

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14, 2025 (C)

First Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9
Responsorial Psalm: 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

First Reading: Tired of their journey and food, the people complain against God and Moses. In response, God allows venomous serpents. After repenting, the people are told by God through Moses to look at a bronze serpent for healing.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 78 tells the story of Israel's history as a lesson for future generations. It shows how God's people often turned away, yet God stayed merciful. This psalm reminds us to remember his past works so we can stay faithful. Forgetting leads to sin, but recalling his deeds strengthens trust. This shows God's patience and desire to teach his people, even after rebellion.

Second Reading: The letter to the Philippians often speaks of joy in suffering and unity in Christ. This hymn about Jesus shows that true greatness is found in humility. Paul wants the community to imitate Christ by choosing service over pride, a key theme throughout the letter.

Christ's obedience to death on a cross reveals the path to exaltation. His humility leads to glory, and his sacrifice brings salvation. On the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we celebrate this mystery. The cross, once a sign of shame, becomes the sign of victory for all who follow Christ's example.

Gospel: The letter to the Philippians often speaks of joy in suffering and unity in Christ. This hymn about Jesus shows that true greatness is found in humility. Paul wants the community to imitate Christ by choosing service over pride, a key theme throughout the letter.

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Young Christians



Mass Intentions

Sunday, September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

12:00 p.m. (Noon) + Lillian Cina
req by Estate

+ All Souls

Monday, September 15 - Friday, September 19, 2025

MASS AT RESURRECTION PARISH
St. Joseph Site 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 21, 2025

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12:00 p.m. (Noon) + Derek Genesky
req by Mary Dee and Steve
Ognibene

+ Mildred Cina
req by Estate



Please join us for the Rosary
at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
in Ascension Church.

GRIEF SHARE

Offered at St. Brigid Church Parish Center on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 through Wednesday December 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. (either session). You may attend all or any of the sessions.

Session 2: (September 17, 2025) Your Grief Journey.

- Sadness can slow you down to assess where you're struggling and what might help.
- Sadness lessens as you make adjustments in your life.
- Making meaningful connections eases loneliness.

Additional information will be in weekly bulletins.

ASCENSION

Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Scottston F. Brentwood, O. de M., *Pastor*
Rev. Matthew Zirnheld, *Senior Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Eugene Costa, O. de M., *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Patrick O'Keefe, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Mr. Walter T. Szczesny, *Permanent Deacon*

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14, 2025



Mass Time:

Sunday, September 14, 2025 ~ 12:00 Noon

Parish Office Hours:

Monday and Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Confessions:

Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at Resurrection Parish, St. Joseph Site

Contact information:

Office Phone: 585.343.1796

Fax: 585.343.0919

It's Time to Register for Faith Formation!



Today was the first class for Faith Formation. If you haven't registered your child please visit: www.ascensionrcc.com to sign up. Click on the LLFF Faith Formation icon to get started. Parent information and the schedule are available on the website.

If you have any questions, please give the church office a call at 585-343-1796.

The next class for all students and families is in the Ascension Hall at 10:30 a.m. on October 19, 2025 followed by the 12:00 p.m. Mass.



School Supplies

It's well known that teachers need many things throughout the year that get purchased out of pocket. To help the teachers at St. Joseph Regional School, we are asking you to consider

donating. This way teachers can purchase exactly what is needed. Amazon gift cards, Mastercard/Visa gift cards or monetary donations are the way to donate. You can use your own envelope marked "St. Joseph Regional School" and drop it in the collection baskets during Mass. The envelopes go directly to Mrs. Green, Principal, to be used during the school year. This is the only Catholic Elementary School in Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming counties. Let's show our support!

Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14, 2025

Jesus challenges us to take up our cross and follow Him. Is He leading you to the sacrificial life of a religious sister or brother, or the priesthood? Contact Fr. Dave Baker 716-847-5535 or visit buffaloveocations.org.

September 7, 2025 Includes online deposits

Weekly Offering	\$3,708.80
Miscellaneous	<u> 00.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,708.80
Gaza Collection:	\$358.00

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross remembers the Cross of Jesus. It has been celebrated by the Church for centuries. The feast began in the 4th century, when the True Cross was found by St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine. Tradition says she found the Cross in Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified. This discovery made a deep impression on Christians and led to honoring the Cross in a special way.

The feast celebrates the Cross because it is the symbol of our faith. The Cross shows us how much Jesus loves us. He died on the Cross to save us from our sins. In Christian tradition, the Cross is a sign of hope, even though it was an instrument of death. It reminds us that Jesus turned suffering and death into victory and life.

We celebrate this feast on September 14. On this day in the year 335, the Church in Jerusalem dedicated a new church built on the site where Jesus died and rose from the dead. The church was built to honor both His crucifixion and His resurrection. Every year since then, the Church remembers this day and the power of the Cross.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a time to reflect on what the Cross means to us. It is more than a symbol. It is a reminder of God's love and mercy. By celebrating this feast, we honor the victory Jesus won for us through His death and resurrection.

St. Helena and The Discovery of the True Cross

St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, played a key role in finding the True Cross. She became a Christian later in life and had a deep devotion to Jesus. In the year 326, she went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She wanted to find the places where Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead. Her greatest goal was to find the Cross on which Jesus was crucified.

During her journey, she asked the people of Jerusalem for help. Tradition says that after much searching, she discovered three crosses buried near the site of Jesus' crucifixion. She believed one of these was the True Cross. To know which cross belonged to Jesus, they touched a sick woman with (Continued on the next column)

(St. Helena Continued from previous column)

each one. When the woman was healed after touching one of the crosses, they knew it was the Cross of Christ.

The discovery of the True Cross was a moment of great joy for Christians. St. Helena made sure the Cross was treated with great respect. Part of it was kept in Jerusalem, while other parts were sent to churches throughout the Roman Empire. This allowed many Christians to venerate the True Cross.

The True Cross became a central symbol in the Church. It reminded Christians of the sacrifice Jesus made for them. St. Helena's discovery strengthened the faith of many believers. The Cross has been honored ever since as a sign of victory over sin and death.

The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary September 15



Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows became a standard devotion in the Church around the 14th century. It was revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373) that devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary's Seven Sorrows

would bring great signal graces. The devotion consists in praying seven Hail Mary's while mediating on the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Mary, in a unique way, willingly suffered alongside her Divine Son as he gave His life to save the world, and she felt the bitterness of His passion as only a mother can.

The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

- 1.) The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)
- 2.) The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)
- 3.) The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)
- 4.) The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)
- 5.) The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)
- 6.) Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross
(John 19:39-40)
- 7.) Jesus is Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)