

KIDS N CANCER FUNDRAISING CONTINUES - Thanks to all of you who attended the Kids'n' Cancer Coffee Reception. So many of you showed your love and wonderful generosity which benefit these children who are struggling with terminal illnesses. / We have set a fundraising goal of \$20,000 this year. We have only begun our fundraising, and so we are not nearly there. However, we are optimistic that we will get there, with God's grace. / There is still time for you to donate. You can go to <https://www.goholycross.org/Events/KidsnCancer/> and donate. We hope you will consider helping us. / With our love and appreciation, Holy Cross Philoptochos



TODAY – OUTREACH SUNDAY – Please give generously to our Outreach Volunteers for distribution to the needy. Look for our collection following Liturgy.

FRIDAY LAST DAY TO REGISTER! Weekend, March 14-16 - BAY AREA LENTEN RETREAT - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight.* Join us at the NatureBridge Retreat Center in the Marin Headlands for our annual retreat. Open to Bay Area Orthodox Youth, grades 6-12. Registration is \$150 by **Friday, March 7**. Visit tinyurl.com/LentenRetreat2025 for the registration website. Visit our church website for the application and/or the event flyer.



Friday - LENTEN POTLUCKS BEGIN – Our ever-popular Lenten Potlucks follow Salutations to the Theotokos (which start at 7 PM). Please join us in The Oaks following services and bring your favorite Lenten (no meat or dairy) dish and your Orthodox friends. A Q&A session will also be conducted. This is a good opportunity for our younger families to get to know one another and to meet also those who have for many years been enjoying our Lenten Potluck after the services.

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY - Sunday, March 16 -- All members in Good Standing are encouraged to attend our Spring General Assembly following Divine Liturgy in The Oaks. The Spring agenda, and the minutes from the previous Assembly will be posted at our church website soon.

Sunday, March 30 – HOLY CROSS PARISH ORATORICAL FESTIVAL - The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will be held on **Sunday, March 30**. This Archdiocese-wide, faith-based speech festival provides our young people with an opportunity to write and deliver an oral presentation about a topic in Orthodoxy. The Festival is open to grades 3-12. Children in grades 3-6 can write a speech on the topic of their choice and those in grades 7-12 must write on a topic in their age category. Public speaking is important throughout life and this festival offers a way for our youth

to learn these important skills while exploring their faith. Please encourage the young people in your life to participate. Contact Allison Virsik (ali_virsik@yahoo.com) with questions and to register. Topics can be found at: www.goarch.org/oratorical

- **CALL FOR ORATORICAL FESTIVAL JUDGES** - We are in need of judges for the Parish Festival on **Sunday, March 30** and for the District Festival which will be hosted by Holy Cross on April 6. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Allison Virsik (ali_virsik@yahoo.com). There are no longer restrictions on serving multiple years in a row, so you can serve as a judge even if you have served in this capacity last year!

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **NEWS** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

STEWARDSHIP 2025 – Look for your 2025 Stewardship packet in the mail and make your pledge **Today!** Becoming a pledging steward of Holy Cross gives the necessary financial support to our church. Members of our Parish Council, Stewardship Committee and Sunday Ushers will be happy to help you with additional information and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your support and joining our Parish Community. Please visit our church website. Holy Cross receives **NO** funding from local, state, or Federal agencies. Only your stewardship contributions meet our parish financial needs.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHURCH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS – High school seniors are encouraged to apply for these service awards offered by the Philoptochos. Applications for the 2025 awards are available *by emailing the church office*. If you are college-bound or are planning to enter a training program, if you have participated in Church and Community service, and if your family is a member of our parish, then you may qualify. Deadline is **Bright Monday, April 21, 2025, 5 PM**.

CLASSES CONTINUE! - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – A new series of Studies in the Faith and Bible Studies. Join us in great informed discussions as we discover the enlightened wisdom and understanding of the Holy Fathers of our Orthodox Tradition. All are welcome to join and learn. Contact k.konstantine@gmail.com for info

HOLY CROSS PRESCHOOL AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN We are currently enrolling for the 25-26 school year -- please email Director Chris Shreve to schedule a visit for you and your child today! Preschool@goholycross.org Visit our Preschool website: www.holycrossbelmont.com Follow us on Instagram: [@holycrosspreschool](https://www.instagram.com/holycrosspreschool/) [<https://www.instagram.com/holycrosspreschool/>]. Like and follow us on Facebook: [<https://www.facebook.com/holycrossbelmont/>].

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **SERVICES** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Sunday, March 2 – Forgiveness Sunday / Cheesefare – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 3 – Lent Begins / Great Compline, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 4 – Great Compline, 5:00 PM [*note change in time*]

Wednesday, March 5 – Presanctified Liturgy, 5:30 PM

Thursday, March 6 – Great Compline, 7:00 PM

Friday, March 7 – Presanctified Liturgy, 8:30 AM

Friday, March 7 – Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 PM

Saturday, March 8 – Third Saturday of Souls – 8:30 AM Orthros, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Saturday, March 8 – Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, March 9 – Sunday of Orthodoxy – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 10 – Great Compline, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 12 – Presanctified Liturgy, 5:30 PM

Friday, March 14 – Presanctified Liturgy, 8:30 AM

Friday, March 14 – Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 PM

Saturday, March 15 – *no Great Vespers today*

Sunday, March 16 – Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 17 – Great Compline, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 19 – Presanctified Liturgy, 5:30 PM

Thursday, March 20 – Salutations to the Life Giving Cross – 7 PM (with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco as guest homilist)

Friday, March 21 – Presanctified Liturgy, 8:30 AM

Friday, March 21 – Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 PM

Saturday, March 22 – Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, March 23 – Sunday of the Holy Cross – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

*Forgiveness Sunday -
March 2, 2025*

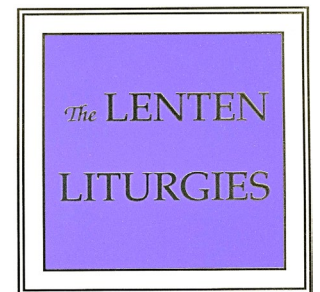
The Reverend Father Peter G. Salmas - e-mail: frpeter@goholycross.org
The Reverend Father Manoli Aspiotis - e-mail: frmanoli@goholycross.org

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OUR HOLY CROSS THREE HIERARCHS BOOKSTORE

... offers icons, prayer ropes, honey and books, including each of the service books for Great Lent. Lenten Liturgies, available in both softcover and hardcover, is a valuable guide through each of the liturgies celebrated during these weeks leading to Pascha.



WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

If you are visiting us for the first time, send us an email and share your thoughts and suggestions. May God bless and keep you well.