



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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FEBRUARY, 2018

***On the Fifth Song:
“Now Lay Aside All Earthly Cares”***

by Fr. John



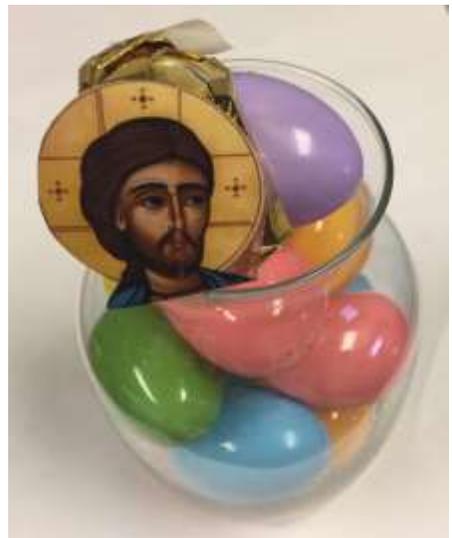
One of our projects this year, I hope, will be to finalize plans for an icon of Christ's post resurrectional encounter with Luke and Cleopas on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). This would be located in the semi-circular space above the entranceway to the front doors. In this story, Jesus — unrecognized by the disciples — “interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (24:27). Then over a meal “he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him and he vanished out of their sight” (24:31). At that point they said to each other: “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?” and then later to the others, “how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread” (32,35).

It seems to me that this would be the perfect story by which to affirm that everything we as an Orthodox community have to offer is about preparing a place in our hearts for Jesus Christ to enter, orally by way of his word, and then physically through the presence of his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. How we prepare that place, of course, is always the problem.

The Fifth Youth Sermon, delivered on Sunday January 21 on the theme of “*Now Lay Aside All Earthly Cares*” was all about preparing a place for Christ in our hearts. We began by showing the children an image of our brains or hearts, wherever we imagine we store our thoughts, emotions, and plans.



Then we presented the things that come to mind: images of food, activities, football, whatever that will fill this place, particularly during the Divine Liturgy: it's hard to find space for Christ in all of this activity.



The Cherubic Hymn calls us to “lay aside all earthly cares.” The children had interesting suggestions about how to do that: “take away half of the thoughts” or “get brain surgery.” Realistically, we want to call upon Christ himself when we get distracted: we might not be able to avoid all temptations during our worship, but we can determine how long we will be captivated by these thoughts. So, let's begin by calling upon the name of the Lord — in either the full form of the Jesus Prayer: “Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner” or by simply saying, “Jesus help.”

Help us to find the place for You to enter our lives!

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10: MEMORIAL DIVINE LITURGY — 9 AM.** The names of departed family members are mentioned at the end of this service. Names given to Fr. John over the years have been included in family lists. Please send him an email with any additions:(frjohn@holycrossmedford.org)

- **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10: YOUTH SKATING AT THE IGLOO, MT. LAUREL — 7:30-10:00 PM.** Respond to the Sign-up Genius email to attend or talk to Jessica Siragusa.
- **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11: PRE-LENTEN LUNCH,** following the Divine Liturgy. Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for attendance & food items that will be brought (casseroles, salads, and desserts).
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11: TBD**
- **PIOHI SESSIONS: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 & 17.** Guild Meeting will follow Saturday Session.
- **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18: FORGIVENESS SUNDAY** — Forgiveness Vespers which will lead us into the beginning of Great Lent will begin at the end of the Divine Liturgy.
- **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25: SPECIAL SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY SERVICE AT 4:00** —SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH, SOUTH RIVER, NJ that will be hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Michael.
- **SUNDAY MARCH 4** — WE WILL HOST THE LENTEN DEANERY VESPERS AT 4:00. The guest homilist will be Fr. Joseph Gall.
- **SATURDAY MARCH 10: ST. HELENA'S GUILD SPRING BAZAAR** — 11-3:00. Orders for babkas and kolach rolls due February 28.
- **SATURDAY MARCH 10: CONFESSIONS FOR CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN** — 3:30. Fr. John will explain the Sacrament and hear the children's confessions. Preparatory material will be sent out in advance.
- **SATURDAY MARCH 17: RETREAT WITH DRS. MARY AND DAVID FORD,** professors from St. Tikhon's Seminary. More information and a Daily Lenten Reader of their writings will be available soon.
- **CONFESSIONS will be heard:** before each Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (from 6:00-7:00); following Great Vespers on Saturday evenings (later during Lent time will be available before Great Vespers); Sunday mornings (from 9:15-9:55). PLEASE do not wait until the last minute. ALL Confessions should be made before Holy Week.

OUR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, following the Divine Liturgy. The Minutes, Financial, and other written Reports will be available in advance. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES: Next Ladies' Luncheon will be Tuesday, Feb. 27, 12 noon, at Al Fresco restaurant, Rt. 73 in Ramblewood Shopping Center, Mt. Laurel. Please RSVP with Genie if you plan to attend.

READERS WELCOME FOR THE HOURS AND EPISTLES: We would like to encourage additional readers and create a monthly schedule. It is not necessary to be a member of the choir. Please see Fr. John or Josef Gulka.

DONATION OF FLAGS: Anyone who has a US Flag they would like to donate to the church and have flown on our flag pole can drop it off at the church office. Please leave with the flag the Veteran's Name, Branch of Service and Rank at time of separation from the Military. Any questions may be directed to Rob Alford via rrobb@hotmail.com and put "Veteran's Flag" in the subject line. Your donated flag will be flown in the order it is received. I will need to know if you wish to have the flag returned afterwards or if you wish for me to see to its proper retirement afterwards. I will be glad to discuss all this with you if you contact me. Thank you for your donation. Sincerely, Robert Alford US Navy Retired.

PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE: As everyone knows, we are in the process of updating our Parish directory. Please review your information in the current directory posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall and make any necessary changes. If you are not in the directory and would like to be listed, please enter all of the necessary information on the blank pages attached to the current directory. Thanks.

COVENANT HOUSE SLEEP OUT at St. Mary of the Lakes Church, Medford, Friday April 27th at the SCHOOL GYMNASIUM located at 196 Rt 70. The back lawn of the school property will be used the children will have all night access to the GYM for bathrooms, breaks and adults etc.

On **Friday March 2nd** a Lenten Soup Meal will take place at 6:00 pm in the parish's Emmaus Center and all proceeds will benefit the **Sleep Out**.

THE BLESSING OF THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER in Philly took place on Sunday January 21 at Boathouse Rd. It was a wonderful event, bringing together many clergy and laity—the actual blessing was accomplished by tossing 3 ice crosses into the river. Refreshments and fellowship took place in one of the boathouses.



Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – FEBRUARY, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Vesperal Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord – 7 PM</i>	2	3 <i>Community Luncheon – 9 AM</i> <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
4 <i>DIVINE LITURGY – 10:00 Two or Three are Better Than One Sermon (2 of 2) Annual Meeting</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Memorial Liturgy – 9 AM</i> <i>Great Vespers: 5 Youth Ice Skating at Igloo – 7:30-10</i>
11 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 Pre-Lenten Lunch</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Parish Council Meeting (tentative)</i>	16	17 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
18 <i>DIVINE LITURGY – 10:00 Forgiveness Sunday</i>	19 <i>Beginning of Great Lent</i> <i>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 7 PM</i>	20 <i>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 7 PM</i>	21 <i>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 7 PM</i>	22 <i>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 7 PM</i>	23 <i>Confessions: 6-7 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7 PM</i>	24 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>
25 <i>DIVINE LITURGY—10:00 Inreach/Outreach Sunday of Orthodoxy / South River — 4:00</i>	26	27 <i>Woman2Woman Ladies’ Luncheon: Noon at Al Fresco.</i>	28 <i>Confessions: 6-7 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 7 PM</i> 5	1 <i>March</i>	2	3 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i>

