

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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www.holycrossmedford.org

30th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, January 15, 2023

At a Glance

*Ven. Paul of
Thebes - p2*

Winter Clothing!

Souper Sunday

*Help w/Coffee
Hour*

Liturgical and Events Schedule

Sunday, January 15

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

11:30 AM: Inreach/Outreach Meeting

Saturday, January 21

5:00 PM: Great Vespers

Today's Flowers

In Memory of Anna, Emil, Jeffrey,
David, Eva, Roman, Pauline, & Lev—
given by Nadine Schmidt

Coffee Hour Hosts

Jan 15 - Trudy Ellmore

Jan 22 - Mary & Greg Stosuy

Jan 29 - Marie Clifton

Feb 5 - Barb Hehre

Feb 12 - Pre-Lenten Lunch

Feb 19 - Open

Feb 26 - Open

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

Winter Clothes Drive

Every Sunday in January, we will be collecting gently used men's winter clothing to benefit the **Community Luncheon Program** in Mt. Holly which helps homeless, alcoholic, and addicted men living on the streets, in the woods, or motels in our county.

Items Needed:

- Mens' adult clothing, shoes, and boots
- Blankets and sleeping bags.

There are boxes in the vestibule to leave donations.

Thanks! *The Inreach/Outreach Ministry*

Shafrans Celebrate Two 75th Anniversary Milestones

By God's grace, Archpriest Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus (retired), St. Vladimir Church, Trenton, NJ, reached his 75th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood on December 28, 2022. Likewise by God's grace, on November 27th, he and Matushka Mary marked their 75th wedding anniversary. His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, had presented them with gramotas for both anniversaries when he visited the St. Vladimir parish July 2, 2022, for Fr. Paul's 100th birthday celebration. On their actual wedding anniversary, a Sunday this year, Fr. Volodymyr Chaikivskiy, Rector of the parish, served a special anniversary moleben immediately following the Divine Liturgy, which included some of the beautiful hymns and scripture readings from the wedding service. Father Paul and Matushka Mary were joined by their

Remember when you shop (Church of the Holy Cross)



Souper Sunday of Caring
is coming soon!

Benefitting the Community Luncheon Program.

Stay tuned for details.

You won't want to miss this!



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two daughters, Nina and Paula, son-in-law Ludwig, grand-daughter Alexandra, and two great-grandchildren. Everyone proceeded to the parish social hall next door for coffee hour in their honor, hosted by their family. We extend our love and congratulations to Father Paul and Matushka Mary for these remarkable milestones -- a testament to their enduring faith and love, and we thank them for their 75 years of dedicated ministry to the Church. May



Venerable Paul of Thebes
Commemorated on January 15

Saint Paul of Thebes was born in Egypt around 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt. Left orphaned, he suffered many things from a greedy relative over his inheritance. During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Decius (249-251), Saint Paul learned of his brother-in-law's insidious plan to deliver him into the hands of the persecutors, and so he fled the city and fled into the wilderness.

Settling into a mountain cave, Saint Paul dwelt there for ninety-one years, praying incessantly to God both day and night. He sustained himself on dates and bread, which a raven brought him, and he clothed himself with palm leaves.

Saint Anthony the Great (January 17), who also lived as an ascetic in the Thebaid desert, had a revelation from God concerning Saint Paul. Saint Anthony thought that there was no other desert dweller such as he. Then God said to him, "Anthony, there is a servant of God more excellent than you, and you should go and see him."

Saint Anthony went into the desert and came to Saint Paul's cave. Falling to the ground before the entrance to the cave, he asked to be admitted. The Elders introduced themselves, and then embraced one another. They conversed through the night, and Saint Anthony revealed how he had been led there by God. Saint Paul disclosed to Saint Anthony that for sixty years a bird had brought him half a loaf of bread each day. Now the Lord had sent a double portion in honor of Saint Anthony's visit. The next morning, Saint Paul spoke to Anthony of his approaching death, and instructed him to bury him. He also asked Saint Anthony to return to his monastery and bring back the cloak he had received from Saint Athanasius. He did not really need a garment, but wished to depart from his body while Saint Anthony was absent.

As he was returning with the cloak, Saint Anthony beheld the soul of Saint Paul surrounded by angels, prophets, and apostles, shining like the sun and ascending to God. He entered the cave and found Abba Paul on his knees with his arms outstretched. Saint Anthony mourned for him, and wrapped him in the cloak. He wondered how he would bury the body, for he had not remembered to bring a shovel. Two lions came running from the wilderness and dug a grave with their claws.

Saint Anthony buried the holy Elder, and took his garment of palm leaves, then he returned to his own monastery. Saint Anthony kept this garb as a precious inheritance, and wore it only twice a year, on Pascha and Pentecost.

Saint Paul of Thebes died in the year 341, when he was 113 years old. He did not establish a single monastery, but soon after his end there were many imitators of his life, and they filled the desert with monasteries. Saint Paul is honored as the first desert-dweller and hermit.

In the twelfth century Saint Paul's relics were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the Peribleptos monastery of the Mother of God, on orders of the emperor Manuel (1143-1180). Later, they were taken to Venice, and finally to Hungary, at Ofa. Part of his head is in Rome.