



# Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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**FEBRUARY, 2012**

*The Things No One Notices*

by Fr John

Over Friday January 27 and Saturday January 28, as a gift to ourselves and to our community, members of the Parish Council and I painted the basement of our church – the open areas that is. Some of us taped around things, others worked with brushes and rollers – Gary Mosser even moved around on stilts. Besides painting we cleaned smudge marks from along the lower walls, vacuumed out bugs from the light panels, and with a gentle dust mop cleaned out cobwebs from along glass panels and the outside entrance to the basement door. We commented that these last parts of the project were the kinds of things that you see when they are dirty, but are the very things no one even notices when they are clean.

On Sunday January 29 we are presented with the first of the Pre-Lenten Gospel lessons – the story of Zacchaeus and Christ's desire to "come to his house," to enter and be part of his life: Zacchaeus, it says in the Gospel of St Luke in one of the most wonderful expressions in all of the Scriptures, "received him joyfully" (19:6). As we approach Great Lent and Pascha again the same opportunities are presented to us: the desire of Jesus to enter our homes, families, and lives and the questions of how we would welcome or discourage that invitation. Would we welcome him and receive him joyfully or would we find it a burden and nuisance?

There are, no doubt, within all of us clear and obvious things that we do which others and, we ourselves – in our most honest moments, understand as being wrong and requiring change. But the ongoing work that really is required in our spiritual lives is the regular and daily things that no one will see, notice, or even ask us much about. Probably no one, but me, will ever ask you if you pray daily, if you read the Scriptures, or if you have healthy habits and concerns.

Eugene Peterson, one of my favorite writers on pastoral ministry and the spiritual life, wrote a book called, "*Working the Angles.*" Here he suggested that for pastors the parts of ministry that people see – administration, teaching, leadership, etc – are like the visible lines of a triangle. But what makes the lines look right and appropriate is dependent on the quality and nature of the

angles, which he points out are based on the kinds of pursuits and disciplines that are mostly unseen: prayer, Scripture reading, and the receiving and desire for spiritual direction.

So, this Lent let's explore and be concerned especially about those things that we do which no one will know or notice, but God alone. Let's be faithful in prayer, keep the Scriptures before us, fast in ways that don't call attention to what we are doing, do the hard things in our lives first, remember God daily. Then, let the things we do that people see – take care of themselves. Let's not look for praise, acknowledgement, or even a thank-you. Let's not even be surprised when the same people who pointed out our faults don't even notice what we do right, well, or successfully.

Being formed by the things no one notices, let's just do what needs to be done.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON** – SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5 At 9:00.
- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING** – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, following the liturgy.
- **HEALTHY CHOICES** – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5: *Mimi and Jason Jacobs*. Mimi's father, Dn George Zlatkowsky will be serving with us at the liturgy.
- **INREACH MEETING** – NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY.
- **THE WAY – FIRST SESSION** – SATURDAY JANUARY 14 at 3:00.
- **DEADLINE FOR MARCH CROSSROADS: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY FEBRUARY 20 at 7 PM.**

**PARISH ANNUAL MEETING** will take place on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12**, following the Divine Liturgy. Reports are available in the vestibule.

**Two Trustee positions are open on the Council.** See Fr John or Greg Sapnar if you are interested in serving.

**PRE-LENTEN LUNCH** will be held on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19**, following the Divine Liturgy. As usual, the main course will be provided by our church. We appreciate if salads and desserts would be provided by our parishioners.

**TWO SIGN UP SHEETS ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD** – **one** for attendance, the **second** for what you will be bringing.

**MAUREEN SAPNAR AND BARBARA SHIMCHICK** are the coordinators.

**PULLING TOGETHER: AN EVENING OF CHORAL MUSIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF COVENANT HOUSE CAMDEN, NJ** will take place at our church on **SUNDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 26** at 7 PM. Our choir will welcome the Seneca High School Chamber Choir. Refreshments will be served (AND ARE NEEDED!)

**SAINT HELENA'S GUILD** will meet following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday February 5. The Guild is looking for a few good people (actually a lot of good people) to join the Guild and also to fill the positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary. Think you don't know if you can do it or know your way around the kitchen---we'll be there to help!!! Call Diane Vozdovic @609-634-1042 or Kathy Bisaga @ 856-675-8353 with any questions. Challenge yourself in 2012 and join Saint Helena's Guild!!

A **Pierogie Session** will take place **Friday, Feb. 10th and Sat. Feb. 11th**. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board for pierogie pre-orders. Also a work sign-up sheet for the Fri. & Sat. sessions. Save the date and mark your calendars for this first pierogie session of 2012!!

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES: Monday, January 16, 2012:** by Carol Ann Curry.

Treasurer Dan Dowiak presented the financial report. The account balances are as follows: **General Fund:** \$41,377.70; **Memorial Fund:** \$47,928.51; **Food Coupon Fund:** \$2,831.57; **Choir Fund:** \$2,793.91; **Capital ImprovementFund:** \$4,582.75.  
The total contributions for the Matching Donation Program was \$27,300.00.

St. Helena's Guild presented OCHC with a Christmas gift \$2500.00.  
Bishop Michael will be visiting OCHC on October 6th and 7th.  
The lampadas are on their way and have arrived in Canada. We now have a tracking number.  
The social hall will be painted on Saturday, January 28th. The prep work will be done on Friday evening, January 27th.  
Council is preparing all the reports for the annual meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, February 12th.  
The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 20th.

**GOLD ORTHODOX CROSS PIN**, prepared by Charles Castley is available from Ellie's Boutique for \$5.00.

**RESPONSIBILITIES for February, 2012**

February 5: Val Olesnovich  
12: Diane Zanghi  
19: Pre-Lenten Luncheon (MEAT FARE)  
26: Marie Clifton

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** On your Sunday, you are host/hostess for the day. You will be responsible for setting up the coffee hour and cleaning up (sweeping the floor, wiping down the tables, cleaning the coffee pot, and taking out the trash) afterward. A suggested coffee hour could include 4 dozen bagels, cream cheese, butter/margarine, fruit (such as sliced apples or oranges, grapes, fruit salad, etc.) and cookies or cut-up cake. Please bring 1 pound of coffee (to replace what was used that morning), creamer, and juice (2-64oz. bottles of juice). Please take home all items that are not consumed. Keep in mind that coffee hours should be simple and serve as a snack after church and not a meal. Also, if anyone plans on bringing a cake or anything additional to celebrate an occasion during coffee hour, please contact that week's host.

## Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – February, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Vesperal Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord – 7 PM	2	3	4 <b>Community Luncheon:</b> 9 AM <b>Great Vespers:</b> 5:00
5 <b>Divine Liturgy:</b> 10:00  <b>Healthy Choices</b>	6	7 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	8 <b>Burlington Nursing Home</b> 1:30	9	10 <b>Pirohi Session</b>	11 <b>Pirohi Session</b> <b>THE WAY: 3:00</b> <b>Great Vespers: 5:00</b>
12 <b>Divine Liturgy:</b> 10:00 <b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	13	14  <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	15	16	17	18 <b>Memorial Liturgy:</b> 9AM <b>Baptism of Aliana Grace Rothaupt 11</b> <b>Great Vespers:</b> 4:00
19 <b>Divine Liturgy:</b> 10:00 <b>Pre-Lenten Lunch</b>	20 <b>Parish Council Meeting – 7 PM</b>	21 <b>Fr John at Metropolitan Council (Syosset) 2/21-24</b> Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 <b>Baptism of Alexis Yoshida – 3 PM</b>	25 <b>Baptism of Colin Rostek 12:00</b> <b>THE WAY: 3:00</b> <b>Great Vespers:</b> 5:00
26 <b>Divine Liturgy:</b> 10:00 <b>Forgiveness Vespers</b> <b>Covenant House Concert – 7 PM</b>	27 <b>Canon of St. Andrew – 7 PM</b>	28 <b>Canon of St Andrew – 7 PM</b>	29 <b>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts- 7 PM</b>	1 March <b>Canon of St Andrew – 7PM</b>	2 <b>Retreat with Frederica Mathewes-Green</b> 7 PM	3 <b>Retreat with Frederica Mathewes-Green</b>  <b>Great Vespers:</b> 5:00