



## Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ukrainian Catholic Church

(St. Mary's)

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Sunday & Holy Days Divine Liturgies:  
as scheduled in the Bulletin

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

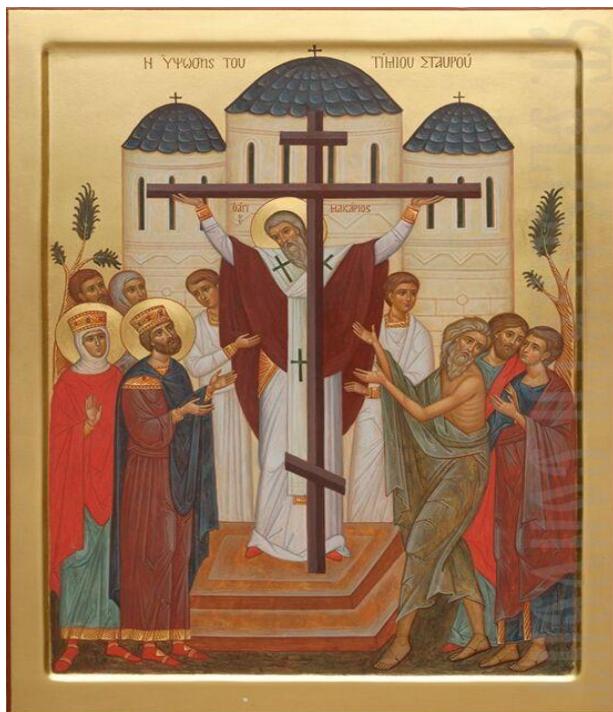
## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Sunday September 13 Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00AM – Confession. 8:30AM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for +Carmelo Alisuag from Martha & John Stine

### Sunday September 20 Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00AM – Confession. 8:30AM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for the intention of Grace Graf from Martha & John Stine



## The Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today, on this Sunday before the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Lord presents the central theme of the Gospel in a few words: God saves the world from the devil and sin driven by endless love alone! To help in understanding, Jesus uses as an example a miracle which occurred while the Israelites were in the desert (Numbers 21:9). The people had been freed from slavery to the Egyptians by God's miraculous interventions. Yet, the

Israelites often forgot the true God, who poured down upon them heavenly food every day, and worshiped the idols. God, to again bring them close to Him, allowed poisonous snakes to bite them, causing many to die. Moses turned to God with tears, and begged for the salvation of his people from this calamity. God replied: Make a snake statue made of copper, and put it on a high pole- so a cross would be formed- and those who were bitten by the snakes can look at it and be

saved. So it happened. This is exactly what happened in the salvation of the whole world and the human race: Jesus accepted being nailed on the Cross, so that those who are poisoned by the devil (the ancient serpent) can turn to Him in faith and be saved. Indeed, we should realize the extent of the sacrifice of the Son of God, Jesus Christ for us! Why should He be sacrificed? Did we deserve it? The Holy Gospels are full of the hostile actions of the people and Jews against Jesus. Often “Jews took up stones to throw at Him” (John 8:59). They slandered Him as a friend of the sinners and unjust customs. They accused Him of not keeping the commandments of God! They came to the point of claiming that Jesus did miracles with the power of the devil and often sought to have him killed. And Jesus, in spite of all this, is going to be crucified for these people and for all of us! The Apostle Paul, amazed at this greatness of God the Father, exclaims: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). While the people were still enemies of Christ, Christ died for us! Something like this had never happened! History has written of times when someone would offer to give his life to save his friend, but we had never heard of a man who died to save his enemy. Only Christ was sacrificed for all, friends and foes. Why does God the Father decide to sacrifice His only-begotten Son, and Christ accepts suffering this sacrifice? The Lord Himself gave us the original answer in today’s Gospel: ‘God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life’ (verse 16). But we must remember something important that the Lord points out. The Son of God died for the salvation of all, but not everyone is saved! As in the Sinai desert, those who faithfully looked upon the copper serpent on the wood were saved, so also those who with faith look towards Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross are saved. The Lord emphasized: “...whoever believes in the Son of God....have everlasting life.” My brothers and sisters, what happiness there is, if we could feel deep within us this infinite love Christ has for us! If we constantly and faithfully turn our soul’s gaze to Christ. If our life was such that we could say along with the Apostle Paul, “the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). *Metropolitan of Pisidia Sotirios*

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

*Commemoration of the Dedication of the Holy Church of the Resurrection of Christ Our God*

**Troparion (6):** Angelic powers were upon Your tomb and the guards became like dead men; Mary stood before Your tomb seeking Your most pure body. You captured Hades without being overcome by it. You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord risen from the dead, glory be to You!

**Troparion (4):** As the priceless beauty residing within the divine image of the tabernacle, thus outwardly you manifested the holy glory of your temple O Lord. Establish it for the ages of ages, and accept, through the prayers of the Theotokos, our supplications, which we unceasingly offer to You, O Life and Resurrection of all.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen.** **Kontakion (6):** With His life-giving hand, Christ our God, the Giver of life, raised all the dead from the murky abyss and bestowed resurrection upon humanity. He is for all, the Savior, the Resurrection and the Life, and the God of all.

**Prokimenon (6):** Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance. **Verse:** To You, O Lord, I call; my God, be not deaf to me. **Prokimenon (4):** Holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days. **Verse:** The Lord has reigned, He is clothed with beauty; the Lord is clothed with strength, and has girded himself. He has established the world, which shall not be moved.

**Epistle:** **Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians.** (Gal 6,11-18) Brethren: See with what large letters I am writing to you in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good appearance in the flesh who are trying to compel you to have yourselves circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those having themselves circumcised observe the law themselves; they only want you to be circumcised so that they may boast of your flesh. But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen. Alleluia Verses: Verse: I have exalted one chosen from the people; and with My holy oil, I have anointed him.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.** **Verse:** My hand shall always be with him, and My arm shall make him strong. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.** **Verse:** His city is founded on the holy mountain. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.** **Verse:** He has glorious predictions to make of you, city of God! **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Gospel:** (Jn 3,13-17) The Lord said, "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

**Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of Your house; and the place where Your glory dwells. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

# CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

September 20, 2020

## Christ, the Heavenly Bread

(St. Cyprian of Carthage)

Each year the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) prepare and distribute resource materials to our parishes for Catechetical Sunday.

Due to the pandemic, Covid-19, many parishes have adjusted their liturgical services and Eastern Christian Formation programs to assure the safety and well being of their parishioners. In some instances this has resulted in the faithful not having the opportunity to receive the Holy Eucharist as frequently as they have in the past. Now is an opportune time to reflect on this Mystery and gain a deeper appreciation of the gift that has been given to us.

In his 24 Lectures entitled, *Jerusalem Catechesis*, St. Clement of Alexandria reminds us. “From the very beginning of Christian history, holy men and women have reflected on Christ’s presence in the Holy Eucharist. They taught the sacred transformation that occurs in the Eucharistic Liturgy is a sign and a cause of the transformation that should occur in the lives of all those who receive this Mystery.”

As we begin the new catechetical year 2020 let us take time to meditate on the reflections, grow in our love and gratitude for the gift of the Holy Eucharist, sharing that love with those entrusted to our care. May we all **Faith-fully** navigate through this pandemic, knowing and trusting that God is With Us.

## September Reflection

### **The Tree of Life & the Holy Eucharist**

By Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo



What does the Bible teach regarding the Holy Eucharist? Why is it that Jesus teaches us that we must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have eternal life?

In order to understand our Lord's words in the Gospel of John, that we must "eat [his] flesh and drink [his] blood," it is necessary that we reflect on the plan of God in the beginning, the plan of God for man as he placed him in the Garden of Eden (Jn. 6:53). What was this plan? Recall, that God planted two trees in the midst of the Garden, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life (cf. Gen 2:9). God instructed Adam and Eve not eat from the Tree of Knowledge, for in the day that they ate of it, God warned, they would surely die (cf. Gen 2:17), but of the Tree of Life, man could freely eat, and through eating of it, man would receive "eternal life," that is, the life of God (cf. Gen. 2:16, 3:22).

It was God's plan to share his own life with his creation, and in the Tree of Life, God offered to man a communication, a participation, in the fullness of divinity. It was God's plan in the Garden of Eden for man to eat the Life of God by way of a created material tree. But Adam and Eve traded life for death and forsook the great gift of the Tree of Life. They ate from the Tree of Knowledge in disobedience to God's command and discovered, to their misery, the curse of death. The Sacred Scriptures tell us that man was cast forth from the Garden of Eden for one reason, "lest he put forth his hand and take also from the Tree of Life, and eat, and **live forever**" (Gen 3: 22).

Saint Ephrem the Syrian explains, 'If man had eaten from the tree of life in the state of fallen human nature, it would have made that state eternal, and man would have lived eternally in death, separated from his God.' Thus, God in his mercy separated man from his source of salvation, the Tree of Life, because what was made good for man had, through disobedience, become his downfall. But God does not change, and thus his plan remains for mankind to share in his own eternal life, through the tree of life.

In the fullness of time, God sent his only Son to save the world and restore man to his original state. It is to be expected, therefore, that we find on the lips of the One who was sent to reverse the curse of the Fall the words of our salvation 'eat, and you will **live forever**' (cf. Jn 6:48-59). On the mountain of Calvary, God devised a way to replant the Tree of Life and hanging upon that tree, the tree of the cross, we behold the fruit of our salvation, the flesh of the Son of God. In the Orthodox Catholic Church, the "Tree of Life" is planted in the midst of the Garden of the Faithful and each Divine Liturgy the people of God eat from this tree for their eternal salvation.

Let us approach with fear of God, with faith and with love and come to the Giver the Life and receive the fruit of the Tree of Life and eat our salvation in the Garden of the Most High.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Food Pantry** Many food banks need donations more than ever during the current COVID-19 crisis. Instead of holding food drives only at Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will be collecting food and non-perishable donations throughout the year and taking donations to a food bank once a month. The collection box will be in front of the confessional/cry room so that donations can be deposited as we enter the church. God bless you for your generosity. Most needed items at this time: Canned fruit, cereal, instant mashed potatoes Other wish list items: Beans, canned meats, canned pasta, canned vegetables, jelly, canned soup, macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, Manwhich, chili/stew, miscellaneous dressings, mixes, pasta and sauces, powdered milk, rice, cleaning products, personal care items.

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### **Collection: September 6, 2020 = \$360.00**

We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail their donations when they're unable to come to Divine Liturgy. If you are financially able, please continue to support our church. You may mail your donations to: PO Box 2735, Manassas, VA 20108. THANK YOU!

**Sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!**