

TODAY! – HOLY CROSS PARISH ORATORICAL FESTIVAL - The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will be held **TODAY** in The Oaks following Liturgy. 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. Public speaking is important throughout life and this festival offers a way for our youth to learn these important skills while exploring their faith. Topics can be found at: www.goarch.org/oratorical [And join us for the DISTRICT Oratorical Festival on **Sunday, April 6** at 1 PM.]



*Join us as we cheer on our League basketball teams!
Complete schedule and standings at oyaasportscentral.com*



TODAY – all at Home. [*note changes*] Boys High School vs Saint Nicholas at 2 PM, Boys Middle vs Saint Gregory at 3 PM, Boys Elementary vs Ascension at 4 PM. **NEXT WEEK** – all at Home. Boys Elementary School vs Ascension at 2 PM, Boys Middle vs Saint Nicholas at 3 PM, Boys High School vs Annunciation at 4 PM.

GOOD NEWS FROM KIDS N CANCER FUNDRAISING - To all who have shown your love and generosity, we are so excited to report that the Holy Cross Philoptochos has reached its goal! With God's grace we will be able to wholeheartedly support this wonderful ministry because of all of your donations. We thank you for giving from the heart! *With our love and appreciation, Holy Cross Philoptochos*



Friday - LENTEN POTLUCKS CONCLUDE – Our final Lenten Potluck follows The Akathist Hymn (which starts at 7 PM). Please join us in The Oaks 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.

NEXT SUNDAY IS OUTREACH SUNDAY, the first Sunday of the month. Please give generously to our Outreach volunteers for distribution to the needy.

Saturday, April 12 - the Saturday of Lazarus. Immediately following Divine Liturgy we encourage all our youth and families to come to the gym and participate in the **FOLDING OF PALM CROSSES**. This annual tradition is a great opportunity for our youth to come together at the outset of Holy Week and contribute to our community's celebration of Palm

Sunday. A **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** will again be provided for all those participating. Please contact religioused@goholycross.org for details and with questions

April 13 - PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON - Join us for our annual Palm Sunday luncheon in The Oaks immediately following Divine Liturgy. Enjoy delicious fried cod, *mezze, skordalia*, salad, roasted potatoes, fresh sautéed green beans, fruit and *melomakarona*. Seating is LIMITED to 160 – Details on how to RSVP soon!

Friday, April 18 - Great and Holy Friday – **HOLY FRIDAY YOUTH RETREAT** - our youth will again have the opportunity to gather between the morning and afternoon services to learn, be inspired, and to serve the Church as part of the observance of Holy Friday. There will be activities by age group for all Sunday School classes, as well as a lunch and snacks provided. All our youth are encouraged to make this popular and meaningful annual activity a priority by attending. The Church will provide a letter for each student to authorize their absence from school to participate in this important day of fellowship as part of your Holy Week observance. Please contact religioused@goholycross.org to register your student, and for details or questions.

Friday, April 18 - DECORATION OF THE EPITAPHIOS – Join our Philoptochos ladies in the morning to decorate the *Epitaphios* and stay for the 3 PM service, return at 7 PM for Lamentations.

April 20 - EGG HUNT & EASTER PICNIC - Join us for our Holy Cross Easter Agape picnic in the church parking lot immediately following Agape Vespers (which begin at 11:30 AM). More information SOON at our church website, the Sunday Bulletins, and Father's Daily Consideration.

MEDITERRANEAN CHIC - Annual Fashion Show – presented by Holy Cross Philoptochos! **Saturday May 3**. 11:30 AM Cocktail Reception; 12:30 PM Luncheon. Event tickets are \$80. Raffle tickets are also available (3 for \$20, 10 for \$50). Gentlemen welcome! Dress like you are on vacation! For event questions or comments contact: Nina Azar at Ninaazar13@gmail.com. RSVP, and see the event flyer, at our church website.



❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **NEWS** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - The dance program is once again selling Tsourekia for your Pascha table. Saving you time as super delicious and made fresh, secure yours today



so you can have it right in time for Easter! Order at the link at our church website. Order **NOW** until **April 6**. / Tsourekia will be *available for pick up* ONE DAY ONLY after church on Palm Sunday, **April 13**. Please ensure you are



able to pick up or have someone pick up for you if you cannot make it. Thank you all immensely for your continued support. Questions? Email effiezaxari@gmail.com or 650.483.4899.

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/>].

OUR HOLY CROSS THREE HIERARCHS BOOKSTORE

... offers icons, books, prayer ropes, honey, and all that is Orthodox, including each of the service books for Great Lent and Pascha. Recommended reading includes 'Repentance and Resurrection' by St. Sofian, of Antim Monastery in Romania, who taught the Jesus Prayer "to countless young people...For modern life, it seems that God appointed this short prayer..for any rush of everyday life in which we find ourselves."



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ***Sunday of Saint John Climacus - March 30, 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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❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **SERVICES** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Sun, March 30 – Sunday of St John Climacus – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10 AM, Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 31 – Great Compline, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 2 – Presanctified Liturgy, 5:30 PM

Friday, April 4 – no Presanctified Liturgy today

Friday, April 4 – The Akathist Hymn, 7 PM

Saturday, April 5 – Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sun, April 6 – Sunday of St Mary of Egypt – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

Monday, April 7 – Great Compline, 5:30 PM

Wednesday, April 9 – Presanctified Liturgy, 5:30 PM

Friday, April 11 – no Presanctified Liturgy today

Saturday, April 12 – Saturday of Lazarus – 8:30 AM Orthros; 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

[Breakfast following in the Fellowship Hall]

Saturday, April 12 – Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 13 – Service of the Bridegroom, 7:00 PM

Monday, April 14 – Holy Monday – Service of the Bridegroom, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, April 15 – Holy Tuesday – Presanctified Liturgy, 8:30 AM

Tuesday, April 15 – Holy Tuesday – Service of the Bridegroom, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 16 – Holy Wednesday – Sacrament of Holy Unction, 3:00 PM

Wednesday, April 16 – Holy Wednesday – Matins of Holy Thursday / Sacrament of Holy Unction, 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 17 – Holy Thursday – Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, 8:30 AM

Thursday, April 17 – Holy Thursday – Service of the Holy Passion, 7:00 PM

Friday, April 18 – Holy Friday – Vigil of the Royal Hours, 8:00 AM

Friday, April 18 – Holy Friday – Vespers of the Descent from the Cross, 3:00 PM

Friday, April 18 – Holy Friday – Service of the Lamentations, 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 19 – Holy Saturday, Divine Liturgy, 8:30 AM

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.