

CROSSROADS

Sunday's Scriptures:

Epistle:

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Gospel:

Luke 8:5-15

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OCHC Thanksgiving Dinner

On **Sunday, November 2**
after liturgy we will be
having our annual
Thanksgiving Dinner.

This is our time to celebrate
Thanksgiving with our
church family. The food
sign-up sheets are posted on
the bulletin board in the
social hall. Favorite side
dishes and favorite desserts
welcome!

Great food! Wonderful
conversation!

See you there!

"I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins."

by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

"I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins..."
The Gospel of St. Matthew ends with this commandment of Jesus Christ to His disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me; go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:18-19).

It is precisely in light of these words, and likewise in light of the word *baptism* as it is used in the Gospels, that one must try to understand the Symbol of faith's baptismal confession.

Let us begin with the word "baptism." While the Gospel ends with a commandment to baptize all nations, it also begins with the account of baptism as performed by John, a baptism which Christ Himself received at his hands in the river Jordan. For contemporaries of the Gospel, baptism (from the Greek, *baptizma*, a symbolic immersion in water) was a familiar rite signifying a person's acknowledgment that sin had made him unclean, that he repented, and that he desired cleansing, forgiveness, and rebirth. Water, the source of life, the source of cleansing, was here the most appropriate, self-evident symbol, and immersion in water was the most widespread ritual. In accepting John's baptism Christ gave the rite a new meaning by connecting it to Himself. "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29), says John the Baptist as he sees Jesus approaching him. The sign, the gift to forgive sins and renew life which the Son of God and Savior brought to

people is the same power which the Risen Christ, prior to His Ascension, grants to His apostles and their followers, when He commands them to baptize all nations.

For Christians, baptism is the foundation of the Church, because the Church, i.e., the community of those who believe in Christ, is not simply an organization to disseminate Christ's teaching and to provide mutual help and support. It is the union in Christ of all those who have received from Him the gift of new life and the forgiveness of sins. It is their unity in faith, i.e., their acceptance of Christ as God and Savior. It is their unity in love for Him, and in Him, for each other. Scattered throughout the world and among all peoples, the Church constitutes a new people of God united not by flesh and blood, not by earthly interests such as government or nation, not by language, and not even by a common historical destiny, but a people united by faith in Christ, in their love for Him and in their experience of His presence. "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20).

On earth, a person is born a member of a particular people or nation. But it is through baptism that a Christian is born and joins the the new people of God. "The water of baptism," writes one Christian saint, "is for us both tomb and mother." Tomb, because in this water a person dies, the one limited to the earthly and material, to "flesh and blood." Mother, because in rising out of this water a new person is born – forgiven, cleansed, reborn, living already here and now a new and eternal life.

People come to Christ all the time. They hear His voice, they give Him their hearts, their love, their life; and this self-giving to Christ is baptism. Having given themselves to Him, what they receive from Him is His life, His self-giving to us; and this self-giving of Christ to us in baptism (*Sermons, Vol I, I Believe*, pp. 118-121).

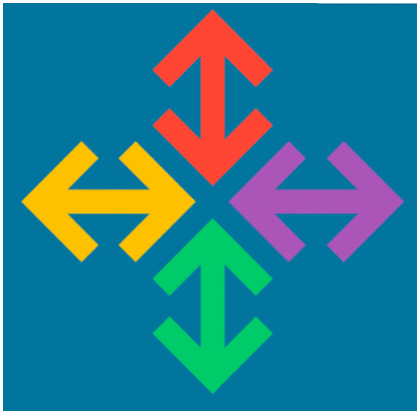
Epistle Read at the Service of Baptism (Romans 6:3-11)

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.
11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Baptismal Gospel Reading (Matthew 28:16-20)

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.
17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Next Class: Sunday, November 9: "One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church."



INREACH/OUTREACH MINISTRY UPDATE:

CROP Walk: Rescheduled

Saturday, October 25 – 3:00

Freedom Park, Medford

Walk to the Finish

There's a lot of ways you can support our CROP Walk this year and help people around the world and in our own community have one of our basic necessities of life – FOOD!!

Our Walk has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 25 at 3:00, but we're still hoping for sponsors for our teams and/or parishioners to purchase gift cards. Our cards make great birthday or holiday gifts, or just something special for a special friend.

Thank you for your generosity!

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SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AT HOLY CROSS

If you have experienced the Lord's calling to help our parish in some way, here's your chance!

Our Inreach/Outreach Ministry has identified a couple of areas where we need your help:

- 1) **Drivers** – many of our parishioners are recovering from illness or are now unable to drive; this would involve picking up or taking home from Divine Liturgy as well as providing rides to various parish functions, both day and evening;
- 2) **Mealmakers** – please consider joining our list of those who are called upon to help the homebound by providing meals once in awhile;
- 3) **Greeters Ministry** – though many of us make an effort to welcome those who are visiting our parish or are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith we would like to better organize this effort in helping to make our visitors and inquirers feel welcome! Please see Fr. John, Genie Skuby, or Diana Bisinger if you would like to be involved.
- 4) Last but not least, think about joining our Inreach/Outreach Ministry! Be a part of all the wonderful things happening at Holy Cross! Please prayerfully consider any of the above. See Genie Skuby if interested.

“...do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” Heb.13:16

14th Annual



Philadelphia Banquet to Benefit IOCC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

3:30 pm Hors d'Oeuvres & Silent Auction • 5:00 pm Dinner & Program

Adelphia Restaurant, Pan Athenian Grand Ballroom •
1750 Clements Bridge Rd., Deptford, NJ 08096

SEE JUDY CLYDE or SCOTT SORRENTINO
FORTICKETS – \$85.00

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

UPCOMING LADIES' ACTIVITIES (Woman2Woman)

Woman2Woman Meetings:

Please join us to “snack, pray, and chat:

Monday, November 3: ALL ABOUT HEART HEALTH

at Diana Bisinger's home, 7 p.m.

12 Forsythia Court (Wiley complex), Marlton

diana.bisinger1@verizon.net

Please RSVP.

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Ladies' Luncheons:*

Thursday, Oct. 30 Harvest House, Moorestown Mall, 12 noon

Thursday, Nov. 20 Ginger Asian (by church), 12 noon

Thursday, Dec. 18 Kettle 'n Grille, Crispin Square, 12 noon

*This schedule may differ from previous ones. Follow this one please.
RSVP with me by the night before. If you are new to our parish, don't be shy!

All are welcome! Questions? Contact Genie Skuby 856-266-4294

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

<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

***** 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!

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

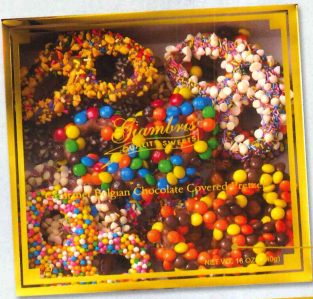
We will confirm all orders. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

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



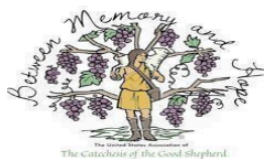
FA |
11 oz. M, D, W
Chocolate

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

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UPDATE



Parent Page Newsletter

For the parents of children in the CGS Atrium
September-October 2025

Practical Life

What is Practical Life?

In the atrium, young children are typically first drawn to the Practical Life area, as its materials closely resemble those found in their everyday home environment. These exercises—such as pouring, folding, and table washing—offer familiar, hands-on experiences that help the child transition into the atrium while building concentration, coordination, and independence.

What does Practical Life have to do with the child's spiritual formation?

Practical Life activities are essential to the spiritual formation that is nurtured in the Atrium. As children engage in these simple, purposeful works—such as pouring, sweeping, or arranging flowers—they develop inner order, concentration, and a sense of peace. These qualities prepare the heart and mind to encounter God. Through repetition and care in their work, children begin to experience stillness, attentiveness, and joy in doing small things with great love—dispositions essential for prayer and contemplation. As children engage in these practical life works, they will:

- **Develop a sense of wonder and reverence:** When the child carefully arranges flowers or polishes wood or silver, it can become a meditative act, which invites contemplation and a deeper connection to God's presence in creation.
- **Encounter the joy of serving God and others:** When the child contributes to the care of the Atrium environment and participates in activities like setting the prayer table or creating a prayer card, it is an act of love and service to our Lord.
- **Build the foundation for prayer and contemplation:** When the child engages in a practical life activity, the concentration and focus developed help prepare the child for periods of silent reflection and listening to God's Word.
- **Make Silence:** Silence is important as a necessary means of listening to and responding to God. This is the greatest help to the child in becoming aware of and mastering his or her own actions. The experience of silence heightens the child's awareness of self, others, and the environment. Silence fosters a state of inner peace and thus, also a greater capacity for listening to God. Silence is the beginning of prayer.

Montessorian Gianna Gobbi, co-founder of this work, reminds us that the atrium environment and the materials on the shelves speak to the children about God without using any words. The materials allow the adult to limit their own interaction with the children, as not to interrupt the child. When the child is allowed to work and is not interrupted, the materials offer the child the time and space to think deeply about what has been proclaimed in the atrium, without the constant interference of the adult. How wonderful for the child, that he or she can enter this experience with God without needing the adult to have to say or to speak words every time

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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

As we 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** at our website: **<https://holycrossmedford.org/>**
- 2) Go to: **https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/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.