

# Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

Fr. John Shimchick - (856) 665-2491

[www.holycrossmzdford.org](http://www.holycrossmzdford.org)

**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**Gospel:** St. Mark 8:34-9:1

**Tone 2**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 4:14-5:6

**Third Sunday of Lent / Veneration of the Holy Cross**

**Ven. Joseph the Hymnographer**

## *Liturgical & Events Schedule*

- *Due to the pandemic, if you wish to attend any Liturgical Service, please contact Fr. John.*
- *All services are Live Streamed unless otherwise noted.*

**Sunday, April 4**

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy followed by Sunday School

**Thursday, April 8**

7:30 pm: Christ & His Church: Communion & Community

**Friday, April 9**

6:00 pm: Confessions

7:00 pm: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

**Saturday, April 10**

5:00 pm: Great Vespers

## **Woman2Woman Meeting**

Monday, April 5, from 7-9 p.m., via Zoom

Topic: "What If: Dealing with Life's Crises"

Let Genie Skuby know if you plan to attend. All women are welcome.

## **Here's what Lent is about...**

*By Father Johhannes Jacobse*

You go through days of what seems like crushing internal warfare but at the same time there is a stream of grace that, if you drink from it, keeps you track. That grace is so powerful that you can get

your work done and -- even more remarkable -- be creative instead of becoming overwhelmed.

That warfare is often caused by circumstances or events beyond our control. That grace affords us the ability to go deeper into prayer which in turn gives us power to keep our minds clear and focused

despite the noise that threatens to drown out the stabilizing thoughts.

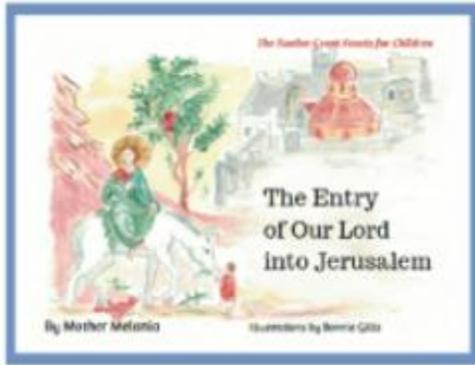
The prayer itself is usually not anything remarkable, in fact it is most often a struggle, but its effects are powerful especially when we pray for the neighbor and act charitably toward him. If the orientation towards the neighbor is acutalized even in the smallest measure, then we begin to perceive the certainty of God's beneficence towards us.

Once we begin to perceive how certain and steadfast the beneficence of God is towards us, we become more stable. We see first-hand that St. Paul's teaching is true: nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

If we grasp that certainty, then we can bring God's healing and transformative power to others in that special way that defines our vocation. If we do that, we become a co-laborer with Christ and the blessing is twofold: we bless our neighbor and God blesses us.

## **Holy Assumption Monastery is offering free downloads of children's books**

CALISTOGA, CA [OCA]: The Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA is offering free downloads of their children's books in PDF format about the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem along with worksheets for each book. They also have a variety of other children's books and spiritual journals available on their website and on Amazon. For church discounts, please contact the bookstore manager, Sister Marie. Link: <https://bookconnect.review/dp/entry>



<https://holyassumptionmonastery.com/>

## US Religion Census 2020: A Decade of Dramatic Changes in American Orthodox Churches

By Alexi Krindatch

The 2020 National Census of Orthodox Christian Churches was part of the 2020 US Religion Census. Information was obtained directly from more than 3,000 parishes of fourteen Eastern Orthodox and nine Oriental Orthodox Churches. The first of our reports about Orthodox Christian Churches in the USA is offered here:

<https://orthodoxreality.org/latest/second-census-2020-of-american-orthodox/>

From each US Orthodox parish the Census asks two questions:

Question 1: *Approximately, how many individual persons total are involved in the life of your parish? Include in this number adults and children, regular and occasional attendees, paid stewards and persons who do not contribute financially.*

Question 2: *Approximately, how many persons – including both adults and children – attend Liturgy in your parish on a typical Sunday?*

“Between 2010 and 2020, the Eastern Orthodox Churches experienced a significant membership decline (-17% in adherents and -14% in regular attendees), while Oriental Orthodox Churches grew substantially in both total adherents and regular attendees. This general dynamic, however, was more nuanced when looking at individual Orthodox Church bodies.” (pg 18)

For the full report with graphics see the link above.

NORTHEAST REGION  
"Let the children come to Me"  
Matthew 19:14  
2021  
YEAR OF *The Youth*  
Children • Teens • Young Adults

*Meet Your Bishop: TOWNHALLS*  
An opportunity for youth to meet hierarchs of the Assembly of Bishops in a townhall setting.

Hierarchs attending:

Metropolitan Antony    Archbishop Michael    Bishop Irinej    Bishop John    Bishop Thomas

APRIL 13TH | 7:00 est  
Register: [assemblyofbishops.org](https://assemblyofbishops.org) by April

 ASSEMBLYOFBISHOPS.ORG