



FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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September 15th, 2024 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross.

Sunday after Elevation. Greatmartyr Niketas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene (3rd c.). Martyrs Theodotus, Asclepiodotus, and Maximus, of Adrianopolis (305-311). Martyr Porphyrius the Actor (361). Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (415). St. Philotheus the Presbyter, in Asia Minor (10th c.). Ven. Joseph, Abbot, of Alaverdsk in Georgia (570). St. Joseph the New of Partos, Metropolitan of Timisoara (1656).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for September

Birthdays: Michael Keklak (9/4); Judah Hart (9/8); Nadia Hart (9/10); Emily Hart (9/21); Gregory Krevko (9/14); Michael Jadick (9/26)

Nameday: Nadia/Nadezhda Macheska (9/17); Nadia/Hope Hart (9/17)

Baptism:

Anniversary: Jason & Maura Vo (9/17); Danny & Sandy Pregmon

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: PLEASE HELP! We have now signed up for prospora and we need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it.* Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people” and thank you to Mat Emilia for today’s offering.

Sept 22 Maura & Jason

Sept 29 Marie Pasternak

Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations! We need help counting today.

Sept 22

Sept 29 Tammy

Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for lunch at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.

PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



Service Schedule

SAT, Sep 21st @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Sep 22nd: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —
Tone 4.

SAT, Sep 28th @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers

SUN, Sep 29th: Hours @ 9:10 AM Hours, 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers **Today's Readings**

Epistles: (203) Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after the Exaltation); (158) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; (292)

Gospels: (37) Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday after the Exaltation); (79) Matthew 19:16-26; (36)

EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone, a Psalm of David: Extol the Lord our God, worship at His footstool for He is holy.

Choir: Extol the Lord our God, worship at His footstool for He is holy.

Reader: The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!

Choir: Extol the Lord our God, worship at His footstool for He is holy.

Reader: Extol the Lord our God,

Choir: worship at His footstool for He is holy.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(203) Galatians 2:16-20] Brethren: Knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. * But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! * But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. * For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. * I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

[(158) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11] Brethren: I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, * by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. * For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, * that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, * and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. * Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. * Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. * Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. * For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. * But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. * Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Priest: Peace be unto you, Reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.

ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 1st Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: God is our King before the ages: He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPELS

[(37) Mark 8:34-9:1] The Lord said: "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. * For whoever would save his life shall lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it. * For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? * For what can a man give in return for his life? * For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him shall the Son of Man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." * And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

[(79) Matthew 19:16-26] At that time, a young man came to Jesus, bowing to Him and saying: "Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" * And He said to him, "Why dost thou ask Me about what is good? One there is Who is good. If thou wouldst enter life, keep the commandments." * He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, * Honor thy father and mother, and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." * The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" * Jesus said to him, "If thou wouldst be perfect, go, sell what thou dost possess and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." * When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. * And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it shall be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. * Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." * When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" * But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Treasury



"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

+ Jesus Christ +++

How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
\$200	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
\$500	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
\$750	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
\$1000	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
\$1500	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$150

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

September Income: \$8,379.18

September Expense: \$8,661.00

Average Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$3,740.85

Average Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$14,963.58



Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or before/after vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

Monthly Panikhida: September 28th, 4PM prior to Vespers - There will be a Panikhida at St Tikhon's Mausoleum for Natasha Stavisky beginning at 11am-Monday 16Oct24. Please join us and Dr Eli and Paula has invited to join them for lunch afterwards.

Church Work Day: Every Day is Church Maintenance day! I will begin a list of items that we will need to work on. If you are free and would like to work at the church let me know. Just check the list and when you finish the task, initial off that it has been done.

Sunday Parking: With the increase in parish attendance on Sundays we are asking that the parking row across the street be reserved for elderly, those with difficulty walking, handicap, and parish visitors. If you do not fall into one of those categories, please use the parking lot kitty-corner to us with the stairs so we can keep plenty of parking free for those who need to be closer. Thanks so much!

Parish Council Meeting: October 5th, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - All are invited. Nov 2nd, Dec 7th are the following meetings.

Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers. If you would like to sing in the choir please make every effort to be at the practice.

Bulletin Boards: Community and Administration Boards. Please, you can post on the community board as long as the post/event does not contradict our faith.

WISH LIST! Thank you for the purchase of Incense and a pitcher. Please consider purchasing from our wish list as this will reduce our cost of expenses and will allow us to increase and focus our giving in other vital areas needed.

<https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/stmichaelsorthodoxchurchholdforgewishlist>

St. Michael's Greeters Ministry "*I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.*" Matthew 25:35 Our objective is to welcome visitors to the Parish, help them "feel at home" during the worship service, provide them with information about Orthodoxy and the Parish, invite them to Parish activities, introduce them to people of like interests, invite them back, follow-up to thank them for visiting us, and identifying whether we can help them in the future. Most people leave a church once they enter because no one greeted them. Please sign up to greet people.

2nd Annual Veteran's Day Pasta Dinner NOV 9th! It was a huge success last year and we want to go BIGGER! A portion of the proceeds will go to an organization that assists veterans. This year we have selected Camp Freedom in Carbondale. Check it out <https://campfreedompa.org/> Tammy and Sandy have already begun the process of getting volunteers to make baskets and local businesses to donate their product. We also need people to help bake the desserts and to donate drinks. Please see Tamara Wytovich to help volunteer, donate baskets or drinks, or to bake desserts.

Parish Prayer List

NEWLY DEPARTED:

DEPARTED: *William Macheska (9/2); George Krenitsky (9/6); Nancy Journak (9/7); Natasha Stavisky (9/16); Mary Shrive 9/30;*

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Ill-afflicted *Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek*

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; Bernie Elko; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

Servants of God *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Nicole Earl, Anna Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchik, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia Coyoy, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Sharissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Mary Krevko*

Seekers - *Christopher, Eugene, & Mike*

Catechumens - *Paul Dunay*

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross Commemorated on September 14

Troparion & Kontakion

Troparion — Tone 1

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance. / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries. / And by virtue of Your Cross, / preserve Your habitation.

Kontakion — Tone 4

As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, / granting them victories over their adversaries, / by bestowing on them the Invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found. Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established. Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khosrōēs II attacked Constantinople, defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633). The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khosrōēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Suroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church. In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."