



# Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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**NOVEMBER, 2019**

## **PSALM 23: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**

**by Fr. Patrick Henry Riordan**

One has the strong impression —strong to the point of certitude—that the “Good Shepherd Psalm” is the best-known, most frequently prayed and the most widely memorized psalm in the Bible. This psalm, traditionally Psalm 22 from its translation of the Old Testament, Vulgate (the Latin translation), from its numbering in the the King James Version. Both of an accomplishment that one Many believers pray it daily.

The popularity of this psalm is the image of Jesus as the Good from the New Testament and the



numbering in the Septuagint (the Greek produced before the birth of Jesus) and the but popularly known as the Twenty-third Psalm Masoretic Hebrew text, is particularly popular in my children could recite it by heart at age three, suspects is not uncommon in Christian homes.

doubtless related to the traditional attraction of Shepherd, the latter a fact readily demonstrable very earliest Christian art.

*[Relief from a Christian sarcophagus, ca. 300 A.D., Princeton Art Museum]*

This attraction, still very widespread, was absolutely universal among the first Christians. For instance, in Matthew, written in Syria, the theme of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was especially related to that of evangelism and the sending out of the Apostles (9:36-38). This emphasis is consonant with the parable of the Shepherd's searching for the lost sheep, preserved in 18:12-14.

In Mark's Gospel, written in Rome, the theme of the Good Shepherd was especially associated with the Multiplication of the Loaves (Mark 6:34). Here one sees Jesus making his flock recline on the green grass (6:39), an image clearly drawn from our psalm. Evidently this became a favorite image among the Christians at Rome, for pictures of Jesus as the Good Shepherd appear everywhere in the catacombs and other early art in that city. Another New Testament work written at Rome twice refers to Jesus as the shepherd (1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4), and the image likewise appears in Hebrews (13:20), which also seems to be connected with Rome (13:24). Moreover, a second-century Christian of Rome, named Hermas, made this the major image of Jesus in a lengthy work that is called, in fact, *The Shepherd*.

Besides Syria and Rome, the symbol of Jesus as Good Shepherd was also clearly a popular one among the Christians in Asia Minor. For example, in the mid-second century the Bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp, refers to

our Lord as “the Shepherd of the Church” (*Martyrdom of Polycarp*, 19:2). Much earlier, however, that theme was already recorded in the Gospel of John, written in the Asian capitol of Ephesus. At the very end of this Gospel, Jesus refers to “My lambs” and “My sheep” (John 21:15-17), but the longer development of this idea is in chapter 10. In this chapter several aspects of the image are treated: the sensitivity of the sheep to the Shepherd’s voice (vv. 3-5, 8, 14, 16, 27), the utter uniqueness of the Shepherd in contrast to the hireling or the robber (vv. 1,2,8-10, 12, 13), the Shepherd’s giving of His life for the sheep (vv. 10,11, 14,15,17,18), the gathering of the lost sheep into a single flock (v. 16) and their total security (vv. 28, 29).

In the traditional exegesis of the Church, this psalm bears special reference to the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation, and the Holy Eucharist.

Thus, it is the baptismal font that the psalmist has in mind when he proclaims: “He leads me beside the still waters; He restores my soul.”

Thus, too, it is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Chrismation that is referred to when the psalm says: “You anoint my head with oil.”

Thus, likewise, it is the Altar of the Messianic Banquet that the psalm means when it says: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. . .my cup brims over.”

This interpretation is already clear in Mark 6, the earliest written account of the Multiplication of the Loaves. Above, we noted Mark’s insertion in 6:34, of a passage from Ezekiel on the theme of the Good Shepherd; also we saw his reference to the crowds reclining “on the green grass” (even though the event takes place in the desert!), the latter detail surely taken from our psalm. But in this same passage, Mark likewise regards the Multiplication of the Loaves (and, hence, of the Good Shepherd) through the lens of the Eucharist. Note, for instance, Mark’s use of the four “eucharistic verbs” in verse 41, to describe how Jesus “took” the bread, “blessed,” “broke,” and “gave” it to the believers. Such is the mystic table that the Good Shepherd, having led us safely through the valley of the shadow of death, prepares us, beside the still waters, our heads anointed with oil (from: *Christ in the Psalms*, pp. 43-44).

**OCHC ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER** - It is that time of the year again. On Sunday, **November 3rd**, we will be having our 7th annual Thanksgiving Dinner. **A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board**, so start thinking of your favorite side dish or dessert that you would like to bring and sign up. Please be specific. This is a wonderful time to share great food and conversation as we celebrate with our church family. We will also be able to enjoy the wonderful music of **Banks Sapnar and Ben Turner**.

**BEFORE LITURGY BIBLE STUDY: THE SHEPHERD** — **SUNDAYS NOVEMBER 10, 17 & 24 at 9:15**. In this 3 week study, we’ll explore the liturgical, sacramental, and spiritual significance of this image as expressed particularly through the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and find ways to apply it to our lives.

- 1) Please review the opening article by Fr. Reardon that was featured in this *Crossroads* and
- 2) **BRING A BIBLE!**

**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING GIVING CANNED FOOD DRIVE** will begin on **Sunday November 10 and continue to Sunday November 24**.

**THE HOLIDAY STOCKING GIFT CARD DRIVE** benefitting **COVENANT HOUSE** and **CROSSROADS** will begin on **Sunday December 1 through the 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

*Crossroads* serves youth who must transition to independent, young adulthood without the support and guidance typically provided by family. Their continuum of care for homeless youth – shelter care,

outreach services, group homes, residential treatment, community-based treatment homes, life skills training, and family therapy – has resulted in improved outcomes and enhanced futures for the thousands of kids and families Crossroads Programs has served over the years.

*Crossroads Programs*’ – individualized, strengths-based services for homeless, abused, and abandoned youth – help them develop the interpersonal and concrete skills necessary for success in order to enter young adulthood as productive members of the community. Their expertise is in serving adolescents without families – a vulnerable and often overlooked population who will soon need to make it on the own.

The Agency's thirteen programs center around five primary populations: Homeless and Runaway Youth, Teen Moms and Babies, Kids in Crisis, Youth Aging Out of Foster Care, and At-Risk Youth and Families.

**W2WOMAN ACTIVITIES:** There will NOT be a Meeting in November.

The next Luncheon will be on **Tuesday November 19 at Allora in Marlton (Whole Foods shopping center)**. Please RSVP with Genie at 856-802-1664.

**THE SOCIAL HALL PAINT DAY** will be rescheduled.

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 22, 2019** from Secretary Michelle Wash.

Joe Brad presented the **Treasurer’s Report**. Accounts information is as follows as of 10/22:

General Fund \$12,767.95  
Memorial Fund \$16,791.07  
Capital Improvement \$3339.98  
Food Coupon Fund \$1956.05 as of 9/26  
Choir Fund \$3794.69 as of 9/30  
Father’s Supplemental Checking \$182.83  
Fund Raising Account \$340.94  
Mortgage Balance \$51,004.19 as of 9/30?

Pioneer Investment Accounts as of 9/30:  
Capital Improvement \$30,798.26 / Memorial Fund \$20,532.36

Core giving remains lower than last year by almost 3%. Expenses are tracking 7% lower than budgeted. However some bigger expenses in September include Fall Festival, flowers, and books.

Joe Brad asked for a motion to change the fiscal year from Jan-Dec to Mar 1-Feb 28. This would help Council to present a more precise annual budget to the Parish since the Annual Parish Meeting takes place in February. The motion was passed.

Plans for Archbishop Michael’s visit over the weekend of November 2-3 were reviewed.

Defib Training – this will be coordinated with Dr. John Hamaty.

E-Giving – Greg Gotowchikov presented two options having very different approaches. These will be discussed in more detail at the next Council meeting, beginning at 6:30.

Stewardship Pledges – Trudy will prepare pledges, however she says a preliminary budget is necessary first. Trudy will also work on a mid-year Contribution Report for Parishioners so they can keep up and keep track.

The next Council meeting is **Nov 21 at 6:30 (NOTE EARLIER TIME)**.

**COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS:** **November 3:** Parish Thanksgiving Meal

**November 10:** Donna Woodhull / **November 17:** Judy Clyde / **November 24:** Barbara Shimchick

**THE NUTCRACKER:** Academy of Music Trip —George Balancine’s —*The Nutcracker*

**When:** December 17 @ 7:00 pm

**Price:** \$59.00 *Parquet Circle Seating*

**Deadline** for payment: Sunday, October 27

Sign-up forms are on the Social Hall bulletin board.

Checks payable to: “Judy Clyde”

### **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.

**CHURCH CALENDAR:**

**DECEMBER**

**Sunday December 1: St. Helena's Meeting —9:15 / DIVINE LITURGY — 10 AM**  
*Crossroads* presentation during Coffee Hour

**Advent Vespers — 5 PM**

**Monday December 2: W2W Akathist to the Nativity of Christ**

**Thursday December 5: Vesperal Liturgy for the Feast of St. Nicholas —7 PM**

**Saturday December 7: Cookie Making Session with Ana Siragusa — 9:00 /**  
**Caroling – 11:30 – Spring Hills – Cherry Hill — 11:30/ Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday December 8: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**

**Saturday December 14: Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday December 15: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**  
**Inreach/Outreach Meeting**

**Wednesday December 18: Ladies Luncheon — Noon**

**Saturday December 21: Great Vespers — 5 PM**

**Sunday December 22: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**

*Christmas Program, following the Liturgy*

**Monday December 23: Vesperal Liturgy for Christmas Eve — 7 PM**

**Tuesday December 24: Christmas Eve – Matins and Complines — 4:00**

**Wednesday December 25: Christmas – Divine Liturgy —10 AM**

**Saturday December 28: No Great Vespers**

**Sunday December 29: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM**



# CROSSWALKS

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



## Holy Cross Youth Activities

The kids prepared food for Community Luncheon, and made games and crafts for the Fall Festival. Our teens had a great time at Great Adventure's Teen Nite.

There's more fun coming up! Join the group for all or any of their activities for learning, fun, fellowship and sharing!

Friday, November 1 -- **Annual Church Hayride** 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Springdale Farms. Check your Sign Up Genius invitation for complete info.

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 - 3 -- **Archbishop Michael's visit** A Healing Service will take place on Saturday at 5:00 pm - everyone is welcome to participate and receive the Anointing (including those who are not Orthodox). His Eminence has just returned from the Holy Land, so he will no doubt have some interesting stories to share. There will be a reception following and the children's help would be appreciated. Banks Sapnar and a friend will be playing during the reception.

We will greet His Eminence at 9:30 on Sunday morning and will need the young ladies to present flowers: please be there by 9:15.

Additional information about Archbishop Michael's visit is in the Crossroads.

Friday, November 22 -- **Monthly Meeting** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Thanksgiving favorite food contest, cards and craft for shut ins, and a food drive.

**The Nativity Fast (Advent) begins November 15. The first Sunday will be November 17, and we will light the first candle of the Advent wreath.**

### 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 – NOVEMBER, 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 <i>Healing Service with Archbishop Michael: 5</i>
3 <i>DIVINE LITURGY with Archbishop Michael—9:30 Thanksgiving Meal!</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Archangel Michael – 7 PM</i>	8	9 <i>St. Helena’s Mini Bazaar (11-3)  Great Vespers: 5</i>
10 <i>Bible Study – 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 St. Helena’s Meeting/Inreach</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Beginning of Advent</i>	16 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
17 <i>Bible Study – 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY -- 10:00</i>	18	19 <i>W2W Luncheon: Allora in Marlton</i>	20 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Entrance of the Theotokos – 7 PM</i>	21 <i>Parish Council Meeting – 6:30</i>	22	23 <i>Community Luncheon – 9 AM  Great Vespers: 5</i>
24 <i>Bible Study – 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY –10:00  31 DIVINE LITURGY – 10:00</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>

