



# Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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11 Wilkins Station Road-Box 805-Medford, NJ 08055

Rectory Phone: 856-665-2491 - Fr. John's Cell Phone: 609-315-2894 - Email: [frjs@aol.com](mailto:frjs@aol.com)  
[www.holycrossmedford.org](http://www.holycrossmedford.org)

**NOVEMBER, 2018**

**“Nine Stories from the Beatitudes and IOCC  
that Can Bring and Hold Us Together”**

***The Second Story:***

***“Blessed are Those Who Mourn, for They Shall be Comforted”:  
The IOCC’s “Frontliners”***

**by Fr. John**

Archbishop Michael prepared the community for today’s sermon during his visit when he preached on this Beatitude. His Eminence noted that though he had always considered this message to about those who have undergone some emotional or physical hardship, as he reviewed the commentaries of the Church Fathers he came to realize that it has to do even more with those who mourn their behavior and sins. We hope to share a video recording of his sermon.



This theme was noted as well to the children during today’s sermon, but it was also pointed out that the comfort which is to be received can come in the form of healing which Christ can provide in and through the Church and the community – much like a kind of band-aid which all of us have used at some point. But this sort of band-aid can work on both the outside and inside of the difficulty. As it relates to the work of IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) there are a people with a variety of skills who volunteer to receive additional training and then are sent into troubled areas as “frontliners.” Some of these skills can include being a: seasoned chaplain, counselor, therapist, emergency response manager, social worker, medical doctor, registered nurse, emergency medical technician, or a related professions. Here is a link that describes this

kind of preparation:

<https://www.iocc.org/take-action/join-action-team/frontline-volunteers>

The following video was played which described the response of someone who upon experiencing the presence of the Orthodox frontliners stated that it was a sign of how “God has not forgotten about us.”

<https://www.iocc.org/blog/god-has-not-forgotten-about-us>

The children were reminded that they can likewise be the way that God uses to provide the inspiration and encouragement for their friends and fellow students in overcoming the sadness of making mistakes, of failure, and disappointment. They can be the “frontliners” that can remind others that God has not forgotten them.

On Saturday Archbishop Michael led a Healing Service and anointed the community with oil from the church outside of Jerusalem which marks the site where Jesus healed the ten lepers. Here is Archbishop Michael’s sermon from that service:

<https://vimeo.com/holycrossmedford/2018healingservice>

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*On the Way to Emmaus Icon Project*



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**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10: ST. HELENA’S FALL BAZAAR**
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11: THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON & HONORING OUR VETERANS**
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25: PARISH COUNCIL MEETING at 7 PM**
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9: ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE – 6 PM (Choral Prelude starting at 5:30) — guest speaker, Ninita Birbilis.** She is an Orthodox counselor who coordinates – Staywhole (<https://www.staywhole.org>) and will lead a workshop at the upcoming OCAMPR Conference (*The Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion*) on the topic of: **“This Kind Does Not Come Out But by Prayers and Fasting.”**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO HEATHER AND PETER PARSELLS** on the birth of their son, Luke, on Thursday November 1.

**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER:** It is that time of the year again! Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will take place on Sunday, November 11th after liturgy. Everyone is invited. Please check out your recipes and bring a delicious side dish or dessert to share with everyone. We will be placing a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall so check it out and let us know what you plan to bring. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

**ON REPRESENTING OUR PARISH AT THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:** by Phyllis Pritchard.

Dear brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was an honor and my blessing to attend the Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey with Fr. John on October 30-31 at the Annunciation Church, Brick, NJ. Being in the presence of his Eminence Archbishop Michael for two days was truly a blessing for me. His sermons and talks on loneliness, on the need for the clergy to love and care for their parishes, and for the parishioners to care and love their priest touched my heart. He made his presence felt at every seminar both with the clergy and the lay delegates; yes, he managed to be in two places at one time. "God Grant Him Many Years."

One of the highlights and proud moments for me and our parish at the Assembly was when Archbishop Michael presented Fr John with a gramota and the award – the order of St. Innocent – bronze class on behalf of Metropolitan Tikhon and all the members of the Holy Synod in recognition of the 28 years he served as editor of our Diocesan publication, *Jacob's Well*. The most recent issue (copies of which are in our vestibule) is the last that he will edit. We thank and congratulate him for his LABOR OF LOVE and job well done! Our new editor will be Fr. Matthew Brown.

As there were many topics discussed at the Assembly on the first day, I would like to highlight the topics of the second day that the lay delegates from different parishes discussed.

These included:

- 1) *Caring for The Elders in our Church -- Dementia, Alzheimer's and other Issues*. Led by Matushka Natalie Stavrevsky, Personal Care Advisor
- 2) *Youth Ministry- "The Youth are the present and the future of our Church"* The need to support them in our Youth Activities. Led by: Danielle Geeza, Department Chair.
- 3) *Parish Ministries and Outreach-Growing our Church*. Led by Fr. Jason Vansuch.
- 4) *Parish Stewardship of the Environment-Maintaining our Church Inside and outside*. Led by Fr. Terence Baz.

I thank God for giving me this opportunity to learn, grow, and get a better understanding of what Church Life can be if we give "ALL GLORY TO GOD."

It was an honor to spend time with his Eminence, and the Clergy and Delegates from our Diocese.

Love In Christ,

Phyllis Pritchard

### UPCOMING COLLECTIONS:

- 1) **THANKSGIVING COLLECTION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** begins on Sunday November 4 and will end on Sunday November 18. Please bring non-perishable items: a list will be with the collection box.
- 2) **COVENANT HOUSE STOCKINGS:** There will be a sign-up sheet by the displayed (shown in the photo) and we are asking parishioners to purchase the suggested sizes and after signing up bring 5 of the selected items. (The hats and gloves will be purchased by the choir).



### WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES:

- **Wednesday, November 14, 7-9 pm:** Regular W2W support group meeting, at the Skuby's home, 234 Belaire Drive in Mt. Laurel. Father John will be joining us to discuss an Advent topic. Please let Genie know if you plan to attend. 856-802-1664
- **Tuesday, November 27, 12 noon:** Ladies' Luncheon at Tarantella Restaurant on Rt. 70 in Medford. Please RSVP with Genie.

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 2019:

As we approach the end of the year, we are encouraging all of us to reconsider our financial commitment to our parish over the next year.

The basis of "Stewardship Programs" utilized by Orthodox and non-Orthodox churches comes from the understanding that life and all that one has is seen as a gift from God. Stewardship is another way of helping us learn to consider how to say, "Yes," by sharing in broader ways who we are, what we have, and what we can do. A significant and healthy change can take place when we view all those things not just in negative or limiting terms such as, "How much do I have to do or give?" but rather, as offerings or gifts of who we are. In Biblical language, this is usually expressed as giving a "proportion" or "a first-fruit offering" ("Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce" – Proverbs 3:9).

In adopting the proportionate giving model, our Orthodox Church in America and we as a parish are asking each parishioner or family to self-determine what percentage of income will be offered as a "first-fruit offering," on a regular basis, offered in Thanksgiving using the Sunday envelopes or in regular checks. Each

parishioner is encouraged to consider the following questions when considering a financial commitment for 2019:

1. Where are you currently in your giving practices (what percentage of household income are you currently contributing?)
2. Are you able to increase your giving to at least the next percentage level?
3. We would appreciate if a “pledge” of that commitment could be communicated on the cards that are available in the vestibule.
4. The Parish Council realizes that some parishioners are familiar with similar methods of parish financial support, while for others this may be a first experience. We appreciate everyone’s willingness to do what they can in supporting our parish and welcome the consideration of those who are prepared to move to the model of proportional giving.

## **2018 PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD – DEADLINE DECEMBER 9**

As usual, we are preparing our special and uniquely designed Christmas card that will be sent to everyone on our mailing list.

Forms are available in the vestibule or contact the card coordinator, Wally Loza at:

Wally Loza  
229 Boxwood Lane  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077  
(856) 829-9511  
wloza@comcast

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Summary of the Meeting held on **Thursday October 25** prepared by Phyllis Pritchard.

The account balances to date are as follows:

**General Fund** \$12,013.98, **Memorial Fund** \$19,719.46, **Capital Improvement Fund** \$8,720.66, **Food Coupon Fund** \$8,312.32, **Choir Fund** \$4,149.48, **Father’s Supplemental Checking** \$241.48, **Fundraising Account** \$1,603.94

A) The **Mortgage Balance** as of 10/25/18 was \$73,838.10

B) **Investment accounts**-Mark- Several hundred dollars in interest have been realized to date in interest. The account is earning a little under 2% interest.

### **Open Action Items:Old Business**

A) **Parish Bylaws**- The Council reviewed the recommended revisions to the Bylaws prepared by the Diocesan Commission entrusted with this responsibility. These will be incorporated in our Bylaws

and submitted to the parish next year (either in connection to the Annual Meeting or as a Special Meeting) for its approval.

- B) **Exterior siding project status**-Fr John/Mark- Council reviewed cost of new project for Hardie Plank at \$3,800 and accepted the proposal.
- C) **Iconographic plan (entry)** Fr John/Mark- Phyllis talked to Caroline at James R. Slim Plastering/Moorestown NJ about using the material that was suggested. The company feels comfortable using this material and will come out to give us a quote. Mark will also call Brunetti who did our ramp to see if his company does this type of work as well to get another quote.
- D) **Walkway and lighting around Church for Lent**-need to look into.

### Old Business

- A) **Exterior lighting update**- Gary/Mark-Phyllis will coordinate a time for Don from Hy Tech to meet Mark.
- B) **Landscaping plan**-Gary will ask Joe to trim for fall. Contact Pest Control to see if they take care of mole issues.
- C) **Parking lot sealing /repair**-Gary/Mark- completed and paid.
- D) **Sealing concrete ramp and painting railing**-Father John/Gary-Will get an estimate from James. Phyllis will also call a painter for an estimate.
- E) **Refreshing our front sign**-Fr John/Gary Will talk to James.
- F) **New tables for hall**- Mark - (pending) Ellie might have a resource.
- G) **Fall Festival Report**-(September 22nd) - Mark - Roughly \$9,000 without expenses. Mark will have final report next month.
- H) **Bible Study**-Follow up from Ed's session Intro to the Bible. Everyone is asking what's next. Fr John and Ed will discuss.
- I) **Speakers & microphone**- The Council is reviewing options for placing sound speakers in the Vestibule. Also, discussion on an extra microphone for when the Bishop visits.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 6.

### **CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH EVENTS**

**Archbishop Michael Meeting with the Teen Class during his visit (Oct 21, 2018)**



**The Hayride and Barbeque (October 14, 2018)**



**COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: (\* Denotes Fasting)**

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|--------------|--|
| November 4   | Judy Clyde   |
| November 11  | Annual Thanksgiving Dinner (Sign Up Sheets on Church Bulletin Board) |
| November 18* | Donna Woodhull   |
| November 25* | Barbara Shimchick  |
| December 2*  | Diana Pasca  |

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross  
*Holiday Mini Bazaar*

11 Wilkins Station Road, Medford, New Jersey 08055  
www.holycrossmedford.org

Saturday, November 10, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm



Pre-order babkas in 10 delicious varieties  
Pre-order ethnic rolls in 4 delicious varieties  
Pre-order pierogi



\* All pre-orders must be received by 10/29 \*

Call: Diana P. at 609-953-4705 OR  
Kathie P. at 856-845-7656 OR email us at: jjkats11@comcast.net

**Fall Calendar  
2018**

**November**

Sunday November 4  
Wednesday November 7  
Thursday November 8 -10

Saturday November 10

Sunday November 11  
Wednesday November 14  
Wednesday November 14

Sunday November 18  
Tuesday November 20  
Sunday November 25  
Tuesday November 27

Vespertal Liturgy for the Archangel Michael — 7 PM  
OCAMPR Conference (Somerset, NJ)  
<http://ocampr.org/2018-conference/>  
Walk to End Alzheimer's – Philadelphia  
St. Helena's Fall Bazaar  
Parish Thanksgiving Luncheon  
Beginning of Advent  
Woman2Woman: Advent Talk with Fr John (7-9)

Vespertal Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos —7 PM

Woman2Woman: Luncheon

**Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – NOVEMBER, 2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 <i>Community Luncheon – 9:00</i> NO <i>Great Vespers:</i>
4 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00</i>	5	6	7 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Archangel Michael — 7 PM</i>	8	9	10 <i>Guild Bazaar 40<sup>th</sup> Day Parastas for Melania Abdallah — 4:30</i>  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
11 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 Veterans’ Day Remembrance and Thanksgiving Meal</i>	12	13	14 <i>Woman2Woman at Genie Skuby’s 7:00-9:00</i>	15 <b>Advent Begins</b>	16 <i>Youth Group 6:00-</i>	17  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
18 <i>DIVINE LITURGY 10:00f</i>	19	20 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple – 7:00</i>	21	22	23	24  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
25 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 Inreach/Outreach</i>	26	27  <i>Woman2Woman Lunch Noon at Tarantella</i>	28	29	30	1 <i>December</i>  NO <i>Great Vespers:</i>

