

Feasts and Commemorations for this Week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist Luke 24:1-12 » Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4 » Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-80 »	25 5th Monday after Pentecost Romans 12:4-5, 15-21 » Matthew 12:9-13 »	26 5th Tuesday after Pentecost Romans 14:9-18 » Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30 »	27 5th Wednesday after Pentecost Romans 15:7-16 » Matthew 12:38-45 »	28 5th Thursday after Pentecost Romans 15:17-29 » Matthew 12:46-50, 13:1-3 »	29 Peter and Paul, the Holy Apostles John 21:14-25 » II Corinthians 11:21-33, 12:1-9 » Matthew 16:13-19 »	30 Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles I Corinthians 4:9-16 » Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8 »
Wine / Oil Allowed	Fish Allowed	Strict Fast	Cheese / Dairy Allowed			

Prayer List:

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers this week:

- For Jeremy Grove, son of Deacon and Mary Grove, who is donating a kidney to Ike this week, and for the other donors involved in the chain, as well as the medical professionals who will perform the surgeries and after-care.
- For Tommy, Teri Tallent's brother, who is struggling with health issues.
- For Gabrielle Kusmiak, for continued healing
- For all those who are sick and suffering. May the Lord give them healing and peace.

Thanks to all who helped with the church grounds clean-up yesterday! Job well done!

Save the Dates!

- 6/30 Orthodoxy 101 Class 5:00p-6:15p @ church, Confessions ~6:15p
 7/1 Orthros 9:00a, Divine Liturgy 10:00a with Fr. Earl.
 7/7 Orthodoxy 101 Class 5:00p-6:15p @ church, Confessions ~6:15p
 7/8 Orthros 9:00a, Divine Liturgy 10:00a with Fr. Earl.
 7/14 Orthodoxy 101 Class 5:00p-6:15p @ church, Confessions ~6:15p
 7/15 Sunday of the Holy Fathers
 Orthros 9:00a, Divine Liturgy 10:00a with Fr. Earl.
 7/21 Orthodoxy 101 Class 5:00p-6:15p @ church, Confessions ~6:15p
 7/22 Orthros 9:00a, Divine Liturgy 10:00a with Fr. Earl.
 7/28 Orthodoxy 101 Class 5:00p-6:15p @ church, Confessions ~6:15p
 7/29 Orthros 9:00a, Divine Liturgy 10:00a with Fr. Earl.

Refer to e-mailed Parish Updates for additional events and details.



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

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Services Schedule:

Orthros 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Bulletin for Sunday, June 24, 2018
 Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let all things above in heav'n rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Apolytikion for Nativity of John the Forerunner in the Fourth Mode

O Prophet and Forerunner of the appearance of Christ, with longing we honor you, although we have not the means of extolling you worthily. Your birth, which was exalted and most glorious, ended the barrenness of your mother and the muteness of your father; and unto the world it announced the Incarnation of God the Word.

Holy Cross Church Apolytikion in the First Mode

Save, O Lord Your people, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the Faith, and protect Your people by the power of Your Cross.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

**Epistle Reading—The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans
13:11-14; 14:1-4**

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Gospel Reading—Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist

The Reading is from Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-80

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled

in their time." And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways." And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Saints and Feasts Commemorated

Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist

He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1: 7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder. But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when he was circumcised, that is, the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called him Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation. Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80). His name is a variation of the Hebrew "Johanan," which means "Yah is gracious."

Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner, Panagiotis the New Martyr, Athanasios Parios