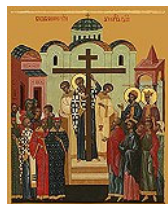


✠Bulletin✠

Week of January 18th to January 24, 2026



Holy Cross Orthodox Church

V. Rev. Fr. Leonid Palceski
2365 South Olga Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33905
www.HolyCrossFtMyers.org
Phone: 239-265-6562
Cell: 239-699-3119
HolyCrossFtMyers@gmail.com

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7

Ss. Athanasius the Great (373) and Cyril (444), Archbishops of Alexandria.
Ven. Afanásii (Athanasius), Abbot of Syandémsk (Vologdá—16th c.).
Righteous Afanásii of Novolótsk, Monk (16th-17th c.). Ven. Marcian of
Cyrrhus in Syria (ca. 388). Ven. Schemamonk Cyril and Schemanun Maria, the
parents of St Sergius of Radonezh (ca. 1337).

Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule

Sunday January 18, 2026

9:15 am - Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday January 24th

4:30 pm – Great Vespers

Weekly Schedule

Sunday January 18th

- Annual Parish meeting for all members of Holy Cross
- Inquirers & Catechism classes following Liturgy

Wednesday January 21st

- 5:30 pm choir practice at the church for all choir members

Analysis of the Prayer “Lord Jesus Christ, Have Mercy on Me, A Sinner”

By Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra

The prayer of Mount Athos, who does not recognize it? It is comprised of one small phrase of measured words.

“Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

With the loud cry **“Lord”**, we glorify God, His glorious majesty, the King of Israel, the Creator of visible and invisible creation, Whom Seraphim and Cherubim tremble before.

With the sweet invocation and summons **“Jesus”**, we witness that Christ is present, our Savior, and we gratefully thank Him, because He has prepared for us life eternal.

With the third word **“Christ”**, we theologically confess that Christ is the Son of God and God. No man saved us, nor angel, but Jesus Christ, the true God.

There follows the intimate petition **“have mercy”**, and we venerate and entreat that God would be propitious, fulfilling our salvation’s demands, the desires and needs of our hearts.

That **“on me”**, what range it has! It is not only me, it is everyone admitted to citizenship in the state of Christ, in the holy Church; it is all those who are members of the body of the Bridegroom.

And finally, so that our prayer be full of life, we close with the word **“a sinner”**, confessing -since we are all sinners - as all the Saints confess and became through this sound sons of light and of the day.

Through this we understand that this prayer involves:

Glorification
Thanksgiving
Theology
Supplication
and Confession

Two excerpts from The Jesus Prayer
by Fr. David Hester

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me. These few simple words, known as the Jesus Prayer, are of great importance to the Christian East—so much so that they are often called the summation of all Orthodox spirituality. The prayer reflects so well the heart of Eastern Christian spirituality that its use is recommended for both the beginner and the proficient as the driving force in their life of prayer.

The Jesus Prayer is a great gift that comes to us from the Fathers throughout the centuries, but like any gift, it must be opened and used to be really appreciated. This gift is given not only to the Church as a whole, but to you personally, under the guidance of your spiritual father, to be used, to be prayed, to become a part of your life.

The prayer may be used at assigned times in the day, or it may be used in times of quiet, particularly when you are involved in some activity that frees you from talk. This may be some repetitive activity in the home or workplace, or it may be when you are driving, particularly when the traffic is not causing inner turmoil. The prayer can fill your heart when you are being kept on hold on the telephone, or while waiting in some office for an appointment. It may be prayed when you wake up in the morning, or before going to bed. You may even want to wake up in the night and pray it in the quiet of darkness. The Jesus Prayer can be a constant companion throughout the day.

The only way that this can happen is for you to take to heart the words of the Fathers and begin gradually to repeat the words of the Jesus Prayer to yourself, to let the prayer become a part of you, like the beating of your heart or the breath of your lungs. Then you can share in this gift, and with God's help attain a more constant recollection of God and openness to His presence.

Annual Parish Meeting – January 18, 2026

Holy Cross annual parish meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 18, 2026 following Divine Liturgy. Per the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America, Uniform Parish By-laws, Article IV, Section 1:

The Parish Meeting is the highest authority of the Parish as a civil corporation. All members of the Parish as defined in Article III, Section 1 which are those persons who have been baptized and chrismated, or otherwise canonically received, into the Church and who consciously uphold and profess the Orthodox Faith, who have been members for a period of six months and are at least eighteen years old may attend and vote at the Parish Meeting.

Schedule of Weekly Services

Friday January 30th

8:45 am – Hours

9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Synaxis of the Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.

Saturday February 14th

4:30 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday February 22nd

Following Divine Liturgy, Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Monday February 23rd

5:30 pm - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Wednesday February 25th

5:30 pm – Presanctified Liturgy

Inquirers & Catechism Class

Classes will be on Sundays following Divine Liturgy. For those new to understanding Orthodoxy or for those who want to expand your foundation, please join us for our classes. Please check the schedule for changes.

tithe.ly.com

Another way to “donate”. This app can be downloaded to your phone and Holy Cross can be accessed via this app. Also, **tithe.ly** can be accessed through the church website www.HolyCrossFtMyers.org

Prayer Requests

Heather (Helen)Auld
Anne and Scott Peatross
Nicholas Kowalski
James Clark – Parishioner of St. Herman's
Carolyn – Robert & Debra's Forster's daughter
Robert Kozera
Megan – David & Phyllis Bartos' daughter
Rosemary – Friend of David & Phyllis Bartos

Please pray for our families in Ukraine

Leonid, Nadiia, Andrii, Halyna,
Volodymyr, Maryna, Dmytro, Bohdan,
Nadiia, Oleksandr, Tetiana,
Roman, Mykola
Anatoly, Olga, Maria, Andrei

Please let us know of anyone you would like to add to the Prayer Lists.

The Divine Liturgy

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Variable Hymns and Readings

Tone 7 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 3 Troparion *(Sts. Athanasius and Cyril)*

You shone forth with works of Orthodoxy and quenched all heresy,
and became victorious trophy-bearers, hierarchs Athanasius and Cyril.
You enriched all things with piety and greatly adorned the Church,
and worthily found Christ God,//
Who grants His great mercy to all.

Tone 7 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
"The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Sts. Athanasius and Cyril)*

Athanasius and Cyril, great hierarchs of true piety, and noble champions of
the Church of Christ,
Preserve all who sing://
"O Compassionate Lord, save those who honor Thee!"

Tone 6 *(Steadfast Protectress....)*

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
constant Advocate before the Creator:
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us
who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us,
O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people
with peace. *(Ps. 28:11)*

*V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the
Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)*

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)

Brethren: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ
Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for
this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all
longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for
everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who
alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name,
O Most High. (Ps. 91:2)*

*V. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.
(Ps. 91:3)*

Luke 18:35-43 (Gospel)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Explanation of Today's Gospel Reading Luke 18:35-43

By Blessed Theophylact
Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

35-37. Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. The Lord performed this wayside miracle of the blind man so that even His passage along a road would yield a profitable teaching for His disciples and for us: that we should in all things, at all times, and in every place do what is beneficial and never be idle. The blind man believed that Jesus was the awaited Messiah; having been raised among the Jews, it is certain that he knew that the Christ would be of the seed of David.

38-39. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Therefore, he cries out with a great voice, *Son of David, have mercy on me*. His words *have mercy on me* show that he understood Jesus to be divine and not merely a man. Marvel at his staunch confession: although rebuked by many, he did not keep silent, but cried out all the more, urged on by the fervent zeal within him.

40-43. So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God. Therefore, Jesus summons him as one who is truly worthy to approach Him, and asks him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He asks the question, not in ignorance of what the blind man wanted, but so that it would not appear to the others who were present that the Lord gave something different from what the man wanted. Otherwise, some might have said that the Lord, in a vainglorious show of power, healed the man's blindness when the man had only been begging for alms. Envy might well have inspired some to slander the Lord with such foolishness as this. Therefore, the Lord asked the blind man what he wanted, and when He heard that he wanted his sight, He gave him his sight. See the absence of vainglory: the Lord says, *'Thy faith hath made thee whole*. For you have believed with faith that I am the Son of David, the Christ, Who is now revealed, and you have shown such zeal that you did not keep silent even when rebuked." We may learn from this that when we ask with faith, God does not give something other than what we ask for, but the very same thing. However, when we ask for one thing and receive something else, it is clear that either we did not make a good request, or we did not ask with faith. See also the power of the Lord: *Receive your sight*. Which of the prophets ever healed in this manner, with such power? His voice, proceeding from Him Who is the true Light, became light to the blind man. See also the gratitude of the healed man: he followed Jesus, glorifying God, and causing others to do the same.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!