

Special Hymns for the Sunday Before Holy Cross

Today's Resurrection Hymn:

The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb; the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive: You were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Dismissal Hymn of the Dedication:

Like the splendor of the upper firmament, You demonstrated the beauty of the earthly holy dwelling place of Your glory, O Lord. Keep it firm from age to age, and accept our prayers unceasingly offered up in it, at the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You are the Life and Resurrection of all.

Special Hymn of the Holy Cross

The lifegiving Cross which in Your goodness You have given us, though unworthy, we offer You in intercession. Save our rulers and Your city, keeping them in peace through the Theotokos, loving Lord.

Dismissal Hymn for Sts. Constantine and Helen:

The form of Your Cross was seen in the sky by Your Apostle among the kings, O Lord. He received his calling, like Paul, not from man, and placed his imperial city in Your hands. Ever guard it in peace, O Loving God, through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Kontakion:

You have made of the Church a resplendent heaven, enlightening all the faithful: wherefore we stand in the midst of this holy dwelling place and cry out to You, "Make firm this house, O Lord!"

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Αναστάσιμον Απολυτίκιον

Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις επί τό μνήμα σου, καί οι φυλάσσοντες απενεκρώθησαν, καί ίστατο Μαρία εν τώ τάφω, ζητούσα τό άχραντόν σου σώμα. Εσκύλευσας τόν Αδην μή πειρασθείς υπ' αυτού υπήντησας τή Παρθένω δωρούμενος τήν ζωήν. Ο αναστάς εκ τών νεκρών, Κυριε, δόξα σοι

Απολυτίκιον Εγκαινίων

Ως τού άνω στερεώματος τήν ευπρέπειαν, καί τήν κάτω συαπέδειξας ωραιότητα, τού αγίου σκηνώματος τής δοξης σου Κύριε, Κραταίωσον αυτό εις τόν αιώνα αιώνος, καί προσδεξαι ημών, τάς εν αυτώ απάυστως ροσαγομένας σου δεησεις, πρεσβείαις τής Θεοτόκου, η πάντων ζωή καί ανάστασις

Απολυτίκιον Προεόρτιον τής Υψώσεως τού Τιμίου Σταυρού

Τόν ζωοποιόν Σταυρόν τής σής αγαθότητος, ον εδωρήσω ημίν τοίς αναξίοις Κύριε, σοί προσάγομεν εις πρεσβείαν. Σώζε τούς βασιλείς καί τήν πόλιν σου, ειρηνευοντας διά τή; Θεοτόκου μόνε φιλάνθρωπε

Απολυτίκιον Αγίου Κωνσταντίνου

Τού Σταυρού σου τόν τύπον εν ουρανώ θεασάμενος, καί ως ο Παύλος τήν κλήσιν ουκ εξ ανθρώπων δεξάμενος. Ο εν βασιλεύσιν Απόστολός σου, Κύριε, βασιλεύουσαν πόλιν τή χειρί σου παρέθετο. Ήν περίσωζε διά παντός εν ειρήνη, πρεσβείαις τής Θεοτόκου μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Κοντάκιον Εγκαινίων

Ουρανός πολύφωτος η Εκκλησία, Ανεδείχθη άπαντας φωταγωγούσα τούς πιστούς. Εν ώ εστώτες κραυγάζωμεν Τούτον τόν οικον στερέωσον Κύριε

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 13 Sunday Before Holy Cross

Epistle: Gal 6:11-18 (Red Book, page 147)

Gospel: John 3:13-17 (Red Book, page 148)

Acolytes: Group 4 (Archangels): V. Phyrillas, A. Futrick, M. Faust, A. Futrick, Jr. , G. Koumaras, T. Siegel, K. Schlageter, T. Hunsicker, A. Karetas, J. Wagner, C. Hunsicker, C. Kraras

Council Members Welcoming: Athan Dialectos
Strat Marmarou

Council Members Ushering: Tony Phyrillas
Artie Fecera

A special tray will be passed today in commemoration of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. All proceeds will go to our beloved Holy Cross Seminary. Please be generous.

Fellowship Hosts: Miss Katherine Spanos
Mr. & Mrs. George Stamus
Mr. & Mrs. Christ Sterious
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Stoulis

40 Day Blessing: Son of Jeff and Julia Lane

Crop Walk: Registration for the Annual Crop Walk, which raises money to help alleviate both world hunger and hunger in Berks County, will be held following the Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall today and on Sundays, September 20th and 27th. Please sign up to be a walker at the CROP Walk on October 11th at Grings Mill.

CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM:

If you did not get one, you may have one after the Divine Liturgy today or on September 20

Monday, September 14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Orthros at 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 15

Bake Baclava at 9:00 a.m.
Philoptochos Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17

Bake Baclava at 9:00 a.m.
AHEPA meeting in Church Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Next Sunday

Sunday, September 20 Sunday After Holy Cross

Acolytes: Group 1 (Thrones): C. Siozos, G. Caloiero, C. Sterious, D. Porcaro, A. Sweigart, A. Zeppos, B. Wadsworth, A. Grassley, E. Hansen, S. Elliker, K. Schlageter, S. Maoury, M. Maoury, L. Elliker

Announcements

Sunday School Pictures will be taken during Sunday School in the Church Hall on Sunday, September 20th.

Altar Boy Orientation will take place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 20th.

Registration for Greek School will be September 20 and 27 during fellowship in the church hall.

If you are interested in attending **Adult Greek School** please contact the church office.

Join **Philoptochos** on Tues. Sept. 22nd for a guided tour of the First Energy Stadium! Home of the Reading Fightin Phils! Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP by Sept. 15th: Ann Kraras:annkraras@comcast.net 610-376-2184 OR Kathy Rohm: kathyrohm52@gmail.com @ 610-678-5609.

The **Annual GOYA/Parent Kickoff Picnic** will take place Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. at the Pappalas' residence, 5012 Stony Run Drive in Exeter. This event is a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to spend time and get to know each other better. We will be discussing and planning future events. Please plan to attend.

The Fall Bible Study will start on Wednesday, September 30th and will be a study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 5 through 7. The study will be 8 sessions, concluding on December 9th.

Exalting The Cross

The readings for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on Monday of this week give us many insights into the meaning of the cross.

The "story" of the Feast concerns the Empress Helen, mother of Constantine. For 200 years, pagan emperors had tried to wipe out all evidence of the places where Jesus Christ died

and was resurrected. The Emperor Hadrian had been particularly determined, building a pagan temple on Golgotha.

After seeing the sign of the cross in the sky, Emperor Constantine sent his mother on a quest to find the true cross, which she did despite advanced age. The year was 326. Nine years later, by Constantine's order, the Church of the Resurrection was built on the site of Golgotha and the Lord's tomb.

The day's epistle is I Corinthians 1:18-24. Saint Paul acknowledges that the story of a God who becomes man, only to die on a cross, is "folly" to some. That is still true for some today. But it's equally true that for others, then as now, it is the opposite of folly. For believers, this story and this cross are the power of God. Paul cannot give a cogent explanation or irrefutable proof of this, and doesn't try. He only says that the "foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

The Gospel readings are from the 19th chapter of John's Gospel. Verse 7 gives reason why Jesus was put to death-- He scandalized the Jewish leaders by claiming to be the Son of God, breaking Jewish law. The cry rings out, "Crucify him!"

Pilate becomes fearful, hearing this, and asks Jesus, "Where are you from?" Who is this man with such an ability to upset people, and who is unafraid to claim divine sonship? Pilate attempts to assert his own power, and reminds the prisoner that he can either free or crucify Him.

Jesus' answer shows His absolute intention to do His Father's will: "You would have no power unless it had been given you from above." By saying this He demonstrates His submission to the power, put by God into men's hands, that will lead Him to the cross. But he also refuses to absolve human beings of responsibility. He accuses those who have handed Him over of "a greater sin." They have perverted their authority, ordained by God, in condemning a righteous man.

In the last painful moments of His earthly life, Jesus commends His mother to the care of the apostle John. This is a pure act of love in the midst of agony, necessitated by the death on the cross because she will be deprived of His care.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross leads us to reflect on many aspects of the cross. Most of all it calls us to gratitude for the gifts bestowed on us by Christ's willingness to accept the cross and to break the bonds of death by its power.

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

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The Weekly Church Bulletin

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Sunday, September 13, 2015 Sunday Before Holy Cross

