



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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NOVEMBER, 2017

THE NINE SONGS: Number 2

“Lord, Have Mercy.”

by Fr. John



Throughout this liturgical year the monthly Youth Sermons will be presented on the theme of the “*Nine Songs*” — Nine Liturgical Responses that, hopefully, all of us can and will offer. The first “*Song*” back in September was: “*Amen.*”

The second, presented in October, was — “*Lord, have mercy.*” String, yeast, flour, soil, and bulbs were used to unite this *Song* with the Gospel lesson of that Sunday, the Parable of the Sower and the Seeds (Luke 8:5-15). We

unwound the string among the children, encouraging them to hold it, as it was wrapped around the whole group and their teachers: the implication was that our liturgical prayer both connects us as individuals to one another in a particular place and to praying people wherever and whenever they have prayed either in the past or the future.

Fr. Thomas Hopko wrote that, “‘*Lord, have mercy,*’ may as well be translated as ‘*Lord, be merciful, gracious, kind, generous, compassionate, bountiful, loving.*’ According to His self-revelation, God is all of these things, whether we pray to Him or not. So when we pray, ‘*Lord, have mercy,*’ we are simply saying to God: *Lord, be to us as You are! Lord, act toward us as You do! Lord, we want You to be with us and to do with us as You Yourself are*

and actually do.” So, we join with people everywhere who desire that God would be and do all of that.

Our liturgical prayer is offered within the midst of our worship and private prayer. Though it may be verbal and be expressed aloud, it comes from the depths of our needs and experiences. So, as we thought of the Song, “Lord, have mercy,” we imagined how God’s word and mercy work within us as seeds planted in the earth and as yeast within flour.

At the end of the sermon, as is done every year, we guided our children in planting bulbs that will blossom in time for Christmas. So, it is that we hope our efforts as a praying community will implant within their lives the experience of God’s love and mercy that will, in time, blossom within them.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 at 9 AM.**
- **ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL’S VISIT: SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4-5:**
Saturday — Boys and Men in the Bible (2:00-4:00) / Healing Service — 5:00
- **Sunday —Thanksgiving Meal.**
- **ST. HELENA’S GUILD FALL BAZAAR: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11, FROM 11:00-3:00.**
- **INTRO TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES** with Dr. Edward Siecienski, during Coffee Hour:
NOVEMBER 12 and DECEMBER 10.
- **WOMAN2WOMAN MEETING, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 at Genie Skuby’s — 7 PM.**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, after the Liturgy**
- **THANKSGIVING COLLECTION OF CANNED GOODS thru NOVEMBER 19.**
- **MEDFORD AREA THANKSGIVING SERVICE, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19** at the Medford Friends Quaker Meeting, 14 Union St., Medford —7 PM.
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 at 7 PM**
- **WOMAN2WOMAN LUNCHEON, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, Noon, at Allora Restaurant.**
- **ADVENT VESPERS** at our church, **SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 at 6 PM: Guest Speaker—Dr. Mary Farag, Assistant Professor of Early Christian Studies, Princeton Seminary.**
- **CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17.**

THANKSGIVING DINNER & HONORING OUR VETERANS: On Sunday, November 5, following the Liturgy with Archbishop Michael, we will be having our 5th annual Thanksgiving Dinner as a Parish family and honoring our Veterans.

We welcome everyone to come and enjoy this wonderful event.

RETREAT WITH DR. ALBERT ROSSI — “*Becoming a Healing Presence.*” An interview with Dr. Rossi that was recorded at WHYY is now included in our Diocesan series: “[Gift and Grace: The Spiritual Legacy of Orthodox Christians in America.](#)”

“IF YOU BRING KIDS TO CHURCH...” Our book of last year’s Youth Sermons with photos of our children is now available and being distributed. Each family will receive a free copy and a limited number of additional copies are available for \$5.00. See Fr. John.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES with Dr. Edward Sicienski will continue on **SUNDAYS NOVEMBER 12 and DECEMBER 10**, during Coffee Hour.

HOLIDAY 2017 RAFFLE: We are holding a raffle for 3 Visa gift cards (\$500, \$250, \$100) instead of a 2018 Fantasy Auction. The drawing of winners will take place on Saturday, November 18th at 7 pm after Vespers. Each adult member of our community has been asked to sell or purchase 20 tickets. Additional tickets are still available on Sundays from Mark Skuby, Valerie Olesnovich, or Leslie Lane. Please return your ticket stubs and money by Sunday, November 12th. If you plan to mail in your ticket stubs and money to the church Post Office Box, please leave a message on the church phone (609) 654-4865 and allow sufficient time to meet the 11/12 deadline. Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraising efforts and good luck!

OPTIONS FOR WOMEN is a privately funded, non-profit organization dedicated to men and women who experience either unexpected or planned pregnancy but who have no health insurance and who are often at risk in extremely difficult situations. All services are free. See **Brittany Evans** for more information.

Options for Women Fall Benefit
Bingo, Silent Auction, 50/50

Friday, November 10th
at St. Michael’s Ukrainian Church
675 Cooper Landing Rd. Cherry Hill
Please see www.optionsbenefit.weebly.com
For ticket information or call 856-795-0166

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, October 30, 2017.

Treasurer Dan Dowiak presented the current Balances:

General Fund: \$37, 957.28 / Memorial Fund: \$47, 329.59 / Capital Improvement: \$48, 340.19
Food Coupon: \$4,901.20 / Choir Fund: \$3,836.80 / Supplemental Checkbook: \$327.65
Fund Raising Account: \$1,300.94

Greg Disantis, a local contractor, presented a thorough examination of issues related to the deterioration of the handicapped ramp and other concrete areas. His recommendations would require pumping concrete into particular areas to both stabilize and correct problems in the pitch of the surface which has resulted in improper water runoff. It would cost, \$15,997.00. There would be additional expense required in “overlying” the surface with additional concrete. That would be done by another contractor. The Council will continue to consider this topic.

Our parish donated \$1,000.00 to IOCC for their humanitarian efforts, particularly in the areas damaged by hurricanes. Eleven parishioners attended the 25th Anniversary Banquet held on Sunday 10/29 in Deptford.

We will replace all of the inside lights with long-lasting LED bulbs. Collections will take place in November for local community Thanksgiving needs and Covenant House.

The next Meeting will be on Monday, November 27.

WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES:

- **Thursday, November 16**, regular meeting, at the Skuby's house (234 Belaire Drive, Mount Laurel). Father John will be joining us and we will be looking at Father Hopko's **Winter Pascha** book, chapters 4 and 27. (Handouts are at church in the vestibule, in case you don't have the book.) Please try to arrive by 7:00 p.m. Healthy snacks welcome! I will also have information about the final costs for the crape myrtle tree and memorial plaque which W2W is donating in memory of Sue Dowiak.
- **Ladies' Luncheon, Tuesday, November 28**, 12 noon, at the *Allora Restaurant* in the Whole Foods (Marlton) shopping center. Please RSVP if you are coming! (original date for this was November 21)

Coming up In December:

- We have our annual cookie exchange scheduled for **Monday, December 11**, 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. It's our opportunity to provide holiday cookies for shut-ins and our local emergency personnel and supply our own stache! Last year got so busy that we weren't able to make it happen, so please mark your calendars. We need as much help as possible. Sign-up sheet will be posted in the hall in the coming weeks.
- Ladies' Luncheon, **Wednesday, December 20, 12 noon**, Kettle 'n Grille in Marlton (in Crispin Square Shopping Center). Please RSVP if you can attend.

Thank you!
Genie Skuby
856-802-1664

READERS WELCOME FOR THE HOURS AND EPISTLES: We would like to encourage additional readers and create a monthly schedule. It is not necessary to be a member of the choir. Please see Fr. John or Josef Gulka.

DONATION OF FLAGS: Anyone who has a US Flag they would like to donate to the church and have flown on our flag pole can drop it off at the church office. Please leave with the flag the Veteran's Name, Branch of Service and Rank at time of separation from the Military. Any questions may be directed to Rob Alford via robb@hotmail.com and put "Veteran's Flag" in the subject line. Your donated flag will be flown in the order it is received. I will need to know if you wish to have the flag returned afterwards or if you wish for me to see to its proper retirement afterwards. I will be glad to discuss all this with you if you contact me. Thank you for your donation. Sincerely, Robert Alford US Navy Retired. Christ has Risen!

PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE: As everyone knows, we are in the process of updating our Parish directory. Please review your information in the current directory posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall and make any necessary changes. If you are not in the directory and would like to be listed, please enter all of the necessary information on the blank pages attached to the current directory. Our goal is to have the directory updated with copies made for parishioners by October. Thank you for your help.

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COFFEE HOUR LIST: November & December 2017:

November 5 Annual Thanksgiving Dinner /

November 12 Barbara Shimchick

November 19* Donna Woodhull /

November 26* Judy Clyde

December 3* Diana Pasca /

December 10* Need Volunteer(s)

December 17* Josef Gulka /

December 24* Need Volunteer(s)



CROSSWALKS

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross Youth Ministry Newsletter
November 2017



Blessing of Animals Service



Church Hayride

Saturday, November 4 - **'Boys and Men in the Bible' with Archbishop Michael** (2:00 - 4:00 pm), followed by **Healing Service** (5:00 pm)

Sunday, November 5 - **Archbishop Michael visit and Thanksgiving Meal** (following liturgy)



Saturday, November 11 - **Alzheimers' Disease Walk** More information is included in the Sign Up Genius invitation

"If You Bring Kids to Church" book is now available! We will give a free copy to each family and can make additional copies available to anyone for \$5.00 each.



Thanksgiving Food Collection - Canned goods and non-perishables

Covenant House Stocking Collection - Toiletry items for teenage boys & girls

Advent begins November 15 - We'll begin lighting the Advent Candles on each Sunday before Christmas starting on November 19.

Sunday, December 17 - **Christmas Program** (following liturgy)

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 Church of the Holy Cross – NOVEMBER, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 <i>Fr. John at the Diocesan Assembly, Endicott, NY (10/31-Nov 2)</i>	1	2	3	4 <i>Boys and Men in the Bible - 2:00-4:00 Healing Service- 5:00</i>
5 <i>DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 With Archbishop Michael Thanksgiving Meal</i>	6	7 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Archangel Michael – 7 PM</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
12 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 Intro to Orthodoxy Class – during Coffee Hour</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>Woman2Woman Meeting at the Skubys 7 PM</i>	17	18 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
19 <i>DIVINE LITURGY – 10:00 Inreach Meeting Medford Thanksgiving Quaker – 7 PM</i>	20 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple – 7 PM</i>	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
26 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00</i>	27 <i>Parish Council 7:00</i>	28 <i>Woman2Woman Luncheon at the Allora - Noon</i>	29	30	1 <i>December</i>	2 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>



CROSSWALKS

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October 2017

The Kids corner at our Fall Festival was a fun and popular attraction!



Saturday October 7 - **Blessing of Animals Service** 10:00 am.

Sunday October 8 - **Beginning of Church School** following Liturgy.

Saturday, October 15 - **CROP Walk for Hunger (daytime), and Church Hayride (evening)**. More information will be included in the Sign Up Genius note that will be sent the first week of October.



Saturday, October 28 - **Halloween Party** More information will be included in the Sign Up Genius note that will be sent the first week of October.

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