



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

11 Wilkins Station Road - Box 805 - Medford, NJ 08055

Rectory Phone: 856-665-2491 - Fr. John's Cell Phone: 609-315-2894 - Email: frjs@aol.com

www.holycrossmedford.org

MAY, 2010

FAITH, HOPE, AND THE PROMISE

by Fr. John

During the Sundays of the Paschal season the sermons will discuss “in the light of the Resurrection” the nature of faith by examining the place of hope, in anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, what Jesus calls in the Book of Acts – “the promise of the Father.”

The primary texts we have examined so far include:

- 1) Jesus said to Thomas, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” (John 20:29)
- 2) Now faith is the assurance (*substance, reality*) of things hoped for, the conviction (*evidence, proof*) of things not seen. (Heb 11:1)
- 3) We know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of the body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. (Roman 8:22-25)
- 4) Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you. (1 Peter 3:15)
- 5) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Our theme for the sermon on April 25 was the question - “on what can we base our hope?” The conclusion was that while hope may indeed be based on that “which is not seen” it needs to be grounded on the ever-growing experience of becoming **whole** and **awake**. We looked at St. Paul’s text from Romans:

“Through [Christ] we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us” (Romans 5:2-5)

Next Sunday, May 2, we will examine a passage on hope from C.S. Lewis’s book, “Mere Christianity” (I will send it out shortly).

Some have asked me to continue leading the Adult Education class which has met before the Divine Liturgy. But given the kind of sermons I am attempting during the season and the preparation and distribution of materials in advance, I find that it is difficult for me to do both at the level I would prefer. So, while we will not have Adult Education during the month of May, more materials in preparation for the sermon will be forthcoming. I appreciate the emphasis and feedback from those who have shared what they feel is the importance of Adult Education and I look forward to a further discussion of what more can be done.

Please note that before the Liturgy at 9:30 next Sunday, May 2, I will present an introduction to the Orthodox Church and to the liturgy to a Presbyterian confirmation class. All are welcome.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – SATURDAY MAY 1 - 9AM** - black bean cornbread pie
- **ST. HELENA’S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY MAY 2, before the Liturgy**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – to be announced**
- **DEADLINE FOR MAY CROSSROADS – SUNDAY MAY 23.**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY MAY 24 at 7 PM.**
- **CAREGIVERS GROUP – to be announce**

SUMMER TIME SCHEDULE: On Sunday **June 6** the Liturgy will begin at 9AM.

IOCC TRIP TO THE GULF AREA: As had been mentioned earlier, the Parish Council had received a request from Peter Abdallah and Christopher Shimchick to participate in IOCC’s cooperative work with HABITAT in rebuilding homes in the Gulf Area and agreed to provide support for half of the expenses. An additional collection was taken during the visit of Louis Zagami, a Development Officer from IOCC, on April 11.

Since Mr. Zagami’s visit others have shown interest in participating in the trip and the Council would like both to encourage and to help in providing at least some of the financial support required (it will cost \$800.00 for each participant).

Students over 18 are welcome and the week-long trip will take place during July. See Fr. John or Gary Mosser for more information. **THE DEADLINE IS MAY 9.**

FR. JOHN WILL BE AWAY over the weekend of **MAY 15-16**, attending the graduation of

his son, Michael, from the University of New Haven. On May 20-21, he and his family will be attending the graduation of Anastasia from the Parsons School of Design. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky will serve the liturgy on that Sunday.

Fr John has been accepted as one of 12 pastors from around the country into the workshop, **Writing and the Pastoral Life** which will take place at the **Collegville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research** in Collegetown, Minnesota from August 1 – 7.

The workshop aims to help active pastors integrate writing into their vocational lives. The workshop is open to participants who may be pursuing any of a variety of writing projects including memoir, spiritual reflection, pastoral letter, theologically informed essay, poetry, exegetical reflection, among others. Workshop sessions will focus on discovering and deepening participants' understanding of how writing and the pastoral life inform each other, as well as how a community's life can be enriched through compelling writing. The workshop is open to active pastors of various ages and stages of ministerial work. Successful candidates will be pastors who demonstrate both a keen interest in and capacity for reaching a broad audience of readers through their writing. The workshop, accommodations, and travel expenses are fully funded by the Institute with support from the Lilly Foundation.

VISITING OUR PARISH: On **Sunday May 2** we are expecting Todd Tracy, a student from Princeton Theological Seminary and his confirmation class of 8th graders from the Pennington Presbyterian Church (his fieldwork assignment). Fr. John will present an introduction to Orthodoxy and the liturgy to them at 9:30 on that day – anyone interested is also welcome to attend. We expect a dozen or so students and adults.

COVENANT HOUSE BENEFIT CONCERT, with our choir and the Chamber Singers from Seneca High School (featuring Robert Graham and Julia Mosser) will take place on **SUNDAY MAY 23 at 7 PM.** A collection for COVENANT HOUSE will be taken.

ST. HELENA'S GUILD: St. Helena's Guild will hold a *'May Day'* Rummage Sale on **Saturday, May 1st** from 10am to 2 pm. Kielbasi and sauerkraut will be available for lunch as well as pierogies to take out. Flowering plants will be sold just in time for Mother's Day! Please bring your "in good condition" rummage sale items either this Sunday or next Saturday before 10am. Help make this fund raiser a success by bringing your friends, relatives and neighbors.

A REMINDER FOR EVERYONE (not just guild members) YOUR DONATION TO THE SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR 'JAR' HELPS OFFSET THE COST OF CUPS, SPOONS, KNIVES, FORKS, NAPKINS, COFFEE ETC. PLEASE DON'T JUST WALK BY FOR YOUR SNACK WITHOUT A DONATION.

If you are not currently hosting a coffee hour, please make a commitment to do just one coffee hour a year. Call Diane Vozdovic (609-288-6833) or Carol Ann Curry (856-985-4649) to add your name to the list. Also please consider joining St. Helena's Guild. Your help and input will undoubtedly be appreciated!

[NOTE: We are grateful for St. Helena's Easter Donation of \$2,000.00 – Fr. John]

A “HIGH TEA” FOR ST. HELENA’S GUILD, sponsored by the Church School, will be held on **Saturday May 22** at 3 PM. See Margaret Little for more information.

BOB FLANAGAN will be traveling to visit our parish’s former pastor Anthony/Allen Pluth in San Diego from **May 11-18**. Anyone who would like to send greetings or a card see him.

MAY 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 May 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.

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.

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)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES OF OUR PARISH:

High School	College	Medical School
Stephanie Brook	Jacquelyn Chong	Stephanie Skuby
Paul Clifton	Josh Dowiak	
Robert Graham	Stefan Keeler	
Anatoly Lane	Christine Lane	
Julia Mosser	Anastasia Shimchick	
	Michael Shimchick	
	Martha Skuby	

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

May

- Community Luncheon – 1
- Ascension Thursday – 12th
- Church Cleanup – 15
- Pentecost Sunday – 23rd
- Benefit Concert for Covenant House -23rd
- SS. Peter & Paul fast begins – 31st

June

- Beginning of 9 AM Divine Liturgy – 6th

July

- Church Picnic July 11

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

+++++

RESPONSIBILITIES for May, 2010

COFFEE HOUR:

- May 2: Leslie Lane
- 9: Mother's Day - sponsored by the Men of the Parish
- 16: Ela Plachuta
- 23: Andrea Burns
- 30: Diana Pasca

READERS

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

- May 2: Natalka Weismantel
- 9: Gene Dubiago
- 16: Leslie Lane
- 23: Don Dercole
- 30: Diana Pasca

ALTAR SERVERS

- May 2: Stephen Shimchick & Paul Abdallah
- 9: David Hamaty & Brendan Detwiler
- 16: Anatoly Lane & Eli Nugent
- 23: Andrew Abadallah & Nicholas Zanghi
- 30: Paul Abdallah & Stephen Shimchick

.....

COMMUNION USHERS

- May 2: Faye Nugent & Lauren Mosser
- 9: Alexandra & Magdalena Plachuta
- 16: Elisabeth Graham & Christina Zanghi
- 23: Sierra & Miranda McCleery
- 30: Faye Nugent & Natalia Rommen

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – May, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE NOTE: ADULT ED WILL NOT TAKE PLACE DURING MAY						1 Community Lunch 9:00 Great Vespers: 5
2 Church School 9:15 Divine Liturgy 10:00	3	4	5	6	7	8 Consecration of Bishop-Elect Fr Michael Outside Cleanup 9:00 NO Great Vespers:
9 Church School 9:15 Divine Liturgy 10:00	10	11	12 Burlington Nursing Home 1:30 Vesperal Liturgy for the Ascension 7 PM	13	14	15 NO Great Vespers
16 Church School 9:15 Divine Liturgy	17	18	19	20	21	22 "High Tea" for St. Helena's Guild – 3 PM Baptism of Andrik Orenyo 3 PM Great Vespers: 5
23 Church School – 9:15 COVENANT HOUSE CONCERT 7:00 31 Liturgy 10:00	24 Parish Council Meeting – 7 PM	25	26	27	28	29 Great Vespers: 5