

# CROSS CURRENTS – Fall 2016

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## NEW BEGINNINGS



Yes, it was difficult to say goodbye to **Father John and Presbytera Stephanie Kocolas** this past June. Our parish family was sad because Father and Presbytera are loveable. Separating from those we respect and love is difficult, but we are grateful in our knowledge that they are happy as they settle into their new parish and home with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement.

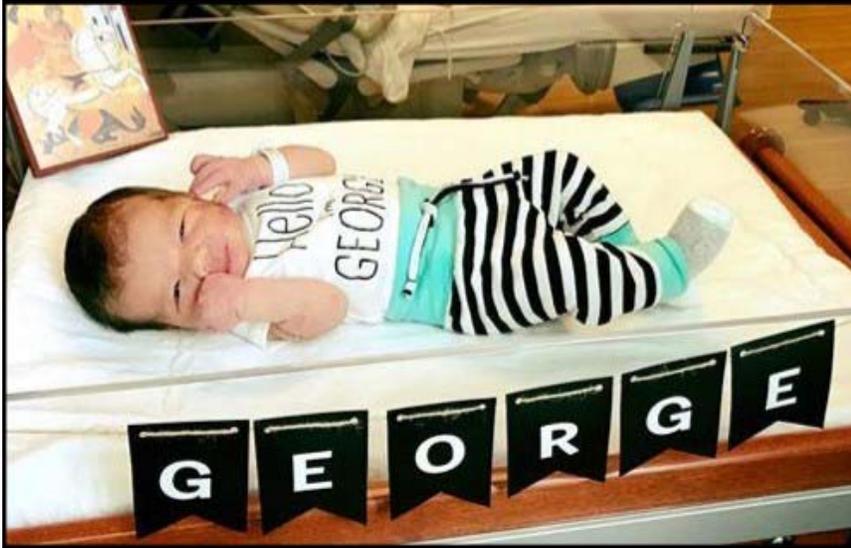
Now we are also grateful for our new Pastoral Assistant **Tom Felactu**, his wife **Tina** and their two adorable children **Ody** and **Sophia**. It is a joy to welcome each of them into our parish family. They, too, will grow to understand the many gifts with which our Holy Cross parish is blessed.

Ours is a parish within whose “walls” we can grow spiritually, socially, intellectually and psychologically. Within the life of our parish community we are challenged to grow and we do grow; we are confronted with challenges and we persevere; we fail and we bring successes from our failures as we lift our hearts and eyes in prayer, ever trusting in the promise which is inherent in our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and with one another as members of His Body.

The many ministries at Holy Cross provide a place of growth and fulfillment for each of us. Ours is a church community that sings and chants to the glory of God and that teaches us to grow in the wisdom and stature of our Lord. It is a joy to pray, worship, teach, learn, play, dance, act, and cook both for the benefit of others as well as ourselves.

Let us continue throughout this new ecclesiastical year to grow to our fullest measure in the likeness of Jesus Christ and pray:

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the treasury of blessings and the giver of life, come and abide with us, cleanse us of every stain and sanctify our souls. Amen.



*Congratulations to our very special Fr. John, Pres. Stephanie, and their new baby boy, George John Kocolas! May God grant him many years and Keep the Kocolas family in His care.*

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

by Anastacia Stamates, Parish Council President

Fellowship Sunday was September 25<sup>th</sup> -- it was an opportunity for us to welcome new members to our parish, get to know current members better, learn about our parish ministries, upcoming events and how we can get involved. The many ministries of our church give all of us lots and lots of opportunities to use the gifts God has given us.

In His ministry, Christ shows us how to use the gifts He gave us: He healed, He taught, He fed people with five loaves and two fish, He offered His body and blood to His disciples and He constantly served the people around Him.

Our ministries at church reflect what Christ teaches us about stewardship—we are caring for each other's needs—those within the church and those in the larger community. We have people in our parish who offer their talent of healing. We teach Religious Education to our children and adults. We teach the hymns and chants of our church. We feed people through our donations to Outreach, Family Sharing and to Philoptochos. We offer ourselves and serve the church with our time and our resources.

And in that service to the church we build relationships. For myself, I have many friendships and “*koumbari*-ships” that have been nurtured here at church as we work side by side at Festival, sing next to each other in choir, or sit together at coffee hour. I am blessed to be a part of this community; it has provided me with so much.

And since this church has given me so much over the years, it's important to me to give back to the church, to offer my stewardship, part of which is financial. Over the years, I have come to understand that if we are to continue all of our wonderful ministries here at Holy Cross we need to support those ministries by supporting the church. This is not to say I am a good giver. I have struggled between how much is enough and what I am asked to give. We are asked to tithe—I am not there yet. And for years, I told myself that \$100 a month was pretty good but

as I have grown in my understanding—I am slowly pushing myself towards tithing. Recently, I read about an idea - 10 for 10, to reach 10% in 10 years. Currently I am at 2% of my income and each year I will increase a percent.

A favorite parable is the Parable of the Talents. One of the reasons I like this parable is it just fascinates me that *talent*, the word for currency in ancient Rome and Greece, came to mean a skill or ability that one possesses, **talent is value**—I think sometimes we take our talent for granted and don't realize how valuable our different talents are. In the parable, two of the three servants, doubled the talents the master had given them. The master rewarded them, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." But unfortunately, one servant buried the talent that was given to him and that really didn't work out for him at all—he was cast into the outer darkness. (Matthew 25:14-30)

Even though Fellowship Sunday has passed, there are still plenty of opportunities to learn about our ministries and get involved—check out our website [www.goholycross.org](http://www.goholycross.org), like "Holy Cross Church" on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @GOHC\_Belmont, and download our app on App Store or Google Play (search GO Holy Cross).

## PHILOPTOCHOS FALL NEWS

by Mary Peros, Philoptochos Board

As we all recover from our successful Festival, and begin the ecclesiastical year, the ladies of the Philoptochos are busy planning the next events as we move toward the busy holidays.

We held a General Meeting on October 15. We shared some information from the Philoptochos convention at the Clergy-Laity in Nashville and let attendees know about our upcoming important dates. We served a light luncheon, healthy of course, and had lots of opportunity for fellowship.

On November 19, many of us attended the "Light the Path" luncheon at the Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley. This was a fabulous event which included a wonderful luncheon and holiday boutique. Many surprises awaited the attendees, including the famous mystery boxes! All the proceeds of this event will benefit our seminarians by offering tuition assistance. It is the hope of **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos** that no seminarian who plans to serve in this metropolis will be burdened by loans upon graduation. This is such an important ministry because our Beloved Church needs these fine men and lay assistants, including young ladies, to continue our faith.

We look forward to seeing you at our future events and sharing our ministry with you!

**DO YOU WANT TO HAVE YUMMY PASTRIES** for Thanksgiving? Christmas? Our Philoptochos has been baking Melomakarona, Baklava, Kourambiedes and Koulourakia. Come by after church **every Sunday** until Christmas and buy baked treats for a gift or for your home. If you would like to place a specific order, please contact Helene at [hrnemchik@aol.com](mailto:hrnemchik@aol.com).

## A NEW YEAR IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Maria Johnson, Director

“Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were astonished at His understanding and answers.” Luke 2:46-47

It is with great excitement and humility that I welcome you all back to school for our Religious Education program as your new director. I want to thank **Gina Johnstone** for all of her hard work and selfless love during her last six years of service, both as a teacher and as director of the program. I am honored to continue her great work this year.

The school year has gotten off to a wonderful start. We have several new teachers joining us, and I am thrilled to introduce them to you. I have also included in this newsletter some important upcoming dates and announcements. Enjoy!

In second grade, **Zaf Kyriakis** and **Eleni Baxter** have taken over for **George Chechopoulos** and **Cathy Pereira**. They are bringing with them several years of experience teaching and serving in the church. Their students will learn the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer, study the Holy Sacraments, and read about the lives of the Saints. In addition, they’ll get to complete an iconography project, at the end of which the students will take home an icon blessed in church.

**Irene Ritterman** has joined us as our sixth grade teacher. She is using the Orthros Service and hymnography of the church to teach the children about the Liturgical year with its important feast days and daily readings. Her program will even include “field trips” to the Orthros services!

A huge thank you to all of the teachers continuing on from years past: **Nektaria Kalouvidakis**, **Gina Schmidt**, **Olivia Bagis**, **Anastacia Stamates**, **Allison Virsik**, **Athena Kozar**, and **Xandra Nemchik**. Your love, generosity, and wisdom are helping our children grow in their faith, not only through your lessons but through your example.

Thank you to all of you who have registered for Religious Education. If you haven’t yet or you’re having trouble using the link on the church website, please email me ([mziuppa@gmail.com](mailto:mziuppa@gmail.com)), so I can meet with you and help you. It’s so important for the teachers to know who is in their class so that our ministry can be as fruitful as possible.

With Christ’s example as a patient teacher and an avid learner before us, we begin the school year. Thank you so much for sharing your children with us along the way. We look forward to growing in our faith and journey even as we guide your children in theirs.

## SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

by Allison Virsik, Youth Religious Education Staff

The 2017 Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Topics have been released, and we are beginning preparations for the Holy Cross Parish Festival which will be held on **Sunday**,

**February 5.** This gives our youth plenty of time to pull out their Bibles, sharpen their pencils, and reflect on their Orthodox Faith!

The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is an Archdiocese-wide ministry which gives Orthodox youth an opportunity to write and deliver an oral presentation about their faith. For our Parish Festival, there will be three divisions. Our Elementary (grades 4-6) Division participants may choose any topic on Orthodoxy they wish, and their speeches are not judged. Junior (grades 7-9) and Senior (grades 10-12) Division participants must write a speech about one of the topics provided. This year the topics are:

**Junior Division** (1) The opening petition of the Divine Liturgy is “In peace let us pray to the Lord.” What is this peace, and why do we need it to begin our prayers? (2) St. John Chrysostom said, “Our alms are judged not by the measure of our gifts, but by the largeness of our mind”. Discuss how even small acts of kindness and generosity can make a difference. (3) Discuss the role of bread and its symbolism in the Bible and the life of the Church. (4) The Orthodox Church venerates saints and martyrs every day. Talk about a saint whose life inspires you to be a better Orthodox Christian. (5) Explain why the Orthodox Church focuses more on the resurrection than it does on the passion and suffering of Christ.

**Senior Division** (1) The gap between the rich and poor in the United States and worldwide is arguably wider than it has ever been. How should we as Orthodox Christians address such terrible inequality? (2) Although many people diet for health or vanity, the discipline of fasting is found in many religious traditions. What is the difference between dieting and fasting, and why is it important? (3) Psalms are an integral part of matins, vespers, and many other church services. Talk about a psalm that impacts or influences your life. (4) The Lord commanded us not to create idols (Exodus 20:4), yet people continue to do so. Discuss the kinds of idols people make or worship today and the response that an Orthodox Christian should have when confronted by them. (5) Jesus said, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21). When no political party represents genuine Christian teaching, how does an Orthodox Christian navigate political conversations and make political judgments?

The Oratorical Festival provides an opportunity for our youth to gain experience in public speaking within the supportive environment of our Church, and it provides them with the opportunity for personal reflection on their faith and the chance to share it with others. Please encourage the young people in your life to participate in this thought-provoking and inspiring ministry.

## GREEK SCHOOL NEWS by Katina Mandas, Greek School PTO

Over the summer, we held our Greek School Camp. It was a huge success. The theme was “Tasty Adventures.” The children learned Greek recipes, explored Mediterranean cuisine, and learned about food safety. At the end of the day, they were able to eat what they made and bring a little home for mom! As an added bonus, Greek School graduate **Ari Kapoor** offered an introductory course in Scratch programming during after care. The camp was truly amazing and a ton of fun. A huge thank you to **Theodora Kounalakis, Roula Argyris, Myrto Kyprianidis, Petros Balaskas, and Ari Kapoor** for all their hard work.



As I write this, we begin our 51st academic year of Greek School at Holy Cross!!! The teachers have been preparing and are ready for another great academic year. Welcome to all the new and returning families. We also want to extend a warm welcome to our new teachers **Aggeliki Menitou, Petros Balaskas, and Kristina Thanasi**. The school is always looking for native Greek speakers to serve as teachers. Please contact **Theodora Kounalakis** if you are interested.



Like every year, we began the year with *agiasmos*. Thank you to **Father Peter** for his blessings and prayers. A back-to-school informational night was held for each program. We are very happy that so many parents and friends were able to join us.

Enrollment is still open for all of our programs including Certificate Preparation Classes and Adult Classes. Please visit our website, [www.belmontgreeksschool.com](http://www.belmontgreeksschool.com), or contact **Mrs. Kounalakis** at [tkounalakis@yahoo.com](mailto:tkounalakis@yahoo.com)

The Greek School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year at Holy Cross with a Gala on October 1!!! It was a very special night for the

whole family. A huge thank you to **Katerina Vourthis, Sia Charonis, and Penny Kostaras!** We were so happy to see everyone there!

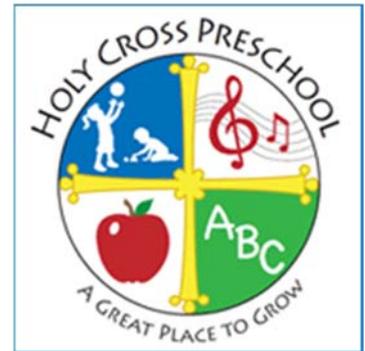
On Sunday, October 30, we honored the students who earned their Certificate of Attainment and then held our annual Souvlaki Fundraiser. Thank you to all who joined us after church and supported our School!!

Happy Fall!!

## **PRESCHOOL PRIDE** by Miss Chris, Director

Each August, when the new school year is approaching, the excitement within me begins to bubble and my mind begins to wonder. What will the new year bring? What will the new children and families be like? Will they be happy with the preschool they have chosen for their child? Will the teachers be rested and ready to take on the new school year? Well, I am happy to say that my wonderings have turned into wonderful realities.

With 30 new children joining our robust group at Holy Cross Preschool this year, I am thrilled to say that we are off to a truly amazing start. The children seem to have settled in nicely and new friendships are forming before our very eyes. New and returning family members are chatting in the courtyard before and after school, and the sense of community is palatable. Our teaching staff grew by 2 this year and we all were welcomed back to freshly painted classrooms. The teachers worked together to transform the quiet, empty spaces of summer into warm and inviting learning environments. The re-energized classrooms are bustling with busy and engaged children and dedicated teachers.



With the school year off and running, I am once again reminded of why I chose not only this career but to be here at Holy Cross Preschool. The support of the administration is unparalleled in this industry, the joy of the children is infectious, and the trust of the families is humbling. I am excited to begin my 11<sup>th</sup> year as director and I invite you to join me on this journey as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Holy Cross Preschool.

## **TOMMY'S PLACE** by Tom Felactu, Pastoral Assistant

It has been four months since my family and I have joined the Holy Cross Family, and we want to sincerely thank each of you for your warm welcome and outpouring of love and support. Since before we even arrived, we received a call as we were driving through the Colorado Mountains from a parishioner welcoming us, and offering any help or assistance we might need to get settled. YES. The love within this community is great, and we are excited to be here and share in the Love, the Love of Christ.

During our short time here, we have already come to meet and get to know many, and we have also heard of those who were active members, but may not be as present today. In the Gospel of Luke, we read about: The Parable of the Lost Sheep:

**15** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.<sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

**3** Then Jesus told them this parable: **4** “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ **7** I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

If there is someone you know who needs encouragement in becoming more active, or is a new transplant you may have heard about, please email me at [tommy@goholycross.org](mailto:tommy@goholycross.org). Please include your name and contact information as well as the person you miss, and together let’s go searching.

## **quiet feast** by konstantine salmas, lay assistant

The quiet feel of the fifth floor balcony was part of a choice. I picked a quiet area on purpose. I wanted boring to be available. It was a quiet that occurs quickly in Greek neighborhoods. A few steps can sometimes lead quickly into subterranean silence, people and moving vehicles gone. I looked over my hotel balcony. No cars drove down this street, even though it was a right turn from the acropolis museum.

I prioritized Athens for Koimosis. They removed scaffolding from the outside and the inside of the cathedral church in the spring. This is where I wanted to be to celebrate koimosis for vespers and for liturgy in the morning. I had attended services in kolonaki. That is where they had moved the Mitropolis services, until very recently. Before that, I remember watching

Liturgy on television. I watched on Saturday night when they were celebrating in Athens at Mitropolis.

This summer, for the feast, I liked being in a church where I recognized the priests and chanters which I had watched from television, at home. It was a connection to Belmont, and in that Athens quiet, I appreciated this connection. The Vespers was low key, attended by a few people. Tourists stood in back, by the open large doors. They stood in pools, looking at the cleared out and cleaned up interior. Then, they walked outside to find dinner or face the stores of Plaka and Monastiraki.

The priest announced an early time for Liturgy in the morning. Orthros began around quarter of seven. I returned that evening to the balcony quiet of the neighborhood. Camp played in my mind, teenagers moving in groups led by the staff. My brain fired off the continuous sounds of an Ionian Village summer, there on the fifth floor hotel balcony.

It was a five minute walk to Liturgy. A lot of activity hadn't yet moved into the early morning. Liturgy was nearly as low key as vespers. The people in the first couple of rows knew each other. They looked happy to be in their church, again, during a service. We all could have been in a church in a smaller town or a village. The chanting wasn't particularly embellished. Like here, like in any Greek Orthodox church, the people knew what to expect. Koimoisis Liturgy went according to plan and, after a strong coffee, I returned to the long established quiet of those neighborhood streets.

The Feast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition, or in Greek, *kimisis*) or "falling asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.

## **FROM THE JANITOR'S CLOSET**

by Tyke Stamates, Facilities Manager

The door to my closet was closed. I just came back from attending my aunt's funeral in L.A. I was thinking about the funeral and the difference in the way the two churches raised money to meet their operating expenses.

How do we meet Holy Cross' operating expenses? WE DON'T! We use a Fair Share system, we have donations, we have the Festival, and we still do not meet our operating expenses.

Fair Share or tithing should be 10%. How about SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH? Let's try it!

We SUPPORT many things mainly for our self-satisfaction: (1) Sports events (2) Our favorite grocery store. (3) Movies and many other things.

These are just a few of the things we support. Every time we spend money we are supporting someone or an organization.

We, as a family, have always supported our church, whether our children were in church or going to college or working many miles away like all my children did at one time or another. It was important to us that the Parish as a community and the Priests could do the job of teaching the right way of life for all of us. We should, all of us, support the church and the Parish, presently and for future generations.

Here is another way of supporting the church; one of many. As I said, I recently went to Saint Sofia to attend my aunt's funeral. After the service, we went to the hall (the room was bigger than The Oaks but smaller than our Main Hall). There were approximately 50 people for a buffet lunch. The lunch was a two-inch square piece of cod, rice, string beans, and salad. I had to put the string beans over the rice to make the rice palatable. The lunch was rated a "C-" by all my cousins who were there.

After lunch, I had a chance to ask my cousin what the *makaria* cost. I was astonished when he told me the lunch cost \$46.50 per plate and he was charged for 125 lunches that they mistakenly over-ordered. Then the real shocker -- the church charged him \$1600 for the room.

What do we get for supporting Holy Cross? When we lose a loved one and we have a traditional service and *makaria*, The Oaks or the Main Hall is free, and the food costs are held down. This is just one of many benefits we enjoy by SUPPORTING HOLY CROSS and there are many more. Of course, the donation for the use of the Hall is up to you.

Tithing is a 10% gig. **SUPPORTING THE PARISH IS AN ALL-YOU-CAN-GIVE GIG.**

Where else can you go where "Everyone knows your name and are glad to see you"? You could go to Cheers but that would be a waste of time and money.

LET'S ALL GO TO HOLY CROSS. LET'S SUPPORT HOLY CROSS FOR NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. LET'S NOT LOSE WHAT WE HAVE.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BAPTISMS & CHRISMATIONS**

- May 25 – Beverley Jean Sakelarios, daughter of Helen Prado Worthy, Maria Petrakis, sponsor
- June 4 – Ellery Charlotte, daughter of Joshua & Elaine Laura Maneatis Buffum, James Reese Maneatis, sponsor
- June 11 – Josephine Marie, daughter of Angelo & Lauren Matheou, Mark Rowen, sponsor
- June 12 – James, son of Ilya & Nicole Frangos; Spiros & Shareen Fousekis, sponsors
- June 18 – Vasili, son of Angelo & Athanasia Charonis, Vasiliki Marchelos & Theophilos Pouloupoulos, sponsors
- July 9 – Stephanie Ann, daughter of Stephen Martinez & Julie Ann Norman Martinez, Polyxeni Tzelepis, sponsor
- July 16 – George Alexander, son of John & Agatha Tragas, Costa & Blanca Papas, sponsors
- Aug 7 – Panos Stavros, son of Kitsy Kacludis, Panavioti S. Anagnostou & Dimitra McFaden, sponsors
- Sept 10 – Elijah Philip, son of Philip & Laila Louridas, Stefan Dan State, sponsor
- Sept 17 – Constance, daughter of Richard & Yvonne Pawlowski, Stella & Sean Kunz, sponsors

## WEDDINGS

July 30 – Yosef Terfe & Helen Hailu, Mekdem Sebhatu, sponsor

Aug 20 – Brandan J. Gorman & Angela M. Koliopoulos, Ted & Angela Belesis, sponsors

## FUNERALS

Vasilios K. “Bill” Gavrilis, who fell asleep in the Lord, May 26

Beverley Jean Sakelarios, who fell asleep in the Lord, May 26

Catherine Ferentinos, services held June 9

Elias Stratios, services held June 17

Charles George Ambus, who fell asleep in the Lord, June 19

Patricia Susan Grivakis, services held June 24

Presbytera Nina Limonczenko, services held August 3

Ernest “Anastasios” Magaris, services held August 16

Yianni (John) Ellenikiotis, who fell asleep in the Lord, Sept 19

*Please let the church office know if we are missing your sacrament or have incorrect information.*

## 2016 Christmas Family Sharing

It is time to start collecting items for our annual Family Sharing Outreach Opportunity! Donations can be dropped off in the Hall Lobby. This year we have added some new items to the list!

The baby items below have been requested as an urgent need from the Samaritan House. The hygiene items will be used to assemble IOCC (*see sidebar on page 12*) emergency kits.

Diapers - any size  
hand towels  
bar soap  
baby wipes

washcloths  
Band-Aids  
diaper cream  
combs

infant formula  
toothbrushes  
baby clothes  
metal nail clippers or file

The Giving Tree is up and waiting for YOU in The Oaks lobby.

### **Other ways to support Family Sharing:**

Sunday, December 4	Donate on Outreach Sunday
Sunday, December 11	Attend the Philoptochos Christmas Tea
Monday, December 12	Help sort & organize donations
Tuesday, December 13	
Sunday, December 18	
Monday, December 19	Help deliver donations

For info or to volunteer, contact: Anastacia Stamates [anastaciams@yahoo.com](mailto:anastaciams@yahoo.com) & Erin Kekos [erinkekos@gmail.com](mailto:erinkekos@gmail.com)

#### ABOUT IOCC

In response to a need expressed by members of our Orthodox Christian community, the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) was established in 1992 as the official international humanitarian relief and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America.

Since its inception, IOCC has distributed \$580 million in emergency relief and development assistance to families and communities in more than 50 countries. IOCC does not provide funds for Church missions such as religious education or missionary work. All funds collected by the agency (minus administrative expenses) are instead used for humanitarian aid. All assistance is provided solely on the basis of need, and benefits families, refugees and displaced persons, the elderly, school children, orphans, and people with disabilities.

#### HOLY CROSS THREE HIERARCHS BOOKSTORE

Holy Cross Bookstore is open for Christmas shopping!!! If you would enjoy an opportunity to shop without the crowds in the bookstore, please call 278-6694 to arrange a time to see the Nativity items that are available . . . ornaments, books, icons and other gift items. / Just released is a new translation of the Life of Saint Nikiforos the Leper. Translated by the nuns of the Monastery of the Life-Giving Spring in Dunlap, CA.

#### HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS TREES

November 25 to December 18

Support our Holy Cross Youth!

Holy Cross sells Christmas Trees to fundraise for our Youth Programs. Proceeds offset the costs for Greek Dance, Volleyball, Basketball and Youth Retreats. Decorate your home or business with a beautiful tree AND support our youth ministries at the same time!

Wreaths, garlands, and stands are also available.

**Sign up to help sell!** - A FUN way to spend time with family and friends! An EASY way to pile up those school community service hours! Click on the banner at our website for the SignUpGenius.

For info visit [www.goholycross.org](http://www.goholycross.org) *or* call 650-591-4447

## **NEED A GIFT CARD?**

As Christmas approaches, the Greek School continues to sell gift cards to many stores and restaurants at face value. Our School receives a percentage of the sale. Please purchase them in the Greek School office and make a donation at no extra charge to you!

## **PHILOPTOCHOS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA**

**Sunday, December 11**

Please join the Holy Cross family as we celebrate Christmas! Immediately after Divine Liturgy. Share in the delicious buffet tea and experience the joys of the season with beautiful decorations. Greek pastries will be available and we will have a cash drawing and some amazing Christmas décor to raffle. All proceeds will benefit the Family Sharing Program. The suggested donation is \$10 per person and seating is open. Please join us!

### **Come one come all!**

Yummy Food  
Christmas Punch  
The After 8 Singers  
Prizes  
Shopping Boutique

after liturgy, Noon, in the Fellowship Hall  
Suggested donation at the door is \$10 per person  
Special drawing for \$300, \$200, \$100 and other fun prizes!  
All proceeds go to our Family Sharing Program

## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**Sunday, December 11 (rehearsal on Saturday, December 10)**

### **Sat, Dec 10, 10 AM, CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL**

Here we come a-practicing! We have one rehearsal for all Sunday School children to prepare for the fabulous Christmas Program! Catch your sleigh ride, jingle those bells, and we'll see you in The Oaks!

### **ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MORE ACTORS**

We urgently need more youth actors for the Christmas Program on **Sunday, Dec. 11**. Two opportunities: The Play has speaking parts and 3-4 rehearsals. The Nativity Scene (Mary, Joseph, angels, etc.) has no speaking parts and one rehearsal on **Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:00 AM**.

Please contact **Helene Nemchik** for the Play with speaking parts, [hrnemchik@aol.com](mailto:hrnemchik@aol.com), or **Irene Fotinos** for the Nativity Scene with no speaking parts, [ijfotinos@gmail.com](mailto:ijfotinos@gmail.com). More info: **Eva Canellos**, [cecanellos@aol.com](mailto:cecanellos@aol.com), or 650-529-0180.

### **Sun, Dec 11, 5:00 PM, CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Ho-ho-hoping you'll join us for our inspiring celebration of the birth of Jesus. The Christmas Program will feature wonderful performances by our young people, a Nativity Scene, a sing-along, and a visit from Santa! We hope all Sunday School children will participate! **More actors needed!** If your child wants to act onstage or play a musical instrument, or if an adult wants to play an instrument, contact **Eva Canellos**, [cecanellos@aol.com](mailto:cecanellos@aol.com), or 650-529-0180.

## **IN THE NEW YEAR**

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** – Please click on the link on our webpage or pick up a form in the Narthex (available after **January 6**) if you would like to have your house blessed for the new year. You will receive a call to confirm that Father is coming.

**VASILOPETA** – Join us for our annual traditional Vasilopeta luncheon. Immediately following Divine Liturgy, **Sunday, January 8** in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds benefit Saint Basil Academy for Children.

## **NEWS**

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS** – Members in Good Standing are eligible to vote for the candidates for the 2017-2018 term. Join us **Sunday, December 11** in the Fellowship Hall following Liturgy. Voting will close at 1 PM. There is a mandatory Seminar for all candidates on **Tuesday, November 29** at 7 PM in the Contos Library. Send an email to the church office for candidacy forms.

**TECH SAVVY?** Looking for tech savvy high school students (who need service hours) or any interested individuals to create short videos of events at church. Contact Anastacia Stamates at [anastaciams@yahoo.com](mailto:anastaciams@yahoo.com) or Fr Peter at [frpeter@goholycross.org](mailto:frpeter@goholycross.org)

**SEEKING SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** - Holy Cross Greek School is looking for a PreK/Kindergarten teacher for the Wednesday *Phevos* and Thursday-Friday *Koraes* programs starting now through the end of January. Would you be interested, or do you know of someone who would be perfect for the job? Please contact Theodora Kounalakis at [tkounalakis@yahoo.com](mailto:tkounalakis@yahoo.com) with any questions or leads.

The Church of the Holy Cross Proudly Presents

# A CRETAN GLENDI

Live Music Directly from Crete

FEATURING

**Mixalis Aefantinos / Stelios Papadakis / Yiannis Kaklis**

Lyra



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**SATURDAY**  
**JANUARY 21, 2017**

**Ticket Prices:**  
**\$65.00 / \$30.00 (12 and under)**

**6:00 P.M. COCKTAILS (NO HOST BAR)**

**7:00 P.M. DINNER AND DANCING**

**Greek Orthodox Church  
of the Holy Cross  
900 Alameda de las Pulgas  
Belmont, CA 94002**

**Reserve your tickets by calling, emailing or sending in the RSVP below by January 7, 2017**

*Evangelia Daskalakis at 650-921-2948 / Kathy Flocas at 650-862-2610*

*Tiffany Kiniris at 650-302-3647 / Zaf Kyriakis at 415-860-6764 or email [cretanglendi2017@gmail.com](mailto:cretanglendi2017@gmail.com)*

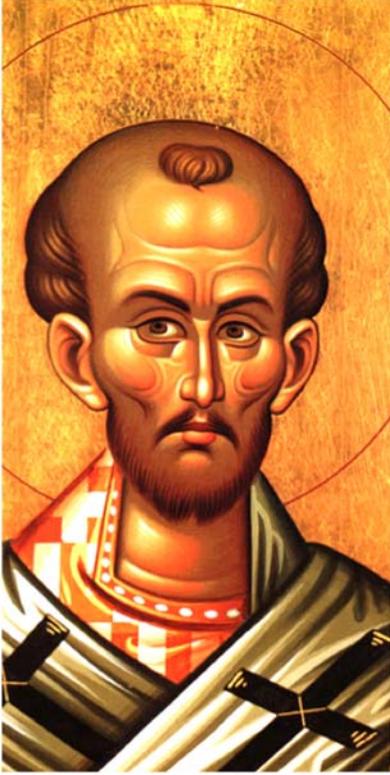
**Please RSVP by January 7th**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Under 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **The Church of the Holy Cross** and mail  
to Olga Daskalakis at 836 Fairfield Road, Burlingame, CA 94010

**If you would like to put a table  
together, please list the names of your  
guests here:**



*Helping a person in need is good in itself. But the degree of goodness is hugely affected by the attitude with which it is done.*

**St. John Chrysostom**

## **GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**

The Reverend Peter G. Salmas - e-mail : [frpeter@goholycross.org](mailto:frpeter@goholycross.org)

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If you are NOT currently receiving news from the church by e-mail (like **Cross Currents** or Father Peter's "**For Consideration**") and would like to help the church save money, time, and resources, please allow us to keep you up-to-date via e-mail by emailing us a "YES" from your "family" e-mail address (or the one you read most often). **Thank you!**