

# CROSSROADS

## ***Sunday's Scriptures:***

### **Epistle:**

2 Timothy 3:10-15

### **Gospel:**

Luke 18:10-14

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**EAGLE SOUT OF  
HONOR for  
GREGORY KELLY  
HEILAND**

Saturday, February 7 – 2:00  
at our parish

RSVP by texting Julie  
(609) 204-7367

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**Sunday, February 8  
ANNUAL PARISH  
MEETING**

Look for Reports in the  
vestibule.

## ***The Cross is the Center, the Backbone, and Pivot of our Own New Life***



Over the next few weeks in our “**Interested in Orthodoxy**” sessions we’ll be discussing sections of the book, “***Revelation of Life Eternal***” by Nicholas Arseniev.

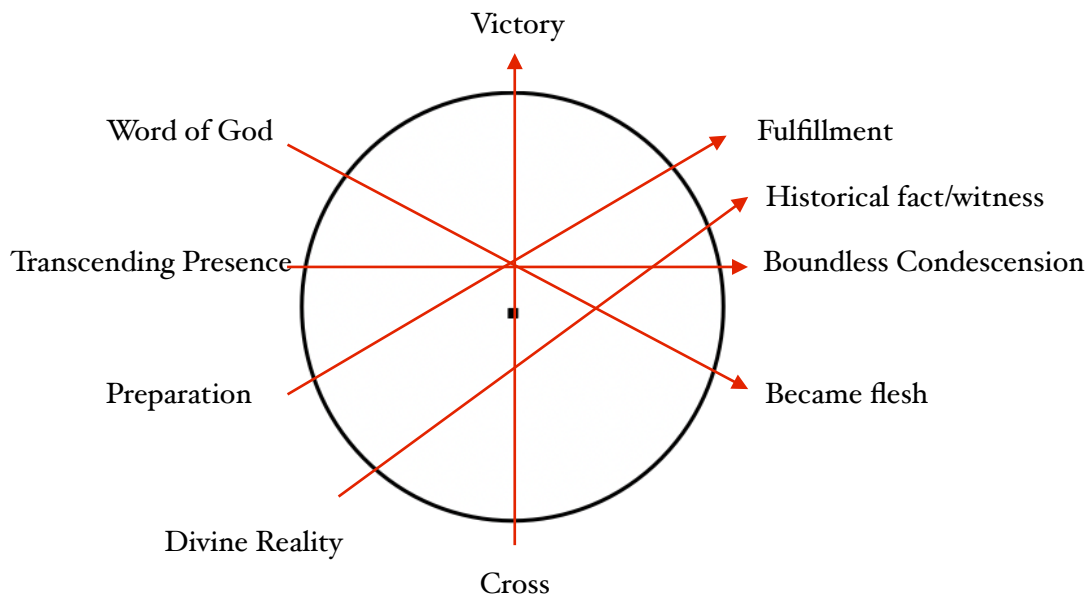
Last week on Wednesday, January 28 – the feast of St. Ephrem of Syria – in reviewing the chapter entitled, “**Characteristic Features of the Christian Message,**” we sought to identify key words that would help us start to build a spiritual and prayerful vocabulary of the key features of this Message.

Here is the list we put together:

- overpowering, transcending, and Mystical Presence or Reality
- boundless condescension (“coming down”) of God
- definite historical Person
- historical fact
- preparation
- fulfillment

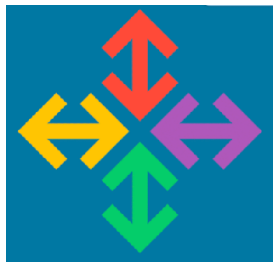
- complete
- this day
- now
- witness (to what the disciples saw with their eyes, heard with their ears, and touched with their hands  
(1 John 1:1))
- victory
- Cross

Being reminded of St. Ephrem's preferred use of poetic paradox rather than prose-like analysis or definition in the composition of his liturgical hymns, we sought next to establish "paradoxical" relationships between some of these words – imagining the following circle image with the center point being God, the dark outline representing theological "boundaries" and the arrows connecting the interrelated paradoxes:



Our efforts to build this vocabulary were summarized in this passage:

“But the victory—let us repeat it again and again—has been achieved on the Cross; and His Cross is not only the supreme revelation of the boundless condescending Love of God, but also the center, the backbone and pivot of our own new life. We enter this new life only by participating in the Cross of Christ, crucifying thereon our "old Adam" and partaking in the perfect obedience of Christ. Christianity is therefore much more than a message: it is a new reality, a new life, a painful and courageous transfiguration of the old man into the "new creature," into a "member of the body of Christ.”



**STARTING THIS SUNDAY, OUR FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE  
BEGINS – IT WILL CONTINUE TO MARCH 1:**

**– Our non-perishable food donations will be given to the**

*South Jersey Food Bank*

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, WILL BE OUR**

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:**



Hot Soup, Chili, Bread, Salad and Dessert will be offered

In addition to bringing the food donations, any cash received will be directed to the  
**Farmers Against Hunger** to buy produce for the winter months.

Look for the Souper Sunday Donation Jars!



## ***“Moving Churches from Surviving to Thriving”***

### **The Church Roadmap Podcast**

**Why:** To strengthen parishes and bring people closer to Christ and each other. Each podcast offers practical, researched, and tested approaches for healthier and more effective, successful, and faithful parishes drawn from the book [A Roadmap for American Churches and People of Faith: W.W.J.D. \(What Would Jesus Do?\)](#).

The [Church Roadmap book](#) consolidates over thirty years of work with over 1,000 parishes and three years of intense doctoral research. You can download for **FREE** the 626-page Church Roadmap book at [www.churchroadmap.com](http://www.churchroadmap.com).

**Who:** Hosted by Dr. Bill Marianes (Stewardship Calling Ministry), this live weekly program is for clergy, church leaders, and laypeople who care deeply about the spiritual and operational health, growth, and future of their parish. Each podcast presents proven best practices.

**When:** (every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and recorded for anytime viewing)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday:** Become a successful and visionary [Servant Leader](#).
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday:** Grow a sustainable culture of [Stewardship & Engagement](#).
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday:** Increase discipleship through effective [Spiritual Formation & Religious Education](#).
- **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** Identifying a realistic roadmap for [Christian Unity](#).
- **Months with a 5th Wednesday:** Step-by-step [Vision and Strategic Planning](#) process.

### **Where (Watch or Listen:**

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@stewardshipcallingministry>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stewardshipcalling>
- Recorded versions available at: [www.churchroadmap.com](http://www.churchroadmap.com)

For questions or more information, email: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com) or subscribe for free updates and resources at: [www.churchroadmap.com](http://www.churchroadmap.com).



## Seeking Volunteer(s)

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey need a few people to help in various Diocesan Ministries.

### Diocesan Communications Team—Volunteers Needed



The Diocese of New York & New Jersey is forming a Diocesan Communications Team to assist with maintaining and strengthening our digital presence. Volunteers may serve in one area or collaborate across roles, depending on interest, skills, and availability. No one is expected to do everything; even modest, consistent help is valuable.

#### Website Support (Orthodox Web Solutions)

Assist with basic website updates and posting announcements. Familiarity with Orthodox Web Solutions is helpful but not required; willingness to learn is essential.

*Estimated time commitment: 1–2 hours per week (remote and flexible).*

#### Social Media Support

Assist with Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube posting and content organization. Video creation and basic editing skills are a plus, but not required.

*Estimated time commitment: 1–3 hours per week, shared among team members.*

#### Regional Coverage (Archbishop's Visits)

Because the Diocese spans New York and New Jersey, volunteers are sought to assist with local coverage of the Archbishop's visits in their own region (North/South Jersey, NYC, Long Island, Upstate NY, Western NY).

Responsibilities may include taking photographs, short video clips, or recordings of homilies when appropriate.

*Estimated time commitment: occasional, event-based, you will not be asked to travel outside your region; typically 2–4 hours per visit, which includes attending the Divine Services during which His Eminence presides.*

Use this form to submit your interest for Communications- <https://form.jotform.com/253645524628160>



### The Department of Youth Ministry

Fr. Martin and Matushka Dennise Kraus are in need of some assistance with the Youth Ministry Program.

#### Men's Mountain Respite

This ministry is seeing wonderful growth. Are there any men in the Diocese who would be willing to assist Fr. Martin with planning and executing retreats?



### Diocesan Stewardship Publication

This quarterly publication has languished for several years due to the lack of an Editor. Do you have a heart for Stewardship and enjoy writing?

Skills needed:

- 1) Ability to write and compile information about Stewardship.
- 2) Familiarity with Microsoft Publisher.
- 3) Prepare and format publication.
- 4) Submit to Chancery by appropriate deadline.

Stewardship  
is heart work



"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

(Matthew 6:19-21)

If you are willing to help His Eminence, Archbishop Michael and serve the Diocese of New York and New Jersey with any of these Ministries, please contact the Chancery Office.

Phone: 914-779-6580

Email: [info@nynjoca.org](mailto:info@nynjoca.org)

### ***Some Ways to Support our Parish***

Here are some ways that this can be done:

- 1) **Cash** (If an annual record of this donation is desired then it should be put in an envelope with your name on it, so that a record can be kept and a receipt eventually will be prepared and available).
- 2) **Monthly Envelopes** can be sent to your home (see Fr. John if you would like to donate this way).
- 3) **A Check** can be made out to the church and given in the donation basket or left in the church office.
- 4) **Having a check sent directly from your bank account to the church** (in the same way that bills can be paid on your computer through your bank).

Address the check to:

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross  
Box 805  
Medford, NJ 08055

- 5) **Using our online app, tithe.ly** – Please note that there is a 3% processing fee - this can be added to the donation or it will be subtracted from the donation):

- 1) You can use the **QR Code** at our website: <https://holycrossmedford.org/>



- 2) Go to: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1197928](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1197928)
- 3) TEXT the word, **“Give” to: 1-833-854-9049**

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### **SHOP RITE COUPONS**

**Cards are available in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$25, and \$20.**

Shop-Rite sells the cards in bulk to us at a 5% discount. The gift cards are available from **Larry Skvir** every Sunday at coffee hour. If you regularly shop at Shop-Rite and don't use the gift cards, please consider purchasing them in 2026.