



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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APRIL, 2008

THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT – PART 2 For Our Children

Question to Mother Raphaela: How can we help our children regain their faith if they stray away from church in high school or when they go to college?

MOTHER RAPHAELA: We cannot do anything to help our children regain their faith if they stray away from Church as they grow up. Once our children have grown, we have to let go of them and let them lead their own lives and make their own choices and decisions. Whether we have raised them well (and the biggest part of that is giving them an example by the way we have lived our lives and spoken our words), whether we have made huge mistakes that we must learn to repent of before God and His people, or whether we have raised them well along with some mistakes, what is left to us is prayer.

Prayer is not trying to manipulate our children from a distance – perhaps even thinking that God and His saints are more powerful manipulators than we are if we can get them on our side. Prayer is taking the time and making the space regularly in our lives to put our children (and all of our loved ones) in God's hands; asking the saints for their help in doing this; asking their guardian angels and their saints to be there with them. Prayer is letting go and trusting God. Such prayer is also a powerful statement to our children that we trust them. As long as we are taking the time and making the space to rescue them, we are giving them an equally powerful message that we think they are still children, incapable of handling whatever it may be.

Will our children always “turn out right”? No. Especially not on our schedule. But if we truly pray, if we truly love God, then we give them the best possible atmosphere to choose what is good and true, even when it does not seem right to us. And they will know that we love them, no matter what. This is the way God loves. For some of us, part of the Cross we may be asked to carry is to share in the suffering He endures each time one of us turns away from Him in order to pursue our own self-willed agenda.

Overall, the best thing we can do for ourselves and our children (and for all of our loved ones) is really to learn and understand that we are always, wholly, totally in the presence of God no matter what we do or say, no matter what we endure or perpetrate. Whether we recognize His presence or not, we cannot get away from Him. If we accept this presence and the great love that He has offered us and will always offer us, even now we have a foretaste of heaven. This is a simple understanding, but it is the basis on which all theology and prayer rest. Any words of

theology and prayer apart from this realization are simply “noisy gongs and clanging cymbals” (1 Corinthians 13:1). When we make the time and space, with God we acquire the love of the

Holy Spirit, and as St. Seraphim teaches us, then God can save thousands around us. (from: *The Handmaiden*, Winter, 2008, pp. 24-25)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY APRIL 6 at 9:15.**
- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – SATURDAY APRIL 12 at 9 AM** - Vegetarian Chili and Cookies for college students.
- **RECEPTION OF MICK OVERGARD INTO THE ORTHODOX FAITH: HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 26. SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:00**
- **CAREGIVERS – TUESDAY APRIL 29** (see info below)
- **FIRST FRIDAY TEEN GATHERING – FRIDAY MAY 2.**
- **SPRING OUTSIDE CLEANUP – SATURDAY MAY 10: 9 AM –**
- **SPAGHETTI DINNER – SATURDAY MAY 10, following Great Vespers**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY MAY 14 at 7 PM.**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – THURSDAY MAY 22, 7 PM, at Forno's**

Adult Education, April, 2008

Beginning at 9:20 in the church

The following topics with related readings from Sweeter than Honey by Peter Bouteneff will be the subject of the Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings in February.

April 6: No class

April 13: Gleaning Theology from the Tradition: Canons and Saints

Reading: pages 180-188

What are the challenges in interpreting the canons?

What effect does context have on our interpretation of canons?

To what saints are you particularly drawn? Why?

April 20: Gleaning Theology from the Tradition: Icons and Art, Conclusion

Reading: pages 188-194

How do we understand the place of icons in the Orthodox Church?

How do icons 'teach' us theology?

What generalizations can be drawn about all the sources of Orthodox theology?.

April 27: Pascha: no class / **May 4:** (no class)

INREACH COMMITTEE: Part of our Charity Donations from last year (\$500.00 was directed to OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) where it was directed toward the work

of a particular missionary, **Christina Semon**.

Following new candidate orientation at the Mission Center in St. Augustine, Florida, Christina will pursue her calling with the OCMC missionary team and dedicate her experience and skills in Romania at the *St. Dimitrie Program* (a daytime social services and addiction counseling center) and *Protection of the Theotokos family center* (a daytime care and counseling center for infants and young mothers) which address critical social and spiritual issues affecting Romanian society. According to UNICEF, over 9000 children are abandoned in Romania each year; many are living on the streets. Alcoholism and substance abuse are increasingly pervasive. Christina is in the midst of developing her financial support, and her team for her first two year term. Please keep Christina and the God-Fearing faithful of Romania in your prayers. We hope to be able to keep in regular contact with Christina.

The proceeds from our **Spaghetti Dinner** on Saturday May 10, will be used to provide additional support for her and for **Michael Shimchick** who will travel with his brother, John, to the New Orleans area in late May-early June and work with **IOCC** (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) and *Habitat for Humanity* on the rebuilding of a home that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

CAREGIVERS MEETING: Our April meeting will be a special Bright Week pot-luck meal in our church hall on **Tuesday, April 29** at 7 p.m. If you haven't joined us for awhile, please plan to attend! Please contact Genie Skuby at 856-802-1664 about what you can bring and how many will be attending. If anyone needs a ride, that can also be arranged. You can also e-mail Genie at skubydoo81@verizon.net Come one, come all!

COLLECTIONS THROUGHOUT APRIL FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The following items can be brought to the church, a collection box will be located in the basement:

Peanut butter and jelly fruits/vegetables	Cereal (low sugar)	Canned
Pasta (regular or whole wheat)	100% Fruit juices	Rice (boxes and bags)
Pasta sauce	Dried beans	Macaroni and cheese
Tuna and other canned meats	Coffee/tea	Soups (canned or dried)
Canned/powdered milk	Boxed dinner kits	Flour/sugar

GO GREEN ON EARTH DAY AND EVERY DAY!

CONSERVE/REUSE/RECYCLE

- **Turn off appliances and lights when you leave the room**
- **Use the microwave to cook small meals**
- **Don't let the water run when shaving or brushing your teeth**
- **Take short showers instead of tub baths**
- **Wash only full loads in the dishwasher**
- **Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (morning at best)**
- **Use soaker hoses for trees or shrubs**

- **Replace incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star qualified Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL)**

REUSE WHAT YOU CAN

- **Buy permanent items instead of disposables, e.g. bags for groceries**
- **Repair items as much as possible**
- **Use durable coffee mugs (instead of Styrofoam or paper)**
- **Use cloth napkins & kitchen towels**
- **Use empty jars to store leftover food**

RECYCLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

- **Recycle paper (printed paper, newspaper, mail, etc), plastic, glass bottles, cardboard, and aluminum cans. Don't forget those water bottles!**
- **Recycle electronics (TVs, computers, etc)**
- **Goodwill Industries accepts unwanted computers for recycling as well as TVs.**
- **Our local counties hold special recycling days and/or have special recycling locations for electronics and for hazardous materials. Check it out on your county's Web site:**

www.camdencounty.com

www.co.gloucester.nj.us

www.co.burlington.nj.us

[from *Kennedy Health View*, Spring 2008]

ICONS PREPARED BY YVETTE ABDALLAH:

Here is my list of completed icons and those in production.

Annunciation: 13 x 17 will be varnished on Holy Friday and for sale the first of second week of May

Price: \$950, for church family: \$800

Theotokos and Jesus: 9 1/2 x 12 1/2 completed. For sale now.

Price: \$800, for church family \$700

Holy Trinity: 11 x 14 in progress should be finished in June or July low air humidity providing. Yet to be priced.

CONFESSIONS DURING GREAT LENT will be heard from **6:00 – 7:00** on Friday evenings when the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** is served, from **3:30 – 4:30** on **Saturdays April 12 & 19** and following **Great Vespers, before the Divine Liturgy from 9:15 – 9:55**, and other times by arrangement. **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL HOLY WEEK!**

PARISH LIBRARY NEWS: Some donations have come for the church library and some new books bought at St Vladimir's Bookstore. We're still looking to begin operations around Pascha.

Please see Bob or Bonnie if you have suggestions or donations to give.

ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING: ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – April 6, 9:15
- downstairs. Attention: we are looking for a few good men too! Really! We are looking to expand/diversify and would enjoy having you. Please join us. Everyone is welcomed!

- **COFFEE HOUR - *Back to the Basics*** – We are asking everyone to please keep it simple when you are hosting. We greatly appreciate all that you do- but please stick to the basics. Bagels/bread/cookies/veggies/fruit – it's just to help us refuel our bodies after the fast- it's not meant to be a full meal. We don't want anyone to feel put out and or feel they have to compete. Contact **Marie Clifton (856-482-1059)** if you want to host one of those week or if there has been a change in your coffee hour. ****Special note:** we have a few parishioners that are highly allergic to nuts, please label items if possible or keep all ingredient labels if purchased. Please don't be offended if we ask you to remove certain items from the table.** As always your generous donations are greatly appreciated as they help defer the cost of the supplies for coffee hour.
- **ACME GROCERY RECEIPTS** – Remember to save your grocery receipts from **ACME only**. Place them in the little bag on the bulletin board. We do all the leg work and get “cash” back from participating ACME stores.
- **HOLIDAY ITEMS:** If you ordered any babkas, rolls, please pick them up and if you would like to purchase for the holidays, stop after liturgy.
- **MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE:** (Egg Pendant, Amber Bracelet, and Amber Pin). Contact Kathy Pierman or Lee Ann Detwiler for tickets.

NEXT MONTHS GUILD MEETING – May 4, at 9:15 am. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend – no cost – just your warm friendly spirit and good ideas.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY – FALL FESTIVAL BASKET BOOTH. Please choose an idea from our group of suggestions to create a “theme” basket that will be raffled-off at the **Fall Festival** in September. The display will be available in the basement. Please see: **Val Olesnovich, Diana Pasca or Barbara Shimchick** for more information.

ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLES are available for \$36.50 (regular price \$50.00). See Fr. John

RESPONSIBILITIES for April, 2008

COFFEE HOUR

April 6: Diana Pasca
13: Keeler Family
20: Ellie Kuzma
27: PASCHA - please bring dyed eggs
May 4: Marianne Piston

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READERS

April 6: Donald D'Ercole
13: Diana Pasca
20: Gene Dubiago
27: Greg Sapnar
May 4: Julia Mosser

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ALTAR SERVERS

April 6: Stephen Shimchick & Brendan Detwiler
13: Eli Nugen & David Hamaty
20: Nicholas Zanghi & Paul Giovanni
27: All boys are welcome
May 4: Robert Graham & Matthew Brook

COMMUNION USHERS

April 6: Faye Nugent & Elisabeth Graham
13: Alexandra & Magdalena Plachuta
20: Sierra & Miranda McCleery
27: PASCHA: Volunteers needed
May 4: Yvette Abdallah & Christina Zanghi

Spaghetti Dinner

Menu

Crisp, cold tossed salad

Garlic Bread

Spaghetti with meatballs

Beverages and desserts

Date: 5/10/08

Time: 6 PM

Adults: \$8.00

Children 5-12 yrs.: \$3.00

Children under 4 are Free

Money raised at the Dinner helps to support mission outreach. Help us reach our goals!

Enjoy dinner with family and friends
Tickets are available at coffee hour
or call 609-654-4865 to order.



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