place orders. Each Luminary is $5.00 and can be designated in memory of or for the health of someone.

DEADLINE for orders is Sunday, APRIL 13th.

EGG HUNT - PASCHA - APRIL 20TH



On Sunday, April 20th - Bring the kids to Church and stay for the egg hunt!!! THERE ARE PRIZES FOR EVERYONE! See you there!!! Sunday School is sponsoring this event!

2ND ANNUAL GREEK GATSBY GALA

MAY 10, 2025
5-11 PM

Tickets for Regular Tables of 8 - $600
VIP Tables - $1,080 (includes a full page ad)
Individual Tickets - $75.00 per person
Ads & Sponsorships Available

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

Cash Bar, Greek Dinner & Pastries, Silent Auction, Live Band, Dancing
1920s or Semi-Formal Attire Requested

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

On the Fridays of Great Lent, following Salutations and Akathist Service, we will have the opportunity to hear about how our Lord Jesus Christ has performed many miraculous events using icons of His Mother. From over a millennium ago until now, you will go on a trip and hear of these blessed stories that involve icons which produced blood, tears, myrrh, speaking and even movement.

The dates are Friday evenings around 7pm - March 28 and April 4.



Don't miss this wonderful chance to see how God used and continues to use His Mother to help us see Him more clearly!

SENIOR GREEK DANCE TROUPE



Any child ages 12+ who is interested in Greek dancing, please be at practice on **Sundays starting March 30th from 6:30-7:30PM at the church.** If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Eliana Monnot at 330-617-6238. Hope to see all our youth dancing at the festival this year - July 16-19. 2025. More information on Junior Troupe will be available soon!

Daughters of Penelope 59th Annual Debutantes Ball



Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 7:30pm
St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Krassas Event Center

Tickets: $25 per person

Tickets will be sold at Holy Trinity on Sunday, March 30 and Sunday, April 6

This year's debutantes are: Amelia Colón, Savannah Goss, Kate Kaplanis, Francesca Hathaway, Isabella Paxos, Sophia Pitinii, Sophia Semertsidis, Alexandria Sklavenitis and Eva Chrisanthe Stavrianou-Winn

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Apply Now Online!



To apply to all the Scholarships available at Holy Trinity, please visit our website at https://htgoc.net/events/scholarships to fill out the applications.

All applications are due by April 30, 2025.

Calendar for the Week

All Services are streaming online @ *www.htgoc.net/live*

Sunday, March 23
Sunday of the Holy Cross
Bookstore Coffee Hour

Monday, March 24
No Scheduled Events

Tuesday, March 25
Greek Independence Day
Flag Raising - City Square 8 AM
Annunciation of the Theotokos
Orthros 8:30 AM
Liturgy 9:30 AM
Ladies Exercise 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 26
Bible Study 11:00 AM
Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 PM
@ St. George Antiochian

Thursday, March 27
Young Adult Basketball 7:30 PM

Friday, March 28
Presanctified Liturgy 9:00 AM
Akathist Service 6:00 PM
Lenten Lecture Series 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 29
Father Nick - Away

Sunday, March 30
Youth Coffee Hour Luncheon
Fundraiser - ***Money raised at this luncheon will go to our Holy Trinity Food Pantry to purchase items for families in need. Join GOYA, JOY & HOPE and their families and support this event!***
Sr. Dance Troupe 6:30 PM

2025 AHEPA Chapter #59 Scholarships

Apply Now Online!

Instructions and Applications are available for:
Local Canton Chapter 59 at: ahepa59.org **(April 30, Deadline)**
Buckeye District 11 at: buckeyedistrict11.org **(March 31, Deadline)**
AHEPA National at: ahepa.org **(March 31, Deadline)**
Contact: John Karipides (330) 283-0113
Paul Koskovich (330) 327-4079

NO CASH? NO PROBLEM!

SCAN ME

Scan code with smart phone to make a payment instantly!

Resurrectional Apolytikion.
Mode pl. 2.

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

For the Feast.
Mode 1.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth

Apolytikion of Our Church.
Mode pl. 4.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God; Who did show forth the fishermen to be all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit. And through them You drew the world into Your net, O Friend of man, glory to You!

Kontakion.
Mode pl. 4. *Automelon.*

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you, Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2
Psalm 27.9,1
O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Gospel According to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος πλ. β΄.

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνῆμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ᾅδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ᾽ αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωήν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Τῆς Ἑορτῆς.

Ἦχος α΄.

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

Τοῦ Ναοῦ.

Ἦχος πλ. δ΄.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἁλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἦχος πλ. δ΄. *Αὐτόμελον.*

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, Ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, Ἀναγράφω σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, Ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, Ἵνα κράζω σοι· Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 4:14-16, 5:1-6

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. β'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 4:14-16, 5:1-6 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες οὖν ἀρχιερέα μέγαν, διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανούς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπαθῆσαι ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ᾽ ὁμοιότητα, χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρρησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὕρωμεν εἰς εὔκαιρον βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεύς, ἐξ ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος, ὑπὲρ ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν· μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσιν καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περίκειται ἀσθένειαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτως καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ, προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμήν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἀαρών. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γενηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ᾽ ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἱός μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε. Καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει, Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μᾶρκον 8:34-38, 9:1 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ᾽ ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσί τινες τῶν ὧδε ἑστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσωνται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.