

# Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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

29th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, January 1, 2023

## At a Glance

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## Liturgical and Events Schedule

### Sunday, January 8

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by  
Sunday school & Social

### Monday, January 9

7:00 PM: Woman2Woman @ Genie  
Skuby's

### Saturday, January 14

5:00 PM: Great Vespers

### Sunday, January 15

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by  
Sunday school & Social

## Woman2Woman Meeting

Monday, January 9 7:00—9:00 PM

Genie Skuby's home  
234 Belaire Drive, Mt. Laurel

Please email ([skubydoo81@comcast.net](mailto:skubydoo81@comcast.net)) or call (856-802-1664)  
Genie to let her know you're attending the meeting.

**Topic:** "Living with Intention" - the most recent topic on  
Ancient Faith Radio podcast "Live with the Louths (Fr.  
Nicholas and Dr. Roxanne)." It's a spiritual, fresh approach to  
the usual "New Year's Resolutions" and a wonderful way  
to start 2023.

## THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In December Julia and Phyllis attended an class with Olga Ptach from Holy Trinity in Yonkers, NY giving them an overview of the program. It requires a dedicated space called an atrium, or sacred space, for spiritual growth. It allows opportunities for children to interact directly and intensely with materials specially prepared by the Catechists and church community. It was a blessing to spend time with Olga and to see the work she is doing bring children closer to God. This program requires certification and willingness to bring it to fruition. Many churches are now using this program.

## Today's Flowers

*In Celebration of Mary Ann Oram 93<sup>rd</sup>  
Birthday from Carol Ann & Bryan Curry*

## Coffee Hour Hosts

Jan 8 - Connie and Larry Skvir

Jan 15 - Trudy Ellmore

Jan 22 - OPEN

Jan 29 - OPEN

Feb 5 - Barb Hehre

Feb 12 - Carol Ann Curry

See sign up sheet on Social Hall bulletin board to volunteer.



February 12—Watch for "souper" details from your Inreach/Outreach Committee!

Next I/O meeting  
Sunday, January 15  
after Divine Liturgy

## Parish's 50th Anniversary

The 50th Anniversary Committee has started to meet to plan this great celebration. Mark your calendar for September 16-17, 2023!!

There will be more information forthcoming as we start to finalize all the details.

Remember when you shop (Church of the Holy Cross)

@holycrossmedfordnj

**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.



## Clothing Drive



### What's in your closet?

**Inreach/Outreach has received an urgent request for men's winter clothing from Community Luncheon, a local charity. Please check your closets for any gently used clothing you can donate. Jackets, coats, pants, shirts, hats, gloves, shoes, or boots all would be appreciated. So would socks and long underwear, but new, not used, please. Boxes will be in the vestibule on Sundays starting 1/8 - 1/29.**

### WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT

As many of you who have been working in the kitchen know, our water heater was no longer working. A new tankless water heater was installed this week & hopefully, you will notice some warm water to wash your hands! The tankless heater has given us a little more room in the utility closet so it can be better organized.

### GRANT CORNER

Hooray! The projects that were approved in our grant have all been completed. We now have a full security system, new windows throughout the church, new doors with a new lock system, new parking lot lights and hopefully, you have all noticed how our church is beautifully lit up with all-new lighting around the back, the side, and the front of the building. We have managed to spend the full \$150,000 that was granted to us. What a blessing! This project will be finished by submitting a full inventory report for the project along with a sign that will be hung in our office in appreciation to Homeland Security.

### DID YOU KNOW...

- \* Worldwide, more human beings died in abortions than any other cause of death in 2022.
- \* The exact number will differ depending on which source you consult. According to Worldometers, an independent site, the figure is 44 million. (Worldometers collects data from governments and other organizations and reports the data, along with estimates and projections, based on those numbers. They base the daily abortion figures on a fact sheet from the World Health Organization (WHO), which estimates an even higher figure for abortions per year. According to WHO, around 73 million induced abortions take place worldwide each year.)
- \* Abortion is also the leading cause of death in the United States. Nearly 30% of pregnancies are unplanned and 40% of those are terminated by abortion, resulting in between 1,500-2,000 abortions per day—just under 1 million babies every year. Nearly 20% of all pregnancies in the U.S. (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion. Although abortion rates have been dropping in the past decade, abortion remains the leading cause of death. An estimated 64 million unborn babies have been killed in abortions in the U.S. since Roe v. Wade in 1973.

\* When compared to COVID, worldwide, the number of souls dying from abortions dwarfs the number of COVID deaths. Worldometers states that approximately 3.12 million people died from COVID in 2022. If this figure is accurate, abortion worldwide is 14 times more deadly than COVID.

[Sources: [lifenews.com](http://lifenews.com), [worldometers.info](http://worldometers.info), and World Health Organization]

*"You are the Giver of life, bringing each person from non-existence into being, sealing everyone with divine and infinite love. Therefore we call upon You, hear us and have mercy!"*