

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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Reader Julius Kovach,  
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Ambo Editor

## Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Please check weekly schedule  
for specific days

AMBO: Articles for publica-  
tion should be submitted to:

[ambo-theodosius](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

[@googlegroups.com](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

by Wednesday of each week  
before noon.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

FOREFEAST OF THE  
ELEVATION  
OF THE CROSS



The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

(September 14)

## **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 Milan 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, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint 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 Saint 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 Octo-

ber 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.

Saint 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. Saint 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 festival 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, Saint 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".

### **FROM WHERE DID WE GET THE THREE BAR CROSS?**

We are about to celebrate the Elevation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross, one of the Twelve Major Feastdays of the Orthodox Church. But why do we see "three bar" crosses on many Orthodox churches? The answer is fascinating, and tends to define how the Orthodox Church does missionary work.

We begin with the "regular" one bar Greek Cross, which universally adorns Christian churches and believers. This is most commonly seen. However, when

we come to the Russian churches, we see an entirely different configuration.

First, we start with the "regular" Cross, but there is a shorter bar above the main larger bar of the Cross. This symbolizes the accusation Pilate attached to the Cross at the Crucifixion: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. This was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin so all would be able to see and understand the accusation.

However, the bottom bar is, yet again smaller, but slanted. This represents the final destination of the two thieves crucified at the same time with our Savior. The thief to the left of Jesus railed upon Him, insulted and cursing Him. The thief on the right, rebuked his fellow offender, saying that Jesus was an innocent man, unlike the thieves who were getting their just reward. The Righteous Thief says: Remember me when You come into Your Kingdom!, thus repenting of his former, sinful life. Jesus promises him that they would be together in Heaven. The bar point down for the unrepentant thief, showing where he would end up. The bar points upwards towards Heaven for the Righteous Thief, reminding us that salvation depends on our repentance.



As the Orthodox Church performs her missionary work, one of the first thing is does is not only to translate the Scriptures into the language of the people, but to “baptize” their culture as well. When the Greek missionaries came to Rus', the pagans worshiped their sun god, Perun. His symbol was an eight-pointed sunburst. The missionaries took this pagan symbol, and created the eight-pointed Cross, thus teaching the people that Jesus is stronger and preeminent above all other gods. As this is a Slavic symbol (still found on pysanky to this day), it is generally found on Russian or Ukrainian churches.

Let us embrace the loving sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ upon the Cross!

### **Merrick House Angel Tree**

Early poll for those who wish to participate in our annual Merrick House Angel Tree!

Given all that's going on, Merrick House is hoping we can continue our tradition of helping to brighten the Christmases of children who may not see much under their trees. If you are willing to commit to a 'virtual' tag for a child (or two), please let Dan Morris know ([lavidan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lavidan@sbcglobal.net)). Once I have a good idea of what we can do, Merrick House can get things moving from there. Thank you in advance if you're able to help, and to all who have been so generous in the past.



## **HEAR YE, HEAR YE!**

The time and place for our Annual Parish Meeting has been set.

**St. Theodosius Parish Annual Meeting**

**September 27th, 2020**

**12:30 PM**

The link to the online meeting will be sent via the Ambo Mailing List, so if you are not on that list and do not intend to attend in person, please submit your email address so that you may be added at this time: [ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

**If you wish to attend in person, please call our secretary Eric at 1(216) 574-4886 to make a reservation. Only the first 55\* can attend in person, so serious reservations only please. Leaving a voicemail is fine.**

\*His Eminence has increased our limit to 55 persons!



## PRAYER REQUESTS



### **Departed:**

**Ann** Litnar

### **Special Intentions:**

**Deacon Paul** Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

**Subdeacon Theodore** Lentz

**Reader Paul** Pangrace

**Arlene** Czajkowski

**Child Mary Kate** Zweidunger

**Child Vivian** Sherer

**Melissa** (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

**Lyndsey** (*friend of Melissa McCutcheon*)

**Elizabeth (Betty)** Balasz

**Marie** Borland

**Sandra** Brello

**Elsie** Conrad

**Horia** Dascalescu

**Debra** Ellis

**Gregory** Galan

**Aleksei** Green

**Virginia** Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

**Don** Hinkl

**Matthew** Hunly (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

**Diane** Kearsy (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

**Lacey** Udell (*wife of Michael Udell*)

**Mara** Kilbane (*Melissa McCutcheon's granddaughter*)

**Annamarie** Luvison (*Daughter of*

*Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

**Chris** Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

**Melissa** McCutcheon

**Marguerite** Mihal (*Paul Mihal's mother*)

**Paul** Mihal

**Natalya** Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

**Andrew** Mytrohovich

**Debra** Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

**Grace** Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

**Jim** Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

**James** Peter Petkac

**Susan** Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

**Elena** Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

**Joseph** Rusynyk

**Andrew** Sykaluk

**Elaine** Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

**Tony** Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

**Janice** Tkacz

**Joanne** Theodore (*Lisa Theodore's mother-in law*)

**Gayle** Vidovitch

**Eleanor** Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

**Robert** Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

**Colleen** Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

**Erin** Zawolowycz

**Kristin** Robinson

**Janet** Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

**Laurie** Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

**Alex** Ponomarenko

**Mary Kay** Weber

**Mirta** Szewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Mickey** O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

**Elisa** Seddon (*wife of Eric*)

**Roger** Pinta Jr.

**Kelly** Buehner

**Anna** Sykaluk (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Edward** Zewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Joe** Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

**Patrick** Gallagher

**Jeremy & Yvonne Pozderac and unborn child.**

## ST. THEODOSIUS IS NOW A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online.

Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate> Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our new Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 13

#### Sept 13

3[1] Kings 8:22-23, 27-30

Prov 3:19-34

Prov 9:1-11

Mark 16:9-20

Heb 3:1-4

Matt 16:13-18

Gal 6:11-18

John 3:13-17

2 Cor 1:21-2:4

Matt 22:1-14

#### Sept 14

Exod 15:22-16:1

Prov 3:11-18

Isa 60:11-16

John 12:28-36

Gal 2:11-16

Mark 5:24-34

1 Cor 1:18-24

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

#### Sept 15

Gal 2:21-3:7

Mark 6:1-7

#### Sept 16

Gal 3:15-22

Mark 6:7-13

#### Sept 17

Gal 3:23-4:5

Mark 6:30-45

#### Sept 18

Gal 4:8-21

Mark 6:45-53

#### Sept 19

1 Cor 1:26-29

John 8:21-30

1 Cor 4:17-5:5

Matt 24:1-13

#### Sept 20

Luke 24:1-12

Gal 2:16-20

Mark 8:34-9:1

2 Cor 4:6-15

Matt 22:35-46

#### Sunday, Sept 13

Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross

3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM

Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

#### Monday, Sept 14

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

#### Tuesday, Sept 15

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

#### Wednesday, Sept 16

Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised

#### Thursday, Sept 17

Martyr Sophia and her three Daughters

#### Friday, Sept 18

St. Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna

#### Saturday, Sept 19

Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedon  
Of Synnada

6:00 PM Great Vespers

#### Sunday, Sept 20

Greatmartyr Eustathius and his wife and children  
3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM  
Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

# 2020