



# Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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**JANUARY, 2020**

## ***When Giving Is All We Have***

by Alberto Rios

*One river gives  
Its journey to the next.*

We give because someone gave to us.  
We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.  
We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it.  
We have been wounded by it.

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,  
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,  
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,  
Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.  
Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you  
What I had to give — together, we made

Something greater from the difference.

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“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

Benjamin Franklin

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS:**

**Saturday, January 4: Community Luncheon — 9 AM**

**Sunday, January 5: St. Helena’s Guild Meeting, following the Liturgy / Teen Meeting**

**Sunday, January 12: Inreach/Outreach Meeting**

**Thursday, January 16: Parish Council Meeting—7:00**

**Friday, January 17: Youth Group Bowling**

**Sunday, January 26: Across the Ages Community Session, during Coffee Hour**

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** Thanks for the support of those who contributed to our Christmas Card, approximately \$1,100.00 was received. Thanks to Kim Piotrowski for providing the cover photo, to Lee Ann Detwiler for the card design, and to Wally Loza as coordinator.

**WOMAN2WOMAN:** **Monday, January 6,** 7-9 p.m., regular Woman2Woman support group meeting at home of Trudy Ellmore, 225 Haddon Ave., Apt. 7401, Haddon Township. Please let Trudy know as soon as possible if you can attend (610-393-9897).

**Monday, January 20,** 12 noon, Ladies’ Luncheon at the (new) Olga’s Diner in Marlton on Rt. 73. Please inform Genie Skuby by January 19 if you can attend!

### **GET YOUR CALENDARS READY! “ACROSS THE AGES” — SUNDAY, JANUARY 26.**

We as a parish are planning a series of social activities in the new year. The series is called “**Across the Ages.**” The first activity will be a trip down memory lane on Sunday, January 26, during coffee hour. We thought we’d start 2020 with recollections of the early years of our Holy Cross parish. Some of our parishioners were in on those beginnings, but it is fitting for all of us to hear about what it was like to start a fledgling parish (both the good days and the challenging ones). We hope for full participation by our children as well. So please plan on joining us on the 26<sup>th</sup> and staying for coffee hour to join in the fun.

P.S. – If anyone has pictures or videos that will help jog some memories (yes, the pictures showing the funny hairdos) and add to our display, please label them and submit them to Genie Skuby.

Other upcoming activities will include game nights, local trips, meals, and whatever else our planning committee can come up with. If you’d like to help in any way, please let Father John or Genie know!

**SOUPER SUNDAY — FEBRUARY 2:** We’ll be collecting cans of soup and deposit them in a box in the Social Hall beginning on Sunday January 12 and ending with a special “**Soup Sunday**” on February 2. Your generous donations will go to the Community Luncheon Program and St. Vincent de Paul.

**CPR CERTIFICATION:** An introduction to CPR was offered recently, but our Parish Council would like to encourage community members to be officially trained and certified. Anyone interested should see Fr. John, Phyllis, or Diana Bisinger.

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 19, 2019** from Secretary Michelle Wash.

Account Balances as of 12/18/2019:

General Fund .....	\$35,799.81	
Memorial Fund .....	\$16,849.46	
Capital Improvement Fund.....	\$3340.50	
Food Coupon Fund .....	\$ 2229.64	
Choir Fund.....	\$3398.84	
Father’s Supplemental Checking.....	\$ 275.29	
Fundraising Account .....	\$ 340.94	
Mortgage Balance.....	\$ 44,052.86	
Capital Improvement Fund.....	\$ 20,532.36	(as of 9/30/19)
Memorial Fund .....	\$30,798.26	(as of 9/30/19)

As part of his Financial Report, Joe Brad pointed out some issues reflected in a Parish Giving Analysis, noting that church support is dependent upon a handful of regular givers. Council members agreed that a focus on parish growth and retention of members over this next year is essential.

The Parish Survey, developed and presented a few years ago, offered some comments and suggestions for improving parish life. The Survey results were gathered, shared, discussed at a Parish Meeting and implemented in some cases. It will be reviewed again.

Joe Brad also presented two issues regarding missed contributions to Fr. John’s Pension and inaccurate W2 documentation. Over many years, an amount had been withheld each month from Fr. John’s salary with the intent that it be forwarded as voluntary contributions to his Pension. But these funds remained in the church’s treasury and were not forwarded. After this had been shared at the November Council Meeting, the parish received an anonymous donation of \$25,000 to cover the parish’s responsibility to reimburse the amount that had been withheld (with additional interest that would have been earned over that time). The impact, however, from Federal and State taxes left a balance due of \$10, 759.87. After a review of several options a motion was passed to forward the 25K to Fr. John plus an additional \$3,659.87 (50% of the tax liability) towards the Federal taxes to help compensate for some of the taxes.

The second issue regarded Fr. John’s inaccurate W2 documentation. After Joe Brad had reviewed this concern with Fr. John’s tax consultant he presented a plan for establishing a permanent solution which was accepted by the Council and will be enacted by Primepoint—our payroll company.

A motion was accepted to distribute the parish’s Charity Fund (maintained by monthly envelope contributions and other sources) to the following [Note: The distributions from this Fund reflect the parish’s concern to consider the local needs of our community, the Diocese, and beyond.]

Medford EMT (\$250.00) / St. Vincent De Paul Society (\$250.00) / St. Innocent of Alaska Orthodox Mission,

Oneonta, NY / Community Hope for the Families of Veterans (\$200.00) / VetsHouses (\$200.00) / the Fr. Daniel Sysoev Fund for the Families of Orthodox Clergy (\$100.)

It was agreed that further topics for discussion would be delayed until the next Meeting, which will be on **Thursday January 16.**

### **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.

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

January 5: Maureen Sapnar / 12: Diana Bisinger / 19: Barbara Mosser & Nellie Kuzmenchuk  
26: Val Olesnovich

### **CHURCH CALENDAR:**

#### **2020 HOUSE BLESSING SCHEDULE**

As has been the usual practice, Fr. John will assume that he will be visiting all parishioners. If, for any reason, someone would not want to be visited please give him a call or leave a message in the church office.

Each home will be called in advance and those who are home during the day may be called on a different day. Homes not included in the general areas listed below will be contacted to set up a time.

- Jan 6-7: Cherry Hill
- 8: Moorestown
- 9: Haddonfield / Collingswood
- 10: Marlton/Mt Laurel
- 11: Medford/Tabernacle
- 12: Voorhees / Atco
- 13: Elm/Folsom
- 14: Willingboro
- 17:
- 18: Bordentown
- 19: Gloucester

Here are some ways of preparing for the blessing of your home:

- \* Set aside a place for the service (usually a table in the dining room or kitchen).
- \* On the table place an icon, a candle, a bowl for Holy Water, and a list of names to be remembered – divided into two lists, living and departed.
- \* A person holding the candle may lead Fr. John throughout the home.

**TROPARION**

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan  
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.  
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You  
and called You His beloved Son.  
And the Spirit in the form of a dove  
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ, our God, who have revealed Yourself / and have enlightened the world, glory to You.

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## **FEBRUARY**

- Sunday, February 2:** Meeting of the Lord / Zacchaeus Sunday
- Sunday, February 9:** Inreach/Outreach Meeting
- Saturday, February 15:** “Across the Ages” Spaghetti Dinner / Vespers at 3:00
- Sunday, February 16:** Parish Annual Meeting
- Tuesday, February 18:** Woman2Woman at La Femmina (Medford)
- Friday, February 21:** Youth Group: Family Fun Night
- Saturday, February 22:** Memorial Saturday Liturgy (9 AM)
- Sunday, February 23:** Pre-Lenten Luncheon

## **MARCH**

- Sunday, March 1:** Forgiveness Sunday
- Monday, March 2:** Beginning of Great Lent
- Sunday, March 8:** Sunday of Orthodoxy: Inreach/Outreach Meeting
- Sunday, March 15:** St. Gregory Palamas
- Wednesday, March 18:** Woman2Woman Lunch at Franco’s (Marlton)
- Sunday, March 22:** Sunday of the Cross
- Wednesday, March 25:** Annunciation
- Friday, March 27:** Youth Group (?)
- Saturday, March 28:** Visit of Archbishop Michael / **Sunday, March 29:** St. John Climacus /  
Visit of Archbishop Michael / probably Deanery Vespers



# CROSSWALKS

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross Youth Ministry Newsletter  
January 2020



*Christ Is Born!  
Glorify Him!*



## Celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, January 5 -- **Teen Meeting** after Liturgy and Sunday School class.

Friday, January 17 -- **Youth Group Bowling Night** (probably 6 pm to 8 pm) Complete info coming soon!

Saturday, February 15 -- **Joint Teen/Seniors Spaghetti Dinner** Complete info coming soon!!

Friday, February 21 -- **Family Fun Night** Complete info coming soon!

### **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 – JANUARY, 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 <i>Community Luncheon — 9 AM</i>  <i>Great Vespers — 5</i>
5 <i>DIVINE LITURGY – 10:00</i> <i>Blessing of Holy Water, following the Liturgy</i>	6 <i>Epiphany Divine Liturgy — 9 AM</i>  <i>W2W at Trudy Ellmore’s (7-9)</i>	7	8	9	10	11  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
12 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00</i> <i>Inreach/Outreach Meeting</i>	13	14	15	16  <i>Parish Council Meeting — 7 PM</i>	17  <i>Youth Group Bowling</i>	18  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
19 <i>DIVINE LITURGY -- 10:00</i>	20 <i>W2W Lunch (Olga’s Diner)</i>	21	22	23	24	25  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
26 <i>DIVINE LITURGY –10:00</i> <i>“Across the Ages” – during Coffee Hour</i>	27	28	29	30	31	1  <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>

