

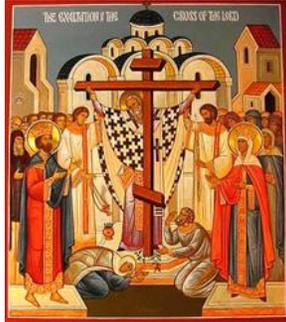
St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship at Mount Union University, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am.

Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)

Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)

September 15, 2013: 12th Sunday after Pentecost / Greatmartyr Nicetas

Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross



The Elevation of the Cross

IMPORTANT NOTE: Today we will have the liturgical observance for the Elevation of the Holy Cross (which Great Feast was Saturday, September 14, a strict fast day) hence we will have the procession with the Cross on Sunday at 8:50 am.

The First Antiphon

God, my God, attend to me! Why have You forsaken me?

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Why are You so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

You dwell in the sanctuary, the praise of Israel.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

The Second Antiphon

O God, why have You cast us off forever?

Refrain: O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!

Refrain: O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Remember Mount Zion, where You have dwelt!

Refrain: O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Refrain: O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

The Third Antiphon

The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

Tone 1 Troparion of the Feast

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!

The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! He sits enthroned upon the Cherubim; let the earth quake!

Troparion of the Feast

The Lord is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the people.

Troparion of the Feast

Bow down in worship to the Lord in His holy court!

Troparion of the Feast

Entrance Verse: Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Tone 3 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion of the Cross

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!

Tone 3 Troparion (*Greatmartyr Nicetas*)

You defeated error and triumphed in martyrdom, Nicetas, namesake of victory;
for you conquered the ranks of the enemy and ended your contest by fire.//
Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

Tone 3 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 4 Troparion (*St. Nikolai*)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

Tone 2 Kontakion (*Greatmartyr Nicetas*)

You stood firm and defeated delusion and have received your martyr's crown, Nicetas, namesake of victory;
you are rejoicing with the Angels, together with them you are praying unceasingly to Christ God for us all.

Tone 4 Kontakion of the Cross

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!

Epistles: Galatians 2:16-20 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!
v: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
v. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!
v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

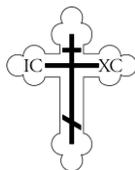
Gospels: Mark 8:34-9:1 / Matthew 19:16-26

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing in Tone 8)

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!
You are a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos,
who, though untilled, have brought forth Christ;
through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth.
Now at its Elevation, as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



Icon of St. Nikolai of Zica: The work on our mission patron saint handwritten icon, St. Nikolai, has begun. The Icon size has increased in conjunction with the scope of its depiction of prominent scenes of St. Nikolai's life; it will also house his holy "relics." No Icon of St. Nikolai exists that will encompass the important points of remembrance of his holy ministry. We are humbly accepting donations towards the icon which has now been finalized to cost \$1800. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check payable to "St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance;" make a notation that it is for the Icon of St. Nikolai.

St. Nikolai Mission of Alliance Financial Policy:

1. According to civil law, "Restricted donations" must be used only for the purpose for which they are given. If such purpose no longer exists, donations must be returned to the respective donors at which time the donors may designate, if they wish, that their gift be used for another purpose.
2. St. Nikolai Mission will maintain strict confidentiality of all donor information and records. Only the clergy and financial officers will be knowledgeable of individual donation records.
3. A yearly financial statement will be disseminated to each donor.

The **Elevation of the Holy Cross** is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on September 14. This feast is also referred to as the **Exaltation of the Cross**. This is also a popular name day for Stavroula/Stavros (from "stavros" meaning cross).

This feast commemorates two events:

- The finding of the Cross by the Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) on Golgotha in 326 AD, the place where Christ was crucified.

On the spot where the Cross was discovered, St. Helen had found a hitherto unknown flower of rare beauty and fragrance, which has been named "Vasiliko", or Basil, meaning the flower of royalty. Note that the word "Vasiliko" means "of the King," since the word "Basileus" in Greek means "King"; so, the plant Vasiliko, Basil, is tied to the Precious Cross of the King of Glory, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Underneath the Basil, the Cross of Christ was found, but with it were the other two crosses, those used to crucify the two thieves on either side of Christ. The sign with the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews", also lay among the three crosses. In order to determine which one was the true cross, a sick woman was told to kiss each of the three crosses. The woman kissed the first cross with no result. She kissed the second cross and again nothing happened. However, when the ailing woman kissed the True Cross, she was immediately made well. It so happened that a funeral procession was passing that way, and so the body of the dead man was placed on each of the crosses, and when it was placed on the True Cross, the dead man came to life — thus the name the "Life-Giving" Cross, which gives life not only to that man, but to each person who believes in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and His all-glorious three day Resurrection.

When the true Cross was identified, it was lifted on high for all the people to see, who then continually sang *Kyrie eleison*, a practice which is still enacted at current celebrations of this feast.

- The recovery of the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified from the Persians. The Persians had captured the True Cross as a prize of war when they sacked Jerusalem in 614 AD. It was recovered by the forces of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) in 627 AD, when Emperor Heraclius decisively defeated the Sassanid Persians at The Battle of Nineveh, surrounding their capital Ctesiphon, recovering the True Cross, and breaking the power of the Sassanid dynasty. The Elevation took place on March 21, 630 AD, when

Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem amidst great rejoicing, and together with Patriarch Zacharios (609-632), transferred the Cross of Christ with great solemnity into the temple of the Resurrection, joyously held up for veneration by the Christian faithful.

This is one of the two feast days which is held as a strict fast. The other is the commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner on August 29.

September 15 designated Assembly Sunday

SCHAUMBURG, IL [OCA]

Sunday, September 15, 2013, has been designated "Assembly Sunday" by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America to draw attention to the fourth meeting of the Assembly's hierarchs at the Chicago Marriott here September 17-19.

The following encyclical from His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Assembly Chair, was issued in conjunction with the occasion.

Encyclical to All Orthodox Christian Faithful of North and Central America Concerning Assembly Sunday 2013

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Members of Philanthropic Organizations, the Youth and Youth Workers, and the entire Orthodox Christian Family in North and Central America:
Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America will convene for its fourth meeting on September 17 – 19, 2013. On this day, marked as "Assembly Sunday," we ask all clergy and faithful throughout the lands of which the Assembly is composed to offer prayers for safe travel, fraternal dialogue, and furtherance of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church. The Assembly represents the hopes, aspirations and vision for the future of Orthodoxy for all Orthodox Christian faithful in North and Central America.

Our Assembly of Bishops is one of twelve bishops' assemblies that have been established in different geographical regions throughout the world. It was established in accordance with the decision of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, convened in Chambesy, Switzerland, in June of 2009, attended by representatives from all the universally-recognized autocephalous Orthodox churches.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we are asking the following prayer to be offered at a special lityny:

"O Lord of Heaven and Earth and of all who dwell therein, we beseech you on behalf of all the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America who are gathering this week in solemn convocation. Make their travel to and from their meeting safe and sound; direct their deliberations to the glory of Your Holy Name and the benefit of Your Holy Church; grant them a fraternal spirit founded in Your love and Your grace, that in all they do and say, they may bring all honor, praise and glory to Your Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen."

With paternal love in Christ,

+ Demetrios

Archbishop of America

Chairman Assembly of Canonical Orthodox

Bishops of North and Central America

St. Nikolai of Zica
Orthodox Mission of Alliance
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