

CROSSROADS

Sunday's Scriptures:

Epistle:

Acts 2:1-11

Gospel:

John 7:37-52; 8:12

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A New 4 Week Series:

Thursday, June 4 – 7 PM

“Jesus: Who is He?” on
ZOOM

**SUMMER SCHEDULE
BEGINS**

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Divine Liturgy Begins - **9 AM**

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On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, and Fire:

Hymn of Faith #10

by St. Ephrem the Syrian

*Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire,
and one sat upon each of them (Acts 2:3)*



[10:8] In your bread is hidden the Spirit which cannot be eaten.

In your wine dwells the fire that cannot be drunk.

Spirit in your bread, fire in your wine:

It is a distinct wonder that our lips have received!

10:17] Behold the fire and the Spirit in the womb which bore you.

Behold the fire and the Spirit in the river in which you were baptized.

Fire and Spirit are in our baptism.

Fire and the Holy Spirit are in the bread and the cup.



Target Gift Cards to benefit - Options for Her

WE ARE STILL “TARGETING” the Needs of Moms and Babies!!!

And this is the **LAST WEEKEND** to participate in our Target gift card collection to benefit - *Options for Her* !

Please consider picking up a Target gift card or two, and place them in the display board in the church vestibule.

The importance of these gift cards cannot be overestimated. Your donation may help a young mom purchase necessary baby items like diapers, formula, and baby food! And, for the expectant mom who may be at a crossroads, knowing that places like *Options for Her* are there to help may help her CHOOSE LIFE for her unborn child.

Your Inreach/Outreach Ministry thanks you.

GREAT NEWS FOR PREGNANT and NEW MOMS!

Mother’s Day saw the launching of [Moms.gov](https://www.moms.gov), a new federal resource that provides expecting and new mothers with access to practical information and life-affirming support services, including pregnancy centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, nutritional guidance, breastfeeding resources, mental health support, adoption information, and other assistance programs, all in one place! This resource is designed to support women, children, and families through pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenting. Also, the website’s inclusion of information about pregnancy centers highlights the important role these centers play in offering women material assistance, parenting education, emotional support, and referrals for healthcare and social services. So if you happen to know a mom who’s looking for information, share [Moms.gov](https://www.moms.gov) with her today!

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JUNE 7, During Coffee Hour: TASHICKA HAYS, *Crossroads* Program Director

Crossroads in Willingboro, NJ is an outstanding nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting disadvantaged youth. Many children and teens experience hardships early in life, including abuse, instability, or displacement, often without a reliable support system. **Crossroads** helps fill that void by providing guidance, resources, and care to those in need. Without support, these difficult experiences can lead to challenges such as unemployment, poor academic performance, health problems, early parenthood, reliance on public assistance, higher incarceration rates, and homelessness.

We’ll be supporting **Crossroads** throughout **June** with a clothing and bedding drive. Donations of new clothing in all sizes, as well as twin-size sheets and pillowcases, are greatly appreciated. Collection bins will be in the vestibule.



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**ARCHPASTORAL LETTER
FOR THE FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST 2026**

Protocol Number 01-003/2026
Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2026

**Beloved Members of our Diocesan Family:
*Christ is in our midst! – He is and ever shall be!***

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.”

(John 14:15-17)

On the glorious Feast of Pentecost, we commemorate the fulfillment of our Lord's promise to send the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth. As recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-4), while the disciples were gathered together in the Upper Room, a sudden sound like a mighty rushing wind filled the house, and divided tongues of fire came to rest upon each of them. Immediately, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, boldly proclaiming the Gospel to the diverse multitudes gathered in Jerusalem.

The Spirit's presence transformed the fearful apostles into bold witnesses, willing to live their lives and give their lives for their Master, Jesus Christ. This sacred event marks the Birth of the Orthodox Christian Church and the complete revelation of the Holy Trinity.

But what does this monumental scriptural event mean for us today, centuries later? The Holy Spirit is not merely an abstract historical force; He is the personal, active, and life-creating presence of God Himself in our everyday existence. The Holy Fathers remind us that the grace given to the first disciples in the Upper Room is the very same grace poured out upon us in the Holy Mysteries – the Sacraments – of the Church.

Just as the Apostles received the “breath” of the Spirit, Saint Symeon the New Theologian teaches that the Holy Spirit becomes active within us as we partake in the sacramental life of the Church. The Spirit connects our hearts to God, making us conscious of our adoption as sons and daughters of the Father. He is the divine breath by Whom we draw the life of heaven into our souls.

The Holy Spirit was manifested at Pentecost as *fire*. Saint Seraphim of Sarov famously taught that the true aim of the Christian life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. In everyday life, this divine Spirit acts as a refining fire. When we invite Him into our struggles, He burns away our passions, our anxieties, and

our selfishness. He replaces our fear with courage, and He transforms our worldly sorrow into the quiet, unshakable joy of Christ.

Given to each of us personally at our Chrismation, our personal Pentecost, the fire of the Holy Spirit remains in each of us like the pilot light in our stove. It is always lit, but we must fan the flame! Before we do anything – not only in our spiritual lives but in our everyday duties and choices – we must call upon the Holy Spirit, in the prayer to Him that opens most of our daily prayers and Divine Services – “*O Heavenly King*” – and invite Him to “*come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.*”

Saint Paul tells us that “*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*” (Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit becomes active in our daily life in the most ordinary of moments: when we choose patience over anger in our home, when we offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us, and when we extend love to the stranger or the suffering neighbor, whom we encounter in seemingly random, but truly God-sent, events. Through the Holy Spirit, our daily labor and our personal relationships become opportunities for sanctification.

As we celebrate this joyous feast, let us open our hearts to the Advocate. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to guide our minds, warm our hearts, and empower us to be living witnesses of the Gospel in our families, our workplaces, and our communities.

Upon you all, I invoke “*the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit*” (II Corinthians 13:14).

With my humble prayers, my archpastoral blessing, and my sincere love,

+ Archbishop Michael

Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey



Parent Page Newsletter

For the parents of children in the CGS Atrium

Pentecost: The Gift of God's Spirit in Our Lives

On Pentecost (May 31st, 2026), the Church celebrates the day God sent the Holy Spirit into the world in a powerful way (Acts 2:1–13). This moment was part of God's loving plan for humankind, existing in God's mind since eternity and unfolding from the very beginning of creation.

From the beginning, God has desired to share His own life with us. In Genesis, God breathes life into the human person (Gen 2:7). In the Gospel of John (John 20:22), the risen Christ breathes the Holy Spirit on His Apostles, beginning a "new creation" from above. At Pentecost, that same Spirit, as "a strong, driving wind," is given to the Church and sends it out into the world.

God is still giving life—His Spirit—today. How do we live these moments in our own lives? As members of the Church, we share in this same "breath of God":

- At birth, God gives us the gift of life;
- In Baptism, we are born "from above" through Water and the Spirit; and
- In the Eucharist, Jesus nourishes and sustains us with Himself, supporting us in our work of mission in the world.

Each year of the Atrium, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost with the children. We come to know about Pentecost through:

The Liturgical Colors:

The youngest children are introduced to the colors of the Church year. They come to know the color green as a color of great love and the color of the Holy Spirit.

The Pentecost Celebration:

All the children celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecost Celebration. Ask your child to share what gift of the Holy Spirit they would most like to receive as we celebrate Pentecost?

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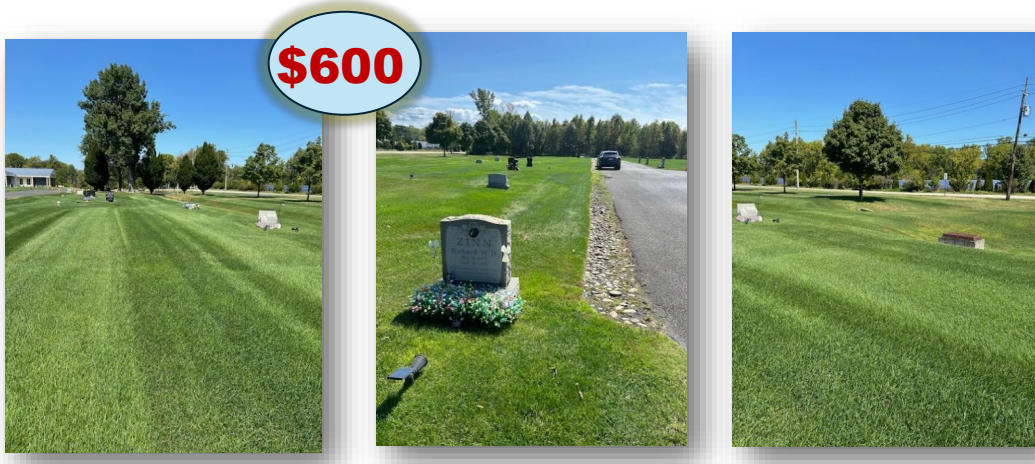
**During Coffee Hour, Sunday, June 14:
The Sunday of All the Saints of North America**



“**Sacred Alaska**” is an award-winning documentary that offers an intimate look into Native Alaskan culture and spirituality. It showcases the profound influence of Orthodoxy, introduced by Russian monks in the late 18th century, on Alaskan society.

The film highlights the unique way Alaskans have woven their indigenous beliefs with Orthodox traditions, deeply influencing their worldview. Central to this is the concept of learning to become a “real person.” Through beautiful cinematography and powerful storytelling, “**Sacred Alaska**” underscores the profound, sacred bond between the Alaskan people, their faith, and the formidable landscape they call home.

BEAUTIFUL Cemetery Plots



Dear Parishioners,

Holy Cross is offering 12 graves for sale at Park View Cemetery at Kirby's Mill in Medford.

- ❖ **\$600 per grave**, with a limited purchase of two. Each grave allows for one interment right.
- ❖ A second interment right can be acquired within the same grave from Park View directly at a cost determined by Park View and their price list at the time of acquisition.
- ❖ Interment fees – opening and closing at the time of burial – are not included in the purchase and will be the responsibility of the grave buyer.

Please see Michelle or send an email to mwash5760@icloud.com.

Please note that your interest in this opportunity must be confirmed with the submission of your \$600 check.

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

- 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.