

### **TODAY, MARCH 16 - SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

All members in Good Standing are encouraged to attend our Spring General Assembly **TODAY** following Divine Liturgy in The Oaks. Look for the Spring agenda, and the minutes from the previous Assembly at our church website – some printed copies available at the Assembly.

*Join us as we cheer on our League basketball teams!*

*Complete schedule and standings at [oyaasportscentral.com](http://oyaasportscentral.com)*



**TODAY** - All HOME games with Boys Elementary at 2 PM, Boys Middle at 3 PM, and Boys High School at 4 PM, all versus St Gregory. **NEXT SUNDAY**, head to Resurrection Castro Valley for Boys Elementary vs St Nicholas at 2 PM, Boys Middle vs Annunciation at 3 PM, and Boys High School vs St Gregory at 5 PM.

**KIDS N CANCER FUNDRAISING CONTINUES** – With our recent Kids’n’Cancer effort, 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!



### **Thursday - ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF SALUTATIONS TO THE HOLY CROSS**

- The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco invites you to “Rejoice, O Cross Guardian of the World” - An Ecumenical Service of Salutations to the Holy Cross, **Thursday, March 20, 7:00 PM** at Holy Cross. Commemorating the 19th year anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross and the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary joining together in Salutations and Veneration of the relic of the Holy Cross of our Lord. / His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos welcomes His Excellency Archbishop Cordileone, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco, as the homilist. / A reception will follow in our Oaks Hall, sponsored by our Ladies Philoptochos Society. / The service will also be streamed live at [www.goholycross.org](http://www.goholycross.org). Please [click here](#) for the flyer. Please contact [office@goholycross.org](mailto:office@goholycross.org) or 650) 591-4447 for information.



**Friday - LENTEN POTLUCKS CONTINUE** – 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.

### **Saturday – SPIRITUAL ODYSSEY RETURNS**

– “Wisdom leads a Soul to God” is our theme for this year’s Spiritual Odyssey featuring the Rev. Dr. George Parsenios, Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. Father George is one of the premier New Testament Scholars in America and a gifted speaker. We welcome Father George, and invite you to join us on **Saturday, March 22**, as Father George will open for us the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Scriptures and the Fathers of our Holy Orthodox tradition in three presentations on the “Wisdom that leads our Souls to God.” Our day starts with a continental breakfast at 10 AM, then the Program with Father George, then a delicious luncheon at Noon. A donation will be requested to help defray the costs associated with this event. Spiritual Odyssey was an annual speaker series during Great and Holy Lent, usually held on the weekend commemorating the Veneration of the Holy Cross. Due to the Covid Pandemic the series was discontinued until this year. We are blessed and grateful that we can once again offer this opportunity to the community for spiritual edification and benefit in our preparations to commemorate our Lord Passion and Glorious Resurrection. *Kali Sarakosti!* Visit our church website, and Father’s Daily emailed newsletter, for further details and registration information.



### **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. 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](mailto:ali_virsik@yahoo.com)) with questions and to register. Topics can be found at: [www.goarch.org/oratorical](http://www.goarch.org/oratorical)

### **❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ 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 4**. / 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Preschool@goholycross.org) Visit our Preschool website: [www.holycrossbelmont.com](http://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 16** – Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 17 – Great Compline, 6:30 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 – *no Presanctified Liturgy today*

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

Saturday, March 22 – Great Vespers, 5:00 PM [note change in time]

**Sunday, March 23** – Sunday of the Holy Cross – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy (with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos)

Monday, March 24 – 6 PM, Annunciation Vespers at Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco

Tuesday, March 25 – Annunciation – 8:30 AM Orthros; 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 26 – Presanctified Liturgy, 5:30 PM

Friday, March 28 – *no Presanctified Liturgy today*

Friday, March 28 – Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 PM

Saturday, March 29 – Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

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



## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

*Sunday of  
Saint Gregory Palamas  
- March 16, 2025*

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

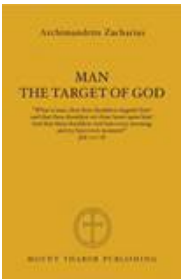
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### **OUR HOLY CROSS THREE HIERARCHS BOOKSTORE**

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 and a book being used in Bible study and Study of the Faith classes is ‘Man, the Target of God’ by Archimandrite Zacharias. “God created man in His “image and likeness”... although this image has become distorted, the purpose of man’s life in the Church is that it should be perfectly restored.”



### **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.