



# Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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)

**SEPTEMBER, 2019**

## ***“ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS”***

by Fr. John



For several years we have been in discussion with the iconographer, Seraphim O'Keefe, about producing an icon for the area above the entranceway to our church of the encounter Jesus had after his resurrection on the way to Emmaus with his disciples, Luke and Cleopas (Gospel of Luke 24:13-31). This particular scene was chosen because it would seem that if one wanted to know or to remind ourselves of what we have to offer (or the only things we have to offer) anyone interested in Jesus Christ it would be the precise

experiences or encounters expressed in this story: Jesus revealed in the Scriptures (particularly the Old Testament) and Jesus manifested and recognized in the “breaking of the bread” – the Eucharist. The last part of the story is also important: once Luke and Cleopas finally understood that they had really encountered the living Christ, they left Emmaus and whatever purpose they had for going there and went and told the other disciples what they had seen: the disciples told others, who shared that message, up to the present day.

So, this is a welcoming icon, but it is also the iconographic presentation of the Divine Liturgy during which we both encounter and commune with God’s Word and His Body and Blood.

This icon explains what we have to offer ourselves and our guests and I hope we’ll keep that in mind every time we walk up and towards the entrance of our church and into every service.

To help us do that Ed Siecienski will lead a three session discussion of the Divine Liturgy on Thursdays September 19, 26, and October 3: the book for that will be announced shortly.

Ed’s new book, “*Orthodox Christianity: A Very Short Introduction*,” has just been published by Oxford University Press. Copies are available and we’ll post a sign-up sheet and have them for the Fall Festival.

Then we’ll first ask for Archbishop Michael’s blessing of the icon when he joins our Thanksgiving celebration over the weekend of November 2-3.

I will be leading a three week, “*Before Liturgy Bible Study*,” in the fall on the way the Scriptures and the Liturgy guide what we do as a parish. The study will explore the article, “*All of Us Are Beggars*,” by Bishop Maxim Vasiljevic.

We hope if God wills and Seraphim’s time permits that we’ll have the opportunity to work with him again. But in the meantime we’ll keep him, his vocation, and family in our prayers (his wife, Ilaria, is pregnant). He’s currently working on the iconographic plan for the church of St. John of the Ladder in Greenville, South Carolina (he talks about the project here):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mI\\_8IZFFoWM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mI_8IZFFoWM))

An earlier article features some fascinating details about his experiences in the country of Georgia and his work at the Orthodox church in Richmond, Virginia:

<https://richmondmagazine.com/news/features/the-miraculous-life-of-seraphim-okeefe/>

+

**FALL-WINTER TIME OF LITURGY:** The Liturgy will begin at 10 AM beginning on **Sunday September 8.**

**PARISH APPRECIATION LUNCHEON – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, following the Liturgy:** As we begin the new Liturgical Year on September 1, the Parish Council wants to start the year by acknowledging the love, support, and commitment offered by the members of community through their gifts of time, resources, energy, enthusiasm, consistency, and commitment: each person doing what they can. We hope everyone will join us for this celebration on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8!**

**DORMITION FAST — ALMSGIVING PROJECT for the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants:** The final dollar count of the gift cards that will be presented to the “Helpers” is: **\$905.00.**

**CHURCH PICNIC – SUNDAY AUGUST 18** – at Chartwell Swim Club, Marlton. Though the day was very warm and there were threats of stormy weather, the picnic was an enjoyable day!

**ST. HELENA’S GUILD: SAVE THE DATES FOR FALL FESTIVAL FOOD PREPARATION:**

Stuffed Cabbage- Sept 13 & 14 / Borscht Session - Sept 17

**BAKED GOODS FOR FALL FESTIVAL:** In preparation for the Fall Festival, we are in need of homemade baked goods to include some with an International flair. Both sweet and savory would be appreciated. Please bring your items whole, do not cut anything. Some suggested items include: cakes (any flavor), pound cakes, assorted pies, scones, Irish Soda Bread, breads (such as zucchini, banana, cranberry, etc.), apple strudel, pazelles, biscotti, Italian cookies, Russian tea cakes, baklava, shortbread, chocolate chip cookies, brownies, lemon bars, Slavic cookies, Kugel, etc.

As always, thank you so much for all of your donations and time to make this festival such a success each year! Any questions, please contact Liz Gibbons.

+

*Additional Fall Festival Information*

Flyers are included in this Crossroads and available in the church vestibule. Please share with your friends and neighbors. We are sending out to all local churches (Orthodox and others).

We have a take out order menu this year, for our use. We will have copies in the vestibule for pick up.

We are going to offer delivery to Medford Leas this year. Planning for a lunch and dinner delivery. Copies of the take out order form will be provided to the administrator for distribution among the residents.

We need helpers for the following (sign up sheets will be posted in the hall starting on Sunday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>)

Friday set - up and decorating hall. Also need guys to help set up tents, move tables, etc.

Saturday – various work stations

Saturday – clean up at the conclusion of the event, including taking down tents, folding tables and getting them ready for pick up on Sunday

Need cases of water and soda (brand names and diet versions) by **Sunday, 9/15.**

We would prefer not to have deliveries on the day of the event.

Limited number of yard signs will be available on Sunday, 9/15. We will be putting out our banners (3), tent sign, and food signs along 541 & 70 and Church Road starting Sunday, 9/15.

A new choir CD will be available this year for sale. It will be the “live Liturgy” recording we did several years ago. Greg Sapnar had 200 copies produced and will be picked up on 8/30/19.

Don't forget our stuffed cabbage workshop on Friday 9/13 and Saturday 9/14. Please consider helping out on one or both days.

**Any questions, contact Mark Skuby or Phyllis Pritchard.**

**W2WOMAN ACTIVITIES:** **Monday, September 9, 7-9 p.m.**, regular support group meeting, at Diana Bisinger's home (45 Stone Mountain Lane, Marlton 08053). Please let her know if you'll be attending! There are a couple of agenda items to talk about so please be on time. The night just seems to fly by. New members welcome!

**Wednesday, September 18**, Ladies' Luncheon, 12 noon, at *Blue Fig Restaurant* in Moorestown. Please let Genie know if you'll be coming.

**IMPRESSIONS OF THE SERV-X-TREME CONFERENCE** by Josh Brad

This summer I had the opportunity to represent our Diocese at the *Serv-X-Treme Conference* hosted by the IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Conference was designed for Orthodox high school seniors from around the country to spend a week learning about service leadership. Once at the Conference, we experienced service firsthand, and met other Orthodox youth from different jurisdictions.

One such opportunity was at a local soup kitchen. We served dinner to homeless people from the area. I was able to have dinner with one man who was originally from Washington D.C. where his dad worked for the Department of Agriculture. He moved to Minneapolis to go to college. He dropped out, and then his life began to fall apart. I explained why I was there, but mostly listened. He just wanted someone to talk to, to see him as another person, to hear his story. The encounter impressed on me the importance of being present and meeting people where they are.

Another opportunity was to help on the construction of a *Habitat for Humanity* home. My part was to help finish painting the outside of the home. While we didn't get to meet the person we were completing the home for, it made me think of the blessings I have. I have a roof over my head. I never worry about whether I will have clothes to wear, or food to eat. God has richly blessed my family, and I should do more to share His blessings with others. It is too easy to go about my daily routine without thinking about those in need, and having the opportunity to serve helped me to see this.

We regularly celebrated the different services of the Church (Matins, Vespers, and the Divine Liturgy). Worshiping with my fellow Orthodox Christians reminded me that while we may be divided by jurisdictions in America, we are still one Church – the holy Orthodox Church. The Conference also reminded me of the close connection between our worship /prayer life, and service. Christ meets us in worship and prayer and equips us with His grace to go out and serve a broken world.

The IOCC *Serv-X-Treme Conference* gave us an opportunity to put our faith in action. We can touch the lives of those in need with the love of Christ. It strengthens our bonds with others in the Orthodox faith, as we worship and serve together. I think the Conference was a wonderful experience and it would be great for other teens to experience as well.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 submitted by Michelle Wash, Council Secretary.

**Rector's Report:** Fr John will be away Sept. 29. Fr Alexander Smida will serve that day.

**Treasurer’s Report (A full report was handed out to Council at the Meeting):**

Account Balances:

General Fund .....	\$10,680.45	(as of 8/29)
Capital Improvement Fund.....	\$3249.60	(as of 8/29)
Memorial Fund .....	\$16,686.63	(as of 8/29)

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

- A. Regarding QuickBooks online (this will be activated this December); other aspects of establishing guidelines the payment of monthly bills were discussed.
- B. Ads in the *Pine Barrens Tribune* have been running regularly since March and we are beginning to see some responses.
- C. Lawn clean-up is Sept 7 and other aspects of landscaping maintenance were discussed.
- D. Work was done on the HVAC on 8/29, and it appears to be working better now, although it was recognized that significantly lowering its sound will not be possible until a new system, which will require the relocation of some equipment, is undertaken eventually. It was clarified that the *Boutique*, managed by Ellie Kuzmastore, is actually under the auspices of St. Helena’s Guild. Marie Clifton will be helping Ellie with this responsibility.
- E. CPR class is 9/25 at 7PM. A donation of \$100 will be given to the training facility. The placement of AED (defibrillator) was discussed; Dr. John Hamaty will provide training for its use.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

**AMAZON SMILE:**

*AmazonSmile* is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our parish. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

**How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

**Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?**

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on their product detail pages.

**Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

**How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?**

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, search for and select “Church of the Holy Cross.” (link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3505878>) The selection will be remembered, and then every eligible

purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

**IOCC BENEFIT DINNER: SUNDAY OCTOBER 27 FROM 3:30-8:00 at Adephia Restaurant in Deptford**

**For more information and tickets (\$65.00):**

**<http://support.iocc.org/site/Calendar?id=100921&view=Detail>**

**SEPTEMBER 2019 COFFEE HOUR:**

September 1: Kathy Pierman / 8: Parish Appreciation Luncheon

September 15: Nellie Kuzmenchuk & Barbara Mosser / 21: Fall Festival / 28: Phyllis Pritchard

+

**CHURCH CALENDAR:**

**OCTOBER**

**Thursday October 3: Final Session on the Divine Liturgy with Ed Siecienski – 7:30.**

**Saturday October 5: Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday October 6: St. Helena's Meeting —9:15 / DIVINE LITURGY — 10 AM  
Church School "Kick Off" / Opening Prayers**

**St. Helena's Meeting — 9:15**

**October 7: W2W Meeting**

**Saturday October 12: Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday October 13: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM  
Church School Classes Begin**

**Thursday October 17: W2W Luncheon @ Short Hills Deli, Cherry Hill — Noon**

**Saturday October 19: St Helena's Guild: 2-4 PM / Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday October 20: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**

**Saturday October 26: Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday October 27: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**

**IOCC BENEFIT DINNER: SUNDAY OCTOBER 27 FROM 3:30-8:00 at Adephia Restaurant in Deptford**

## **NOVEMBER**

**Saturday November 2: Visit of Archbishop Michael — Healing Service — 5 PM**

**Sunday November 3: Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Michael and Thanksgiving Meal  
— 9:30**

**Monday November 4: W2W Meeting**

**Thursday November 7: Vespereal Liturgy for the Archangel Michael —7 PM**

**Saturday November 9: Fall Bazaar — 11AM - 3 PM**

**Saturday November 9: Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday November 10: St. Helena's Meeting —9:15 / DIVINE LITURGY — 10 AM**

**Saturday November 16 Great Vespers —5 PM**

**Sunday November 17: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**

**Tuesday November 19: W2W Ladies Luncheon — Noon**

**Wednesday November 20: Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple — 7 PM**

**Saturday November 23: Great Vespers —5 PM**

**Sunday November 24: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**

**Saturday November 30: Great Vespers — 5 PM**



# CROSSWALKS

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

## Holy Cross Youth Activities for the autumn months.



Join the group for all or any of their activities for learning, fun, fellowship and sharing!

Coming up soon we will be busy with these events:

Saturday, September 7 -- **Outside Clean Up for Fall Festival** 9:00 am. Bring work gloves, rakes, etc if you have them.

Sunday, September 8 -- **Parish Appreciation Luncheon** Teens will help with set up, serving, clean up, etc. Sign Up Genius invites sent to teens only!

Friday, September 13 -- **First Meeting** 6:00 pm. Opening prayer, recap of rules, community luncheon bagged lunches, games, and planning meeting, plus sign up for helping at festival.

Saturday, September 21 -- **Fall Festival** 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. Serve food, help at Kids Corner, or wherever needed.

Saturday, October 5 -- **Hayride** Springdale Farms, more info to come.

Sunday, October 6 -- **Church School Youth Sermon and Kick Off**

Sunday, October 13 -- **Beginning of Church School Classes**

Friday, October 18 -- **Halloween Party** for younger children at church, run by Yvette Wood and Abdallah family. **Halloween for teens** Escape Room in Marlton for teens with Jessica and another chaperone, or possibly another haunted attraction nearby. More info to come.

Sunday, November 10 -- **Alzheimer's Walk** at Citizen's Bank Park, more info to come.

Friday, November 22 -- **Meeting** 6:00 pm. Thanksgiving favorite food contest, cards and craft for shut ins, and a food drive.

### 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 – SEPTEMBER, 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>DIVINE LITURGY—9:00</b>	2	3	4 <i>Fr. John will be at the Diocesan Clergy Conference in Wappingers Falls (9/4-9/5)</i>	5	6	7  <b>Great Vespers: 5</b>
8 <b>Nativity of the Virgin Mary DIVINE LITURGY—10:00</b> <i>Parishioner Appreciation Lunch</i>	9 <b>Woman2Woman Meeting at Diana Bisinger's 7-9</b>	10	11	12	13 <b>Stuffed Cabbage Session 9 AM</b> <b>Vesperal Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross — 7</b>	14 <b>Stuffed Cabbage Session 9 AM</b>  <b>Great Vespers: 5</b>
15 <b>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00</b>	16	17 <i>Borscht Session 9 AM</i>	18 <b>Woman2Woman Luncheon, 12 noon, at Blue Fig Restaurant in Moorestown.</b>	19 <b>Ed Siecienski on the Divine Liturgy: Session One 7:30</b>	20 <b>Fall Festival Setup</b>	21 <b>Fall Festival 11:00-7:00</b>  <b>Great Vespers: 5</b>
22 <b>DIVINE LITURGY -- 10:00</b>	23	24	25 <b>CPR Class at the church – 7 PM</b>	26 <b>Ed Siecienski on the Divine Liturgy: Session Two 7:30</b>	27	28 <b>Marriage Celebration of Christopher Shimchick &amp; Cynthia Nguyen 3:30</b>
29 <b>DIVINE LITURGY –10:00</b> <i>Fr. Alexander Smida will be serving the Liturgy</i>	30	1 <b>October</b>	2  9	3 <b>Ed Siecienski on the Divine Liturgy: Session Three 7:30</b>	4	5  <b>Great Vespers: 5</b>