***ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

***ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME***

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**Sun. 26 Sep. FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 5. FOREFEAST of the EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS. DEDICATION of the CHURCH of the RESURRECTION in Jerusalem (335). Hieromartyr CORNELIUS the Centurion (1st C.) Martyrs CRONIDES, LEONTIUS & SERAPION of Alexandria (237) Martyrs SELEUCUS & STRATON (3rd C.)**

**2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 Matthew 22:1-14**

**Galatians 6:11-18 John 3:13-17**

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

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings**

**Mon. 27 Sep. THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS** (Strict Fast Day). Repose of St. John Chrysostom (407).

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

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.***

**Tue. 28 Sep. Great-martyr Nicetas the Goth (372).**

**Gal. 2:21–3:7 Mk. 6:1-7**

**Wed. 29 Sep.** Repose of St. Cyprian, metropolitan of Kyiv (1406).

**Gal. 3:15-22 Mk. 6:7-13**

**2:00 PM Pilgrimage to the Miraculous Myrrh Streaming icon Kardiotissa (Taylor, PA) and Holy Protection Greek Monastery.**

**Thu. 30 Sep. Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters: Faith (Vira), Hope (Nadia), and Love (Lyubov), at Rome (137).**

**Gal. 3:23–4:5 Mk. 6:30-45**

**Fri. 01 Oct.** Ven. Eumenes, bishop of Gortyna (7th c.). Martyr Castor of Alexandria.

**Gal. 4:8-21 Mk. 6:45-53**

**Sat. 02 Oct.** Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross.Blessed Ihor, Prince of Chernihiv

**1 Cor. 4:17–5:5 Mt. 24:1-13**

***5:00 PM Great Vespers and examination of conscience.***

**Sun. 03 Oct. *9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.***

YOUR CROSS  
Whatever your cross  
Whatever your pain  
There will always be sunshine  
After the rain  
  
Perhaps you may stumble  
Perhaps even fall  
But God's always there  
To help you through it all

**Q.** *I bring my friends to the Divine Liturgy at our parish church and they always ask me "Why do you use that unusual cross instead of the regular cross?" I think I can explain it a little but can you help? Thanks.*

**A.** The three bar cross is generally thought to be the symbol of the Orthodox Church. Some of the earliest icons and murals found in East and West depict Christ crucified on a cross with three bars. For some reason this cross flowered primarily in Eastern Christian lands and has been brought to America by millions of Orthodox faithful. It would help us to take the cross apart one bar at a time. The top bar, known as the nameplate, placed above the head of Jesus contains the sign "Jesus Christ, King of the Jews': as was commanded by Pontius Pilate for His crucifixion. The middle bar is where they nailed the hands of Jesus. The most colorful of the horizontal bars, in terms of explanations, is of course the third one, usually portrayed as a slant downwards from left to right. There are three reasons given for this third bar. We know this is the bar that they nailed his feet to.

1) When our Lord Jesus died the weight of His body gave way and moved the bar in a downwards movement.

2) On either side of Jesus there were two thieves crucified. The thief who repented, the so-called good thief, was on the left and the thief who ridiculed our Lord on the right. This shows that repentance and forgiveness allowed the good thief to go upwards to the kingdom of Heaven and the unrepentant thief was not so lucky. This explanation makes the third bar a pointer upwards to the kingdom of Heaven which is God-willing our destination in our death as well.

3) Apostolic story has it that Saint Andrew the Apostle preached the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the southeast of what is Ukraine now. St. Andrew was crucified on an X - shaped cross. To honor the man who taught them Jesus and Salvation, the Slavs placed a portion of his X on the bottom bar of the holy cross. Whichever explanation one accepts the important thing is that the three bar cross is the symbol of our faith and salvation and should be venerated, kissed, worn on our bodies as well as placed on the domes and icon screens of our holy temples.

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 5**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation of the Virgin. In His Good Will, He was lifted up on the Cross in the flesh to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Tropar of the Dedication of the Church or the Resurrection, Tone 4**

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your glory on earth, to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. Through the prayers of the Birth-Giver of God, strengthen it forever and ever and accept our supplication, which we ceaselessly offer to You there in, the life and resurrection of all.

**Tropar of the Forefeast of the Holy Cross, Tone 4**

We offer in supplication the life creating Cross of Your goodness, O Lord, which You have granted to us although we are unworthy. Through the Birth-Giver of God, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of mankind.

**Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 5**

You descended into Hell, my Savior, destroying its gates as the Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, Lover of all Mankind. Therefore, we all cry out to You: Lord save us.

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

**Kondak of the Dedication, Tone 4**

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light which enlightens all the faithful. Standing with it we cry: “Establish this house, O Lord.

**Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Kondak of the Forefeast, Tone 4**

Your precious Cross rises like the sun and mystically makes all things holy and pure. Let us prepare to welcome it with faith.

**Prokimen of the Holy Cross, Tone 6**

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

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

**Prokimen of the Dedication, Tone 4**

Holiness becomes Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

**Epistles: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 & Galatians 6:11-18**

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 1**

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

For My Hand shall defend him and My Arm will strengthen him.

His foundations are in the holy mountains.

**Gospels: Matthew 22:2-14 & John 3:13-17**

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. O Lord, I have loved the beauty of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. Alleluia (3X).

**Pilgrimage to the Miraculous Myrrh Streaming icon Kardiotissa (Taylor, PA) and Holy Protection Greek Monastery. September 29 at 2 PM. Moleben Service and anointing at 6 PM. We can also pick you up.**

**Thank you to all organizers of UOL PICNIC. That was fun!**

**We’re back! Pierogi schedule:**  October 21, November 4, November 18, December 2, December 16. 300 dozen limit. We strongly need your help as a volunteer. For orders or volunteers please call Helen: 610-261-4575.

**Second collection is for our Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ to help to restore the property after the flood.**

**For the food banks**: We were assigned baby foods, but they also need cans of potatoes, tuna fish, canned meats, pasta, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**27 Sept…Meredith Misko**

**30 Sept…Angela Meashock**

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**26 Sept…Marie Sobchak ‘59 27 Sept…Andrew Micio ’50, William Turick ’82**

**28 Sept…Michael Syvenky ’74**

**29 Sept…Andrew Martyniuk ’47, John Maslanyk ’61, John Krill ’10**

**30 Sept…Stephen Kowalyshyn ’66, Nancy Wulchak ’88**

**01 Oct…Iliah Schneider (inf.) ’22, Anna Mazepa ’66, Stella Reznik ’71, Mary Mauser ’97**

**02 Oct…Anna Dorosh ‘02 VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED:** Helen Crayosky, priest Vasyl Dovgan, Stephanie Donnelly, Nicholas Alexander, Paulette Mecherly, Steve Sivulich, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Halyna Kucharchuk, Joan Molnar, Bill Ketterer, Brandon and Stacy Snyder, Aaliyah Osmun, Ihor Broda, James Osmun, William Savitz, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous, Justine Schubert.

**THINK YOU’RE TOO OLD?** St. Helena was almost 80 years old when she took the long trip from Constantinople to Jerusalem to find the Cross on which Jesus was crucified. Why did she go to such trouble to find the True Cross? Because she had experienced the power of the Cross in her own life and she could not rest until she found the True Cross. This month, at the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross, we recognize by faith the great power present in the Holy Cross - a power which puts Satan to flight. It is by the Cross that the Son of God showed His great mercy to us. He accepted the Cross freely for OUR salvation. St. Paul wrote to the Galatians: "As for me, the only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world." (Gal 6:14) Do you often think of the Cross? Do you wear one? Do you make the sign of the Cross your constant companion and expression of faith when you go to sleep, awake, begin a task, ward off temptation, think of Christ, read the Scriptures, or pray?

I gave my life for thee.

My precious blood I shed,

That thou might’st ransomed be,

And quickened from the dead;

I gave, I gave my life for thee,

What hast thou giv’n for Me?

I suffered much for thee,

More than thy tongue can tell,

Of bitt’rest agony,

To rescue thee from hell

I’ve borne, I’ve borne it all for thee,

What hast thou borne for Me?

**THE BABAS TAUGHT ME…** That in making the sign of the cross, we should touch forehead, chest, and both shoulders. Baba is unhappy with people who look as if they are swatting flies. She is also upset by those who do not make the sign of the cross during the service. "What are they doing, daydreaming?"

The sign of the cross is made whenever the trinity is mentioned, as in "Father, Son and Holy Spirit," and "Holy God and Holy Mighty." It is also made when we enter and leave the church and when we walk in front of the Holy Gates. We also make the sign of the cross before venerating an icon or the cross or the Holy Gospel, during prayer at each ektenia and at the beginning of each prayer.

We make the sign of the cross when a priest or bishop blesses us. These are just some of the times Baba feels that we are neglectful. She said, "If not sure, more is better."

**A woman gym teacher** at one of our schools wore a cross in a chain around her neck. During class she usually tucked it under the neck of her blouse. While teaching games to a class of young girls, the jumping and bouncing caused the cross to flop out. One of the little girls beckoned the teacher to bend down so she could whisper in her ear. She said, "Don't look now, but your religion is showing."