

Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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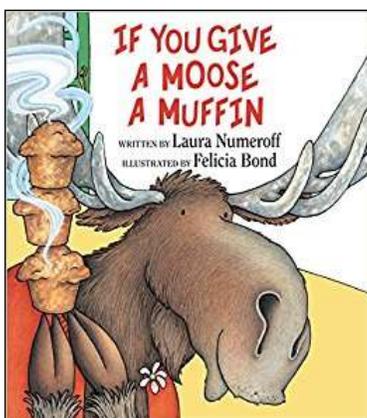
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June, 2017

If You Bring Kids to Church...

by Fr. John



On Sunday, May 21, — the last day of Church School — a summary of the youth sermons delivered each month since September was presented. Entitled, “*If You Bring Kids to Church...*,” these sermons were held together by the storytelling “intuition” expressed in Laura Numeroff’s book, “*If You Give a Moose a Muffin*,” which I called — “one of the best books about the Orthodox Divine Liturgy.” This “intuition,” recognized by one of our youngest children when the book was first read in September, is that the pieces of a story are related and connected and the beginning tells us something of the end, which at the appropriate time will return us to the beginning. T.S. Eliot, one of the most sophisticated of poets said the same thing: “What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.”

This is what is proclaimed in the Divine Liturgy and it is what we learn as well about every aspect of our lives: It is what each of the sermons tried to explore.



If You Bring Kids to Church...

- 1) They'll learn that the Church, the liturgy, and their lives are related and connected...
- 2) When they learn that everything is related and connected, they will bring their questions, and their questions—which like deeply planted seeds—will take time to develop, time to grow, and will at the right time blossom and be answered...
- 3) When at least some of their questions get answered, they will learn that they can give thanks for everything that is here and there...
- 4) As they are giving thanks they will hear the stories of others and bring their own stories, finding out who they are, where they have come from, and where they might go...
- 5) When they realize who they are, they'll learn that they can be part of the choir—singing, learning, playing, and praying together...
- 6) When they realize they can be part of the choir and “take their pitch from God,” they'll learn from Jesus Christ how to receive and give the gift of forgiveness...
- 7) When they realize they can be forgiven and forgive others, they will learn how to say “Yes” to God and work with Him in whatever He guides them to do...
- 8) When they begin to work with God, they'll learn from others how it is possible to say “Yes” to Him and become friends of Jesus as they did.
- 9) And chances are...when they become friends of Jesus they will understand that everything in their lives is related and connected and they'll take this with them when they leave the liturgy and the Church and “depart in peace.”

But first, you have to bring them.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **FALL FESTIVAL MEETING, SUNDAY, JUNE 4, following the Liturgy**
- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON will not take place in June.**
- **CHURCH PICNIC: SUNDAY, JUNE 11, at Chartwell Swim Club, Marlton.** Please respond to the SignUp Genius message or the church bulletin board by **Sunday June 4.**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, June 19 at 7 PM.**
- **PIROHI SESSIONS: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 & 25.**

FR. JOHN will be on vacation on Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11. Great Vespers will not take place on Saturday. *Fr. Gregory Rubis* will serve the Liturgy.

JOSEPH BRAD will be participating in the *American Cancer Society Bridge to Beach Ride* (Ben Franklin Bridge to Atlantic City) on **SUNDAY JUNE 11.**

You can support his efforts at:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=83852&pg=personal&px=42138183

CONGRATULATIONS: TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES: PAUL ABDALLAH (Rider University) / DANTE KEELER (Boston College) / KATHERINE LANE/PEARSON (Ohio State University) / JACOB DOWIAK (Rutgers University).

JOSEPH (JOEY) BRAD has been selected to participate in the *Boys State at Rider University* in June. He was one of two Juniors selected from Williamstown High School.

CHURCH PICNIC — SUNDAY JUNE 11:

As you may have heard we are again hosting our *Annual Church Picnic at Chartwell Swim Club* located at 136 Paragon Ave, Marlton, NJ 08053 on **Sunday, June 11th from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

We will have a BBQ lunch that will offer hamburgers, hot dogs, coleslaw, baked beans and drinks. We are asking for a few people to bring some other side items and desserts.

Children 18 and under FREE to families. Each adult is \$34.95.

If you haven't ever been to Chartwell it is a beautiful facility. They have two large pools with slides and diving boards, several baby pools and a splash pad for little guys. We have access to tennis courts, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, kickball, shuffleboard, horseshoes, cornhole and more. They do have some basketballs and horseshoes available but if you're interested in tennis or baseball please sign up to bring some balls or rackets that you would be willing to share for the day and maybe we can get a game going. They also have plenty of places to relax with a good book!

We hope you will all come out and join us for this wonderful event! For more information you can view their website at **chartwellfun.com**.

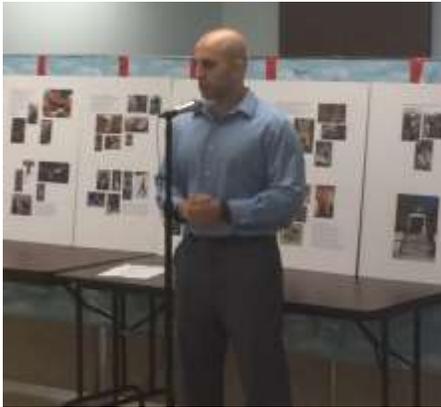
Thank you!
Jessica Siragusa

MAY'S HEALTHY CHOICES SESSIONS:

1) (May 7) **Effie Murphy**, Program Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association of Delaware Valley, told us about the "*Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease*" and answered questions. See: <http://www.alz.org/10-signs-symptoms-alzheimers-dementia.asp>



2) (May 20) **Dr. John Hamaty** led us in a discussion of making good and healthy eating choices. The profits of \$650.00 from the "*Heart Healthy Dinner*" were donated to the *Helpers of God's Precious Infants* (whose representatives spoke at our Lenten Deanery Vespers). *The Midnight Judges*, which featured Banks Sappnar on trumpet, performed during the Dinner.



3) (May 21) 2, **Dr. James Teebagey**, dentist at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, guided us in considering good dental choices.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 22, 2017 prepared by Diana Pasca.

Treasurer **Dan Dowiak** presented the financial report. The account balances for May are as follows:

General Fund \$42,312.16, **Memorial Fund** \$43,601.00, **Capital Improvement Fund** \$48,279.09, **Food Coupon Fund** \$5,486.09, **Choir Fund** \$3,816.49.

The Mortgage Balance as of 5/1/17 was \$166,414,99

Parish Committee Updates – (1) *Stewardship Committee*: no update this month.

(2) *In-reach/Outreach*: Visitations continue to homebound parishioners, 2 *Healthy Options Sessions* occurred in May: information about *Dementia and Dental Health*, the *Heart Healthy Dinner* was successful in raising \$650 which we donated to *Helpers of God's Precious Infants* (3) *Youth Activities*: All planned activities have occurred. *Family Fun Night* was a big success with over 50 people in attendance. Fr. John will be informing families about *Orthodox Summer Camps* (see the *Crosswalks* newsletter within this issue) and that we have set aside some funding as scholarships for Camp. (4) *Choir*: The choir is planning a meeting for early June. (5) *St. Helena's Guild Spring Bazaar* raised \$2865. Food preparation for Fall Festival dates are thus far August 25th & 26th. Council and Guild have decided to make the Festival a *one day event* this year with extended hours into the evening, and additional Entertainment. There will be a *Fall Festival Meeting on Sunday June 4th after Liturgy*, all are welcome to attend. (6) *The Parish Picnic* will be on June 11th.

Ongoing Council Activities – Council has completed the update to Parish By-laws and Standing Rules. They have been sent to Archbishop Michael for approval. When that has been received there will be a Special Parish Meeting to review and discuss. In addition, the Council is updating and posting the Church Calendar, and Church Directory, coordination of our Fall Festival, updating and maintaining our website, improving our signage, and developing an Iconographic plan.

The next *Council Meeting* is scheduled for **Monday, June 19th, 2017** at 7:00 PM.

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COFFEE HOUR LIST: June-July, 2017:

JUNE 4: Irene Liston & Tina Horner **11:** Church Picnic / No Coffee Hour **18*:** Father's Day
25*: Marianne Lynch

*Denotes Sundays during the SS Peter and Paul Fasting Period

JULY 2: Diana Pasca & Tanya May / **9:** Marie Clifton & Anne Marie Piotrowski

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THE TRUTH SETS US FREE

by Fr. Ron Rohlheiser

The unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit begins with lying, with rationalization, with the refusal to acknowledge the truth. But we don't commit this sin easily, overnight, the first time we tell a lie. We commit it down the line, through a sustained series of lies, long after we first told a lie to our loved ones and began to hide important parts of our lives from them. The soul warps slowly, like an old board soaked too often in the rain. It's not the first time it gets wet that makes the warp.

We commit the sin against the Holy Spirit when we lie for so long that we believe our own lies. If we lie long enough, eventually light begins to look like darkness and darkness begins to look like light. That's especially true of the lie of a double life, when we are no longer honest with our loved ones. If we do that long enough, eventually our betrayals begin to look like virtue, our lies like the truth, and what our families, faith, and churches stand for begins to look like falsehood, death, darkness.

Our sin then becomes unforgivable because we no longer want to be forgiven or deem any need to be forgiven. When a sin is unforgivable it's because we don't want to be forgiven, not because we've crossed some moral line in the sand beyond which God will no longer tolerate our behavior. The blockage is rather that what we once saw as truth (honesty, faith, family, fidelity, health through transparency) now looks like falsehood and the behavior we once had to hide from others and lie about now seems as virtue.

We commit the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit when we live so long inside of a lie that our souls can no longer recognize truth or forgiveness.



CROSSWALKS

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

Sunday, May 21 - **Youth Sunday and Last Day of Sunday School.** Fr John wrapped up the year with our "If You Bring Kids to Church..." project. The pages will be finalized shortly and published. The pages can be seen downstairs. Each child will receive a free copy and additional copies can be purchased.



Sunday, May - **Meeting of Youth Activities Committee.** The members planned events throughout the rest of the year. This will be incorporated with upcoming dates that will be discussed at the Parish Planning Meeting on June 25.

Saturday May 13, **Family Fun Night** - This was a fun and lively evening for kids and adults of all ages.



Coming Up...



Sunday, June 11 - **Picnic at Chartwell Swim Club** in Marlton NJ. Adults 34.95, Children 18 and younger are FREE!.

Tuesday, June 27 - **Jonah in Lancaster PA** (deadline for payment is May 21). See Judy Clyde for details.

Friday, July 7 - **Phillies Game with fireworks** (deadline for payment is May 28). See Judy Clyde for information.

Thursday, August 24 - **Diocesan Orthodox Youth Day at Great Adventure** with Archbishop Michael. Meet at St. Mary Russian Orthodox Church in Jackson, NJ. Breakfast to be served followed by a "Stump the Clergy" Q&A session. Group will travel together by bus to Six Flags Great Adventure for a day of fellowship and amusement park fun!

For registration forms and additional info, check the Diocesan website.



Orthodox Summer Camps

St. Tikhon's Camp (July 2-8) / deadline May 27 – to check if there are still openings, call (570-493-0108). Visit online at: <http://www.stikhonscamp.org>

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

2017 Annual Diocesan Girls Retreat

Friday, November 10th - Sunday, November 12th, at St. Basil Academy – Garrison, NY. Online registration will open in September 2017, and close on October 27th. Late registrants cannot be accepted.

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – JUNE, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 <i>Comm Lunch 9</i> <i>Parastas for</i> <i>Harry</i> <i>Kuzmenchuk 3:30</i> <i>Great Vespers: 4</i>
4 <i>DIVINE</i> <i>LITURGY – 9:00</i> <i>Fall Festival</i> <i>Meeting</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>NO</i> <i>Great Vespers:</i>
11 <i>DIVINE</i> <i>LITURGY—9:00</i> <i>Parish Picnic at</i> <i>Chartwell Swim</i> <i>Club</i> <i>No Coffee Hour</i>	12	13	14 <i>Eucharist brought</i> <i>to Orthodox</i> <i>residents at</i> <i>Masonic Village</i> <i>1:30</i>	15	16	17 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
18 <i>Father’s Day</i> <i>DIVINE</i> <i>LITURGY – 9:00</i>	19 <i>Parish Council</i> <i>7:00</i>	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
25 <i>DIVINE</i> <i>LITURGY—9:00</i> <i>Church Rest-of-</i> <i>Year Planning</i> <i>Meeting</i>	26	27	28 <i>Vesperal Liturgy</i> <i>for SS Peter and</i> <i>Paul — 7 PM</i>	29	30	1 JULY <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>

