



# 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

## FEBRUARY, 2008

### Pastor's Report: *REVIEW OF PARISH LIFE* Annual Meeting, February 17, 2008

Presented by Fr. John

When I travel and am asked how "things are going," it seems necessary to distinguish between what one may feel is or is not happening within our national Church and the many significant and wonderful things taking place within our parish. This isn't to say that there are not still certain frustrations existing within our parish. Yet, as the examples below will demonstrate more and more people within our community are assuming leadership roles and are both responding to the identified demands of our parish and asking questions as to what more we can do to overcome any frustrations. I welcome the enthusiasm and the responses.

#### FEATURES OF OUR PARISH LIFE

- A. **Parish Council:** Our meetings are often lengthy, but this is due not to conflict within the Council, but to the nature and concerns of our discussions. I have been pleased with the respect the members have shown each other and their efforts at working in a collaborative manner. Special thanks need to be given to **Mark Skuby** who has served as Warden for the past three years and will be stepping down from the Council. Mark has worked in many ways, both noticeable and often not observed, to make sure that all the necessary things get done in our parish life. The anticipated slate of Officers and Trustees for next year is:

**Warden:** Gary Mosser  
**Assistant Warden:** Greg Sapnar  
**Treasurer:** Richard Wagar  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Caroline Graham  
**Secretary:** David Brook

#### Trustees

Gene Dubiago      Bob Flanagan      Paul Giovanni  
Tim Nugent        Valerie Olesnovich

#### Auditors

Jim & Olga Fretts

- B. **Building:** (Special thanks to **Gary Mosser** for coordinating the lift project. We recently resolved a construction conflict and will complete the final payments of the agreement in a few months.)
- C. **Caregivers: (Genie Skuby)**
- D. **Choir (Josef Gulka and the members).** The choir consistently provides music responses at all of our services and makes special efforts seasonally to visit and sing for shut-ins and other parishioners. The choir completed and has been distributing a beautifully recorded CD. It is grateful to the support and encouragement of our parishioners in making this recording possible.
- E. **Church Landscaping:** Gene Dubiago and Diane Pasca coordinate plans for maintaining our property. With the help of Greg Sapnar, they designed this past year the Biblical Garden in memory of John Phillips. Special thanks to Dorothy Phillips for her donations in memory of John for the installation of a sprinkler system.
- B. **Church Maintenance:** We are grateful to **Byron Burns** who, with the help of his wife, **Andrea**, has been responsible for cleaning our church since we first moved in. As of Sunday January 27, Bryon will complete his work and his position will assumed by **Paul Denko**.
- C. **Church School & Adult Ed: (Margaret Little / Bob Flanagan & all the other teachers).** Our aim each year is to help all our students – young and old – to “grow in life, and faith, and spiritual understanding. We appreciate the encouragement and support of our families.  
**The Adult Class** has been reading – **Sweeter than Honey**: We look forward to the visit of the author, Peter Bouteneff, during the Weekend of March 29-30.
- D. **Community Luncheon /Inreach: (Diana Pasca – The Community Luncheon Program –** which prepares food once a month for a food kitchen in Mt. Holly and sends occasional items to our away college students has been active for 12 continuous years. The *Inreach Committee* meets monthly and examines the needs within our communities on a variety of levels and tries to identify - when possible - opportunities for parishioner interaction and response.
- E. **Crossroads Mailing: (Tillie Porter)**
- F. **Email Communications: (Josef Gulka)**
- G. **Evening Scriptural/Spirituality Study:** (Tim Rommen & David Brook, and the hospitality of the Flanagans)
- H. **Fundraising Efforts – Thanks** to all who help in various ways, especially to those who have worked on the Fall Festival (the coordinator last year was **Val Olesnovich**, who will serve again this year with the assistance of **Elizabeth Gibbons**), to those have worked making pirohis, the fish fry (especially to **Ray and Diane Vozdovic**) and to **Ellie Kuzma and her Boutique**.
- I. **Fellowship Hour Coordinator: (Donna Woodhull)**
- J. **Food Coupons: (Mark Skuby)**
- K. **Memorial Fund Acknowledgements: (Ellie Kuzma)**
- L. **Edisheva Support –** Deshi now feels that she is able to pay her rent completely on her own. She continues to work two jobs – at CVS and Kennedy Hospital. She has also learned that she and Ayub have been approved for their green cards which they hope to receive fairly shortly. In an effort to save money she has learned to complete much of the required paperwork on her own, with limited need for lawyers. Although she admits it was easier in Chechnya, where one only needed to “pay someone off to get whatever was needed.” Ayub is in fifth grade and has been invited to participate in the All-Cherry Hill Orchestra as a violist. We were not able to provide him with swimming lessons last summer, due to scheduling conflicts. But this continues to be one of our goals. Little by little, they are finding their way in our American life – which is what we have hoped and prayed for.
- M. **Prospora makers (Nellie Kuzmenchuk & Margaret Little)**
- N. **Parish website – (Greg Sapnar)**
- O. **Seminarian Family Christmas Appeal Organizers: (Ann Plescia & Lynn Siry)**
- P. **Servers (Dan Dowiak)**
- Q. **St. Helena’s Guild** (Special thanks to **Andrea Burns** for her years of leadership – the new chairperson will be **Kathie Pierman**.)
- R. **Teen Group: (Tim Rommen)**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – TUESDAY JANUARY 29** at Forno's in Cherry Hill – 7 PM
- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – SATURDAY February 2** at 9 AM.
- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY February 3** at 9:15.
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY February 13** at 7 PM.
- **COVERED DISH SUPPER AND FAMILY FUN NIGHT – February 16, following Great Vespers**
- **FIRST FRIDAYS – FEBRUARY TEEN GATHERING – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8: We are looking to go ice skating.**

**FR. MICHAEL TASSOS, OCA TREASURER**, will be coming to our parish **NEXT WEEKEND (FEBRUARY 2-3)**. He will attend Great Vespers and meet with the Parish Council and any interested parishioners. On Sunday following the Divine Liturgy he will speak to the entire community about the financial crisis in the OCA and address any questions we may have.

Father Michael attended St. Vladimir's Seminary, and has been serving as a priest in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese for 10 years. He has worked as a Certified Public Accountant for 11 years. Father Michael has worked with companies such as Price Waterhouse and Capitol Records. From 1995 to 2001 he was the Chief Financial Officer of one of the largest medical practices in the state of West Virginia and was actively involved as a member of the board of directors and chairman of the finance committee of Covenant House, West Virginia. In 2002 he and his family moved to California, where Father Tassos worked as the Business Manager for another large medical practice for three years. He then worked for two years as the Chief Financial Officer for a publicly traded company specializing in ambulatory surgery centers.

In addition to his parish and secular work, Father Michael has been a financial advisor and member of the board of directors of Conciliar Press Ministries. Father Michael is very active as a consultant to various medical practices as well as numerous not-for-profit organizations. He has a comprehensive knowledge of the Orthodox Church as well as accounting and financial reporting background for not-for-profit organizations.

**TEEN ICE SKATING on FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8** at **THE IGLOO**, 3033 Fostertown Rd., Mt. Laurel from 7 – 9 (we'll meet at 6:30). If we have 15 or more it will cost \$7.00 per person. See Tim Rommen for more info.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY EVENINGS FROM 7 -9 PM, BEGINNING JANUARY 28 AT THE FLANAGAN'S.** The study will be led by David Brook.

**WEDDING BANNS:** Ann Moroz & Andrew Duncan to be married in our parish on Saturday February 9.

**ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – February. 4, 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!

- **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 (609-654-7093)**- 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 ACMEs.
- **MINI SPRING BAZAAR** – *Saturday March 8 – 10 am – 3pm* If you need babka and rolls please sign up for your pre-orders. **NO SALES WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY.**
- **NEXT MONTHS GUILD MEETING** – *March 3, at 9:15 am.* Please mark your calendars and plan to attend – no cost – just your warm friendly spirit and good ideas.

**THE KING’S CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE EVENTS:**

The King’s Christian School, at 5 Carnegie Plaza, Cherry Hill, will be offering Open House events on the following dates:

February 13, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

February 15, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

March 12, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TKCS is a non-denominational college preparatory school for Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. TKCS offers an excellent Bible-based academic curriculum, with accelerated programs, honors programs, Advanced Placement courses, fine and performing arts and athletic programs, as well as a program for students with learning differences. Part-time study in partnership with home schooling families is also offered. Scholarships are available based on financial need.

For more information, please visit the website at [www.tkcs.org](http://www.tkcs.org), call (856) 489-6720, ext. 117, or contact Rebecca Nugent, whose children currently attend TKCS.

**Adult Education, February, 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.

**February 3:** No class

**February 10:** The Holy Spirit and the Development of Doctrine

Reading: page 117 to 122.

*How is this section related to the previous section on asceticism and conciliarity?*

*What is meant by the promise that the Holy Spirit will come to guide us?*

*Whom is the Spirit guiding into all truth?*

**February 17:** Formation of Doctrine and Dialogue

Reading: pages 123 to 129

*How do we understand the work of the Spirit in the Church?*

*How would you describe the process of determining the truth?*

*What role does dialogue have in the formation of doctrine?*

**February 24:** “Discernment and Authority”

Reading: pages 130 to 139

*How would you describe the decision making process in the Church?*

*How do authority and conciliarity work together?*

*What are some contemporary questions in need of doctrinal development?*

**March 2:** No class

**PARISH YOUTH**

**SIGHTS & SOUNDS: PARISH CELEBRATION OF ART AND MUSIC** will be held on Sunday February 24, following the Divine Liturgy.

**Church School Activities**

The lower grades are currently focusing on Bible stories from Joseph and his brothers through Moses and the Ten Commandments. They will also be working on a project to honor fallen soldiers and support our troops.

Margaret Little has put together a survey to gauge interest in youth group activities such as movies, games, book clubs, etc. Please be sure to return the survey to Margaret. She's very interested in everyone's ideas and input!

**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](mailto: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.

**A Little Princess, by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Review by Faye Nugent

This story is about a girl named Sara, who goes to a boarding school while her dad is in the army. The headmistress liked Sara because she was rich. On Sara's birthday, everybody celebrated it by throwing a big party. The headmistress gave her a very special and expensive doll. But then a stranger walked into the school and told the headmistress that Sara's father had died in the army. The headmistress took the doll from Sara, and all her other belongings, too. She made Sara a slave at the school. Later on, they figured out that Sara's father was not dead although he was wounded. Sara's father loved her very much, and he came and took Sara back to live with him.

*A Little Princess* relates to my faith because Sara was still kind and friendly even though she was made a slave. She also showed determination. Determination is when you have a goal and are determined to reach it. Sara showed determination in the story by not giving up when she thought her father had died and she was made a slave. The story also reminded me about how people thought Jesus had died, but he was really alive and loves us.



# Covered Dish Supper and Family Fun Night -everyone's invited!



Date: February 16, 2008  
Time: 6 pm-after Vespers

**See sign up sheet for items needed  
on In-reach/Outreach Bulletin Board**

Come out for an evening of fun, good food, games, music ,and a chance to get to know everyone, and few surprises!

Sign up to bring one of your favorite recipes to share, we'll provide the drinks.

**THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISER**

\*\*Spaghetti Dinner will be May 10th

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross  
Sponsored by the In-reach/Outreach Group

# RESPONSIBILITIES for February, 2008

## COFFEE HOUR

February 3: Ann Plescia  
10: Valerie Olesnovich  
17: Kim Rommen  
24: Kathy Bisaga & Diane Zanghi

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## READERS

February 3: Donald D'Ercole  
10: Valerie Olesnovich  
17: Bob Flanagan  
24: Genie Skuby  
March 3: Gary Mosser

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## ALTAR SERVERS

February 3: Stephen Shimchick & Brendan Detwiler  
10: Eli Nugent & David Hamaty  
17: Ethan Detwiler & Paul Giovanni  
24: Nicholas Zanghi & Andrew Abdallah  
March 3: Robert Graham & Matthew Brook

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## COMMUNION USHERS

February 3: Julia & Lauren Mosser  
10: Faye Nugent & Elisabeth Graham  
17: Yvette Abdallah & Christina Zanghi  
24: Sierra & Miranda McCleery  
March 3: Alexandra Plachuta & Julie Skuby