



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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JUNE, 2018

***The Ninth Song: "Let us Depart in Peace:
In the Name of the Lord"***

by Fr. John



On Sunday May 20, the last of this year's Youth Sermons on the theme of "*The Nine Songs: Nine Liturgical Responses Anyone Can Offer*" was presented. This Sermon brought us to the end of the Divine Liturgy and combined the "call" of the priest: "**Let us depart in peace**" with the "response" of the community: "**In the Name of the Lord.**"

One might think that the importance of the Liturgy involves what takes place **during** the service and on a certain level, especially when it comes to the consecration and reception of Holy Communion, this might be true. But perhaps the aspects which can make all the difference concern how and what efforts we have made in preparing for the Liturgy and in what way we leave. Or simply put, what can make all the difference is **how we come and go.**

The Sermon began by re-introducing the previous eight themes and identifying the ninth as plants with markers – reminding us that they are not just words, but living expressions and responses of faith in action.

So, here they are again:

1. Amen
2. Lord, have mercy
3. To You, O Lord
4. Alleluia
5. Lay Aside All Earthly Cares
6. Holy, Holy, Holy
7. Praise, Bless, Give Thanks, and Pray to You

8. One is holy
9. In the Name of the Lord

There are other and longer hymns that the community can also sing with the choir during the Liturgy like the antiphons, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and Communion Hymn (especially when it involves the singing of a Psalm with a refrain). But all of the responses we have been considering involve some measure of listening and commitment. If we say, "Amen," to the opening announcement of the Liturgy – "Blessed is the Kingdom..." – we are affirming that we agree with and desire to accompany the Church on the path to the experience of God's Kingdom. When we repeatedly state, "Lord, have mercy," we are asking God to fill all areas of our requests and intents with His mercy, His steadfast love that endures forever, that never quits. We are asking God simply to be what He is in every situation. Ending petitions with the phrase, "To You, O Lord" is a pledge that we "commend ourselves and each other" – what we have and who are (as individuals and as a community) – to Christ. "Alleluia" is the untranslatable Hebrew expression of joy that the Church presents during its most festive moments, but also calls us to use during the Funeral and Memorial Services in the transformation of our sorrow (when we are to "make our lamentation the song: Alleluia"). We cannot do any of these things until we "lay aside all earthly cares" and acquire the language of the angels who summarize all praise in the "thrice holy hymn" – "Holy, Holy, Holy." The Eucharistic hymn reminds us that our offering of Bread and Wine (as well as our lives and our intentions) is accompanied by "praise, blessing, giving thanks and praying." All of this is so that we may understand that the "Holy things are for the Holy" – the Body and Blood of Christ are given for all of who – though unworthy – are called for holiness. Our response that: "One is holy. One is the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father" reaffirms that we can only hope to do this by being more like Christ, by allowing Him to enter into our lives and we into His.

All of the above brings us to the realization that desiring and affirming everything to this point in the Liturgy we would leave the church building and return to the world – "*In the Name of the Lord*"— as the witnesses of Jesus Christ, his voice, his hands, and the expression of His love among those we encounter – everything being done in His Name. This is brought together in the final prayer which summarizes both the intentions we have made throughout the Liturgy, but also the tone of how we might re-engage the world and our daily activities (some of it actually presented in a prayer at the beginning of the Service):

O Lord, who blesses those who bless You, and sanctifies those who trust in You:
Save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Your Church.
Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house; glorify them in return by Your
divine power, and do not forsake us who put our hope in You. Give peace to Your
world, to Your Churches, to Your priests, to all those in civil authority, and to all
Your people.

For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the
Father of lights, and to You we ascribe glory, thanksgiving, and worship: to the
Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

And all the people say: Amen.

We began by suggesting that the Liturgy and all of the Nine Songs assume that we are taking seriously not just how we respond during a particular Service, but are the result of how we have prepared to come to this Liturgy and will be influenced by the cumulative result of how we have left previously and will do so again

after this particular Service. So, the Liturgical “work” and responses that “anyone can offer” will always involve both anticipation for what is coming and thanksgiving for what has happened.

The Nine Songs as responses, informed by the past and affirmed again when looked back from the future, can hopefully be the means for us to participate more deeply in every Divine Liturgy.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **SATURDAY, JUNE 2: COMMUNITY LUNCHEON — 9 AM.**
- **SUNDAY, JUNE 3: BEGINNING OF SUMMER SCHEDULE – THE DIVINE LITURGY WILL BEGIN AT 9:00.**
- **SUNDAY, JUNE 3: ST. HELENA’S GUILD MEETING, during Coffee Hour.**
- **SUNDAY, JUNE 17: FATHER’S DAY:**
- **THURSDAY, JUNE 21: PARISH COUNCIL MEETING at 7 PM.**
- **THURSDAY, JUNE 28: VESPERAL LITURGY FOR SS PETER & PAUL at 7 PM.**
- **SUNDAY, JULY 1: INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING.**
- **SUNDAY, JULY 15: Wedding of Paul Denko and Patricia Haaf**
- **SUNDAY, JULY 29: CHURCH PICNIC (see information on page 6)**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Congratulations to: Jacob Kupersmith, Lauren Mosser, and Alexandra Plachuta,

WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES: Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m., *Scrapbooking Night at Diana Pasca’s home.* Now is the chance to start on that photo project you’ve been putting off! Just bring several photos and you’ll be able to make a scrapbook page from materials which Diana very nicely has. Or, just come and hang out with us and gather ideas. Please let Diana know if you will be attending: 609-953-4705. Her address is 29 Wentwood Ct., Medford 08055.

*** Thursday, June 21, 12 noon, *Ladies’ Luncheon at Ginger Restaurant (near church).* Please let Genie know if you will be coming: 856-802-1664.**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, May 17, 7:00 by Phyllis Prichard.

Pastor’s Report: Fr. John has resubmitted the By-laws to the Diocese for approval. He has been working with Carol Ann Curry on updating the Church Directory which will be available soon. Our Church picnic will be July 29, 2018, from 1-6 and the rain date will be August 26, 2018, Information will be posted in the June Crossroads. Father John and Mark will be attending the All-American Council in St. Louis on July 23-27.

Treasurer’s Report: Balances reflect payments made through 5/1/2018 and do not reflect income from 5/13/2018 (still to be counted and deposited)

- The account balances as of May 17th are as follows: **General Fund** \$38,924.46, **Memorial Fund** \$49,658.48 **Capital Improvement Fund** \$48,925.04, **Food Coupon Fund** \$7,079.61, **Choir Fund** \$4,029.48, **Father's Supplemental Checking** \$481.30, **Fundraising Account** \$1,628.94
- **The Mortgage Balance** as of May 17th, \$86,027.05
- **Servant Keeper Training**-Michelle attended servant keeper training and shared highlights of the new features that version 8 will allow us to utilize.
- **Investments**-We are still waiting to transfer the monies. Mark will follow up.

Maintenance Update: Gary Mosser has coordinated having the basement floors waxed.

Open Action Items: Old Business

- **Repair of Ramp**– Mark reviewed with Council each of the concrete estimates. It was decided with go with *Brunetti Concrete*.
- **Custodial cleaning services update:** *Tom Gibbons* has expressed interested in doing this work. Fr. John and Mark have met with him and he will begin in June. Our parish is grateful for the efforts of Paul and Mary Denko.
- **Landscaping Plan:** A Committee has been established that will review options (initially with the area near the church front doors)..
- **Parking lot sealing/repair:** Gary Mosser is coordinating the work of *Tars & Stripes Asphalt*.
- **Fall Festival-September 22nd:** Talks of the festival will be one day only and start one hour earlier 10-7pm Saturday. If food is left over from Saturday it will be sold to our parishioner on Sunday.
- **Iconographic Plan:** An Iconographic Committee will be formed to help develop a plan.

The next Meeting will be **Thursday June 21.**

ICON PLAN COMMITTEE: See Fr. John if you are interested in participating in a Committee that will explore and develop an iconographic plan for the interior of our church.

CHURCH PICNIC: *SUNDAY JULY 29 from 1:00-6:00*

at the **Chartwell Swim Club, 136 Paragon Ave., Marlton, NJ.**

Tickets are: \$35.00 for adults / children under 18 are free.

Meal includes: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Lemonade & Water, Watermelon.

(Rain Date: Sunday August 26).

See Jessica Siragusa for more information.

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COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: *Denotes Fasting Sunday

June 3 Irene Liston & Tina Horner

June 10

June 17* Father's Day (Hosted by Ladies of Church)

June 24 * Marianne Lynch



CROSSWALKS

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross Youth Ministry Newsletter
June 2018



Cooking with Anna on Saturday May 5.

The girls learned some cooking skills and great recipes which they prepared for the Community Luncheon in Mt. Holly, and were also able to enjoy!



Sunday, July 29 - **Church Picnic** (raindate August 26) will be at Chartwell Swim Club in Marlton NJ. Fee for adults is \$35, kids 18 and under are FREE!
We will have access to the full park, pool/water play areas, and recreation areas. Food will include: hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, watermelon, and drinks.

We will be creating a Sunday School booklet to recount "*The Nine Songs: Nine Liturgical Responses that Anyone Can Offer*" lessons from the past church school year. As we did last year, we'll be gathering the texts and photos from church activities to include. Please send Fr John any church activity photos from this past year and also photos of your children doing their favorite activities.

Thursday, July 19 - **Jesus, a Sights and Sounds Production** in Ronks PA (near Lancaster). Deadline for payment is June 3. See Judy Clyde for details.

Other Community Service Opportunities - Monthly Community Luncheon with Diana Pasca to help prepare food for a shelter in Mt. Holly, NJ. They are usually about 2 hours on a Saturday morning. All dates are listed in Crossroads on the church calendar. (eligible for community service hours)



Orthodox Summer Camps

St Andrew's Camp (July) Visit online at: <http://saintandrewscamp.org/>

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – JUNE, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	<i>2 Community Luncheon – 9 AM</i> <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
3 DIVINE LITURGY—9:00	4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
10 Father’s Day DIVINE LITURGY—9:00	11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
17 DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00	18	19 W2Woman Scrapebooking at Diana Pasca’s 6:30	20 Woman2Woman Ceramic Barn, 6:30	21 W2Woman Lunch at Ginger’s Noon Parish Council Meeting – 7 PM	22	23 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
24 DIVINE LITURGY—9:00	25	26 Woman2Woman Ladies’ Lunch, Whole Hog Café, Noon	27	28 Vesperal Liturgy for SS Peter & Paul – 7 PM	29	30 NO Great Vespers

