***Sept. 20, 2020***

**ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME**

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**Sun. 20 Sep. (Sept. 7th) FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 6. Sunday before the EXALTATION of the CROSS. FOREFEAST of the Nativity of the VIRGIN MARY. Martyr SOZON of Cilicia. Apostles EVODUS & ONESIPHORUS of the 70. Martyr EUPSYCHIUS. Martyrdom of ARCHIMANRITE MACARIY of Ovruch 1678).**

**Galatians 6:11-16 John 3:13-17**

**2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Matthew 22:35-46**

***Panakhyda for the memory of Reader Evhen Roger Seremula (first year of his repose)***

**Today’s Bulletin is sponsored by the Ost family in loving memory of +John Kelleher.**

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings For The Fifteenth Week After Pentecost**

**Mon. 21 Sep. THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.** Martyrs Rufus and Rufianus. Martyrs Severus and Artemidorus.

**Phil. 2:5-11 Lk. 10:38-42; 11:27-28**

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (restriction of 40 people; also available Online).***

**Tue. 22 Sep.** Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna. Martyr Severian of Sebaste (320).

**Gal. 5:11-21 Mk. 7:5-16**

**Wed. 23 Sep.** Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora (305). Ven. Paul the Obedient of the Kyiv Caves (14th c.).

**Gal. 6:2-10 Mk. 7:14-24**

**Thu. 24 Sep.** Ven. Theodora of Alexandria (490). Martyrs Demetrius, his wife Euanthia, and their son Demetriant (1st c.).

**Eph. 1:1-9 Mk. 7:24-30**

**Fri. 25 Sep.** Hieromartyr Autonomus, bishop in Italy (313). Hieromartyr Theodore, archbishop of Alexandria (606). St. Coronatus, bishop of Iconium (3rd c.).

**Eph. 1:7-17 Mk. 8:1-10**

**Sat. 26 Sep.** Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem (355). Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.).

**Heb. 3:1-4 Mt. 16:13-19**

***5:00 PM Great Vespers with Litiya.***

**Sun. 27 Sep. THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS**. (Strict Fast Day)

**1 Cor. 1:18-24 Jn. 19, 6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35**

***8:30 AM Third & Sixth Hours***

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (restriction of 40 people; also available Online).***

**St. Anthony the Great:** It has been so arranged by the Lord God, that in His care for the salvation of our soul, each person in this life has a cross which he must humbly carry to our Heavenly Father from his childhood, calling to Him from the depth of his soul: "Our Father! May Thy Holy Will be done in all things, only do not deprive me of Thy Heavenly Kingdom."

**St. Macarius:** To bear the cross does not mean only visible, external sorrows, but also internal spiritual ones. One must endure darkness, faintheartedness and similar things as well. For God sends this for the destruction of our pride and acquiring of humility.

We seek and desire sweet, spiritual enjoyment; I do not argue, it is pleasant - but it is lower than the cross. It is granted to us through the cross and without the cross it cannot last. It comes to us and leaves us according to the degree that we travel the way of the cross and humility.

**St. Barsanuphius:** We faithful have a great weapon - this is the power of the Life-giving Cross. Think how terrifying it becomes for unbelievers; they are completely helpless. It is as if a person set out completely unarmed into the thick forest at night. Yes, the first beast he came across would tear him up, and he would have nothing to defend himself with. But we will not be afraid of the demons! The power of the sign of the Cross and the name of Jesus is terrifying to the enemies of Christ, and saves us from the evil nets of the demons.

**Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross - Sessional Hymn of the Canon:**In Paradise of old, the tree stripped me bare, for by the eating thereof, the enemy brought in death. But now the most holy tree of the Cross that doth clothe all men with the garment of life hath been set up on earth, and all of the world is filled with most boundless joy. Seeing it exalted, ye people, now, let us the faithful all cry out with one accord to God in faith: Thy house is full of glory, O Lord.

**PROPERS FOR LITURGY OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 6**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb. The guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave seeking Your Most Pure Body. You captured Hell, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting Life. Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You.

**Tropar of the Forefeast, Tone 4**

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David, the handmaid of God, Mary, is being born for us. Therefore, all creation is renewed and rejoices. Heaven and earth rejoice together. Praise her you families of nations, for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out: "The barren one gives birth to the Mother of God, the Nourisher of our life.

**Tropar to Great Martyr Sozon, Tone 1**

O martyr Sozon, you pledged your life to God, enduring the contest and becoming a sharer in Christ's passion. Save from temptation those who cry to you: "Gory to Him, Who strengthened you. Glory to Him Who crowned you. Glory to Him, Who through you works healing for all."

**Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 6**

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, with His Life-Giving Hand raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery, He bestowed Resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Kondak to Martyr Sozon, Tone 2**

As we come together on this day, let us, with loud voices, remember the true and God-bearing martyr and athlete of piety, Sozon. The divine initiate of grace, the most bountiful giver of healings, for he intercedes with God for us all.

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

**Kondak of the Forefeast, Tone 3**

Today the Virgin Mary, the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bride- groom, by the will of God is born of a barren woman, being prepared as the chariot of God, the Word. She was fore-ordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of Life.

**Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 6**

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

**Verse :** Lord, to You will I call. May God, be not silent to me.

**Prokimen to the Martyr, Tone 7**

The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him. Epistles;

**Galatians 6:11-18 & 2 Corinthians 4:6-15**

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 1**

I have exalted the Holy One chosen out of My people.

The Righteous shall flourish as a palm tree and shall increase as the cedars of Lebanon.

**Gospel: John 3:13-17 & Matthew 22:35-46**

Hymn to the Birth-Giver of God" It is right in truth, to glorify your, the Birth-Giver of God, the Ever- Blessed, wholly immaculate, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim. You, who without defilement did bare God the Word, true Birth-Giver of God, we magnify you.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the Highest. The Righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. They shall not be afraid of any evil report. Alleluia (3X)

**Varenyky workers have a meeting on Sunday, September 20 after church in the Hall.**

**Sign up on our website for each Liturgy by 7 p.m. Saturday as the guidelines restrict us to 40 people. If there are difficulties with sign up, please let Fr. Oleg or John Hnatow know.**

**Please make the appointments for the Sacrament of Confession, Saturdays between 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM. If you need, you can receive Communion and Confess any day.**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**21 Sept...Paul Sawarynski**

**23 Sept...Allison Pypiuk, Martha Dowling**

**25 Sept...John Burk**

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

**22 Sept...Frederic & Stephanie Burk**

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY: John Kelleher**

**20 Sept...Daniel Kurey '27, Joseph Gulka '93. Kathryn Pontician 07**

**21 Sept...Paul Kuzyk '44, Anna Bockonok '79, Yulia Rud '11**

**22 Sept...Metro Bach '75**

**23 Sept...Stephen Micio (infant) '27**

**25 Sept...John Hewko 13**

**26 Sept...Marie Sobchak 59**

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**WE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** of the ill-afflicted: Allan Bach, Ihor Broda, James Osmun, Matthew, Lubov Slonova, Chet Bohanek, William Savitz, Catherine Kochenash, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Betty Hendrickson, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous.

**The Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-giving Cross:** Fast Day on whatever day the Feast falls. A tradition which took shape early and was definitely established in the Sixth century reports that Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, rediscovered near Golgotha the three crosses which served to execute Christ and the two thieves. The healing of a dying woman permitted Bishop Makarios to recognize, as being the Lord's Cross, the one whose contact effected the miracle. The Holy Cross was preserved in the Basilica of the Resurrection until May 4, 614, the date on which the Persians carried it away after having taken the city of Jerusalem and destroying the Basilica. In 628, Emperor Heraclius defeated Chosroes and brought the Holy Cross back to Jerusalem. Heraclius took the venerable wood upon his shoulders and carried it back to Calvary with great pomp. According to legend, upon reaching the door of the church, the Emperor, magnificently dressed and wearing gold, was stopped by an invisible force. Zachary, the Bishop of Jerusalem, said to him: "Be careful, Emperor, that with these ornaments of triumph, you don't imitate sufficiently the poverty of Jesus Christ and the humility with which He carried His Cross." The Emperor laid aside his splendid clothes to dress himself in an ordinary cloak, and with bare feet, he was able to continue on his way.

The site where tradition places the discovery of the Holy Cross by Saint Helen is venerated in the crypt of the Holy Resurrection, in Jerusalem. This commemorative chapel was made form part of an ancient drain which existed in the time of Our Lord in Jerusalem. Filled up later on, it was used by Constantine's architects in the crypt of the basilica.

A part of the Cross, brought to Rome in the Sixth century, was exposed for the veneration of the faithful by order of the oriental Pope Sergius I (687-701), in the Church of the Savior.

That is why, equally in the East and the West, the feast of the Holy Cross had a considerable importance in the liturgical calendar from this epoch. It is made on Good Friday which is a direct reference. But, whereas the feast of Good Friday insists more on the historic event of Christ's Redemption, in His sufferings and death, today's feast more particularly represents for us the glorious aspect of this event, consequently, the instrument of execution on which the Lord died. The Church calls to mind for us in the Office the Old Testament signs, the heralds of the Cross: the tree of Eden, by which we were lost (the Cross was meant to save us); Noe's ark which accomplished the salvation of the just (the Cross affected the same to sinners); Jacob crossing his hands to bless his son Joseph; Moses extending his arms to open in the Red Sea a door of salvation to the Israelites, then throwing some wood into the waters of Mara to sweeten their bitterness; the same Moses striking the rock with his staff to make life-giving water spring forth, and praying, with hands crossed, for the victory of the Jewish people over Amalec; the rod of Aaron; the brazen serpent, the predisposition in the Cross taken by the Jewish people around the Ark of the covenant... The Cross is the instrument of the passion, the stool upon which the Lord rested His feet, the trophy of victory, the rampart of the Church, the cure of all ills, the honor of Christians. Nevertheless, the texts of the Divine Liturgy maintain still more the spirit of the sorrowful Passion of the Lord, abandoned by His Father on the Cross, "a scandal for the Jews and a folly for the Greeks" (that is, the pagans). This feast places before us the most profound mystery of suffering, which is no longer for us a revolting fatality, but a proof of supernatural love which lies for us in the Lord for the purification of our faults and already, by desire, in the exultation of His Glory.

**St. Andrew of Crete:**Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be cancelled, we should not have obtained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life, and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled. THEREFORE, THE CROSS is something wonderfully great and honorable. It is great because through the cross, the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation - very many indeed, for both His miracles and His sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honorable because it is both the sign of God's suffering and the trophy of His victory. It stands for His suffering because on it He freely suffered unto death. But it is also His trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation of the whole world!