

## Special Hymns for the Sunday After Holy Cross

### Today's Resurrection Hymn:

By Your cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrh bearers' sorrow You transformed into joy and You sent Your Apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, and granted to all the world Your great mercy.

### Dismissal Hymn:

For their struggle, O Lord, Your Martyrs received the crown of immortality from You our God. Armed with Your might they defeated tyrants. They also crushed the arrogance of demons. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

### 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:

O Christ our God, who hose of your own free will to be raised upon the cross, grant your mercies to your new people who are called by your name. In your power, gladden the hearts of our Public Authorities; strengthen them in every good deed so that your alliance may be for them a weapon of peace and a standard of victory.

### Jesus Once Said,

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake is the one who will save it."

Luke 9:23-24

## ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΥΨΩΣΙΝ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ Ευσταθίου Μεγαλομάρτυρος

### Αναστάσιμον Απολυτίκιον

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τόν θάνατον. Ηνέωξας τῷ Ληστή τόν Παράδεισον. Τῶν Μυροφόρων τόν θρήνον μετέβαλες καί τοῖς σοῖς Αποστόλοις κηρύτειν επέταξες. Οτι ανέστης Χριστέ ο Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τό μέγα ἔλεος

### Απολυτίκιον Αγίων Μαρτύρων

Οι μάρτυρές σου, Κύριε, εν τῇ ἀθλήσει αὐτῶν, τό στέφος εκομίσαντο, τῆς ἀφθαρσίας, εκ Σού,τού Θεού ημῶν, ἔχοντες γάρ τήν ἰσχύν σου, τοὺς τυρράνους καθείλεσεν εθραυσαν καί δαιμόνων τά ἀνίσχυρα θραση Αὐτῶν ταῖς ἰκεσίαις, Χριστε ο Θεός, σωσον τās ψυχάς ημῶν.

### Απολυτίκιον Αγίου Κωνσταντίνου

Τού Σταυρού σου τόν τύπον εν ουρανῷ θεασάμενος, καί ως ο Παῦλος τήν κλήσιν ουκ εξ ἀνθρώπων δεξάμενος. Ο εν βασιλεύσιν Απτόστολός σου, Κύριε, βασιλεύουσιν πόλιν τῇ χειρί σου παρέθετο. Ἦν περίσῳζε διά παντός εν εἰρήνῃ, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

### Κοντάκιον τού Σταυρού

Ο ὑψωθείς εν τῷ Σταυρῷ εκουσίως, τῇ επωνύμῳ σου καινή πολιτεία, τοὺς οἰκτιρμούς σου δωρησαι Χριστέ ο Θεός. Ευφρανον εν τῇ δυνάμει σου τοὺς πιστοὺς ἀρχηγούς ημῶν, νίκας χορηγῶν αὐτοῖς κατά τῶν πολεμίων. Τήν συμμαχίαν εχοιεν τήν **σῆν**, ὄπλον εἰρήνης, ἀήττητον τρόπαιον

## Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 20 Sunday After Holy Cross

Epistle: Gal 2:16-20 (Pew Book, page 1384)

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 (Red Book, page 141)

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

Council Members Welcoming: Athan Dialectos  
Strat Marmarou

Council Members Ushering: Tony Phyrillas  
Artie Fecera

40 Day Blessing: Son of Chris and Annette Fecera

Fellowship Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. John Wahba  
Mr. & Mrs. James Stevens, Jr.  
Mr. James Stevens, Sr.

Fellowship Sponsors: In Loving Memory of George  
and Foto Stevens – Gus and Shirley Stevens

### TODAY DURING FELLOWSHIP:

Acolytes will meet with our new Youth Director/Pastoral Assistant, Dino, (for approximately 20 minutes) in the chapel immediately following the Divine Liturgy to review some of the duties of serving as an altar boy.

Register to participate in the **Annual Crop Walk** on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Grings Mill. The walk is a national event that raises money to help alleviate world hunger. 25% of the money raised stays here in Berks County to feed the hungry.

Register your children for **Greek School** that will start in October and will be taught by our new Youth Director/Pastoral Assistant, Dino Koutroubas.

Today is the last Sunday to pick up your **Centennial Commemorative Album** if you have not done so.

## Monday, September 21

Opportunity House at 6:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, September 22

Bake Koulourakia at 9:00 a.m.

Philoptochos Meeting - First Energy Stadium 7:00 p.m.

## Thursday, September 24

Bake Koulourakia at 9:00 a.m.

## Friday, September 25

Spanikopita Prep at 6:00 p.m.

## Next Sunday

### Sunday, September 27 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Luke

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

## Announcements

The **Annual GOYA/Parent Kickoff Picnic** will take place next 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 **Annual JOY/Parent Kickoff Picnic** will take place on Sunday, October 4th at 4:00 p.m. at the Pappalas' residence, 5012 Stony Run Drive in Exeter.

## Jesus Goes Home to Teach

**On Friday and Saturday of this week, we read the account of Jesus preaching in His hometown, at the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30.)**

Things start off well enough. Jesus reads from the prophecy of Isaiah in which the prophet tells of the One who has the Spirit of the Lord upon Him and who will bring good news, recovery and release to the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed. He tells the people, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing", thus applying the prophetic words to Himself. The people speak well of Him and are amazed at His gracious words.

But there is already a note of discord. The people ask each other, "Is not this Joseph's son?" as if they resent His assuming authority and knowledge when He is, after all, just one of them, the son of a simple carpenter.

Jesus knows what they are thinking, and puts their thoughts into words: "No doubt you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " He does not accept their opinion that He should perhaps have done some of His miracles in the place where He grew up. In fact, He brushes aside the idea by asserting that "no prophet is accepted in his own country." Then He says things that continue to raise the resentment of those who are listening.

He first relates a story about the prophet Elijah, who was sent by God to help a widow during a famine. Just hearing that the woman lived "at Zarephath in Sidon" would alert His listeners that she was a Syrophenician, not a Jew. Jesus makes the point even more strongly by saying that though there were many widows in Israel at that time, Elijah was sent only to this non-Jewish one.

His next statement sends everyone into a rage. He again refers to an Old Testament prophet—Elisha this time, the disciple of Elijah. He reminds His listeners that Elisha cleansed a leper, Naaman the Syrian. He adds that there were "many lepers in Israel" when Elisha lived, just as there had been many widows in Elijah's time. But in each case the prophet ministered only to a non-Jewish person.

Those in the synagogue get the point: God doesn't play favorites, and His salvation is open not only to them, the chosen people, but to everyone. This makes them so furious that they try to kill Jesus then and there. But with His majestic authority He passes through the midst of them and goes on His way.

What would it have been like to be present in the synagogue that day? Would we be angered at the idea that we had no "exclusive" claim to God's attention and care? Or would we rejoice to have a God who reaches out to everyone? These are still questions worth thinking about.

*Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church*

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*The Weekly Church Bulletin*

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## Sunday, September 20, 2015 Sunday After Holy Cross

