



# Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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*April, 2018*

## *The Seventh Song:*

*“We Praise, Bless, Give Thanks and Pray to You, O Lord, our God”*

*by Fr. John*

This Sermon was presented on Sunday March 25 which was both the Fifth and last Sunday of Great Lent and the Feast of the Annunciation. On this Feast we remember the announcement of the



Archangel Gabriel to Mary telling her that she would bear the Christ child. Mary at first could not believe this was possible since she was not married, nor had she any relations with a man. But the angel answered her and said, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”<sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.<sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible.”<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word” – Mary responded by saying, “Yes” to God.

A few months later Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth, and upon entering the room Elizabeth’s baby “leaped in her womb.” Mary exclaimed:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoices in God my Savior.”

In this case, “magnifies” means to “make great.” As in: Mary stated that the name of the Lord is great or magnificent.

Within every Liturgy we have opportunities to offer a variation of Mary’s prayer and that’s what the Seventh Song is all about. Actually, all of the Songs we have been learning about this year during the

Youth Sermons are responses to something the priest says or to something that happens. In this case, towards the end of the Eucharistic Prayer the priest lifts up the discos (the plate with the bread on it) and the chalice and says:

“Your own of Your own, we offer to You, on behalf of all and for all.”

And everyone’s response is: “We **praise** You. We **bless** You. We **give thanks** unto You, O Lord. And we **pray** to You, O our God.”

The message of this Sunday and Feast for us as we approach the end of Great Lent is to rediscover that:

- With God nothing is impossible
- All of us can say “Yes” to God
- Our souls can know that the name of the Lord is magnificent
- All of us can offer praise, bless, give thanks, and pray to the Lord, our God.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- **NO COMMUNITY LUNCHEON OR INREACH MEETINGS IN APRIL.**

- **HEALTHY CHOICES SESSIONS** — “*How to Prepare for Almost Anything!*”

Sunday April 22: Anthony Zissimos – “*Cyber Security*”

April 29:

May 6: Diana Pasca – “*The Five Wishes*”

- **WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES:** **Wednesday April 18 (7:00-9:00)** – “*Painting with a Twist,*” Marlton Store; **Tuesday April 24, Noon, Short Hills Deli, Evesham Rd., Cherry Hill.**

- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** **Thursday, April 26, 7:00.**

**PARISH COUNCIL SUMMARY:** THURSDAY, MARCH 29 by Phyllis Pritchard.

1. **Treasurer’s Report:** Over the past month Mark, Michelle Zissimos, and Fr John have met with representatives from Padden Cooper CPA firm in Medford. They have reviewed our use of Quickbooks and one of their staff members has worked with Michelle in understanding Quickbook. Michelle has also been learning and inputting donations into Servant Keeper. We have updated the Servant Keeper software to the latest version and Michelle will attend a local training session in May. Michelle and Mark are working on a financial statement.

**Account balances: General Fund:** \$66,444.47 / **Memorial Fund:** \$49,633.59 / **Capital Improvement Fund:** \$48,900.52 / **Food Coupon Fund:** \$4,9171.91 / **Choir Fund:** \$4,085.43

“**Fundraising Account**”: 1,628.94 / **Mortgage:** \$109,908.68

Our parish received a \$25,000.00 donation from the Estate of Mary Adamek (\$20,000 was directed towards the Mortgage Principal and \$5,000.00 towards iconography).

2. **Maintenance:** improve lighting along ramp; develop sound system for activities in the basement;  
complete other small maintenance projects.
3. **Old Business and Open Action Items:** review plans and seek additional bids for the ramp and area near the front church doors; complete transfer of funds into investment accounts; we now have an agreement with Deer Park water; Mary and Paul Denko will be stepping down as church cleaners over the next month– cleaning options were discussed; Ed Sicienski has agreed to formulate a series of Adult Education classes over the next year; all requests for expense reimbursements must utilize the forms (available on the church office desk) and be accompanied by a receipt; Michelle and Mark are creating a binder/file that will be kept in the office for policy and procedures for the Treasurer position; the updated church directory will be copied shortly.
4. **PSP COMPLIANCE:** On Friday, March 23, 2018 Fr John requested by email that the Council review, approve, and agree to comply with the Policies, Standards, and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct (PSP) of the Orthodox Church in Americas. The abbreviated form of the PSPs had also been sent out. Each of the Council members responded with their approval. A note was made to review the parish’s policy for providing transportation for parish children (having 2 adults present. This decision will be incorporated within these Minutes.
5. **NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 26 AT 7:00.**

**WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES:** Wednesday, April 18, 7-9 p.m., *Painting With a Twist, Marlton store.* You can check their website for further information, but in the meantime, you must call them at 856 334 5779 to pre-register and pre-pay (\$35) in order to secure a spot. You’ll come home with a pretty, springtime floral painting. Call them ASAP if you want to join us; no experience necessary. Lots of fun.

**Tuesday, April 24, Ladies’ Luncheon, 12 noon, at Short Hills Deli, Evesham Rd., Cherry Hill.**  
Please RSVP with Genie if you plan to go!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PAMELA AND JAMES TEEBAGEY** on the birth of their son, **Anthony James.**

**COVENANT HOUSE SLEEP OUT** at St. Mary of the Lakes Church, Medford, Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the SCHOOL GYMNASIUM located at 196 Rt 70. The back lawn of the school property will be used the children will have all night access to the GYM for bathrooms, breaks and adults etc.

**THE WORLD IS CHANGING. THIS TRAPPIST ABBEY ISN'T. CAN IT LAST?** Meet the monks of Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery in South Carolina, who are trying to maintain age-old religious traditions in a rapidly evolving world.

One of the most rewarding friendships our community has experienced over its years in Medford took place during the pastorship of Fr. Joseph Tedesco at St. Mary of the Lakes Roman Catholic Church. When it was shared with Fr. Joe that we would be needing a place to worship during the construction of our new building (in the early 2000s) he stated: “We would be honored if you would use the chapel at our school.” When noted that it might be for at least six months. He replied, “I don’t care if it lasts for two years.” We were there for almost four years!

Eventually Fr. Joe left St. Mary’s and moved into Diocesan Administration. Finally, he left the area and became a monk and headed for the place he had wanted to go since he was a Trenton high school student – the Mepkin Trappist Abbey, outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Here’s a recent article about their community which quotes Fr. Joe.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/17/us/trappist-monks-mepkin-abbey.html>

**COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS:**

- April 1\* St. Helena's Guild
- April 8 Pascha
- April 15 Diane Bissinger
- April 22 Plachuta Family
- April 29 Liz Gibbons/Alexandra Lilly
- May 6 Jessica Siragusa



# CROSSWALKS

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



Saturday, March 24 - All ages came out to enjoy Family Fun Night

+++ **Sunday April 8 Great and Holy Pascha** +++

Friday, April 27 - **Covenant House Sleep Out** at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Medford.  
Participate or sponsor someone to help area homeless teens!

Saturday, May 5 - **Cooking with Anna** - watch for more info!

### 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 – APRIL, 2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Divine Liturgy</i> 10:00	2 <i>Holy Monday</i>  <i>Bridegroom</i> <i>Matins</i> 7 PM	3 <i>Holy Tuesday</i>  <i>Bridegroom</i> <i>Matins</i> 7 PM	4 <i>Holy Wednesday</i>  <i>Bridegroom</i> <i>Matins &amp; Holy</i> <i>Unction - 7 PM</i>	5 <i>Holy Thursday</i> <i>Vesperal Liturgy</i> 4:00 <i>Matins of Holy</i> <i>Friday – 7 PM</i>	6 <i>Holy Friday</i>  <i>Vespers – 3:00</i> <i>Matins of Holy</i> <i>Saturday – 7:00</i>	7 <i>Holy Saturday</i> <i>Vesperal Liturgy</i> 10:00 AM <i>Complines, Matins,</i> <i>Paschal</i> <i>Liturgy – 11:30 PM</i>
8 <i>PASCHA</i>  <i>VESPERS – Noon</i>	9 <i>Bright Monday</i> <i>Divine Liturgy –</i> <i>9:00</i>	10	11	12	13	14  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
15 <i>DIVINE</i> <i>LITURGY—10:00</i>	16	17	18 W2W – <i>“Painting with a</i> <i>Twist,” Marlton</i> <i>store (7:00-9:00)</i>	19	20	21  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
22 <i>DIVINE</i> <i>LITURGY – 10:00</i> <i>First Healthy</i> <i>Choices Session</i>	23	24 <i>W2W Ladies</i> <i>Lunch, Noon</i> <i>Short Hills Deli,</i> <i>Cherry Hill</i>	25	26 <i>Parish Council</i> <i>Meeting – 7 PM</i>	27 <i>Covenant</i> <i>House Sleep Out /</i> <i>St. Mary of the</i> <i>Lakes</i>	28  <i>NO GREAT</i> <i>VESPERS</i>
29 <i>DIVINE</i> <i>LITURGY—10:00</i> <i>Youth Day &amp;</i> <i>Sermon</i> <i>Second Healthy</i> <i>Choices Session</i>	30	1 <i>MAY</i>	2	3	4	31  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>

