

CROSSROADS

Sunday's Scriptures

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Gospel:

Mark 1:9-11

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**Saturday, January 13: -
Great Vespers - 5 PM**

**Sunday, January 14:
Divine Liturgy - 10:00**

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**Coming Up: Monday, Jan
15 @ 7 PM: Evening
Prayer and Reflections:**

*The Christian Witness in
Gaza*

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Fire and Spirit

by St. Ephrem the Syrian

See, Fire and Spirit in the womb that bore you:
See, Fire and Spirit in the river where you were baptized.

Fire and Spirit in our baptism.

In the Bread and the Cup, Fire and Holy Spirit.

In your Bread is hidden a Spirit not to be eaten,
In your Wine dwells a Fire not to be drunk.

Spirit in your Bread, Fire in your Wine.

A wonder set apart, yet received by our lips.

How wonderful your footsteps, walking on the waters!
You subdued the great sea beneath your feet.

Yet to a little stream you subjected your head,
Bending down to be baptized in it.

The stream was like John who performed the baptism in it,
In the smallness each an image of the other.

To the stream so little, to the servant so weak,
The Lord of them both subjected himself.

Epiphany**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)

(New Year's) Ball

On Sunday evening, January 14, St. Stephen's OCF, Chapter 82 of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, will sponsor the 85th annual **Novogodny (New Year's) Ball**. The Ball will be held at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast, in Trevoise, PA. Music will be provided by the Kauriga Orchestra. In addition to the Ball, a dinner option prior to the Ball is also available. Profits from the Ball are for benefit of Orthodox and other deserving charities.

Tickets to the Ball and dinner are by **RESERVATION ONLY**. No tickets are sold at the door. For more information or for a reservation, please contact Larry Skvir, President, St. Stephen's OCF, at lskvir@aol.com.

**COMMUNITY
LUNCHEON:**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

9 AM



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 7 - Plachuta
- Jan 14 - open
- Jan 21 - open
- Jan 28 - open

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