

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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52nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, January 22, 2023

At a Glance

Sanctity of Life
- p2

Dec '22 Fin'l
Summary - p3

Souper Sunday
- below fold

Liturgical and Events Schedule

Sunday, January 22

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

Saturday, January 28

5:00 PM: Great Vespers

Today's Flowers

In Memory of Carmella Reeder – Given
by Corbin Reeder



Inreach/Outreach Men's Winter Clothing Drive

Only 1 more week!
All gently used clothing greatly appreciated

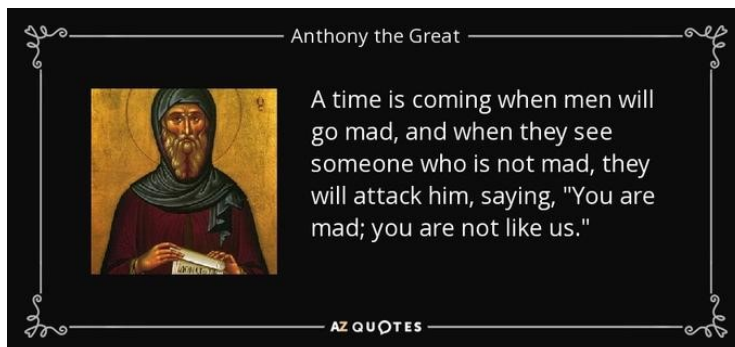
Items Needed:

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

There are boxes in the vestibule for donations.

Thanks!

The Inreach/Outreach Ministry



Coffee Hour Hosts

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.

INREACH/OUTREACH

It's Souper Bowl Time!

No, I didn't spell it wrong. I'm talking about our yearly
Souper Bowl Canned Food Drive to benefit Community Services.



We'll begin our Food Drive on
Sunday, January 29 and
continue each Sunday until
February 12. Our

Souper Bowl will end on
the same day as the Super
Bowl! And this year,
we're back to serving
delicious, mouth-



watering choices of home-
made soups to anyone who
turns in his/her ticket! What
ticket, you ask? Why, a can
of soup, of course!



Remember when you shop (Church of the Holy Cross)

@holycrossmedfordnj

amazonmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Sanctity of Life Sunday for 2023 Announced

His Beatitude [Metropolitan Tikhon](#) declared Sunday, January 22, 2023 as Sanctity of Life Sunday to be recognized in parishes of the Orthodox Church in America, and [issued the below statement](#). Resources for liturgical prayers and petitions [can be found here](https://www.oca.org/sanctity-life-resources) (<https://www.oca.org/sanctity-life-resources>).

Sanctity of Life Sunday follows the annual March for Life which was held Friday, January 20, 2023, and marks the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion in the United States of America. Orthodox faithful from across the country joined His Beatitude in commemorating the victims of abortion and to stand in witness of the sanctity of life.

His Beatitude was joined by members from the Holy Synod of Bishops, representatives from the stavropegial seminaries, and other Orthodox Christians from around the country.

The March for Life commenced at 8:00 AM with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC. Additional details can be found at [Orthodox Christians for Life](#).

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

From the earliest times, Christians have been at variance with the world because of their reverence toward sexuality, marriage, and human life at all its stages. In the post-apostolic Epistle to Diognetus, very possibly from the pen of St. Polycarp, the disciple of St. John the Theologian, we read that Christians ‘marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh’ (ch. 5).

Rather than viewing pleasure and fleeting happiness as the supreme good, Christians know that virtue, a rightly-ordered relationship with God and the world which he created, is what leads up toward true goodness, which is God himself. Another word for this right relationship with the Creator is life.



Jesus Christ, the Son of God and incarnate Word came to tear down the dividing wall of hostility between God and man and restore us to our friendship with the Divinity, which friendship had eroded because of sin (Eph. 2:14). Thus he is revealed to be the Life and Light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 11:25, 14:6), the one in whom and through whom we enter into a rightly-ordered relationship with existence and the Source of existence, and who shows us what that relationship—virtue—is, and where it leads—eternal life, eternal relationship with the Lord and his saints.

Life, for Christians, means far more than biological life. And yet this deeper and broader conception of life should only increase our reverence for biological life. For, in Christ, we understand that every human being is created in the image of God, and that every human life is a free gift of the Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift (Gen. 1:27, Jam. 1:17).

Thus, we understand that there is no opposition between reverence for life and true human flourishing. Or, to cast the matter more bluntly, we can never accept abortion and infanticide as a solution for other human ills. Rather, we must see the sins of abortion and infanticide as manifestations of the same evils that underlie other social injustices.

This year, Sanctity of Life Sunday has taken on a new meaning. The Supreme Court has undone, as far as lies in its power, the injustice wrought by its decision in the case of Roe v. Wade. But this means that our work in defense and promotion of life is only just beginning.

We know that, as soon as Christians gained a voice in the Roman Empire, that used that voice to speak against the enormities that the Empire committed against human dignity: slavery, gladiator and beast fights, and, yes,

abortion and infanticide. As long as we Orthodox Christians have some voice in this pluralistic, democratic society, it is right that we use this voice to defend the weakest among us, including especially the unborn children who still lie under threat of legalized abortion in many jurisdictions.

But we must never, ever allow ourselves to become focused solely on political, and much less partisan and ideological, pursuits. Instead, the defense and promotion of life must start and end with our personal commitment: in our hearts, in our families, in our parishes, in our communities, with alms of time and treasure and talent and effort. With whatever resources God may give us, we must promote true human flourishing, starting with the right to life for all people, at all stages of life. And we must do what we can to orient our life toward God through virtuous living, encouraging the same in our brethren and neighbors wherever and however it is possible. In so doing, we might hope to attain to the everlasting life and bountifulness of the heavenly kingdom, where Christ the Lord reigns with his Father and his All-holy and life-giving Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

December 2022 - Financial Summary

1. FY 2022 through 12/31 actual expense are \$386,600 including Sewer/Water and Homeland Security Grant projects, \$176,541 excluding those items and budgeted expenses are \$163,906. FY 2022 expenses are basically flat to budget (-0.3% below budget, -\$415).
2. Net Income for December-22 is +\$4,053 (excludes Sewer/Water and Homeland Security Grant projects).
 - December 2022 Capital Improvements funding (\$1288.77) completed in January 2023.
3. FY 2022 Income through 12/31 is +18% higher than FY 2021 (excluding the two major projects). When restricted income is excluded, FY 2022 income -4% lower than FY 2021.
4. FY 2022 Expenses through 12/31 are +7% higher than FY 2021 (excluding the two major projects) and +4% higher when restricted income items are excluded.
5. Core giving (general collections and stewardship pledges) is up +2% for FY 2022 compared to FY 2021 and -3% lower than FY 2020.
 - Dec-22 giving is the lowest December giving over the last 6 years, both in total and weekly average.
6. As of 1/18/22, the General Fund balance is \$20,036.00. When Restricted Funds and Outstanding Checks are removed, and pending Tithely giving is added in, the General Fund balance is +\$1,303.22.
7. The proposed FY 2023 Budget will be distributed for review the week of 1/22/2023.
8. Our Commercial Insurance carrier, United Fire Group, will no longer underwrite our insurance policy. They are exiting insuring religious institutions. Our current coverage will expire on 3/1/2023. Our insurance agent, Brown & Brown, has begun a search for a new carrier.
9. The 2022 audit is complete. The summary of the findings / recommendations are below. The full report is in the Appendix (pp 17-23) of the full Treasurer's Report.
 - Better documentation for automatic withdrawals, online transfers and credit card expenses.
 - More timely deposits of Sunday collections.
 - Better controls around counting sheets (ex. Signatures, insuring totals match deposit slip).

For questions or a copy of the full report, please speak to Joe Brad, Treasurer.