NOTES

Coffee with a little Stewardship

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Menu

**March 19, 2017**

**The Sunday of the Holy Cross – Mid Lent** On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 27) and the Procession of the Cross (August 14). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression.

***Stewardship - Care for the Scriptures.***

*Father Maximos once said that we should ask ourselves how we treat the Scriptures – like an old newspaper that has no value or like a cherished letter that we received from one of our ancestors. The Scriptures provide us with an opportunity to learn about God, Jesus Christ, the Saints, the Prophets and our Orthodox faith. There are also many verses that are directly related to Stewardship and how we should conduct our lives – God loves a cheerful giver – faith is empty without works – almsgiving is one of the prescribed focal points for Lent.*

*What a blessed opportunity to have the Scriptures as our guide!*

**Stewardship Introduction**

This week’s take aways…

Do you read the Scriptures on a daily basis? Do you find the time necessary to read as well as reflect on what is being said? Schedule this time in your calendar like any other important appointment.

You can read a few verses of the Bible each day, follow the calendar provided by the Church or purchase a Bible that has the readings organized by the daily calendar. The Bible and the Holy Fathers for the Orthodox provides not only the daily Scriptural readings but also reflection from the Holy Fathers. This is a very beneficial way to enhance your understanding.

For your children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews and/or Godchildren, purchase a childrens Bible or books that focus on the main themes. It is never to early for them to understand that the Bible should be a resource as they grow in the faith.