



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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March, 2010

What Does It Mean to Be Human?

by Fr. John

Throughout Great Lent I have asked our community to reflect on what it means to be human from the perspective of Genesis Chapters 1-3. Each week we will consider together and try to identify in words and phrases the implications of:

1) First Sunday of Lent: ***What Does it Mean to be Human: Created in God's Image and Likeness*** Here's what we came up with as a group last Sunday:

1. Father, Son and Holy Spirit: God within us.
2. God's reflection in us
3. Blessed.
4. God has spoken and I hear.
5. Compassionate.
6. Come forth and pay attention.
7. Integrity - no matter the cost.
8. Happiness and sorrow, God knows both.
9. Free, creative, beautiful.
10. I believe.
11. To forgive unconditionally.
12. Creative potential within us (God's image), we grow toward God's likeness and fullness.
13. Your brother's life is your own life.

Coming Up:

- 2) Second Sunday: ***What Does it Mean to be Human: Created Male and Female***
- 3) Third Sunday: ***Sunday of the Cross – What Do the Trees in the Garden Mean?***
- 4) Fourth Sunday: ***What About the Apple?***
- 5) Fifth Sunday: ***Adam and Eve Outside of Paradise: What Happened?***
- 6) PALM SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK: Will answer some of the questions

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – SATURDAY - MARCH 6 at 9AM** (Vegetarian Chili)

- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY MARCH 7 at 9:15**
- **CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAN-UP – SATURDAY MARCH 20 FROM 9:00**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – SUNDAY MARCH 21, after the liturgy**
- **DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY CROSSROADS – SUNDAY MARCH 21.**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY MARCH 22 at 7 PM.**

ICE SKATING will take place on **FRIDAY MARCH 12** at 7 PM, at the IGLOO ICE SKATING RINK, 3033 Fostertown Road, Mt Laurel, NJ 08054-6318. Cost is \$10.00 (\$8.00 to skate, \$2.00 for skate rental). Guests are welcome. Please let Fr John know if you are planning to attend.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL LITURGY which was postponed due to bad weather, will be served on **SATURDAY MARCH 13** at 9 AM. If you've given Fr John the names of your departed he has them on record. Please email and give him any additional names to him.

FOLLOWING THE LITURGY ON THAT DAY "COOKING DURING LENT – A CHANGE OF PACE" led by Diana Pasca, Natalka Weismantel, & Maureen Sapnar will be offered. Soup will be read for those who attend and then a cooking demonstration will take place that will provide the attendees with some recipes that could easily be prepared at home. The recipes will be printed and available for everyone, along with some others that will be worth trying.

CONFESSIONS DURING GREAT LENT: Everyone, including our college students, is encouraged to prepare and come to Holy Confession during Great Lent, in anticipation for the celebration of Holy Pascha.

Fr. John will hear Confessions between 6-7 before the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, between 4-5 before Great Vespers on Saturday and following the service, and on Sunday mornings before the liturgy from 9:15 – 9:55.

Please don't wait until the last minute – especially until the last services of Great Lent. Confessions during Holy Week are discouraged.

FROM THE INREACH COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Committee recommended to the Parish Council that our parish's local charity efforts be organized with monthly collections be taken for the following concerns:

March: *Christina Semon/OCMC*

April: *Providence House Shelter for Domestic Violence*

May & June: *Atlantic City Rescue Mission (Housing Provider)*

July & August: Specific items to be collected for both *Covenant House & Emergency Services*

Sept. & Oct: *Interfaith Caregivers of Burlington County*

Nov & Dec: *Emergency Services & Covenant House*

DEANERY LENTEN SERVICES: (4 PM)

March 7th- Veneration of the Precious Cross: Annunciation Church-Brick

March 13: SCRIPTURE: AN ORTHODOX PERSPECTIVE led by Hieromonk Michael (Dahulich), Bishop-Elect of our Diocese, at Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ – Liturgy begins at 9 AM – lecture following

March 14th- St. John Climacus: Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church-Clifton

March 21st- St. Mary of Egypt: SS Peter & Paul Church-Manville
(Fr John will be preaching at this service).

April 7th-Bright Wednesday: Christ the Saviour Church-Paramus (7 PM)

"LAMENTATIONS: ORTHODOX CHANTS OF HOLY WEEK" is the newest release from Archangel Voices (Vlad Morosan, director), a professional vocal ensemble committed to presenting Orthodox music in English. This CD features the best-loved hymns of Holy Week, including the Bridegroom texts, the Lamentations, Noble Joseph, and the Great Friday canon, and draws from Byzantine, (Greek, Antiochian, and Romanian traditions), Serbian, Russian, and Bulgarian repertoires. It is a wonderful way to spend time with these meditative texts.

The CD features nearly 80 minutes of music, and is available for \$18.95. They are available from Natalka Weismantel, the group’s Music Producer, during coffee hour.

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 – recent graduate of Penn State) / Vincent (Abdallah)

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Schedule of Parish Events for 2010 (as of February 22, 2010)

March

- St. Helena’s Guild Meeting – 7th
- Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 10th
- Friday Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th.
- Teen Event – 12th
- Memorial Liturgy – 13th
- Lenten Recipe Tips – 13th
- Pierogie Session – ?
- Church Grounds Cleanup – 20th.
- Parish Council Meeting – 22nd.
- Annunciation – 25th
- Palm Sunday – 28th

April

- Good Friday Retreat – 2nd.
- Pascha – 4th
- Community Luncheon – TBA.

May

- Community Luncheon – TBA.
- 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 – TBA.

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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In God’s Image:

The differentiation of human beings into male and female, according to the “Priestly” source in Genesis, is nothing less than a reflection of the divine image. The image of God is given, not to the man alone or to the woman alone, but to the two of them together. It comes to its fulfillment only in the “between” that unites them to each other. Personhood is a mutual gift; there is no true human being unless there are at least two humans in communion with each other. To say “I am in God’s image” is to affirm: “I need you in order to be myself.” The divine image is in this way a “relational” image, manifested not in isolation but in community – and, above all, in the primordial bond between husband and wife that is the foundation of all other forms of social life. Monastics and lay people not called to matrimony, if they are to be authentically human, need to realize in some other way the capacity for mutual love which finds its primary expression through the man-woman relationship within marriage. (Kallistos Ware)

ARCHITECTURE AS ICON: PERCEPTION AND REPRESENTATION OF ARCHITECTURE IN BYZANTINE ART – Exhibit at the **Princeton University Art Museum** from **March 6 through June 6**. More information is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

RESPONSIBILITIES for March, 2010

COFFEE HOUR:

March 7: Valerie Olesnovich
14: Josef & Helen Gulka
21: Genie Skuby
28: Marie Clifton

READERS

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

March 7: Gary Mosser
14: Natalka Weismantel
21: Don Dercole
28: Greg Sapnar

ALTAR SERVERS

March 7: Stephen Shimchick & Leo Weismantel
14: David Hamaty & Brendan Detwiler
21: Anatoly Lane & Eli Nugent
28: Andrew Abdallah & Paul Giovanni

COMMUNION USHERS

March 7: Kristina Zanghi & Faye Nugent
14: Natalia Rommen & Elisabeth Graham
21: Sierra McCleery & Lauren Mosser
28: Alexandra & Magdalena Plachuta

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – March, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – 7 PM</i> <i>Meal following</i>	6 Confessions: 4-5 Great Vespers: 5
7 St. Helena's Guild Meeting School 9:15 Adult today Divine Liturgy – 10:00	8	9	10 Burlington Nursing Home 1:30 <i>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – 7 PM</i> <i>Meal following</i>	11	12 <i>Ice Skating at the Igloo, Mt Laurel</i> 7 PM	13: Memorial Liturgy – 9 AM Lenten Cooking Confessions: 4-5 Great Vespers: 5
14 Church School & Adult Ed 9:15 Divine Liturgy 10:00	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – 7 PM</i> <i>Meal following</i>	20 Confessions: 4-5 Great Vespers: 5
21 Church School & Adult Ed 9:15 Divine Liturgy	22 Parish Council Meeting – 7 PM	23	24	25	26 <i>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – 7 PM</i> <i>Meal following</i>	27 Lazarus Saturday 9 AM Baptism of Emma Gabrielle Leon Confessions: 4-5 Great Vespers: 5
28 PALM SUNDAY Church School & Adult Ed 9:15 Divine Liturgy 10:00 Bridegroom 7 PM	29 Bridegroom Matins 7 PM	30 Bridegroom Matins 7 PM	31 Bridegroom Matins & Unction Service 7 PM	1 April Vesperal Liturgy of Holy Thursday 4 PM Matins of Holy Thursday – 7 PM	2 Lenten Children's Retreat Vespers of Holy Friday – 3 PM Matins of Holy Saturday – 7 PM	3 Vesperal Liturgy of Holy Saturday – 10 AM Paschal, Matins, Complines & Liturgy – 11:30 PM