

CROSSROADS

Sunday's Scriptures:

Epistle:

Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel:

Luke 10:25-37

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THIS SUNDAY:

CATECHESIS CLASS:

(during Coffee Hour)

***The Creed, the Holy Spirit,
and the Filioque -***

led by Dr. Ed Siecienski

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DEADLINE:

***THANKSGIVING FOOD
DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE
WILEY FOOD BANK***

- THIS SUNDAY

Beginning of the Nativity Fast

by **Metropolitan Tikhon**

Primate of the Orthodox Church in America

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved children in the Lord,

Christ is in our midst!

As we begin this sacred season of fasting in preparation for Our Lord's Nativity in the flesh, I desire first of all to give each of you my blessing and assure you of my prayers.

According to the sanctoral calendar of our Church, the first day of the Nativity Fast is also the memory of St. Paisius Velichkovsky, one of the great transmitters and exponents of the Byzantine hesychastic tradition among both Slavic and Romanian peoples. In marking this commemoration, we rightly take pride in our rich sacred tradition of prayer and watchfulness, of theology and contemplation. St. Paisius is a true teacher of Orthodoxy and knight of the faith, and, even as we begin our fast, we celebrate his feast with great joy.

St. Paisius was not merely a teacher, however; he also practiced what he preached. He lived a life of prayer, of study, of service to God and neighbor. Therefore, during this sacred season of repentance and preparation, let us be prompted by his example: not merely to lay claim to lofty theology and exalted spirituality with our words, but to live our Tradition daily. Without making Holy Tradition our own through practice, it is in vain that we celebrate St. Paisius and other teachers of Orthodoxy. "Orthodox" is not a shiny label that we proudly apply to ourselves; it is our path to living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as we embark on the Nativity Fast, I urge that we each return to the pure springs of Orthodoxy: the New Testament, the Old Testament, the fathers, the saints. As we renew our study of our Tradition, we are not merely seeking so-called “head knowledge,” though such knowledge is laudable and valuable. Rather, as an Athonite father once told me, we study the fathers in order to forget them: in other words, we study them so that their faith and their teachings become our very way of life.

We may liken this approach to learning to swim, to ride a bicycle, or to drive a car: abstract knowledge is put into practice until discursive thought disappears, and the task, whether swimming or riding or driving, becomes second nature. Likewise, the holy Tradition is not something that we should seek to show off self-consciously; rather, it should become the rhythm of our existence. This is not the way of disputes, of “long fringes” (Mt. 23:5), of spiritual pride: it is the way of humility, of daily dying through the offering of ourselves to God and neighbor.

We practice this humble self-abnegation every time we turn to God in prayer, even when we are tired, listless, and lacking in hope. We also practice it when, despite our own busy-ness and stress, we make time for our neighbor, our spouse, our child, our co-worker — or a stranger. We incarnate the holy Tradition when we choose, not to blame or complain, but to thank God and to wait on him.

This waiting lies at the heart of the Nativity Fast, when we recall how the world lay in darkness before the First Coming of the Messiah. Indeed, this waiting is at the heart of the Christian faith: our entire life should be oriented toward his Second Coming, when Christ, who is our Life, shall appear to reign forever.

I pray that, through the intercessions of St. Paisius Velichkovsky, this time of the fast may be a time of renewal for us all, inviting us to learn from our holy Tradition and thereby be oriented in all things toward Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, whose coming again in glory we await — and also anticipate, in and through faith, hope, and love.

With my primatial prayers and blessing for these holy days of anticipation,

Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Be Part of our
2025

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

Your names and donation can be left at the church office or sent to:

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Holy Cross Church Christmas Card

Box 805

Medford, NJ 08055

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Make checks out to: **Holy Cross Charity Fund** (memo: Christmas Card)

Proceeds from our Card will be used to purchase food (particularly meat products) for the **Community Luncheon** in Mt. Holly.

Scott Sorrentino will be coordinating the reception of participants.

DEADLINE: **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30.**

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Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation: _____



Thanksgiving Food Drive – Deadline – Sunday, November 15

- 1) CANNED CHICKEN OR SALMON
- 2) PASTA
- 3) PASTA SAUCE (in unbreakable jars or cans)
- 4) FLOUR, SUGAR
- 5) CANNED VEGETABLES and BEANS
- 6) RICE
- 7) CEREALS
- 8) OATMEAL
- 9) CANNED FRUITS
- 10) SOUPS
- 11) POWDERED MILK
- 12) APPLESAUCE CUPS
- 13) INSTANT POTATOES
- 14) SPICES
- 15) PEANUT BUTTER

UPCOMING LADIES' ACTIVITIES (Woman 2 Woman)

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THE HOLIDAY STORE IS COMING!!!

What's the holiday store, you say? It's our opportunity to help the less fortunate at Christmas time. Sponsored by **Providence House** (the shelter to which a washer and dryer were recently donated), it's a "store" that is set up for the shelter's guests. It allows children to pick out gifts for their moms, and vice versa, so that all can have a somewhat normal Christmas despite their hardships. This year, **Barbara Katz**, Providence House's community affairs manager, has suggested that we focus on gifts for teens and moms, although any gifts would be welcomed and appreciated. Look for the holiday store wish list, which will be coming soon! This gift drive will immediately follow the coat drive for St. Vincent which is currently in progress.

Your Inreach/Outreach Ministry is very grateful for your generosity.

2025 St Helena's Guild Holiday Pretzel 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, December 13th, 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

*****Pretzel order deadline is Sunday, November 23rd 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

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

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

2025 St Helena's Guild Holiday Bazaar ~~~Menu~~~

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

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***** Order deadline is Sunday, November 23rd 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

\$19 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

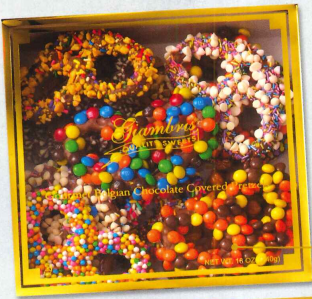
Please email your name, cell number, and order to ochcfood@gmail.com
We will confirm all orders. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

Giambri's
QUALITY SWEETS

BELGIAN CHOCOLATE
COVERED PRETZEL FUNDRAISER
Premium, Handcrafted Confections Since 1942



FM |
1 lb. Milk
Chocolate



FG |
1 lb. Assorted
Gourmet



FD |
1 lb. Dark
Chocolate



FA |
11 oz. M, D, W
Chocolate

Flame-baked pretzels from our neighbors in Pennsylvania join smooth, Belgian chocolate made by master chocolatiers to create the perfect sweet and salty snack!



FR |
8 oz. Assorted
Gourmet Rods
Individually Wrapped



WINTER Coat Drive

Help families in need
with new or used coats



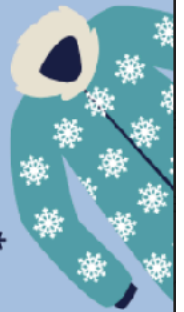
Donation Deadline:
December 1st



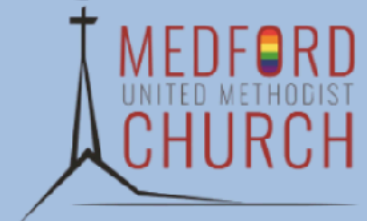
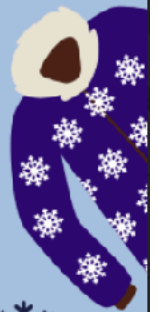
Drop Of Locations:

- Medford Twp Police Dept
- Chabad of Medford
- Faith Presbyterian Church
- Saint Mary's of the Lakes Church
- Orthodox Church of Holy Cross
- Saint Anthony's Coptic Orthodox Church

*Faith
Presbyterian
Church*



St. Mary of the Lakes
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL
We Make Missionary Disciples



**2025 NATIVITY RETREAT
ANNUNCIATION / EVANGELISMOS
ELKINS PARK**

Going All In
Deepening Your Faith
Strengthening Our Family
Living Your Purpose



with **Rev. Dr. Nick Louh**



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

8:30 am - 2:00 pm

7921 Old York Rd. Elkins Park, PA 19027. www.anngoc.org

**8:30 am
Registration & Breakfast**

**9 am
“Deepening Our Faith”
w/ Q&A & Refreshments**

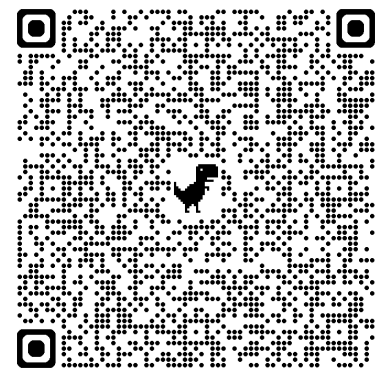
**10:30 am
“Strengthening Our Family”
w/ Q&A & Refreshments**

11:45 am - Lunch

**12:15 pm
“Living Your Purpose”
w/ Q&A & Refreshments**

2 pm Closing Prayer

**Suggested
Donation
\$30**



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD



Parent Page Newsletter

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.

Nazareth and Bethlehem

As we approach the season of Advent in the atrium, we will share with the children those stories from the Holy Bible about his birth. Our attitudes with the children in coming toward these infancy narratives is with reverence and awe, as we wonder together, "Who is this child?"

In the month of November, we typically offer the children materials focusing on biblical geography. For the most important events of Jesus' life, we use a three-dimensional, handmade relief model of the Land of Israel. With younger children, we let them feel the lay of the land, briefly noting its terrain with mountains and valleys, deserts and waterways. Then we name and briefly identify the three principal cities that spotlight the greatest events of Jesus' life: Nazareth, where the angel announced to Mary His conception through the power of the Holy Spirit; Bethlehem, where He was born in a stable; and Jerusalem, where He died and was resurrected. We offer the raised surface map, as maps help the child figure out their place in the world.

Our map of the Land of Israel has mountains, deserts, and water. The catechist will name the three principal cities but does not stop there. The catechist will share briefly about what happened in each of these places. There is power in the story, it is a living story, we tell it in the form of a story that invites the child into the living moment of the story of Jesus, a sense of integrity, and it prepares their ears for the hearing of the text of the infancy narratives. The child will come to know that:

- Relationships were formed here
- God involved real people
- Movement, angel came to Mary in Nazareth, then Mary went to Bethlehem
- We give them the paschal mystery



Raised Surface Map of the Land of Israel

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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.



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.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.