



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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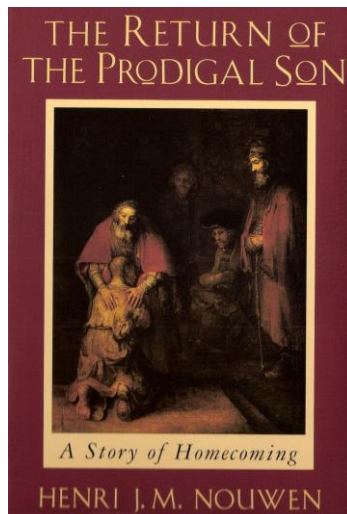
FEBRUARY, 2016

*Can You Do This or That
or
Do You Need Some Soup?*

by Fr. John

Some brothers visited Abba Anthony and they said to him: “Tell us a saying indicating how we are to be saved.” The elder said to them: “Have you not heard the Scripture? That is good enough for you,” but they said: “We want to hear it from you, father.” So the elder said to them: “The Gospel says: ‘If someone hits you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well’” [Mt. 5:39]. “We cannot do that,” they told him. The elder said to them: “If you cannot turn the other cheek, at least patiently endure the one blow.” “We cannot do that either,” they told him. The elder said: “If you cannot do that either, do not return the blow you received,” but they said: “Nor can we do that.”

So the elder said to his disciple: “Make them a little soup, for they are sick” and he said to them: “If you cannot do this and you will not do that, what am I do to for you? There is need of prayer.” [The Sayings of St. Anthony of Egypt, #19]



Last Fall we encouraged everyone to contribute some thoughts on the ways we could improve our community life. As the Parish Council, through the help of Greg Lane, explored the results we determined that they could be summarized by encouraging efforts in three general areas:

1. Religious Education Programs
2. Plans for more and varied Parish Activities
3. Ideas for greater involvement in the broader community (making ourselves better known)

We had hoped to present and explore additional ideas during a “PreAnnual Meeting” which was cancelled by the recent storm.

Our goal, at least as I see it, is to offer a little of “this” and “that” — realizing that none of us can do or is interested in everything. Yet, hopefully, each of us would be interested and want to learn, and be involved in something!

I was pleased that there was interest in having more educational programs and opportunities. Here are some of the things that will be offered shortly or are in the planning stages:

1. **BEFORE CHURCH BOOK CLUB**: We’ll begin on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21** with Fr. Henri Nouwen’s, *“The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming.”*

In the fall, we will read, Fr. Thomas Hopko’s, *“The Names of Jesus.”*

2. **FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT READING** (Monday March 14-17): The talk of Metropolitan Kallistos Ware entitled, *“Word and Silence in the Philokalia”* will be read.

3. **RETREAT WITH THE NUNS FROM HOLY TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY, ELLWOOD CITY, PA: FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 1-3.**

In preparation for this Retreat, we hope to make available our usual Daily Lenten Reader with material specific to the theme.

4. **VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL and OUR SPONSORING OF THE LENTEN DEANERY VESPERS**: This will also include a presentation by **Tony Pantazopoulos**, chairman of the Greater Philadelphia committee of IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities). IOCC is one of our parish’s designated Charity recipients and one of the most successful Pan-Orthodox projects.

5. **SESSION ON PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION: SATURDAY MARCH 26.** Although this will be directed to our children, additional material will be provided throughout Great Lent, especially in relation to our Book Club selection.

6. **WEEKLY EMAILS: “PREPARING FOR THE LITURGY”**: which feature the upcoming Sunday Liturgy’s Liturgical texts and Scripture readings which usually form the basis of the sermon.

7. THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICS AND AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN RESPONSE, MIGHT FIND THIS PODCAST INTERESTING AND PROVOCATIVE:

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS:

http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/aftoday/orthodox_christianity_and_politics

February 1, 2016 Length: 51:29

As we enter the election cycle in 2016 what biblical principles or Church canons should be priorities in selecting candidates and supporting party platforms? Should Christian teachings, moral and bio-ethical teaching and Orthodox canons be disregarded in a contemporary secular society? Kevin's guest is George E. Demacopolous a Professor of Theology and the Fr. John Meyendorff and Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies, as well as the Co-Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University in New York.

See also his article, "*Orthodox Fundamentalism.*"

<http://blogs.goarch.org/blog/-/blogs/orthodox-fundamentalism>

This list primarily identifies upcoming Educational programs and opportunities — other suggestions are welcome. We will also direct our concerns to the other areas of parish activities and interaction with our community. Our goal, at least as I see it, is to offer a little of “this” and “that” — realizing that none of us can do or is interested in everything. Yet, hopefully, each of us would be interested, want to learn, and be involved in something!

For those who are not, soup will be available.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING: No Meeting scheduled in February.**
- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 at 9 AM.**
- **INREACH MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, following the Divine Liturgy**
- **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, following the Divine Liturgy.**
- **FAMILY FUN NIGHT: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20.**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, at 7 PM.**
- **PIROHI SESSIONS, FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26-27, at 9 AM.**
- **ANNUAL MEMORIAL SATURDAY LITURGY: SATURDAY, MARCH 5, at 9AM.**
- **ST. HELENA'S SPRING BAZAAR: SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 11:00-3:00.**
- **PRE-LENTEN LUNCH: SUNDAY, MARCH 6, following the Divine Liturgy.**
- **FORGIVENESS SUNDAY AND VESPERS: BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY, MARCH 13.**
- **WOMEN2WOMEN GATHERING will take place during the last week of February.**

OUR PARISH CALENDAR is maintained by Fr. John and events are posted towards the end of each *Crossroads* as they are identified. It would be helpful if each parish organization would assign someone to

check with him first in advance about the availability of days and then to acknowledge that, ideally, in an email, for which they will receive a confirmation.

Every attempt is made, when possible, to prepare and distribute *Crossroads* by the last Sunday before the upcoming month. Therefore, any dates or information MUST be received by the SUNDAY BEFORE.

Thanks!

CALLMULTIPLIER: Our parish now uses a system to help us quickly send out bulk phone and text messages. We used it during the weekend of the recent snowstorm. Everyone who contributed or identified their preferred number (either a home or cell phone) should have received a call (and a text as well if they listed a cell phone). It would have been posted as “**Callmultiplier**” or an address of Oklahoma City, OK. If you did not receive a message over that snow weekend, inform Fr. John.

ST. HELENA’S GUILD SPRING BAZAAR on SATURDAY MARCH 5 from 11:00-3:00.

PRELENTEN LUNCH will take place on SUNDAY MARCH 6. As usual our parish will provide the main courses and we welcome salads and desserts. Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

GREAT LENT WILL BEGIN WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS ON SUNDAY MARCH 13.

NICHOLAS PISTON will shortly be travelling to the Greek island of Lesbos to help over the next few months in providing aid for refugees. Please keep him, the refugees, and other workers in your prayers.

CHURCH ENVELOPES have arrived and are available in the vestibule.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT—COMING UP—SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 at 5:00. Great Vespers will begin at 4:30.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING—MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016—MINUTES by Carol Ann Curry, Parish Secretary.

Treasurer Dan Dowiak presented the **Financial Report**. The account balances as of 12/28/15 are as follows: **General Fund** \$33,212.85; **Memorial Fund** \$44,268.48; **Capital Improvement Fund** \$36,391.21; **Food Coupon Fund** \$3,287.10; **Choir Fund** \$2,556.52.

2015 FINANCIAL PICTURE:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
December	\$78,132.00	\$65,422.28	\$12,709.72	\$4,543.44

The Mortgage Balance as of 12/28/15 is \$266,494.63.

Parish Pre-Annual Meeting – The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 10th, 2016 during coffee hour. The purpose of the meeting is to focus on Parish Life and not financial aspects of the church which generally dominate the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 14th. Reports will be in the vestibule by Sunday, January 31st for parishioner review prior to the meeting.

Parish Photo Directory – This project is not yet finalized but we are nearing completion.

Emergency Phone Notification – The phone tree has been established through an automated system called Call Multiplier. A test message will be done this week to make sure it is working properly.

Parish Committee Updates – (1) Stewardship Committee – Mark Skuby reports that 23 pledge cards have been received for 2016. Over the past 3 years, 42 family units have participated in the pledge program. Pledge cards for 2016 are available in the vestibule. Please remember that a new pledge card must be filled out each year even if you are an established pledge participant. 2) Inreach Outreach - Many events have been scheduled (Family Fun Night 2/20), (Healthy Options Series 3/20, 4/3, 4/17), (Spaghetti Dinner 5/14) and others are in the planning stages for 2016 (IOCC Mission Dinner, Crop Walk). (3) Youth Activities – The Skating Party is scheduled for Sunday, January 31st, 2016. The Youth will also be involved in the March Community Luncheon.

Ongoing Council Activities – Council is also working on other projects which include reviewing and updating the Parish By-Laws, looking into a possible sound system, improving our signage, and reviewing Parish Survey results.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 22nd, 2016 at 7:00 PM.**

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Calendar Year (2016):

February 14th, 2016 --Annual Meeting
February 20th, 2016 – Family Fun Night
March 5, 2016: Pre-Lenten Memorial Liturgy
St. Helena's Spring Bazaar
March 6, 2016—Pre-Lenten Lunch
March 13, 2016 – Forgiveness Sunday/Beginning of Great Lent
March 20th, 2016 – Healthy Options Session #1
April 2-3rd, 2016 – Retreat & Visit with Nuns from Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, PA
April 9th & 10th, 2016 – Archbishop Michael's Visit & Deanery Lenten Vespers
April 17th, 2016 – Healthy Options #2
May 14th, 2016 – Spaghetti Dinner
May 21st, 2016 – Fantasy Auction
June 12th, 2016 – OCHC Parish Picnic

COFFEE HOUR LIST FOR FEBRUARY:

7 Mary Stosuy
14 Genie Skuby
21 Jessica Siragusa
28: Ellie Kuzma and daughters

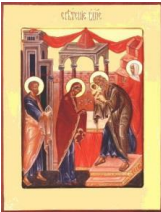


CROSSWALKS

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross Youth Activities Newsletter
February 2016



IT'S
GREAT
TO
ICE
SKATE!



FEAST OF THE MEETING OR PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD: FEB 2

Forty days after Christ was born, Mary and Joseph presented Him to the Temple in thanksgiving to God. In the icon, Saint Simeon is shown holding Jesus. God told Saint Simeon, that he would not die before seeing Jesus the Savior. Saint Simeon was an old man, and when he was finally able to see and hold Jesus, he was full of joy and happiness. Read the story in Luke 2:22-40.

JOIN YOUR OCHC PARISH FAMILY FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN NIGHT! SATURDAY FEB 20TH

4:30 VESPERS

5:00 POT-LUCK / COVERED DISH DINNER – sign up on the bulletin board

5:30 GAME NIGHT – Bingo is back! Enjoy favorites or bring your own to share.



YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: IT'S TIME TO LEND A HELPING HAND

SATURDAY MARCH 5TH 10:30AM – 11:30AM

In collaboration with the Inreach/Outreach Committee & the Community Luncheon Program, We will assemble 50 brown bag lunches for people who need more food. Younger kids will color & decorate the brown lunch bags. Older kids will make peanut butter & jelly sandwiches. All the kids will help assemble the lunch bags with a drink, sandwich, chips, fruit, granola bar and sweet treat. The bags will then be packed for transport to the food pantry.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb 2: Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

★ Feb 20: Family Fun Night

March 5: Community Luncheon Service Opportunity

March 14: Lent begins

March 25: Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos

March 26: Confession Preparation with Fr. John for youth & parents

April 9 & 10: Archbishop Michael Visits

ON EPIPHANY, CHILDREN ASSISTED FR. JOHN BLESSING THE WATER



Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – FEBRUARY, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord: 7 PM</i>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Community Lunch—9 AM Parastas - Frances Coutumas—4:30 Great Vespers: 5</i>
7 <i>DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00</i>	8	9	10 <i>Burlington Nursing Home 10:30</i>	11	12	13 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
14 <i>DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 Annual Parish Meeting</i>	15 <i>Fr. John at OCA's Metropolitan Council Meeting (2/15-2/18)</i>	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Great Vespers: 4:30 Family Fun Night— 5:00</i>
21 <i>Book Club: 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00</i>	22 <i>PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 7 PM</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>Pirohi Session— 9:00</i>	27 <i>Pirohi Session 9:00 Great Vespers: 5</i>
28 <i>DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00 Youth Sunday</i>						

