



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

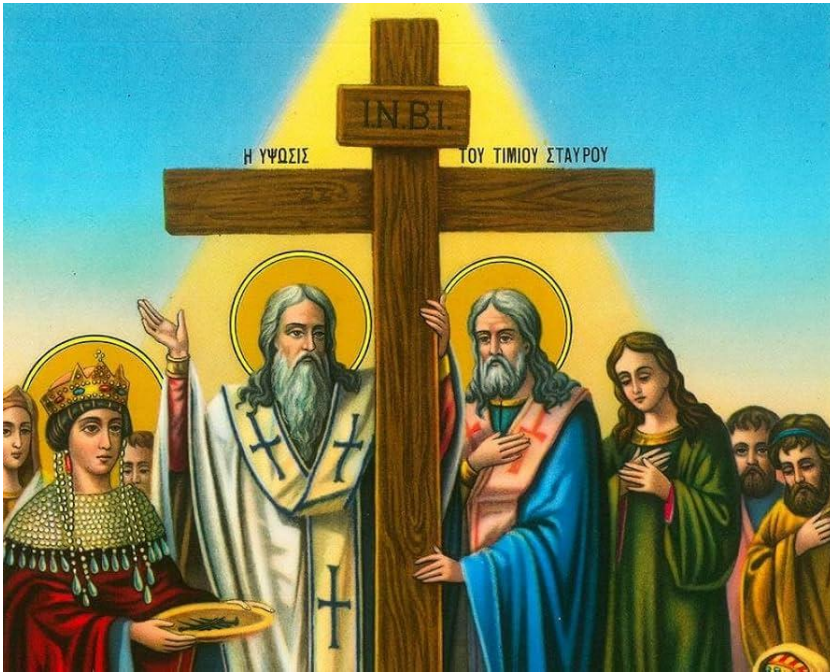
773-231-6177

www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross



Fr. Andrew Kishler, pastor

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Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 6): When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion for the Holy Cross (Tone 1): O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by the virtue of Thy cross, preserve Thine habitation.

Kontakion for the Holy Cross (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.

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4): Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people! Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

THE EPISTLE

For the Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know 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.

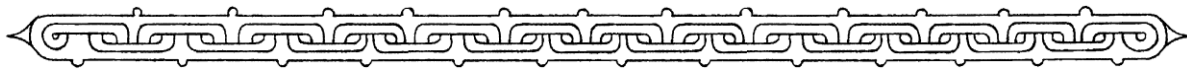
THE GOSPEL

For the Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will 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 will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power.



Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prosphora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun., Sept. 17	Doug J	Sandy A	Domitille	Alina S	R-Z
Sun., Sept. 24	Jim K	Debbie K	John O	Lydia A	A-F

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

*If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves. **Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour.** And of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!*

**Shaded dates are fasting days. No meat or dairy products should be served at the church on these days.*

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today: Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- Coffee hour, downstairs after Divine Liturgy
- First day of Church School. *Please see notes below on page 5. Adult Church School will be upstairs in the church, led today by Joseph Letendre.*
- Teen SOYO social outing, following Church School.

Tuesday, Sept. 19:

- Morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, Sept. 20:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Thursday, Sept. 21:

- Morning prayers, 9am

Friday, Sept. 22:

- Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, Sept. 23:

- Vespers, 7pm.

Next Sunday, Sept. 24: Proto-martyr Thekla & Venerable Silouan of Mt. Athos

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am, followed by coffee hour & Church School

CHURCH SCHOOL. Today is our first day of church school! Please note the following procedural items from Melissa W.:

Coffee hour food line: Teens, please continue to help serve and oversee the food of the younger children to prevent waste. Parents, kindly remind your children that coffee hour is a snack to *tide them over and is not a meal*. This year we will also have tables for all children 3rd grade and under, to prevent messes and hopefully facilitate faster eating.

The bell will ring once as a signal to the children to clean up and discard trash. Three minutes later, the bell will ring again to signal children and adults to go to class. At this time, the basement will need to be cleared so junior high can have their class downstairs. Please refrain from personal conversations or kitchen clean-up until after classes finish.

Any questions or concerns, let me know. Please keep all of our teachers and students in your prayers throughout the year!

CONVOCATION. Our all-church annual meeting will take place **Sunday, Oct. 1** after Liturgy and a potluck dinner. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from all of our ministry leaders, review the budget for the coming fiscal year, and elect a new parish council member. All members of All Saints Church should plan to attend!

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS. Our parish council is made up of laypeople who assist the pastor of the church in managing our finances, property, and coordinating our ministries. Would you like to nominate anyone for a three-year term to this important ministry? Nominees must be at least 21 years old, and active members in good standing of All Saints Church for at least one year. Nominations may be submitted between now and Sept. 24 to this year's nomination committee: Fr. Andrew, Jeneson Abraham, or Eric Pope.

TOUCHSTONE CONFERENCE. Touchstone magazine's 2023 conference "The Crisis of Authority" will take place Oct. 12-14 in Deerfield, Ill. Fr. Patrick is one of the featured speakers! Register at <https://www.touchstonemag.com/conference/>.

Our **DIOCESE OF TOLEDO FALL GATHERING** will be held in Toledo, Ohio, Oct. 20-22. See the Toledo Diocese page at www.antiochian.org for registration & information.

THE FEAST OF THE CROSS

His Eminence Metropolitan Georges (Khodr)

On the 14th of September the churches celebrate the Elevation of the Cross. It goes without saying that Christians do not worship the wood of the Cross, and they only put it in their churches when there is an icon, that is a drawing, of Christ on it. Every mention of the Cross during worship brings us back to the one who died on it. Why do we have this feast?

What we call the Elevation of the Cross commemorates first of all the discovery of the Savior's Cross buried under the ground of Golgotha where he died. It was discovered by Helene, mother of the Emperor Constantine, who built the Church of the Resurrection and the Church of the Cradle. The wood of the Cross was placed in the Church of the Resurrection until the Persians stole it during the time following their occupation of Jerusalem. In 628, after defeating the Persians the Emperor Heraclius returned it to the Holy City. The Church elevated the Cross before the faithful, and the feast began. The Cross was divided into very tiny pieces and was distributed to believers throughout the world, meaning that today it is relics for thousands of Christians.

The liturgical aspect of this feast is extremely beautiful in the Orthodox tradition. Before the liturgy, the priest raises the Cross above his head and lowers it to the ground five times, amidst lengthy chanting. After each believer kisses the cross, the priest gives him a flower that had been placed around the Cross while it was carried in the procession that brought it to the table where the veneration takes place.

All the warmth of love in Christianity has only come to them through the crucifixion of the Savior. All their prayer, the purity of some of them, their intellectual achievements east and west, the testimony of millions of martyrs, generation after generation, their abstinence and asceticism, all forgiveness and peace in the soul and loves that sacrifice to the point of death, all of this comes down to them from the Crucified One. If it were not for him, then Christianity would be just another Jewish sect.

Through his passion, Jesus of Nazareth became the high priest and took upon himself the sins of mankind in order to end them through the new life that he gives them through his entrance into the kingdom of death and his descent into hell, to the depth of the curse that affects all those who died before and after him. This is because "*the wage of sin is death,*" which became the death of the Son of Man.

These pains that he bore are the pains of all people, their transgressions. He took them upon himself in order to save them from them. *"In baptism buried with him to death so that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too can walk in renewal of life."*

However, before you receive eternal life, your condition is that of fallen, suffering man. This means that you too are crucified and you will not be saved from any cross that is put on your shoulders except through his cross and you will rise from the life you are into his life so that you can become a new creation. You did not invent suffering. It comes from this world that is under the power of the evil one. It causes you pain and anxiety until Christ's Resurrection falls upon you with repentance, which is you returning with all your wounds to his face. This is perfect faith, which spurs you on to hope and in love for Jesus, which it pours bountifully upon you so that you go to him and become a Paschal being.

"Let him who wants to follow me deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Christ does not put a cross on you. It comes to you from the circumstances of your existence on earth. If you bear it, you will become a heavenly person. This is why the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross has always been your path. Every day you are burdened and every day the Resurrection lifts your burdens from you.

From this vantage point, this feast extends through you every day. Do the children who light fires on the evening of this day know that they are thus called to carry light to the world, to become people of the Resurrection? Does that reflect their identity?

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is nothing else but a love story, the greatest love story in history because it was written in blood. It is the marriage of the Savior with all humanity. It is purified mankind, from all corners of the earth. It is his body, that is his being, baptized in water or baptized in the Spirit. Those who believe in Jesus believe in love and all people are their beloved because all people come from Christ in one way or another and by his blood he carries them to his Father and his Spirit, so that God may be all in all.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

For our daily Old Testament readings, we will be reading straight through the Minor Prophets, according to the order and numbering of the Orthodox Study Bible. Note that the book order and chapter numbering differs from other English translations.

Sunday, September 17: Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Luke 24:1-12 / Galatians 2:16-20 / Mark 8:34-9:1

Monday, Sept. 18: Eumenius the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Gortynia

Zechariah 9 / Galatians 5:11-26 / Luke 3:1-14

Tuesday, Sept. 19: Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury

Zechariah 10 / Galatians 6:1-10 / Luke 3:15-22

Wednesday, Sept. 20: Eustathius the Great Martyr, with his wife & children

Zechariah 11 / Galatians 6:11-18 / Luke 3:23-38

Thursday, Sept. 21: Jonah the Prophet

Zechariah 12 / Ephesians 1:1-12 / Luke 4:1-13

Friday, Sept. 22: Phocas the Martyr, Bishop of Sinope

Zechariah 13 / Ephesians 1:13-23 / Luke 4:14-30

Saturday, Sept. 23: Conception of St John the Forerunner

Ephesians 2:1-10 / Luke 4:31-37

For St. John: Galatians 4:22-27 / Luke 1:1-25

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
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