

CROSSROADS

Sunday's Scriptures

Epistle:

Romans 6:18-23

Gospel:

Matthew 8:5-13

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SUNDAY, JULY 6

Deadline for Collection to
Crossroads Programs.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Inreach/Outreach Meeting on
ZOOM – 7 PM.

It's Good to Be Old Harbor Bound



At some point during senior high school – probably around 1971 or 72 – I heard a presentation in Terryville, CT by Fr. Ted Fryntzko about Alaska. After he talked I came up to Fr. Ted and told him that it all sounded very interesting to me. “Well,” he said in what I would come to know as his customary positive tone, “You come to Alaska and we’ll find a way to get you home.”

If nothing else, a seed was planted.

In 1972, I met Michael Oleksa, then a senior at St. Vladimir’s Seminary. We became friends and after graduation, he got married and went to serve as pastor of the Three Saints Church in Old Harbor (on the south side of Kodiak Island). During the summer of 1978, my friend, John Jillions and I went to Old Harbor and our fellow students, Eric Wheeler and Paul Janna’s went to Sitka. We all met up in August for the Pilgrimage on the Feast of St. Herman in Kodiak. The others went back to St.

Vladimir's Seminary to start school and I stayed in Old Harbor for the year, directing the church choir and delivering fuel oil to everyone's home and business.

Eventually after graduation and marriage in 1980 I worked as a choir director in Binghamton, New York and then was ordained to the priesthood in 1986 to serve our parish.

Recently, while in the basement of the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Kodiak I saw for the first time the photo of Fr. Ted (now known as the monastic, Archimandrite Innocent) and me which was taken in Old Harbor at some point during my visit back there in the 1990s. When I mentioned this picture to the parish's pastor, Fr. Innocent Dresdow, he said, "Ah, I always wondered who that other priest was with Fr. Innocent!"

So, it's funny how things work out sometimes!

Here's some additional biography for Fr. Innocent: He first went to Alaska for the canonization of St. Herman in 1970. He returned during the winter of 1971-1972, and settled in his parish of Old Harbor. In 1973, he moved to Unalaska and served as parish priest for many years before being tonsured a monk. In 1978, he received the name of Innocent at the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk. The next day, he was elevated to Archimandrite.

Most of his priesthood was spent as a missionary and parish priest in the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of Alaska. He served in the Aleutian Islands and mainland of Alaska. He taught at St. Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska, and then pastored in the Juneau, Alaska, parish, where he also served as chaplain to the Alaska State House of Representatives. In 1996, he moved to Sts. Cosmas and Damian Adult Living Center in Staten Island. Following his retirement, he continued to minister by counseling the elderly. He died on Staten Island in 2000 and is buried at St. Tikhon's Cemetery.

While, in Old Harbor I spent a great deal of time working with the youth of the community singing songs on my guitar. One particular song grew to have meaning for me

Written by Gordon Lightfoot it was entitled, "**Alberta Bound**." His chorus went:

Alberta bound, Alberta bound
It's good to be Alberta bound
Alberta bound, Alberta bound
It's good to be Alberta bound

I always sang: "It's good to be Old Harbor bound."

Church Dome Project:
Iconography – \$50,000.00

Dmitri Shkolnik (Iconographer)

Here are Dmitri's sketches of the five sections within the dome. The areas around the windows will include two of the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and three Prophets.

Each section is similar in size and has a "value" of \$10,000.00. We welcome donations towards any of the sections and they can be donated in memory of individuals or families.

The iconographic work will be prepared on canvases and Dmitri hopes to complete and install them by the end of the year.

However, this will require additional expenses: travel and housing for him and any staff, and the installation of scaffolding. See Fr. John for more information.





ARE YOU A “VISITOR” IN YOUR OWN CHURCH?

Last Saturday, four members of Holy Cross attended a Parish Council Conference in Brick, NJ, entitled “***Welcoming Visitors, Inquirers and Catechumens Into Your Parish Family.***” But rather than a “how-to” session on welcoming new members, there was a twist: how much do we, as members, know about our own parish, so that we can be knowledgeable and comfortable as we welcome new people.

Here are some sample questions posed to us:

What saints are represented on our iconostas?

Why do we use incense?

Why is everything sung?

Do we know all of our fellow parishioners?

Do we know where supplies are kept?

Are we up on church etiquette?

Do we attend services regularly, and if the answer is no, think: would we bow out of a party in our own home?

What’s with all the kissing, bowing, and hand-waving?

And why does our church look like it does?

So, the message was this: People are searching for a stable, moral, sacramental place to encounter God. We know that the Orthodox Church is that place. Moreover, we will be able to welcome visitors when we make our church our home – where we are comfortable, happy, and truly part of a parish family. And, we will be able to talk intelligently to visitors when we welcome God into our church “home”—not as an occasional visitor, but as

a faithful resident. Where do you fit in: a visitor, or a resident?

--Diana Bisinger, Julie Heiland, Genie Skuby, and Mark Skuby

As we begin to enter the summer months with vacations and time away from church, we are grateful to everyone who is able to maintain their regular financial commitments to 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 to the left:**
- 2) Go to: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1197928
- 3) TEXT the word, **“Give” to: 1-833-854-9049**

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SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS

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

If you're doing your grocery shopping at Shop Rite, please consider purchasing a Gift card from Holy Cross. We receive a 5% discount for cards we purchase in bulk, which benefits the parish.

Please see **Larry Skvir** on Sundays after liturgy if you're interested.

You can purchase the cards by check or cash.

***“God’s Amazing Earth:”
Our Church School Collaboration in Celebration of Creation***



Students of the teen and older group invite everyone to please view the painting display in the vestibule and/or Social Hall. The class was guided in creating a work on “What reminds me of God as our Creator.” This resulted in a varied collection of individual drawings and paintings, which were then constructed into a collage.

The class read and discussed writings from two books about the supreme and supernatural design of our planet. Students discussed, “are we just a part of a cosmic fluke, or are we ingeniously designed not just for this life, but for eternal discovery.”

The painting was then reproduced into a fun poster.

Posters are on sale and sales benefit the Icon project inside the Church.

Please see Sunday school teachers – Michelle or Julia, or someone from Saint Helena’s Guild to buy a poster at \$30 for large and \$20 for small.

Checks are payable to:

St. Helena’s Guild



Cemetery Plots at Park View Cemetery



Dear Parishioners,

Holy Cross is offering 15 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 speak with Father John 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.