

TODAY! **PHILOPTOCHOS KIDS'n'CANCER COFFEE HOUR**

RECEPTION - Please join us in the Oaks after Liturgy and help us to reach our goal of \$20,000 to help children with terminal cancer. This ministry of the Philoptochos funds four camps in the West, welcoming children and their families to a few days in the sun, away from



hospitals and infusions. / We are preparing some delicious food and have planned an amazing drawing where you can choose which prize you would like to win. Please use the donations link at our church website. We look forward to seeing you there! / With our love, *the*

Holy Cross Philoptochos

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.

Next Sunday **SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY – March 1** – immediately following Divine Liturgy in The Oaks. All Holy Cross members in good standing are encouraged to attend this important meeting in the life of your parish. The agenda and minutes of the previous Assembly are available at our church website.

Sat Mar 7 **BEE WELL** - Holy Cross Philoptochos invites you to a special wellness membership event master gardener Anita Galeana will speak on the benefits of pollinator gardens. 11-1 PM The Oaks. Lunch will be served. Honey tasting and planting workshop admission is \$20. Sign up today.

March 6-8 **THE BAY AREA LENTEN YOUTH RETREAT** - "Yet even now, return to me with all your heart . . ." Joel 2:12. Join us at NatureBridge Golden Gate Campus in the Marin Headlands - Open to all Bay Area Orthodox Youth Grades 6-12. Registration of \$150 includes transportation to and from NatureBridge, limited seating. See the event flyer and/or register (by **February 28**) with this QR code or



visit our church website. If you have any questions, please email Father Manoli.

Sun Mar 15 **HOLY CROSS PARISH ORATORICAL FESTIVAL** - This faith-



based speech festival provides our young people with an opportunity to write and deliver a speech about a topic in Orthodoxy. Our Parish's Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical 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



NEWS

WE NEED YOU! We are in need of additional Church Ushers. At present we are down to a bare minimum. If you are new to our Church, please volunteer. It's a great way to meet all our Parishioners. This also is a way of contributing to our spiritual stewardship. Please join! For info please email office@goholycross.org or christofrangos@gmail.com

CALL FOR ORATORICAL FESTIVAL JUDGES - We are in need of judges for the Parish Festival on **March 15** and for the District Festival which will be hosted by Holy Cross on **April 19**. 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 in recent years!

YOUTH SINGERS WANTED! Talented young people who love to sing are invited to perform in a beautiful concert of Greek Orthodox hymns, joining with singers from several local churches, on **Sat., May 23**, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco. Students in 2nd grade through high school will sing the youth choir parts along with other youth and adult singers. A wonderful opportunity

to learn and perform the beautiful music of our church! Three Sunday rehearsals. Contact Eva Canellos, 650-400-1610 or cecanellos@aol.com.

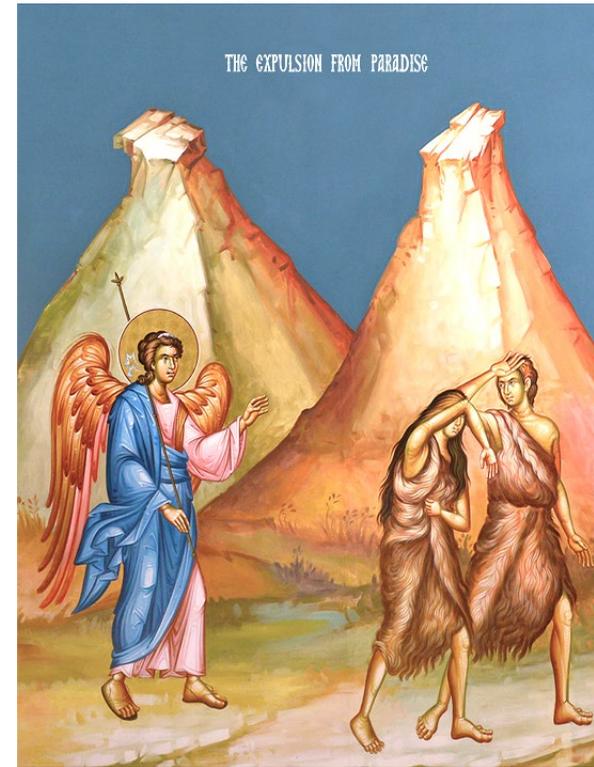
STEWARDSHIP 2026 – The NEW 2026 Stewardship packets are in your homes! Let's make this the “Year of Stewardship”! We thank you for your support and for joining our Parish Community. If you haven't already donated, please visit our church website and make your monthly donation for our minimal ask of \$175 today!

STUDIES AND BIBLE CLASSES! – Classes will meet this week. Please see the church website for NEW Zoom info.

HOLY CROSS PRESCHOOL AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN We are currently enrolling for the 26-27 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

OUR HOLY CROSS THREE HIERARCHS BOOKSTORE

Our bookstore is grateful to make available all that is Orthodox for personal use or gift-giving, including books for the youngest and older among us, games, icons, and prayer ropes. *The Tools of Spiritual Warfare* shares with the reader a powerfully dynamic description of how we can participate in Christ's victory over the devil, darkness, disease and death...an in-depth writing on spiritual warfare which describes in detail the many tools that Christ provides for us to be not victims but “overcomers,” showing in detail what St. Paul calls, “the whole armor of God.”



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS *Sunday of Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday) February 22, 2026*

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

900 Alameda de las Pulgas
Belmont, CA / 94002-1604
650-591-4447 / www.goholycross.org /
office@goholycross.org
✉@GoHC_Belmont
 Holy Cross Church

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **SERVICES** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Sunday, February 22 – Sunday of Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday) – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 22 – Forgiveness Vespers, 6 PM

Monday, February 23 – Clean Monday / Lent Begins – Great Compline, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, February 24 – Great Compline, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 25 – Presanctified Liturgy, 5:30 PM

Thursday, February 26 – Great Compline, 6:30 PM

Friday, February 27 – Presanctified Liturgy, 8:30 AM

Friday, February 27 – Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 PM

Saturday, Feb 28 – Saturday of Souls – 8:30 AM Orthros; 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 28 – Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, March 1 – Sunday of Orthodoxy – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

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.