

# CROSSROADS

***Sunday's Scriptures:***

**Epistle:**

**Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2**

**Gospel:**

**John 1:43-51**

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**This Week:**

- 1) **Sunday, March 1,**  
**St. Helena's Guild Meeting**  
during Coffee Hour
- 2) **Wednesday, March 4, 7**  
PM on ZOOM:  
***Interested in Orthodoxy***
- 3) **Friday, March 6 –**  
Confessions – 6 PM /  
7 PM – **Liturgy of the**  
**Presanctified Gifts**
- 2) **Sunday, March 8,**  
during Coffee Hour,  
***Catechesis Class***

***How to Speak About God***

by St. Ephrem the Syrian



St. Ephrem describes how God speaks to humanity through the biblical text, allowing himself, as it were, to become incarnated into human language. His starting point is the dilemma: how can human beings speak about the Godhead, seeing that the human mind is not capable of crossing the ontological gap (or 'chasm', as Ephrem often calls it) which exists between Creation and its Creator.

This might suggest that a holy silence was all that is possible. Ephrem, however, has a solution to the problem: God, stirred by love for his creation has himself crossed this gap and entered the created world, allowing himself to be described in human terms and in human language in the Bible. Thus, before becoming incarnate in the human body, God the “Word” first became incarnate in human language, or, in Ephrem's own homely metaphor of clothing, “God put on names,” or metaphors, in the Old Testament, just as subsequently he “put on the body” at the Incarnation. Ephrem humorously compares God’s way of teaching humanity about Himself to that of someone teaching a parrot into thinking that it is a fellow parrot talking to it.

## Hymns on Faith, Number 31

1 Let us give thanks. to God who has clothed Himself  
in the names of the body's various parts:  
Scripture refers to His “ears,” (Psalm 34:15) to teach us that He listens to us;  
it speaks of His “eyes” (Ps 34:15) to show that He sees us.  
It was just the names of such things that He put on,  
and – although in His true Being there is no wrath or regret’—  
yet He put on these terms because of our weakness.

Refrain: Blessed is He who has appeared to our human race under so many metaphors.

2 We should realize that, had He not put on the names  
of such things, it would not have been possible for Him  
to speak with us humans. By means of what belongs to us  
did He draw close to us:  
He clothed Himself in our language, so that He might clothe us  
in His mode of life. He asked for our form and put this on,  
and then, as a father with his children, He spoke with our childish state.

3 It is our terms that He has put on — though He did not literally do so;  
He then took them off — without actually doing so:  
when wearing them, He was at the same time stripped of them.  
He puts on one when it is beneficial, then strips it off in exchange for another;  
the fact that He strips off and: puts on all sorts of metaphors  
tells us that the metaphor does not apply to His true Being:  
because that Being is hidden, He has depicted it by means of what is visible.

4 In one place He was like an Old Man and the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9),  
then again, He became like a Hero, a Valiant Warrior (Exodus 15:3)  
For the purpose of judgement, He was an Old Man,  
but for conflict He was Valiant.  
In one place He was delaying; elsewhere, having run,  
He became weary. In one place “He was asleep,” (Isaiah 7:13; Psalm 43:24; 77:65)  
in another, in need: by every means did He weary Himself so as to gain us.

5 For this is the Good One, who could have forced us to please Him,  
without any trouble to Himself; but instead He toiled by every means  
so that we might act pleasingly to Him of our own volition,  
that we might depict our beauty  
with the colors that our own freewill had gathered;  
whereas, if He had adorned us, then we would have resembled  
a portrait that someone else had painted; adorning it with his own colors.

6 A person who is teaching a parrot to speak,  
hides behind a mirror and teaches it in this way:  
when the bird turns in the direction of the voice speaking  
it finds in front of its eyes its own resemblance reflected;  
it imagines that it is another parrot, conversing with itself  
The man puts the bird's image in front of it,  
so that thereby it might learn how to speak.

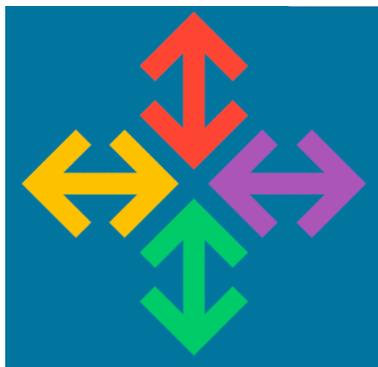
7 This bird is related to the man,  
but although this relationship exists, the man beguiles and teaches  
the parrot something alien to itself by means of itself;  
in this way he speaks with it.

The divine Being that in all things is exalted above all things  
in its love has bent down from on high and acquired from us our own customs;  
It has labored by every means so as to turn all to Itself

10 Let us wonder at how, when He became small, He made our own small state great.  
Had He not reverted and become great,  
He would have made our opinion of Him small,  
imagining Him to be weak— and by thus imagining, our  
conception (of God) would be diminished.  
He is an Essence whose greatness we are not capable of grasping –  
no, not even in His smallness. He grew great — when we had gone astray;  
He grew small — when we had grown feeble. In every way did He labor over us.

11 He wished to teach us two things: that He became flesh, yet did-not come into being (John 1:14).  
In His love He made for Himself a countenance,  
so that His servants might behold Him;  
but, lest we be harmed by imagining He was really like this,  
He moved from one likeness to another, to teach us  
that He has no likeness. and though He did not depart  
from the form of humanity, yet by His changes He did depart.

[from: Sebastian Brock, *The Harp of the Spirit: Poems of St. Ephrem the Syrian*, pp. 84-89)



### FINAL WEEKEND FOR FOOD DONATIONS!!!

If you have not yet donated canned or boxed food this month, there is one more weekend to do so! (**March 1**) All food donations will be split between the South Jersey Food Bank and the Christian Caring Center.

Information on both organizations is displayed in the vestibule, along with the collection bins.

Thank you for helping us to feed the hungry in our local area.

### A REMINDER FROM YOUR INREACH/OUTREACH MINISTRY ABOUT THE YELLOW ENVELOPE FUND

Do your home finances include an emergency fund for those inevitable times of need? Well, our parish does too...that's why there is a Yellow "**Monthly Charity Collection**" Envelope in each pack of church donation envelopes.

Administered by Father John and our Inreach/Outreach Ministry, the funds collected via these envelopes are used for everything from parishioner emergencies (food, utility bills, health emergencies, etc.) to requests for humanitarian aid from local, regional, and national organizations of the church and elsewhere, but the needs of our parishioners come first! Our I/O Ministry is often called upon to provide meals to the sick and the grieving, flowers when appropriate, gift cards, food coupons, help with bills, rent, etc, and the Yellow Envelope fund allows us to provide these items.

We have never had to turn anyone away, thank God, and it's your generosity that makes it all possible. So, the next time you see that Yellow Envelope, please keep all of the above in mind!

Your Inreach/Outreach Ministry thanks you!

[If you do not use the envelope system for your church donations, feel free to leave cash or a check in the collection basket, earmarked "**Charity**".]

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### LADIES' ACTIVITIES IN MARCH

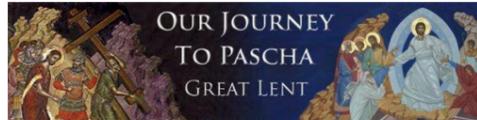
**Monday, March 9**, 7:00 p.m. Woman2Woman regular meeting at Diana Pasca's home in Shamong. Please RSVP: [diana.pasca@outlook.com](mailto:diana.pasca@outlook.com)

**Thursday, March 26**, 12 noon: Ladies' Luncheon, location TBA

**Sunday of Orthodoxy Services - this Sunday, March 1**

Within our Diocese & led by Archbishop Michael  
4 PM – St. John the Baptist Carpatho-Russian Church,  
145 Broad St. Perth Amboy, NJ  
(Archbishop Michael will be serving)

**NEW JERSEY DEANERY  
2026 LENTEN MISSION SERVICE SCHEDULE**



**Sunday, March 8, 5:00pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent - St. Gregory Palamas**  
Holy Spirit Church  
102 Rte 284, Wantage NJ

**Sunday, March 15, 5:00pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent - The Precious and Life-giving Cross**  
St. Vladimir Church  
812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ

**Sunday, March 22, 5:00pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – St. John Climacus**  
Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church  
35 Orange Ave., Clifton, NJ  
*Main Celebrant: Archbishop MICHAEL*

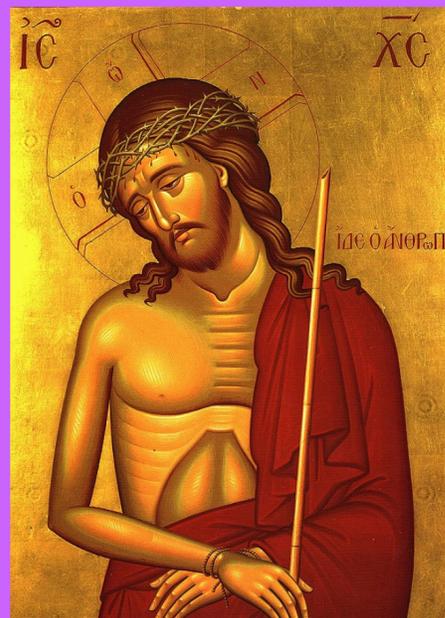
**Sunday, March 29, 5:00pm**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – St. Mary of Egypt**  
Saints Peter and Paul Church  
76 Whitehead Ave., South River, NJ

**The Greater Philadelphia Orthodox  
Clergy Brotherhood**

invites everyone to attend the 2026  
**Lenten Vespers Services**

- March 1 4:00pm **Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
Descent of the Holy Spirit Romanian Orthodox Church  
1323 Ashbourne Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027
- March 8 4:00pm **Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas**  
Holy Ghost Orthodox Church  
70 holy ghost Way, Phoenixville, PA 19460
- March 15 4:00pm **Sunday of the Cross**  
St. George Georgian Orthodox Church  
412 Philmont Ave, Feasterville. PA 19053
- March 22 4:00pm **Sunday of St. John Climicus**  
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church  
237 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103
- March 29 4:00pm **Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**  
Ss. Peter & Paul Ukranian Orthodox Church  
1406 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE 19809



April 5 4:00pm While not usually included with the Lenten Vespers, all are welcome to attend the service of  
Bridegroom Matins at St. Stephen Orthodox Cathedral  
8598 Verree Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19115



# Parent Pages

## Preparing the environment of the Domestic Church\*

\* The term "Domestic Church" refers to the family, the smallest body of gathered believers in Christ. Though recovered only recently, the term dates back to the first century AD. The Greek word *ecclesiola* referred to "little church." The early Church understood that the home was fertile ground for discipleship, sanctification, and holiness.

# Parables

Among the biblical signs, a particular place belongs to the parable, the teaching method of Jesus (Mark 4:34). The parable, like every sign, relates to a reality that is different from the episode or event it contains. For instance, the parable may speak of a woman making bread, but its aim is to introduce us to the Kingdom of God.

Parables usually have two components: one is taken from everyday life, and the other from the transcendent level of reality. These two levels are like the two rails in a track that guide our meditation, helping us to go farther and deeper. The episode or event of the parable is like the façade of the house, behind which are several rooms filled with many treasures; to enter we need to go slowly, almost if on tip-toe, and with a spirit of reverence.

This is the kind of spirit we mean: to offer children the parables as we would offer them a treasure, so that it implants itself deep within them and they can draw on it, how and when we do not know (Mark 4:27).

In the Level One Atrium (for children ages 3-6) we offer the following parables:

- The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)
- The Parable of the Yeast (Matthew 13:33)
- The Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29)
- The Parable of the Precious Pearl (Matthew 13:45-46)
- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)

These five parables focus on two particular aspects of the mystery of the kingdom of God. (1) The first three parables lift up the mystery of the Kingdom as the mystery of life itself, a mystery of growth and transformation, with a continuous movement from less to more life. (2) The last two parables invite us to contemplate the Kingdom of God as the most beautiful and valuable thing there is, a gift from God that it is intended for our greatest joy.

- Cavalletti, Sofia, Coulter, Patricia, Gobbi, Gianna, Montanaro, Silvana Quattrocchi, Rojcewicz, Rebekah. *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*, revised and updated, 2014, chapter four. Liturgy Training Publications.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

## ***2026 St Helena's Guild Easter Candy Sale***

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, 11 Wilkins Station Rd, Medford, NJ 08055

<https://www.holycrossmedford.org>

All orders will be for PICK UP ONLY on

**\*\*\* Saturday, March 28th, 10 am-noon \*\*\***

Payment by CASH (exact change) or CHECK payable to St Helena's Guild

All items must be ordered in advance, prepayment is appreciated

**\*\*\* Candy order deadline is Sunday, March 1st by 8 pm \*\*\***

### ***Giambri's Belgian Chocolate Pretzels***

- \$ 19.50 ea Milk Chocolate, 1 lb box - FM
- \$ 19.50 ea Dark Chocolate, 1 lb box - FD
- \$ 19.50 ea Mixed Milk, Dark, White chocolate, 11 oz box - FA
- \$ 20.50 ea Assorted Gourmet toppings, 1 lb box - FG
- \$ 15.50 ea Assorted Gourmet Pretzel rods, 8 oz - FR

### ***Giambri's Easter Candy***

- \$ 19.00 ea 1 lb Milk Chocolate covered All Coconut Egg - (10)
- \$ 19.00 ea 1 lb Dark Chocolate covered All Coconut Egg - (12)
- \$ 19.00 ea 1 lb Milk Chocolate covered Peanut Butter Egg - (14)
- \$ 19.00 ea 1 lb Dark Chocolate covered Peanut Butter Egg - (16)
- \$ 20.00 ea 12 count box Milk Chocolate covered Peanut Butter Eggs - (11)
- \$ 20.00 ea 12 count box Dark Chocolate covered Coconut Eggs - (15)
- \$ 8.00 ea 1 lb. Speckled Eggs - (18)
- \$ 8.00 ea 1 lb. Jelly Beans - (17)

To place your order: Call Ellie K (856) 858-6035 OR Barbara H. (609) 217-4437

OR

**Please email your name, cell number, and order to [ochcfood@gmail.com](mailto:ochcfood@gmail.com)**

We will confirm all orders. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

## 2026 St Helena's Spring Bazaar ~~~Menu~~~

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, P. O. Box 805, 11 Wilkins Station Rd, Medford, NJ 08055

<https://www.holycrossmedford.org>

All orders will be for PICK UP ONLY on

**\*\*\* Saturday, March 28th, 10 am-noon \*\*\***

Payment by CASH (exact change) or CHECK payable to St Helena's Guild

All items must be ordered in advance; prepayment is appreciated

**\*\*\* Order deadline is Wednesday, March 11th by 8 pm \*\*\***

### Babkas

Single Flavors \$17 ea Cheese, Chocolate, Cinnamon Loaf, Prune

Double Flavors \$18 ea Raspberry/cheese, Chocolate/cheese, Apricot/cheese

### Pastry Rolls

\$20 ea Nut, Poppyseed, Seedless Raspberry, Apricot, Prune

We must sell 100 Pastry Rolls to place the order.

### Pierogies

Potato & Cheddar Cheese \$12 per doz

Sauerkraut \$12 per doz

Prune \$13 per doz

### Cheese Blintzes

Pack of (4) Large Cheese Blintzes \$20

**To place your order,** Call: Ellie K (856) 858-6035 OR Barbara H. (609) 217-4437  
OR

**Please email your name, cell number, and order to [ochcfood@gmail.com](mailto:ochcfood@gmail.com)**

We will confirm all orders. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

## 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."

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/#/tithely/give-one-time/1197928](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/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.