

CROSSROADS

Sunday's Scriptures

Epistle:
Romans 10:1-10

Gospel:
Matthew 8:28-9:1

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Upcoming Meeting

ST. HELENA'S GUILD -
Sunday, July 28, after the
Divine Liturgy

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR!

We are looking for volunteers to make the coffee. If interested, please sign up or check with Fr. John.

July 28 - Diana Pasca

August 4* -
Margaret Little

August 11* -
OPEN

* - fasting



The Glorious Feasts of August

by Fr. John



A new addition to our Biblical Garden: *Stachys byzantine* (commonly known as “Silver Carpet” or “Lamb’s Ear.” It is native to Turkey and Armenia).

Perhaps the best liturgical month of the year is August. In a way, as the last month of the Orthodox liturgical calendar (which begins in September), it brings together the whole year with feasts of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and several saints in a celebration of Christian “maturity” and it does this in ways that have cultural and deeply spiritual significance.

Here, for example, is the prayer for the **Blessing of Grapes and Fruit on Transfiguration:**

O Lord, bless the new fruit of the vine, which through the wholesomeness of the air and drops of rain and temperate weather, **You have been well-pleased to let attain in this hour to maturity.** Let us who partake of this offspring of the vine be glad and may we offer it as a gift to You for the cleansing of sins by the sacred and holy Body of Your Christ, with whom You are blessed, together with Your Most-holy, Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

[The Glorious Feasts of August]

Just as we celebrate the maturity of fruit, so each of August's feasts remind us in various ways of what it means – humanly speaking – to be a mature person, to become what we are supposed to be, to become “our best self.”

The best expression of this is presented in the Transfiguration. This Feast speaks to us of the moment when Christ allowed his disciples to behold something of his real self, his real glory - at least as much as they could. In doing this he not only showed them who he was, but also revealed to them and to us what we will become. "Today Christ on Mount Tabor has changed the darkened nature of Adam, and filling it with brightness He has made it godlike" (Aposticha for Small Vespers). Just as Adam's destiny, his mortality, befell each person from generation to generation, so the transfiguration of human nature made possible by Christ can also be acquired - person by person.

We'll want to consider this theme throughout the month each time we celebrate with Vespers Liturgies on the evening before all these Feasts:

- the Transfiguration of our Lord (August 6)**
- the Feast of St. Herman (August 9)**
- the Dormition or “Falling Asleep” of the Virgin Mary (August 15)**
- the Beheading of St. John the Baptist (August 29)**



FROM YOUR INREACH/ OUTREACH MINISTRY:

The Dormition Fast is almost upon us (beginning August 1), so be on the lookout for our **“Mother of Life”** Collection of **\$25 Walmart gift cards** for the **Helpers of God's Precious Infants/NJ!**

Helpers is a local pro-life, non-profit organization devoted to helping women who have turned

away from abortion. It is one of the 3 area pregnancy crisis centers which we try to help every year.

Claire Howson, one of Helpers' administrators, explains that the Walmart gift cards come in very handy when a mom appears at Helpers' door needing baby food, diapers, formula, etc. Please be generous! We will be collecting through the month of August. Cards can be placed on the display board in the vestibule.

On behalf of our Inreach/Outreach Ministry, thank you. For more information: www.helpersnj.org or their Facebook page: **Helpers of God's Precious infants NJ.**

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Holy Cross Crop Hunger Walk

by Larry Skvir

Here are some famous walks:

- Diane Warwick - **“Walk on By”**
- Frankie Valli - **“Walk Like a Man”**
- Nancy Sinatra - **“These Boots are Made for Walking”**
- The Ronettes - **“Walking in the Rain”**

Holy Cross has its own walk: the annual CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, September 22, following Divine Liturgy. Be a part of that walk and participate by signing up to walk, by making a contribution, or by **soliciting support from local businesses. Check out the display in the vestibule for more details. And you can even order a cool T-Shirt!**

Only 56 more days and counting.

July 28, 2024

Join Us For Movie Night!
Saturday, August 3rd, 5:00 / Vespers at 4:00
Featuring: The Secret Life of Pets



Tickets \$5 per person: includes (pizza one drink, and popcorn). Under 3 no charge.

**Additional pizza and drinks \$1.00,
no charge for extra popcorn.**

**Guests are welcome to sit at a table, or
feel free to bring your own lawn chair.
Kids can bring blankets to sit on if they like.
Friends and family are welcome!**

Addictions Recovery Support Network News

At St. Nicholas we care about you. We want to help you find the resources that will relieve the pain of addiction or co-addiction.

This is why we have created the Addictions Recovery Support Network (ARSN). The ARSN recognizes Science/Counseling, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions Recovery Programs and Religion are separate entities. The ARSN Ministry also recognizes that these entities are bridgeable and compatible, when it comes to achieving and maintain relief from addiction or co-addiction.

The ARSN Ministry is not a 12 Steps and 12 Traditions program. We are Orthodox Christians who stand ready to offer resources and solutions to the problem of achieving and maintaining sobriety. Our ministry is open to all persons who are looking for resources.

To learn more, pick up an ARSN Brochure from the Recovery Rack located in the coffee hour hall, text or join us on the monthly ARSN Zoom meeting.

The monthly meeting is held on Zoom, on the **last** Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:15 PM. There is freedom from addiction/co-addiction, and there is joy in recovery. Join us.

Meeting ID: 210 068 7480
Password: 208156

Samantha Cath (in recovery) coordinates the ARSN Ministry. Feel free to call her or Father George with questions about recovery choices and/or the ARSN Ministry.

Father George (703) 801-9911
Samantha Cath (703) 919-6334