



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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MARCH, 2008

THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT

by Fr. John

At our Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday February 17 we discussed many aspects of our community life. An important part of my report – at least to me looking back now – was some frank discussion about what one could say are “things” we need to be pray for or about. Giving whatever limitations we might have from not being a geographically local community, we are still - I am convinced - trying our best to discover what more can we do as a parish – both examining and acting upon the needs perceived of those outside and within our community.

Above all, at the Meeting we talked about what can be done to keep our youth in the Church and to maintain contact with all whom we have identified as having some connection with us. An important element of Church life for me growing up as an Orthodox Christian was the reality of having Orthodox friends – those who struggled with many of the same issues of faith and confusion that concerned me. As we try to implant within our children the seeds of Christian spiritual life, we are trying especially now to help them develop Christian friends both within our community and hopefully beyond.

I mentioned during the Meeting an article I recently came across in New York magazine entitled, “*Why Children Lie.*” Besides many cultural influences the author pointed out that many children learn primarily to lie – from their parents, they watch and listen to how they act. We could say that our children probably learn a great deal from us as parents but also as grandparents and simply community members on how one can either learn to love God and the Church – no matter what else seems to be going on – or grow up being cynical, disrespectful, and ambivalent.

So, we want to pray for our children, especially those who are away at college and are finding their way.

Secondly, we spoke about those who are not attending church regularly. As I mentioned some appreciate receiving a call or visit, being taken out to lunch, or having lunch brought to them. Others see it as kind of intrusion or violation of their privacy. Among this category I especially worry about those who find themselves so overwhelmed with the activities of their children that they seem to find little time for worship or fellowship. I worry for them and their children, but I am sad as well at the thought of how their children's children will be raised – with little knowledge of regular sacramental life, little experience of friendship with their pastor or other community members. We pray for these families and for those whom we care about who are on the fringe of our community life.

Final, since the visit of the OCA's Treasurer Fr Michael Tassos, we have been praying for those who “work for healing and accountability within our Orthodox Church in America, particularly Fr Michael – Fr. Alexander Garklavs, Chancellor, and Fr Andrew Jarmus, Director of Communications.” We want to support the honorable work of these men. Recently, the catastrophe of life within the Orthodox community in Alaska has been revealed

in letters coming from several Alaskan priests, and outlined in a profound way by Fr Michael Oleksa. The revelations of the spiritually abusive leadership of the diocesan hierarchy, Bishop Nikolai have been tragic and incredibly sad, really beyond belief. Yet, as one who lived on Kodiak Island for a year and knows many of the priests who have put their lives and priesthoods on the line, I remain in awe of their courage and honesty. These normally passive and humble native men, their wives, and communities have reached a point they can stand no longer. We hope that their words will be received by those within our Church Administration that have found within themselves the courage to act. We pray for the suffering priests, families, and communities within our Orthodox Church in Alaska.

In our liturgical prayer, we will offer petitions for all of these concerns. We are not always sure how intercessory prayer works in the lives of those we pray for. But we do know that it can change our hearts, allowing us to become capable of repentance and growth and not vehicles of further cynicism and bitterness.

As we approach Great Lent, may these things – among many others, no doubt – be the things we pray for.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **ALMOST FIRST FRIDAY TEEN GATHERING – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 29 – from 7:00 – 10:30PM.**
- **ST. HELENA’S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY MARCH 2 at 9:15.**
- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – SATURDAY March 8 at 9 AM, Minestrone Soup and baking cookies for College Students.**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – TUESDAY MARCH 20 at Forno’s in Cherry Hill – 7 PM**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY MARCH 26 at 7 PM.**
- **CAREGIVERS – THURSDAY MARCH 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lantern (Chinese restaurant and teahouse) on Evesham Rd.**

THE “ALMOST” FIRST FRIDAY TEEN GATHERING for March will meet on FRIDAY FEBRUARY 29 from 7:00 – 10:30. A variety of activities have been planned. Please let **Tim Rommen** or **Fr. John** know if you’ll be coming. Food will be provided.

MONDAY NIGHT STUDY SESSIONS: The study of Metropolitan Anthony Blooms’ book, *Living Prayer*, will continue for two more weeks – February 25 and March 3. On Mondays March 17, 31, and April 3 – Fr. Thomas Hopko’s cd lectures, *The Way of the Cross* will be presented and discussed. Sessions begin are held at the home of Bonnie and Bob Flanagan from 7 – 9 PM.

PRE-LENTEN LUNCHEON – SUNDAY MARCH 2, 2008 – AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY. All are welcome to attend our annual Pre-Lenten luncheon. The cost is \$5 per adult, children 16 and under free. Tickets may be purchased from Leslie Lane (856-231-0940) or Marianne Sobotka or Margaret Little. We will provide cold cuts as well as hot dishes.

Please sign up to bring a side dish or your special dessert. We would appreciate some help with setup and cleanup. There is a sign up sheet posted outside the kitchen. Please make your reservations by February 24th. Join us for some good food and great fellowship!

ORGANIZING THE SPACE IN OUR CHURCH BASEMENT: Our **Parish Council** has spent considerable time lately discussing the varied, yet limited options for organizing our basement area. At its last meeting (March 12) a decision was made to establish a committee that would examine the various suggestions for utilizing space and make recommendations to the Council for final approval. Membership on this committee is open to all parishioners.

Questions related to the church and vestibule areas are to be directed to Fr. John.

Adult Education, March, 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.

March 2: No class

March 9: Gleaning Theology from the Tradition: Scripture

Reading: pages 141-156

*How are Scripture and Tradition related?
Who or what is the subject of Scripture?
What are the various ways of reading Scripture?*

March 16: Gleaning Theology from the Tradition: Liturgy

Reading: pages 156-170

*What is the relationship between theology and prayer? Theology and liturgy?
Theology and sacrament?
What are the keys to the 'right reading' of the texts of the liturgy?
What are the various ways in which Scripture and liturgy are related.*

March 23: Gleaning Theology from the Tradition: the Fathers and the Councils

Reading: pages 170-180

*Who are the 'Fathers' (and 'Mothers') of the Church?
How do we approach the patristic writings?
How do the Councils fit with the theme of conciliarity?*

March 30: Class will be led by Peter Bouteneff – topic to be determined

April 6: (no class)

ONE BOOK, ONE HOLY CROSS: On the weekend of **March 29th and 30th** *Peter Bouteneff*, the author of Sweeter than Honey will be at Holy Cross to give two seminars on Saturday and teach the adult education class on Sunday. Dr Bouteneff is working out the details of his presentations but they will be related to the subject of his book which explores the Orthodox approach to truth – what do we mean by it, how does it come to be, how do we relate to it and how does it relate to our lives and the contemporary world.

Peter Bouteneff is Assistant Professor of Dogmatic Theology at St Vladimir's Seminary, and teaches courses in theology, patristics, and spirituality at the seminary. After taking a degree in music in 1983,

he lived and worked in Japan, and traveled widely in Asia and Greece. He has an M.Div. from the seminary and a doctorate from Oxford University, where he studied under Bishop Kallistos Ware. He has worked for many years in theological dialogue, notably as Executive Secretary for *Faith and Order* at the World Council of Churches, and has written extensively on Orthodox relations with other churches and with the WCC. Aside from teaching at the seminary, he contributes to the exploration of information technology and its applications in pedagogy, also helping oversee the seminary website. His theological interests include Christology, ecclesiology, and anthropology, but as a great fan of music and cinema, he is also committed to exploring the connections between theology and popular culture, and regularly offers a course on religious themes in film. He conceived of and edits the popular "Foundations" series for SVS Press, to which he has contributed a volume on "dogma and truth" called *Sweeter than Honey*, and has just completed writing a book on the early patristic reception of the Genesis creation narratives for Baker Academic Press, to appear in 2008.

Look for a handout in a week or so detailing his presentations. The schedule as it stands will be presentations at noon and 3 PM on Saturday, and the adult education class at 9:20 on Sunday.

Our **Lenten Reader** this year will feature passages from *Sweeter than Honey* and will be available soon.

PLEASE NOTE – even if you have not been reading *Sweeter than Honey* or been able to attend the Adult Class this year, we still encourage everyone to take advantage of this unique opportunity to study and learn both from an important professor and wonderful author.

PARISH LIBRARY: **Bob and Bonnie Flanagan** have volunteered to start a parish library. The library from our old church has for the most part been damaged beyond repair and discarded.

They would like to ask a few things of you:

- There may be parishioners who stored items from the old church library at their homes while we were ‘on the road.’ If so now would be a good time to bring them in so they can be included in the library’s second edition.
- You may have books on Christian, and particularly Orthodox, subjects at home and like to donate them to the church. Any donated books must be in at least “good” condition, and be donated with the understanding that the decision to put the item in the library rests solely with the library committee. If you wish the item to be returned to you if it is not put in the library it must be clearly labelled with your name and phone number. Print, audio, video and electronic items are appropriate to donate.
- If you would like to donate a book or books to the library you can submit the money in a clearly marked envelope to the parish Treasurer. If there is a particular topic you would like to see it used for please let us know.

Bob and Bonnie will be developing the library over Great Lent with an eye to opening it for circulation by Pascha. All suggestions are welcome both in what should or should not be in the library; and how the library should be managed. The best and most economical suggestions will be acted on.

ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING: – *March. 2, 9:15 am* - 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!

- **MINI SPRING BAZAAR** – *Saturday March 8 – 10 am – 3pm* If you need babka and rolls please sign up for your pre-orders or contact Diane Vozdovic. **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SALES WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY ON SATURDAY.**
- **MOTHER'S DAY PENDANT** - Tickets are available for the 2008 Faberge styled pendant. Back by popular demand is also a bracelet and pin as 2nd and 3rd choice. Please see Kathy Pierman or LeeAnn Detweiller for details.
- **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. There are a few openings during the year. If you would like to host one of those weeks contact Donna Woodhull. Please contact **Donna Woodhull** - if you cannot find a replacement for 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.
- **NEXT MONTHS GUILD MEETING** – *April 7, 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.

PARISH YOUTH

Lenten projects will be available soon in Church School classes and will culminate in a Lenten gift.

News

Gianluca Keeler appeared in the play, *Twelve Angry Men*, at St. Joseph's Preparatory School from Feb. 8 through Feb. 17. Congratulations on his theatrical debut!

Favorite Books and Christian Faith

Each month, this section of the Crossroads will include a brief book review written by one of our parish youth. If you'd like to write about one of your favorite books (or movies) and how it relates to your faith, please contact **Rebecca Nugent** at r.nugent@verizon.net or (856) 751-5901. Also, please let Rebecca know of any news about the kids and teens in our parish—service projects, concerts, plays, science fairs, academic awards, sports events, etc., so we can publish these in the *Crossroads*.

The Spy and General Washington, by William Wise

Review by Eli Nugent

This is an exciting biography about John Honeyman who was born in Armagh, Ireland in 1729. John Honeyman was raised by a poor farmer. He and his siblings had little formal schooling. In his early teens until he was twenty-nine he worked on his parents' farm. One day a lieutenant and a group of Red Coats came and said that John Honeyman's name was on their list of conscripts. For back then the British ruled Ireland harshly. So John Honeyman left on a ship called the Boyrie, sailing to Canada to fight the French.

In June 1775, Honeyman asked General George Washington to hire him as a spy for the American colonists. At first Washington refused, but later he did hire him as a spy. He told him to go back to the enemy and say that he would support the British Army. He did it and pretended to be a spy for the British Colonel Johann Rall. Only General Washington knew the truth. After awhile he was caught by the Minutemen. Honeyman told Washington all he needed to know about the British Army in New Jersey. Honeyman's life was in danger constantly, but he was very brave and loyal to Washington and the colonists' battle for independence. If it weren't for John Honeyman, Washington might not have been able to defeat the British. Honeyman demonstrated the Christian character traits of courage, determination and sacrificing for others.

Months later Honeyman was arrested for treason against New Jersey. Just when it looked like he was going to be hanged, Washington sent someone to bail him out. One of the most impressive things about Honeyman is that he never gave up and he stayed true to his word, even when his life was in danger. He was a hero to all America and was buried in Lamington, New Jersey after 90 long years of life.