HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Sunday, April 7, 2024
Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross
St. Kalliopios the Martyr
Mode of the Week: Third / Τρίτος

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:
Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a warm welcome to all worshiping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service. Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!
O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.  
Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God, may You not pass over me in silence. (Psalm 27)

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, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

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.”
**This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**

**Sunday of the Cross (4/7—Wine+Oil):** John 21:14-25; Hebrews 14:1-10, 16-19; Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

**Monday (4/8—Strict Fast):** Isaiah 14:24-32; Genesis 8:21-9:7; Proverbs 11:19-12:6


**Friday (4/12—Strict Fast):** Isaiah 29:13-23; Genesis 12:7-8; Proverbs 14:7-15:1

**Saturday (4/13—Wine+Oil):** Hebrews 6:9-12; Mark 7:3-37

**Prayer Requests:**

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish)

Pantelis, John, Snezhana, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermione, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Steliano, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian

**Prayers for those recently reposed:**

Jeffrey (+March 23), Audrey (+April 2)

**Prayers for expecting mothers:**

Julie G., Bobbie 1, Muriyah S.

**Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:**

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

**Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:**

Bobbie, Jessica, Nate, Schyler and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

**Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:**

St. Romanos the Melodist (+6th c.) from his theological hymnography regarding the veneration of the Holy Cross:

The Most High planted in the middle of Paradise The faith of the blessed, the gift of life for us, In order that, in approaching it, Adam might find eternal and immortal life, But he did not strive earnestly to know this life, And he failed to attain it, and revealed death. However, his seed became the Church in Eden Has been beautifully transplanted in Golgotha, Recognized the life in it and said to himself: This is what my father lost formerly In Paradise.