

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance in conjunction with Orthodox Campus Ministry,
University of Mt. Union Dewald Chapel**

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 am.

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

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

Mission Phone # 330 768-7633

Mission Website "<http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>

September 14, 2014: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exaltation (Elevation) of the Precious and Life-giving Cross



The First Antiphon

God, my God, attend to me! Why have You forsaken me? (Ps.21/22:1)

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?
(Ps 21/22:1b)

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. (Ps 21/22:2)

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

You dwell in the sanctuary, the praise of Israel. (Ps 21/22:3))

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? (Ps 73/74:1)

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! (Ps 73/74:2)

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

Remember Mount Zion, where You have dwelt! (Ps 73/74:2b)

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. (Ps 73/74:12)

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! (Ps 98/99:1)

The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! He sits enthroned upon the Cherubim; let the earth quake! (Ps 98/99:1)

The Lord is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the people. (Ps 98/99:2)

Bow down in worship to the Lord in His holy court! (Ps 98/99:9)

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!

Entrance Verse

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps 98/99:5)

Tone 1 Troparion

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 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 4 Kontakion

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!

(Instead of the Trisagion)

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master,
and Your holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps 98/99:5)

v: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! (Ps 98/99:1)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

Tone 1 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!
(Ps 73/74:2)

v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. (Ps 73/74:12)

Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

(Instead of "It is truly meet . . .," we sing:)

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 Hymn

The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord. (Ps 4/5:6)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire. In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer." Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6). In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found. Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28). The holy empress 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 death. St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died 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 Venerable and Life-Creating 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 Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khozroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khozroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".

PRAYERS are requested for:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jim (Cousin of Fr. David)

George Borojevich (brother of Wally and Debby)

Ava Cooper (infant who is undergoing surgery for heart defects)

Mother Ana

Nanci Stradley (Pancreatic Cancer)

Dawn Shaheen

Sharon Budd (Teacher from Perry, injured when rock thrown from overpass)

Patricia Kosivich, friend of and helper to Mother Ana

Father Joe Cervo

George Ralich, (Dan's father who is in Cleveland Clinic following emergency surgery)

+Emily Waseman (with Parents and family)

+Zora Penovich (with Bob and family)

+Bertha (Friend of Jaga Radosevic)

+Proto Milan Zubenitsa (newly departed Kum of Father Dragan)

+Helen Mieloff (Friend of Jaga Radosevic)

COFFEE HOUR:

Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 7 was provided Dan Ralich. Thank you!!!

Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 14 will be provided by The Gresh Family.

Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 21 will be provided by the Cervos

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to help.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1 – Susan Varga

19 – Heidi Gresh

30 – Josh Gresh

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

29 – Deacon James and Heidi Gresh

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