



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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April, 2010

On the Sunday Sermons: What Should We Do Next?

from Fr John

During Great Lent this year, based on encouragement from the Parish Council and others within our community and the experience of leading the Adult Education class in January, I tried to develop the Sunday sermons around a common reading of Genesis 1-3 that emphasized specific themes and encouraged active participation. The Lenten Adult Education Program was structured as an effort of preparation for the sermon, going more deeply in an examination of the passages that would be used that day. Other materials such as a Lenten Reader based on the Writings of Fr. Lev Gillet, examples that would be helpful in anticipating sermon topics, and a survey of liturgical texts from Lazarus Saturday through Pascha that featured imagery from Genesis 1-3 have been prepared and distributed, both as email, on our website, and as hard copies. It was a bit of a gamble for all of us, but the feedback I have received has been generally encouraging and positive. I am grateful to the community for its willingness to support this effort and especially to those who contributed in any way.

I want to find ways of engaging all of you in any and every way possible. I realize that each of us learns differently. Some are interested in reading everything. Others, might listen to tapes or CDS while driving, but don't like to read much. Another group will just come on Sundays – read and listen to little else – but think about the implications on what's being said on their lives. It also might involve more detailed studies that take place in people's homes, examinations of selected books and readings, and retreats led by invited guests. I am encouraged to hear how interested many of you are in learning more especially about our spiritual lives.

The goal of any study, of course, is always primarily focused on one thing – that we may know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. That's the definition of eternal life, at least, as described by Jesus (John 17:3).

So, with all of this in mind, I want to continue these “interactive” sermons at least until we begin our summer schedule in June. This means that through the season between Pascha and Pentecost we will explore some of the key passages and questions that emerge from the Sunday

lectionary, beginning on St. Thomas Sunday with the subject of “doubt and hope.” I’ll send out some materials during Bright Week.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – SATURDAY APRIL 10 - 9AM** - tuna casserole
- **ST. HELENA’S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY APRIL 11, following the Liturgy**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – to be announced**
- **DEADLINE FOR MAY CROSSROADS – SUNDAY APRIL 18.**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY APRIL 19 at 7 PM.**
- **CAREGIVERS GROUP – MONDAY APRIL 26 – location will be announced**

INFORMATION FOR THE CONSECRATION OF ARCHIMANDRITE MICHAEL (DAHULICH) : The Consecration Service will be celebrated on Saturday May 8, 2010 at SS Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, NJ at 9:00 AM. The Banquet will take place at the Casino-in-the-Park Restaurant, Jersey City from 1 to 5 PM. Tickets are \$75.00 per person adults. The banquet seating reservation must be submitted by March 31.

Mail the Banquet Reservation (Name, Parish) and check (made payable to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey) to: Diocese of New York and New Jersey, 109 Grand Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

HOLY FRIDAY CHILDREN’S RETREAT will take place at our church from 11 AM until the Vespers Service at 3 PM.

DYED EGGS FOR PASCHAS: Please bring dyed eggs on Holy Saturday evening, ideally room temperature, for distribution after the Paschal Liturgy.

ANORA MAY KUZMA was born on March 18, 2009 to Holly & Eric Kuzma (7 lbs 10 oz & 19.5”).

GROUNDS CLEANUP: Thanks to Gene Dubiago for coordinating the cleanup and to those who helped. A major area of concern remains the area along the left side of the ride as one drives past the church. At the Parish Council Meeting several options were discussed and we hope to be able to act soon.

APRIL MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR PROVIDENCE HOUSE: As recommended by our INREACH COMMITTEE and approved by the Parish Council we are taking monthly collections for various needs (the last two months was in support of OCMC missionary to Romania, Christina Semon).

During April we will be collection on behalf of **PROVIDENCE HOUSE DOMESTIC SERVICE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES**. It has provided comprehensive services for victims of domestic abuse and their children for over 20 years, all free of charge, particularly in

Burlington County. **Providence House** assists victims of domestic abuse and their children with an array of services such as: emergency shelter, a 24 hour hotline, counseling services, a comprehensive children's program, a parenting education program and a program specifically designed to assist victims age 50 and older.

We will be taking a financial donation, but they also have a Spring Wish List which includes the following things:

- Baby items (diapers, baby wipes, bottles, strollers)
- Household products (cleaning supplies, linens, paper products, auto care needs – gas cards
- Miscellaneous (non-perishable food, cell phones – in any condition)

The Wish List will be posted on the Bulletin Board – ACROSS from the kitchen. A collection box will be located in the basement.

CONGRATULATIONS to **STEPHANIE SKUBY** on being accepted for further medical study at St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia and **ANDREA LANE** who has completed her accreditation as a CPA.

TRIP TO THE PRINCETON ART MUSEUM: On **Saturday April 10** we are planning a trip to view the exhibit, Architecture as Icon: Perception and Representation of Architecture in Byzantine Art at the Museum. We are planning to leave at 1 PM, see the exhibit, have lunch, and perhaps attend Vespers at a local Orthodox church (Vespers will be cancelled at our church this day). Depending on attendance we may request an individual tour. Please let Fr John know if you are interested.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR COVENANT HOUSE

On Sunday May 23, 2010 Holy Cross Choir, again partnering with the Seneca High Chamber Choir , will offer a benefit concert for Covenant House. The current economy has struck hard at many charity based ministries and services... Covenant House among them. Please mark your calendars for this event and come out to help and support the work of Covenant House.

FALL FESTIVAL 2010 :

This year's Fall Festival will be held on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18 from 11 – 6 PM and on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 from Noon until 3 PM. As you are aware, this event is our largest annual single fundraiser. Last year thanks to everyone's efforts, we netted a profit of \$9,900.00. We will begin holding monthly meetings starting in April. See **Val Olesnovich** or **Liz Gibbons** if you have any comments, suggestions, or questions.

Prayers of St. Philaret of Moscow

For the Beginning of Each Day

Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely on Your Holy will. In every hour of the day reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me.

Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with the firm conviction that Your will governs all.

In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events, let me not forget that all are sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others.

Give me strength to bear the fatigue of this coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray You Yourself in me.

For Doing God's Will

O Lord, I know not what to ask of You. You alone know what are my true needs. You love me more than I myself know how to love. Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me. I dare not ask either a cross or consolation. I can only wait on You. My heart is open to You. Visit and help me, for Your great mercy's sake. Strike me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up. I worship in silence Your Holy Will and Your inscrutable ways. I offer myself as a sacrifice to You. I put all my trust in You. I have no other desire than to fulfill Your will. Teach me how to pray. Pray Yourself in me."

DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH: Please note that donations, particularly of liturgical items (icons, etc) for use in our church, should be reviewed in advance with Fr. John before being brought to the church for placement.

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS: **Alexander** (Abdallah),/ **Anastasia** (Shimchick), **Andrew** (Abdallah), **Antonio** (Chong), **Bryan** (Thompson), **Christine** (Lane), **Christopher** (Abdallah), **Christopher** (Shimchick), **Danielle** (Giovanni), **Matthew** (Brook), **Ethan** (Detwiler), **Gianluca** (Keeler), **Jacquelyn** (Chong), **John** (Pierman), **Joshua** (Dowiak), **Julia** (Skuby), **Katherine** (Lane), **Kristin** (Little), **Martha** (Skuby), **Michael** (Shimchick), **Nikolas** (Tranchik), **Peter** (Abdallah), **Rachel** (Tranchik), **Stefan** (Keeler)

Schedule of Parish Events for 2010 (as of March 28, 2010)

April

- Good Friday Retreat – 2nd.
- Pascha – 4th

- Community Luncheon – 10.

May

- Community Luncheon – 1

- Ascension Thursday – 13th
- Pentecost Sunday – 23rd
- SS. Peter & Paul fast begins – 31st

June

- Beginning of 9 AM Divine Liturgy – TBA
- Parish Picnic – TBA

July

- Church Cleanup – TBA.

August

- Transfiguration – 6th
- Dormition – 15th
- Summer Church School – TBA.

September

- Nativity of the Theotokos – 8th
- Golf Fundraiser – TBA.

- Elevation of the Cross – 14th
- Fall Festival – 18-19.

October

- Beginning of 10 AM Divine Liturgy – TBA.
- First day of Sunday Church School for children and young adults - TBA.
- First day of Adult Education – TBA.

November

- Holiday Mini-Festival – TBA.
- Presentation of the Theotokos – 21st
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service – TBA.

December

- St. Nicholas Vespers – TBA

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RESPONSIBILITIES for April, 2010

COFFEE HOUR:

April 4: PASCHA (Please bring dyed eggs!)
11: Kim Rommen
18: Keeler Family
25: Debbie Chong

READERS

(Epistle Readers are expected also to read the "3rd Hour" which precedes the liturgy, starting around 9:50, after the adult class)

April 4: Greg Sapnar
11: Natalka Wiesmantel
18 Gene Dubiago
25: Julia Mosser

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ALTAR SERVERS

April 4: All boys are welcome for PASCHA
11: David Hamaty & Brendan Detwiler
18: Anatoly Lane & Eli Nugent
25: Andrew Abdallah & Nicholas Zanghi
May 2: Stephen Shimchick & Paul Abdallah

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COMMUNION USHERS

April 4: Available girls
11: Faye Nugent & Lauren Mosser
18: Alexandra & Magdalena Plachuta
25: Christina Zanghi & Sierra McCleery

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – April, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 March Palm Sunday	29 Bridegroom Matins 7 PM	30 Bridegroom Matins 7 PM	31 Bridegroom Matins & Holy Unction 7 PM	1 Vesperal Liturgy for Holy Thursday 4 PM Matins of Holy Friday – 7 PM	2 Children's Retreat 11 AM - Vespers of Holy Friday – 3 PM Matins of Holy Saturday – 7 PM	3 Vesperal Liturgy of Holy Saturday 10 AM Complines, Matins & Liturgy of Pascha 11:30 PM
4 PASCHA Vespers Noon	5 Bright Week Liturgy – 9 AM	6	7 Burlington Nursing Home 1:30	8	9	10 Community Luncheon: 9 AM Trip to Princeton Art Museum 1:00 NO Great Vespers
11 Church School & Adult Ed 9:15 Divine Liturgy 10:00	12	13	14	15	16	17 Parastas for John Phillips – 4:30 Great Vespers:5
18 Church School & Adult Ed 9:15 Divine Liturgy	19 Parish Council Meeting – 7 PM	20	21	22	23	24 Parastas for Olga Warhol – 4:30 Great Vespers: 5
25 Church School & Adult Ed	26 Caregivers Session	27	28	29	30	1 MAY Great Vespers: 5