

CROSSROADS

Sunday's Scriptures

Epistle:
Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel:
Mathew 22:35-46

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Thursday, Feb 1 - 7 PM

**Vespertal Liturgy for
the Meeting of the
Lord**

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**Saturday, February 3:
NO Great Vespers**

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**Sunday, February 4:
Divine Liturgy - 10:00**

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Monday, January 29 at 7 PM on ZOOM

Evening Prayers and Reflections:

“Sailing and the Spiritual Life”

led by

Scott Sorrentino



Psalms 107:23-24

Those who sail on the sea in ships, who do business on the high seas, have seen what the LORD can do, the miracles he performed in the depths of the sea.

Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84062241816>

Meeting ID: 840 6224 1816

---Phone:+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 840 6224 1816

Epiphany Home Blessings

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.”

Home Blessings

Please let Fr. John know if you would like your
 home blessed - he will discuss scheduling.

Prepare

1. Set aside an area for the blessing - dining room table, etc.
2. Have an icon or cross, and bowl for Holy Water
3. List of names for commemoration in two columns: Living / Departed (non-Orthodox may be included)



Inreach/Outreach Pop-Up Clothing Drive

Only 1 Day, Sunday, Feb. 4

All gently used clothing greatly appreciated for men, women, and children to supply Community Luncheon Program and/or Christian Caring Center with much needed items for cold weather. A labeled box will be in the vestibule. Thank you!



SOUPER SUNDAY OF CARING

Sunday, February 11.

Hot soup and chili.

Fresh Bread.

Dessert.

Just bring a non-perishable food item for the Christian Caring Center, get a ticket from the basket on the table by the donation location, and that bowl of soup can be yours to enjoy!



Aren't able to get to the store to pick up some groceries? **CASH IS STILL KING**, so bring your checkbook or cash and Diana Bisinger will be glad to offer you a ticket for the meal. Please make checks out to Christian Caring Center with "Holy Cross" in the memo line.





Thank you to our volunteers who set up or host Coffee Hour, clean up afterwards, and donate generously to keep it going! Our time together allows us to welcome visitors and new members, and grow friendships.

Upcoming hosts are:

- Jan 28 - Diana Pasca
- Feb 4 - Ted and Caitlin E.
- Feb 11 - IR/OR Souper Sunday
- Feb 18 - open
- Feb 25 - open
- March 3 - Jessica Siracusa
- March 10 - Donna Woodhull and Val Olesnovich

We have updated instructions for set up and clean up, AND how to make the coffee!

Stewardship – Proportional Giving – Goal for 2024

As we approach the end of 2023 and prepare for 2024, it is that time of year to prayerfully review your financial commitment to our parish and renew your proportional giving commitment. See the chart and consider the following guidelines in your financial review:

1. Where are you currently in your giving practices? (what percentage of household income are you currently contributing?)
2. Are you able to increase your giving to at least the next percentage level?
3. Consider reviewing and communicating your financial commitment to Fr. John or the church treasurer (Dan Dowiak), as this will be helpful in finalizing our operating budget for 2024.

Those of you using the envelopes will continue to see the following options in 2024:

1. Weekly general fund envelopes. You can use all or just one, depending on your giving frequency (weekly or monthly).
2. Monthly charity envelopes will continue to be part of the envelope packet to support the identified charity for that particular month.
3. Pascha and Christmas envelopes will continue to be included

As you review this information, please contact Fr. John, Dan Dowiak or Mark Skuby for further information or questions.

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
Stewardship Pledge Card

Giving thanks to God for all my blessings and desiring to be a steward of His ministry, and committing to support His Holy Church, I/We pledge:

Select One: \$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Annually

Name _____ Env. # _____ Date: _____

*Please return completed pledge card to Father John or the parish treasurer as soon as possible. Thank you.
(See other side for giving guide.)*

Annual Income	Percentage of Annual Income Contributed Weekly				
	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
\$10,000	\$4	\$8	\$12	\$16	\$20
\$20,000	\$8	\$16	\$24	\$32	\$40
\$30,000	\$12	\$24	\$36	\$48	\$60
\$40,000	\$16	\$32	\$48	\$64	\$80
\$50,000	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100
\$60,000	\$24	\$48	\$72	\$96	\$120
\$70,000	\$28	\$56	\$84	\$112	\$140
\$80,000	\$32	\$64	\$96	\$128	\$160
\$90,000	\$36	\$72	\$108	\$144	\$180
\$100,000	\$40	\$80	\$120	\$160	\$200

PRO-LIFE REFLECTIONS

On January 22, 1973, in the Roe v Wade decision, the U.S. Supreme Court (erroneously) decided that Americans across the nation had a constitutional “right” to abortion. (The March for Life in Washington, D.C. and the Walk for Life in California have been occurring annually in remembrance of that auspicious day.) In the years since the Roe v Wade decision, over 65 million infant souls were aborted. Babies essentially became disposable. Abortion became a method of birth control. The scientific belief and faith that life begins at conception was ignored.

Roe v Wade was overturned in 2022, and states can now form their own laws regarding the availability of abortions. At least 32,000 babies have been saved nationwide as a result. Currently, the preborn are protected in 14 states. SC, TX, and GA all have heartbeat laws in effect that protect the preborn after six weeks’ gestation. Several other states protect the preborn after other gestational ages. There are strong pro-life laws protecting thousands of preborn children in 16 other states. We have learned how important the availability of ultrasound machines is; about 75% of women who see their babies choose life, not abortion. Churches and non-profit organizations have stepped forward to walk alongside moms and their babies through pregnancy and beyond, although some detractors push inaccurate and false information about these pregnancy resource centers. Moms now can also find post-abortion healing and forgiveness, always.

Abortion has become a political football across the country. Many states have passed or proposed laws allowing abortions up to birth (NJ among them), although the majority of Americans oppose this infanticide. Abortion proponents have funneled millions of dollars into election campaigns and pro-abortion organizations such as Planned Parenthood. These are difficult and expensive obstacles to overcome. Right now another huge challenge to saving the unborn is the proliferation of the abortion pill. Over 50 percent of abortions in this country are happening via this dangerous, DIY manner.

So, as we begin this new year, is it possible to make abortion unthinkable? With God, all things are possible, and He is our only sure hope. “Let’s keep up the good work of rescuing preborn people and changing the lives of women and men facing unplanned pregnancies. Let’s continue to hold out hope without shame and blame. And let’s remember, daily, that our work matters because human beings matter to God.”*

-Eugenia Skuby

*excerpted from an article by Susanne Maynes