



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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FEBRUARY, 2017

Nothing is Lost

by Fr. John

When I first read the poem presented below, “Nothing is Lost” by Noel Coward it reminded me of and gave me hope for those who suffer from dementia. We all, no doubt, have had family or friends who are unable to maintain a conversation, or recall anything about their personal stories or relationships. There may be occasional “moments of clarity” when something appropriate is said or an important detail is recalled, but for the most part they are no longer themselves and nothing seems the same. Yet, perhaps the experience from the perspective of the person is more of imprisonment; of being able to hear what is being said and of still being able to connect to language and sound, but no longer being able to respond or to share.

In thinking about the poem from the perspective of Great Lent, I want to believe that God uses our sub-conscious and all that is within us, all our memories and experiences, in trying to reach and save us. He takes and reworks all of it — the good and the bad — helping us to see it all, at the appropriate times, in ways upon which we can concretely act, maybe for the first time.

So, that perhaps this Lent we will also understand that even for us: Nothing is Lost.

Deep in our sub-conscious, we are told
Lie all our memories, lie all the notes
Of all the music we have ever heard
And all the phrases those we loved have spoken,
Sorrows and losses time has since consoled,
Family jokes, out-moded anecdotes
Each sentimental souvenir and token
Everything seen, experienced, each word
Addressed to us in infancy, before
Before we could even know or understand
The implications of our wonderland.
There they all are, the legendary lies
The birthday treats, the sights, the sounds, the tears
Forgotten debris of forgotten years

Waiting to be recalled, waiting to rise
Before our world dissolves before our eyes
Waiting for some small, intimate reminder,
A word, a tune, a known familiar scent
An echo from the past when, innocent
We looked upon the present with delight
And doubted not the future would be kinder
And never knew the loneliness of night.

by Noel Coward

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 at 9 AM.**
- **THE NAMES OF JESUS BOOK STUDY RESUMES ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 9:15.**
- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, during Coffee Hour**
- **FAMILY FUN NIGHT, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 at 5:00.** Great Vespers will begin at 4PM.
- **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12.**
- **WOMAN2WOMAN BOOK STUDY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 at Diana Pasca's.**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 at 7 PM.**
- **PRE-LENTEN LUNCHEON: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19.**
- **CHEESFARE SUNDAY/BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26.**
- **NO INREACH MEETING IN FEBRUARY.**
- **LENTEN DEANERY VESPERS AT OUR CHURCH: SUNDAY MARCH 19 at 4:00.**

OUR PRE-LENTEN LUNCHEON will take place on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19, following the Divine Liturgy. As usual, our parish will provide the main food items and we appreciate the donation of salads, vegetable items, and desserts. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

SPECIAL LENTEN READINGS: During the first week of Great Lent (February 27-March 2), we'll be reading during the services, "*The Power of the Name*" by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. Our Daily Lenten Reader, which will be sent out each day by email starting on Monday February 27 (hard copies will also be available), will be taken from, "*Becoming a Healing Presence*" by Dr. Albert Rossi. Dr. Rossi has agreed to lead a Retreat on his book in our parish on **Saturday October 14.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEX PLACHUTA who completed his Doctorate in Education (Ed.D) from Northwestern University with a dissertation focused on informal learning among online community college faculty.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday January 16, 2017, prepared by Recording Secretary, Diana Pasca.

Treasurer Dan Dowiak presented the financial report. The account balances for January are as follows:

General Fund \$49,323.60, **Memorial Fund** \$49,257.86, **Capital Improvement Fund** \$48,231.85, **Food Coupon Fund** \$4,504.69, **Choir Fund** \$3,446.49

The Mortgage Balance as of 12/31/16 was \$179,793.54

Council has agreed to find an Assistant Treasurer to assist Dan. Two other trustee positions will also be also need to be filled. (As of 1/29/17 one trustee and one assistant treasurer is still needed)

Council approved the budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting February 12, 2017.

Parish By-laws- updates have been completed. Council will review the by-laws and standing rules very soon, send them to Archbishop Michael for his approval, and then present to the parish at a special meeting for adoption.

Website: Greg Sapnar and Jessica Siragusa will be meeting with the GoDaddy website team to review the updates next week. After that we can launch it and make the additions we desire.

Calendar meeting: Parishioners from different committees met with Fr. John on Sunday January 8th to place significant dates on the calendar thru the end of June. Another meeting to complete the year will take place on June 25. Items were also placed on the 4 month calendar posted in the Social Hall.

Parish Committee Updates – (1) **Stewardship Committee** – Mark Skuby has been turning in pledges to Treasurer. Parishioners need to let them know if they are retaining their pledge amount from last year of changing it. Annual statements will be out by Sunday January 29th. (2) **Inreach/Outreach** - Members of the committee have been visiting homebound parishioners and preparing meals for those who are ill. Healthy Options Session will be in May this year due to busy calendar schedule. Family Fun Night is planned for Feb. 11th, Community Luncheon continues / January marks the 23rd year we have been doing this project (3) (3) **Youth Activities** – Coordinator Mimi Jacobs has stepped down from this position. Fr. John and the Council discussed ways to maintain this important program for our Youth. Activities have taken place and will continue to be planned. More information will be forthcoming. Parents will be notified of this change and a letter will be sent to Mimi both affirming her efforts and offering hope for the resolution of any misunderstandings. (4) **Choir:** The choir is learning new materials and reviewing Lenten pieces. We will be hosting the Deanery Vespers on March 19th so there will be preparation needed for that service as well. (5) **St. Helena's Guild** reports a balance of \$12,205.98. Pirohi sessions planned: January 1/21 & 22, and another in February. (6) **Woman2Woman:** Luncheon on 1/24 at noon. Book study on 2/16, 7 p.m. “*Women of the Bible*” at Diana Pasca’s home.

Ongoing Council Activities – Council is also working on other projects which include developing an Iconographic plan, reducing maintenance and technology expenses, and the development of a Hospitality Team to welcome visitors and connect them and to reach out to parishioners who perhaps been unable to join us in worship.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

FANTASY AUCTION Save the date – Saturday, April 23rd, 5-8 pm

Mark your calendars and plan to come to our fifth annual Fantasy Auction. Based on the survey we’re holding the Auction earlier in the spring and eliminating the Silent Auction. Our goal is to have 55 Live

Auction items and 20 bottles of wine for the Wine Grab Bag.

Please consider supporting our Spring Fund Raiser by donating your time, talent – make an item or offer a service, items and/or cash donations to be used to purchase gift cards. Look for sign-up sheets for donations in the Fellowship Hall. We especially could use help soliciting donations from local businesses and national chains via the internet. Please contact Leslie Lane at 609-790-3470 or glane5@verizon.net or Val Olesnovich at 856-381-9771 or voles09@gmail.com with any questions or to volunteer. Thanks in advance for your support!

COFFEE HOUR LIST: February — May, 2017:

If you are unable to host the coffee hour on the scheduled date, it is your responsibility to contact someone else on the list and arrange to switch your date with that person. Please mark the switch on the list so we can keep the list current. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED SO PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY.** Veteran coffee hour hostesses will help you. **Contact a Member of St. Helena’s Guild.**

RESPONSIBILITIES: On your Sunday, you are the host/hostess for the day. You will be responsible for setting up the coffee hour, making the coffee and hot water for tea, and cleaning up (sweeping the floor, wiping down the tables, cleaning the coffee pot, and **taking out the trash**) afterwards. A suggested coffee hour could include 3-4 dozen bagels, cream cheese, butter/margarine, fruit (such as sliced apples or oranges, grapes, fruit salad, etc) and cookies or cut-up cake. Please bring 1 pound of coffee (to replace what was used that morning), creamer, and jice (2-64 oz bottles of juice). Please take home all items that are not consumed. **KEEP IN MIND THAT COFFEE HOURS SHOULD BE SIMPLE AND SERVE AS A SNACK AFTER CHURCH AND NOT A MEAL.** Also, if anyone plans on bringing a cake or anything additional to celebrate an occasion during coffee hour, please contact that week’s host and inform them of your plans. This will avoid duplication of refreshments.

FEBRUARY

5: Inreach/St. Helena’s Guild / 12: Genie Skuby
19: Pre-Lenten Luncheon / 26: Jessica Siragusa

MARCH

5: Ellie Kuzma and daughters / 12: Mary Stosuy
19: Debbie Chong 26: Leslie Lane

APRIL

2: Bethany & John Fu 9: Diane Vozdovic
16: PASCHA 23: Plachuta Family 30: Liz Gibbons & Alexandra Lilly

MAY

7: Diana Pasca 14: Mother’s Day – hosted by the Men of the parish
21: Andrea Burns 28: Natalka Weismantel



CROSSWALKS

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross Youth Activities Newsletter
February 2017

Project Linus:

**On Sunday January 14, our Church School created 15 blankets for the Mercer County/South Jersey Chapter of Project Linus (<http://www.projectlinus.org>)
Thanks for everyone's help!**



ICE SKATING AT THE IGLOO, SUNDAY JANUARY 29: Seven skaters had a great time, enjoyed pizza, and each other's company.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday February 11: Family Fun Night (5:00 / Great Vespers will begin at 4:00)

Saturday February 25: Women in the Bible. More info will be forthcoming.

Sunday March 5: Meeting of Youth Activities Committee (parents are encouraged to attend), following the liturgy

Saturday March 18: Youth Confessions with Fr John (4:00)

Friday April 14: Holy Friday Church School Retreat (12:00-2:45)



COVENANT HOUSE SLEEP OUT: April 28-29!

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – FEBRUARY, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1 Vesperal Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord – 7 PM</i>	<i>2 Meeting of the Lord</i>	3	<i>4 Community Luncheon – 9 AM</i> <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
<i>5 Book Study 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY - 10:00 St. Helena's Guild Meeting</i>	6	7	8	9	10	<i>11 Parastas for Fran Coutumas: 3:30 Great Vespers: 4 Family Fun Night—5 PM</i>
<i>12 Book Study 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY—10:00</i> <i>Parish Annual Meeting</i>	13	14	15	<i>16 Woman2Woman Book Study at Diana Pasca's 7 PM</i>	17	<i>18 Memorial Liturgy— 9 AM</i> <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
<i>19 Book Study 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 Pre-Lenten Luncheon</i>	20 <i>Parish Council 7 PM</i>	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
<i>26 Book Study 9:15 DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 Forgiveness Vespers, following the Liturgy</i>	<i>27 Beginning of Great Lent Canon of St. Andrew— 7 PM</i>	28 <i>Canon of St. Andrew— 7 PM</i>	<i>1 March Canon of St. Andrew— 7 PM</i>	<i>2 Canon of St. Andrew— 7 PM</i>	<i>3 Confessions (6:00) Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7 PM meal following</i>	4 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>

