

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

The Cross

September 14th is the date, each year, of the Feast of the Exaltation (or Elevation) of the Cross. Coming so soon after the beginning of the Church year on September 1st, this feast reminds us that during the whole year the cross will be central to our lives as Christians.

The story of the feast is familiar to most of us. We admire the persistence of Saint Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine, who despite her age traveled through the Holy Land, establishing churches in places that had special meaning in the life of Christ. One of the most important of these places, of course, is Golgotha, outside the city walls of Jerusalem. There Helen had workers dig, and there they discovered the True Cross. This was the place where she built the best-known of the churches she established, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

The icon of the feast shows the church, standing in the midst of the city of Jerusalem. The Cross, as we would expect, is very prominent in the icon, and near it stand St. Helen and Emperor Constantine, both with crowns. The Bishop of Jerusalem, Saint Makarios, is shown elevating the Cross for believers to venerate. These figures are joined by a group that includes bishops and priests, monastics, and people who live in the city.

The readings for the day include this well-known verse from I Corinthians: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1:18). Saint Paul encourages us here to do two things. First, we can confidently hold to our faith in spite of ridicule and mockery; it is a given that we will face these things

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Mary Fechisin, Andrew Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

because those who don't believe or don't understand the faith will consider it "foolishness." If we know that other believers have faced skepticism before us, we can be prepared for it and not be shaken. Paul adds power to his own words by quoting God's own promise, which assures us that He will "destroy the wisdom of the wise" (Isaiah 29:14).

The second thing Paul encourages is patience. Verse 18 refers to "us who are being saved." This calls us to remember that our salvation takes place over the whole time of our life. We can expect that things may not go well for us in this world, because the world is fallen and it's a long journey to the Kingdom. But if we are patient, we will know that we are "being saved" through the course of our life so long as we earnestly strive to be what God wants us to be.

In this same passage, Paul expresses in four words the life work of a Christian: "We preach Christ crucified" (1:23a). We believe it and we also proclaim it. If we meet derision, we can lean on the words of the Troparion for the feast. We know that God will, "by the power of the cross, preserve [His] habitation."



Memory Eternal

to all innocent victims of
September 11 terrorist attack
and to all who lost their lives

from terrorism in our country and around the world. May the Lord rest their souls in His Heavenly Kingdom! Vechnaya Pamyat!

Announcements

◆ The next **Board of Trustees' Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm. All members please plan to attend.

◆ Save the date: On **Saturday, September 16**, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Rahway will have Consecration and 50th Anniversary Celebration with His Eminence Archbishop Michael. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: St. John the Baptist parish in Little Falls, NJ invites everyone to their Parish picnic on **Sunday, September 17** (with a rain date on Sept. 24). The picnic will begin at 12pm and run until 7pm. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: On **Friday, Sept. 29**, and **Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7:00pm** at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton the youth of our Diocese will perform a musical "Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able.

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.



September 10, 2017

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday Before the Elevation. Afterfeast
of the Nativity of the Theotokos

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistles: Gal. 6:11-18; 2Cor. 1:21-2:4
Gospels: Jn. 3:13-17; Mt. 22:1-14
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Louis Koziel**, offered by Patricia Galley.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - ELEVATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:00am - Divine Liturgy