



# 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](mailto:frjs@aol.com)  
[www.holycrossmedford.org](http://www.holycrossmedford.org)

**MAY, 2008**

## 55 Maxims for Christian Living

by Fr. Thomas Hopko

1. Be always with Christ.
2. Pray as you can, not as you want.
3. Have a keepable rule of prayer that you do by discipline.
4. Say the Lord's Prayer several times a day.
5. Have a short prayer that you constantly repeat when your mind is not occupied with other things.
6. Make some prostrations when you pray.
7. Eat good foods in moderation.
8. Keep the Church's fasting rules.
9. Spend some time in silence every day.
10. Do acts of mercy in secret.
11. Go to liturgical services regularly
12. Go to confession and communion regularly.
13. Do not engage intrusive thoughts and feelings. Cut them off at the start.
14. Reveal all your thoughts and feelings regularly to a trusted person.
15. Read the scriptures regularly.
16. Read good books a little at a time.
17. Cultivate communion with the saints.
18. Be an ordinary person.
19. Be polite with everyone.
20. Maintain cleanliness and order in your home.
21. Have a healthy, wholesome hobby.
22. Exercise regularly.
23. Live a day, and a part of a day, at a time.
24. Be totally honest, first of all, with yourself.
25. Be faithful in little things.
26. Do your work, and then forget it.
27. Do the most difficult and painful things first.
28. Face reality.
29. Be grateful in all things.
30. Be cheeffer.
31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small.
32. Never bring attention to yourself.

33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and be attentive.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
36. When we speak, speak simply, clearly, firmly and directly.
37. Flee imagination, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.
39. Don't complain, mumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't compare yourself with anyone.
41. Don't seek or expect praise or pity from anyone.
42. We don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God alone.
46. Accept criticism gratefully but test it critically.
47. Give advice to others only when asked or obligated to do so.
48. Do nothing for anyone that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.
50. Be merciful with yourself and with others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, not on sin and darkness.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your own faults and sins peacefully, serenely, because you know that God's mercy is greater than your wretchedness.
54. When we fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear and without shame.

-- + Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner +

#### *UPCOMING MEETINGS*

- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY MAY 4 at 9:15.**
- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – date to be announced.**
- **CAREGIVERS – will be rescheduled**
- **SPRING OUTSIDE CLEANUP – SATURDAY MAY 10: 9 AM –**
- **FIRST FRIDAY TEEN GATHERING – SATURDAY MAY 10 - At the CLEANUP!**
- **SPAGHETTI DINNER – SATURDAY MAY 10, following Great Vespers**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY MAY 14 at 7 PM.**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – THURSDAY MAY 22, 7 PM, at Forno's**

**BEGINNING OF SUMMER SCHEDULE – SUNDAY JUNE 1 – the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00. Church School and Adult Education classes will end on Sunday May 18.**

**PARISH OUTSIDE CLEAN-UP DAY – NEXT SATURDAY – MAY 10 – from 9 AM.** See Gene Dubiogo for more info. The Parish Teens are especially encouraged to attend.

**MOTHER'S DAY COFFEE HOUR – SUNDAY MAY 11:** The men of the parish will be providing the refreshments. Please call Gary Mosser (609-280-2080) or send him an email: [garyandbarb@comcast.net](mailto:garyandbarb@comcast.net)

**INREACH COMMITTEE:** The proceeds from our **Spaghetti Dinner** on Saturday May 10, will be used to provide additional support for **Christina Semon**, who is an Orthodox missionary beginning work at the St. Dimitrie Program in Romania as part of the OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) and for **Michael Shimchick** who will travel with his brother, John, to the New Orleans area in late May-early June and work with **IOCC** (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) and *Habitat for Humanity* on the rebuilding of a home that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

**ICONS PREPARED BY YVETTE ABDALLAH:**

Here is my list of completed icons and those in production.

**Annunciation:** 13 x 17 will be varnished on Holy Friday and for sale the first of second week of May Price: \$950, for church family: \$800

**Theotokos and Jesus:** 9 1/2 x 12 1/2 completed. For sale now.  
Price: \$800, for church family \$700

**Holy Trinity:** 11 x 14 in progress should be finished in June or July low air humidity providing. Yet to be priced.

**ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING: ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – 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. Contact **Marie Clifton (856-482-1059)** if you want to host one of those week or if there has been a change in 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 ACME stores.
- **MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE:** (Egg Pendant, Amber Bracelet, and Amber Pin). Please turn in your tickets by May 11 or sooner. (Return the stubs and money either to Kathy Pierman or Lee Ann .Detwiler).

- **MOTHER’S DAY COFFEE HOUR** (May 11): Contact Gary Mosser for more details.
- **NEXT MONTHS GUILD MEETING – June 1 (change for summer hours)** (time will be decided at the May Meeting). Please mark your calendars and plan to attend – no cost – just your warm friendly spirit and good ideas.

**IT’S NOT TOO EARLY – FALL FESTIVAL BASKET BOOTH.** Please choose an idea from our group of suggestions to create a “theme” basket that will be raffled-off at the **Fall Festival** in September. The display will be available in the basement. Please see: **Val Olesnovich, Diana Pasca or Barbara Shimchick** for more information.

**ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLES** are available for \$36.50 (regular price \$50.00). See Fr. John

### **RESPONSIBILITIES for May, 2008**

#### **COFFEE HOUR**

May 4: Marianne Piston  
 11: Mother’s Day – provided by the men of the parish  
 18: The Parish Picnic scheduled for this day will be rescheduled.  
 25: Leslie Lane

+++++

#### **READERS**

May 4: Julia Mosser  
 11: Bob Flanagan  
 18: Mark Skuby  
 25: Tim Rommen  
 June 1: Genie Skuby

+++++

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

May 4: Robert Graham & Matthew Brook  
 11: Eli Nugent & David Hamaty  
 18: Stephen Shimchick & Brendan Detwiler  
 25: Andrew & Paul Abdallah  
 June 1: Anatolly Lane & Nicholas Zanghi

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **COMMUNION USHERS**

May 4: Yvette Abdallah & Christina Zanghi  
 11: Faye Nugent & Elisabeth Graham  
 18: Alexandra & Magdalena Plachuta  
 25: Sierra & Miranda McCleery  
 June 1: Yvette Abdallah & Christina Zanghi