



# Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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[www.holycrossmedford.org](http://www.holycrossmedford.org)

## Sunday, January 2, 2022

### Gospel:

Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday before Theophany)

Luke: 6:17-23 (for the Saint)

### Epistle:

2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday before Theophany)

Galatians: 5:22-6:2 (for the Saint)

### 28th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday before Theophany / Forefeast of Theophany / Hieromartyr Theogenes, Bishop of Parium on the Hellespont / Repo se of the Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov / St. Sylvester, Pope of Rome / Ven. Sylvester of the Kiev Caves / Righteous Juliana of Lazarevo

### Liturgical and Events Schedule

- *All services are Live Streamed unless otherwise noted.*
- *Masks are mandatory.*

### Sunday, January 2, 2022

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy & Sunday School

### Monday

7:00 pm: Woman2Woman meeting by Zoom

### Wednesday, January 5, 2022

7:00 pm: Vesperal Liturgy for Epiphany and the Blessing of Water

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### On Masking and Meetings from Fr. John

Given the current renewed COVID concerns, we will continue to wear masks during all Services and when making presentations in church.

Also, any Committee Meetings that take place at the church are asked to follow our masking and no refreshments during Meetings practice.

### 2022 Flower Sponsorship

If you've not reserved your favorite date for flowers which grace the center table, now's the time! Slots are filling fast and there are only a handful left!

### In the News!

Community Luncheon – January 15  
Lasagna di Milano

### Today's Flowers

Given by John & Ellie Kuzma

### Epiphany Texts

#### Tone 1 Troparion

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You, and called You His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself// and have enlightened the world, glory to You.

#### Tone 4 Kontakion

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. Knowing You, we sing Your praises:  
“You have come and revealed Yourself, //  
O unapproachable Light.”

## Holiday Food Drive at Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, Saddle Brook, NJ

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, Saddle Brook, NJ — Hunger is 365 Days. The Holiday Food Drive at Holy Apostles Orthodox Church attempted to assist Eva's Village in Paterson, NJ at providing meals for the Homeless and those in their Residence and Shelters with Food to prepare and distribute to those needing nutrition during this time of year.

Eva's Village distributes Two Meals to 300 Needy People on the Street every day. They also help with providing a place to sleep to 300 People every night in their Residences and Shelters, including the Residence at Hope Center for Moms with their Children...all who are also provided with meals....

A "Packed" Car of Canned, Frozen, and Packaged Foods was delivered to Eva's Village on 16 December. This Project was coordinated by Reader John Holoduek,

with the supervision of Deacon John Holoduek, here pictured with Marie Caliendo, Eva's Village Director of Giving. The Parishioners of Holy Apostles Church, although a small community, are Witnessing that The



Gospel is being Proclaimed and Put into Action! This year, Holy Apostles had the help of the Passaic Arts and Science Charter HS National Honor Society, with additional donations!

An Icon of the Ancestor of Christ, St. Anna, was presented for Hope Center... that the Grandmother of Jesus would watch over the Shelter and intercede for their needs and protection.

## Dix Hills Parish Welcomes Sister Vassa for a Teaching Liturgy

On Sunday, November 28, the parish of Saint Andrew's Church in Dix Hills was privileged to host the well-known liturgical scholar, author, and podcaster Sister Vassa (Larin) as she helped facilitate a "teaching Liturgy," followed by a reception and lecture.

At various points in the Liturgy, Sister Vassa stood before the assembled faithful to insert brief explanations of what was happening – not just providing a liturgical explanation with historical context, but going further to explain the spiritual journey Christians take during the Liturgy. "She emphasized that the liturgical prayers aid the laity, who are active participants, in shedding their worldly concerns and petty grievances in order to fully partake in things divine," noted Reader John McLaughlin, the parish president.

The "teaching Liturgy" was conducted with great sensitivity to the Liturgy itself, and the instructive insertions were thoughtful and discreet. "This was a real blessing," reflected one parishioner. "After all these years, I come to the Liturgy automatically. It was very helpful to pause and think about what it all means," noted another.



Reader John added, "As Father John served the Divine Liturgy, Sister Vassa explained the meaning and significance of the prayers, which are waystations on the journey to the heavenly banquet of the Eucharist. Her presentation was an insightful success." The "teaching Liturgy" was recorded for online catechetical purposes. It can be found by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=br4aNAom9R4>.