



# Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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*APRIL, 2019*

## **Late Ripeness**

by Czeslaw Milosz

Translated by Robert Hass and Czeslaw Milosz

[Note: As we move ever closer through Great Lent to Pascha, we will have several wonderful opportunities in April to grow in acquiring the “language of repentance.” Next Saturday, we’ll have our long-awaited Retreat with Peter Bouteneff on his book, “*How to Be a Sinner*.” The following week, we’ll welcome Archbishop Michael and sponsor on Sunday the Deanery Lenten Vespers. Then begin to anticipate Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Pascha.

With those opportunities in mind, I was moved by this poem of Czeslaw Milosz who describes – whether one is approaching ninety, sixty-five, or at whatever age – the realization that Great Lent can “open” a door which will enable us to realize that we are “all children of the King” and called to be “workers in the vineyard.”]

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Not soon, as late as the approach of my ninetieth year,  
I felt a door opening in me and I entered  
the clarity of early morning.

One after another my former lives were departing,  
like ships, together with their sorrow.

And the countries, cities, gardens, the bays of seas  
assigned to my brush came closer,  
ready now to be described better than they were before.

I was not separated from people,  
grief and pity joined us.  
We forget—I kept saying—that we are all children of the King.

For where we come from there is no division  
into Yes and No, into is, was, and will be.

We were miserable, we used no more than a hundredth part  
of the gift we received for our long journey.

Moments from yesterday and from centuries ago—  
a sword blow, the painting of eyelashes before a mirror  
of polished metal, a lethal musket shot, a caravel  
staving its hull against a reef—they dwell in us,  
waiting for a fulfillment.

I knew, always, that I would be a worker in the vineyard,  
as are all men and women living at the same time,  
whether they are aware of it or not.

*On the Way to Emmaus Icon Project*



**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- **SATURDAY, APRIL 6 — 9:30-3:00: RETREAT: “HOW TO BE A SINNER”**
- **NO COMMUNITY LUNCHEON OR INREACH MEETING IN APRIL.**
- **SATURDAY APRIL 13-14: VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL & DEANERY VESPERS**
- **THURSDAY, MAY 2: PARISH COUNCIL MEETING at 7 PM**

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**LENTEN RETREAT:  
Saturday, April 6, 2019**

Speaker: **Dr. Peter Bouteneff**

*How to Be A Sinner: Finding Yourself in the Language of Repentance*

Schedule:

- Registration: 9:30 am – 10:00 am
- First Session: 10:00am -12:00 pm
- Lunch: 12:00-1:00
- Second Session: 1:00 pm -3:00 pm
- Great Vespers will follow
  
- A free will offering will be taken at the Retreat.  
To register: [holycrossmedford@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossmedford@gmail.com)

**COLLECTION FOR THE DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTORS (DDB):**

In preparation for Archbishop Michael's visit we'll be collecting for the DDB – which supplements our Diocesan Budget in the areas of Youth Ministry (which our children benefitted from recently – see the Crosswalks), Seminarian and Missions Support.

**WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES:**

- Monday, April 1, regular Woman2Woman meeting, 7-9 p.m. at the home of Michelle Zissimos, 526 Hartford Rd., Mount Laurel. Please RSVP with Michelle at [mzissimos@gmail.com](mailto:mzissimos@gmail.com).
- Tuesday, April 16, Ladies' Luncheon, 12 noon, at Ginger Restaurant in Medford. Please RSVP with Genie at [skubydoo81@comcast.net](mailto:skubydoo81@comcast.net)

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES — THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019 by Trudy Ellmore:**

**Treasurer's Report:** No "formal" report was handed out. Michelle Zissimos said a First Quarter Report will be presented at April's meeting. A report showing comparisons of 'previous year' to 'current year' collections will also be presented.

Account Balances:

General Fund .....	\$13,232.11 as of 03/21
Memorial Fund .....	\$18,235.01 as of 02/28
Capital Improvement Fund.....	\$ 4,927.85 as of 02/15
Food Coupon Fund .....	\$ 6,411.16 as of 02/2
Choir Fund.....	\$ 4,044.26 as of 02/28
Father's Supplemental Checking.....	<i>not available</i>
Fundraising Account .....	\$ 1,583.94 as of 02/28
Mortgage Balance.....	\$63,373.63 as of 03/01

The following payments were made:

\$1,569.00 to K&J Fence reflects deposit for pending work.

\$500 to Thor reflects deposit for pending electrical work.

### **Old Business (Open Action Items)**

- A. Fencing Project: Via email dated 02-26-19, Gary Mosser made a motion, seconded by Joe Pritchard, to accept the bid by K and J Fence to install a wood fence (spruce with cemented locust posts) at the price of \$1,569. The motion carried, 9 in favor with 3 abstentions. Gene reported that the company cancelled installation today (03/21/19) due to weather. Installation scheduled for tomorrow. Gene will give final payment tomorrow.
- B. ServantKeeper & QB Online: Via email dated 02-26-19, Trudy Ellmore made a motion, seconded by Joe Pritchard, to accept the proposal put forth to purchase and utilize QB On-line (1 user – 1 year) at cost \$129 and ServantKeeper Online (3 users – 1 year - \$29.99/month) at cost \$359. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 abstention. In process. Need a credit card to sign up. Church is in process of applying for one. Trudy volunteered to use her card until church gets theirs established.
- C. Electrical Work:
  - i. Signed contract with Thor. Coming out Monday, 03/25/19, to start work.
  - ii. Most landscape lights don't work anymore.
  - iii. Talked about lighting for exterior basement steps. Phyllis will mention that to the electrician and ask for suggestions.
  - iv. Discussed the church sign and moving to opposite side of entrance. Will table it and bring back for further discussion.
- D. HVAC: Contract with Shamrock signed. Come out 2x per year for maintenance. Kitchen equipment is included in maintenance. First visit will be April.
- E. Icon project: May 7 to have stucco and mesh put on. Hopefully iconographer will come sometime this summer to finish the icon.
- F. Archbishop Michael's visit:
  - i. His Eminence is coming Saturday, maybe early enough to take him to dinner before Vespers.
  - ii. Guild handling Sunday afternoon meal. That afternoon will be Deanery Vespers here at the church.
  - iii. Won't take honorarium but we will gift him with a donation for the DDB.
- G. Vestibule Speaker: Phyllis will meet with Greg G. next week regarding installation.
- H. Refreshing of sign: Gary cleaned it up and it looks great. He said the sign has only 3-4 years of life in it. Most of the lettering is okay. Gary will paint the crosses on it.
- I. Social Hall Tables: Andrea spoke to Phyllis. BizChair.com doesn't carry 60" tables only 72". Price: \$159.99 w/o shipping. Keep shopping around. No rush.
- J. Bible Study Update: Discussed ways to express appreciation to those who serve and/or teach. It was decided to hold an "Appreciation Lunch" in early September target date. Council members would sponsor Coffee Hour and serve.

K. Painting Projects:

- i. Exterior - Gary will look at painting of railing, especially where welded. Other areas around the building need touch-ups. Fr. John will contact hardee-plank contractor to take a look around the building to see what, if anything needs to be done.
- ii. Interior – needs to be done.

**Parish Committee Reports**

A. InReach/OutReach:

- i. Committee members have been visiting homebound members. More committee members are needed to visit more shut-ins. Dcn. Euripides has volunteered to help with visits & caring for rose bushes.
- ii. May 11 Blessing of Animals. Advertising in Medford community. Michelle Wash 25 t-shirts to sell at the event.
- iii. Healthy Options being planned.

B. St. Helena's Guild:

- i. Two freezers replaced. Contents needs date on them or will be thrown out.
- ii. Bazaar this weekend. Ellie setting up this weekend but taken down by Abp. Michael's visit.

C. Stewardship Committee: Michelle will report at next meeting.

D. Youth Group/Activities:

- i. Teens joining with choir for Abp Michael's visit.
- ii. Getting ready for retreat (8 teens confirmed).
- iii. March 29 they will be attending Pre-Sanc service, prepare and serve meal.
- iv. April 12 will be helping Gene with outside clean up.

E. Sunday School: Everybody is doing the best that they can.

F. Church Maintenance:

- i. Bathroom faucets: Discussion regarding merits of frequent battery replacement or whole faucet replacement. Phyllis will get estimate for replacement for discussion purposes only. Gary replaces the batteries about every six months.
- ii. Lawn work: Scheduling for Spring.

G. Auction: Scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. "Small Games of Chance" license was not renewed this year. Phyllis provided information to JoeB to get it renewed. He will talk to Dan to activate credit card service. Dan will be auctioneer. Vespers will be at 4:00 p.m.

H. Amazon Smile: Has been approved but not put into place. Phyllis asked JoeB to get it set up.

I.

**The next Council meeting - Thursday, May 2, 2019**

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**FANTASY AUCTION – Save the date - Saturday, June 8th, 5-8 pm**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our spring FUNdraiser! Please consider supporting the Auction by donating your time, talent, and/or items. Look for sign-up sheets for basket donations and gift card donations in the Fellowship Hall. Our goal is to have 70 Live Auction items. We gladly accept cash/check

donations and will create a basket for you if you'd prefer. We especially need help soliciting donations from local businesses. Donation request letters on church letterhead are available.

We will sell admittance tickets **in advance for \$10**, which will enable pre-registration of guests and streamline check-in at the door. The admittance ticket entitles you to refreshments, a door prize ticket, and a bidder's program book. Tickets will also be sold at the door the night of the Auction for \$15. See Leslie Lane, Valerie Olesnovich, & Phyllis Pritchard for advance tickets. Our goal is to have 100 bidders, so please invite your friends & family to attend our FUNdraiser. The more bidders we have, the more competition, and the more money we will make. Remember the exciting bidding war over the Lottery tickets?

We will collect donations now through May 25<sup>th</sup>. Since there won't be a draw ticket raffle this year, we're asking for donations of only new and almost new items to be used in baskets and as door prizes. Please help us to keep the Fellowship Hall tidy by placing items in the marked boxes in the library area.

Please contact event chair Val Olesnovich at [voles09@gmail.com](mailto:voles09@gmail.com) or 856-381-9771 or Phyllis Pritchard at [phyllis.pritchard@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.pritchard@gmail.com) or 609-315-1258 with questions or to volunteer. Thanks in advance for your support!

### **MARCH, 2019 COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS**

If you are unable to host the coffee hour on the scheduled date, it is your responsibility to contact someone else on the list and arrange to switch your date with that person. Please mark the switch on the list so we can keep the list current. **VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO WELCOMED TO FILL OPEN SUNDAYS.**

To Volunteer, contact **Diana Bisinger (856-988-1277 / dbisinger1@verizon.**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

On your Sunday, you are host/hostess for the day. You will be responsible for setting up the coffee hour, making the coffee & hot water for tea, and cleaning up (sweeping the floor, wiping down the tables, cleaning the coffee pot, and **taking out the trash**) afterward. A suggested coffee hour could include 3-4 dozen bagels, cream cheese, butter/margarine, fruit (such as sliced apples or oranges, grapes, fruit salad, etc.) and cookies or cut-up cake. Please bring 1 pound of coffee (to replace what was used that morning), creamer, and juice (2-64oz. bottles of juice). Please take home all items that are not consumed. **KEEP IN MIND THAT COFFEE HOURS SHOULD BE SIMPLE AND SERVE AS A SNACK AFTER CHURCH AND NOT A MEAL.** Also, if anyone plans on bringing a cake or anything additional to celebrate an occasion during coffee hour, please contact that week's host and inform them of your plans. This will avoid duplication of refreshments.

**April 7: Carol Ann Curry**  
**14: Julia G and Michelle W**  
**21: Open Sunday (Volunteer/s appreciated)**  
**28: PASCHA**

## CHURCH CALENDAR APRIL – MAY

### APRIL

Monday April 1	7:00 pm W2W meeting
Wednesday April 3	6:00-7:00 – Confessions
	7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Saturday April 6:	7:00 Lenten Retreat: Dr Peter Bouteneff: “ <i>How to Be A Sinner</i> ”
<b>Sunday April 7:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: St. John Climacus / St. Helena’s Guild Meeting
	4:00 – Deanery Vespers: St. Spyridon Church, Perth Amboy, NJ
Wednesday April 10	6:00-7:00 – Confessions
	7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Friday April 12	Youth Group
Saturday April 13	Visit of Archbishop Michael
<b>Sunday April 14</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: St. Mary of Egypt
	Visit of Archbishop Michael
	4:00 – Deanery Vespers with Archbishop Michael (4:00)
Friday April 19	6:00-7:00 – Confessions
	7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Saturday April 20	9:00 am Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy
<b>Sunday April 21:</b>	Palm Sunday
<b>Sunday April 28:</b>	<b>PASCHA</b>

### MAY

<b>Sunday May 5</b>	Sunday of St. Thomas
Monday May 6	7:00 pm. – W2W meeting
<b>Sunday May 12:</b>	End of Church School / Mother’s Day
<b>Sunday May 19:</b>	Church School Celebration
<b>Sunday May 26</b>	



# CROSSWALKS

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross Youth Ministry Newsletter  
April 2019



We had a wonderful time this past weekend (March 22 - 24) at the teen retreat. It was such a great experience for the kids. So many lessons and beautiful services. It also gave our teens a wonderful opportunity to bond with not only other Orthodox teens but also get to know each other better as well which was wonderful to watch. Archbishop Michael was wonderful and did a long Q&A session with them with a lot of great questions. The kids had access to the indoor rock wall and ropes course, basketball court, archery, and a huge game room with pool tables, air hockey and ping pong tables, etc.

Jessica and Joe had a wonderful time meeting the clergy, their wives and other chaperones from our diocese. It was so nice to hear what other parishes are doing and they were very interested in what we are doing at Holy Cross as well.

Friday, March 29 -- **Presanctified Liturgy** Holy Cross Youth will attend as a group, and prepare the Lenten meal following Liturgy.

Saturday, March 30 -- **Children's Confession** at 4:00 pm

Sunday, March 31 -- **Animal Photo Contest** submissions due March 31, winners announced April 7.

### **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**



**Invites You To The**

# **Blessing of the Animals**

**11 WILKINS STATION RD.**



**MEDFORD, NJ 08053**



**Saturday, May 11**



**10:00 - 12:00**

**609-654-4865**



**WWW.HOLYCROSSMEDFORD.ORG**



**Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – APRIL, 2019**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	1 <i>Woman2Woman at home of Michelle Zissimos 7:00-9:00</i>	2	3 <i>Confessions 6:00- 7:00 Presanctified Liturgy — 7 PM</i>	4	5	6 <i>Retreat: How to Be A Sinner: 9:30- 3:00 Great Vespers: will follow</i>
7 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00</i>	8	9	10 <i>Confessions 6:00-7:00 Presanctified Liturgy — 7 PM</i>	11	12	13 <i>Great Vespers with Archbishop MICHAEL: 5</i>
14 <i>DIVINE LITURGY with Archbishop MICHAEL —9:30 Lenten Deanery Vespers – 4 PM</i>	15	16 <i>Woman2Woman Luncheon at Ginger’s - Noon</i>	17	18	19 <i>Confessions 6:00- 7:00 Presanctified Liturgy — 7 PM</i>	20 <i>Lazarus Saturday Liturgy 9:00 AM Confessions 4:00-5:00 Great Vespers: 5</i>
21 <i>PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY 10:00</i>	22 <i>Bridegroom Matins – 7 PM</i>	23 <i>Bridegroom Matins – 7 PM</i>	24 <i>Bridegroom Matins &amp; Healing Service– 7 PM</i>	25 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for Holy Thursday – 4:00  Matins of Holy Friday – 3:00</i>	26 <b>Holy Friday</b> <i>Vespers – 3:00 Matins of Holy Saturday – 7:00</i>	27 <i>Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy 10 AM Paschal Complines, Matins &amp; Liturgy 11:30 AM</i>
28 <i>PASCHA Vespers – Noon</i>	29 <i>Bright Monday Divine Liturgy 9 AM</i>	30	1 <b>MAY</b>	2 <i>Parish Council Meeting – 7:00</i>	3	4 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
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