

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley**  
**a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**  
**16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406** [stmichaelvannuys.org](http://stmichaelvannuys.org)

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# **The Forefeast and Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and The Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection**

**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

**Tone 5; Eothinon 3**

## **Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## **Apolytikion of the Forefeast of the Holy Cross (Tone 2)**

We offer thee in mediation the life-giving Cross which, of Thy goodness, Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord. Save Thy hierarchs and Thy flock, and grant Thou peace through the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

## **Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)**

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

## **Kontakion of the Church of the Holy Resurrection (Tone 4)**

The Church is shown to be a many-lighted heaven that doth shine a guiding light upon all them that do believe; wherein while standing, we cry aloud: Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

## **Daily Readings**

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John  
(3:13-17)**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

**The Synaxarion**

On September 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and commemorate the Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection of Christ our God.

***Verses***

New Israel, fulfilling a law that is ancient,

Doth honor thy tomb, O Word, with this consecration.

On the thirteenth befell the consecration of the Resurrection's fane.

Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem is honored above all others. Constantine the Great constructed it at the place of Golgotha, where our Savior was

crucified and buried, then arose. For a long time this place had been purposely buried beneath the earth by the Jews and heathen; furthermore, during the reign of Hadrian (117-138), a temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built over the site so that this sacred place might be even further desecrated and fall into utter oblivion. It was here that the Cross was hidden. However, at the command of the pious Emperor Constantine, excavations were made and the tokens of the saving Passion were found. It was here, then, that the very great and magnificent temple named in honor of Christ God's Resurrection was built under the supervision of the blessed Helen, while Macarius was Archbishop of Jerusalem. Macarius exalted the venerable Cross and consecrated this temple in the year 336.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Cornelius the centurion; Venerable Hierotheos the Younger of Iviron monastery on Athos; Great-martyr Ketevan, queen of Georgia; and the Six Martyrs at Tomi in Romania. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

NOTE: Wednesdays and Fridays are observed as days of fasting

### **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Monday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>**

[observed as a day of strict fasting]

Sunday, September 13 - Reader's Vespers, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, September 14 - Divine Liturgy, 11 a.m.

### **The Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross**

Great Vespers – Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

with the Procession of the Holy Cross

[Reminder: The Procession of the Holy Cross precedes its veneration and the reading of the Holy Gospel. It is important that we gather for Liturgy on time at the start of the Divine Liturgy (10 a.m.) We are currently limiting attendance at our church services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Parishioners must sign-up by informing Father Timothy to attend our services.**]

## OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by the O'Dea family for the birthdays of Marcia's goddaughter, Julie Ellerton (September 13), and sister, Anita Chala (September 18). May God grant them continued blessings for many, many years.

Special offerings and requests for prayers are being made . . .

for God's blessings upon Fred Milkie, Jr. as he celebrates his birthday  
Offered with love by his family, Tanya, Dominick, Alek and Elisa.

for the well being and continued health of Marie Barilla and Sylvia Vega.

for the repose of the newly-departed, Chris Gala (+5 September, 2020)  
by the Milkie family. Memory eternal.

by Maha & David Alexander for the newly-departed Sadaa Sadd Eldeeb  
(+4 September, 2020), beloved aunt. Memory eternal.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

Plan to view all of our scheduled church services on-line by logging on to: either **FaceBook** or **YouTube** via our parish website: <[www.stmichaelvannuys.org](http://www.stmichaelvannuys.org)> Your church offering may be made on-line via our website "Donation" tab or by mailing your check to the church at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406.

### Church Attendance

We are currently limiting attendance at our church services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parishioners must sign-up by informing Father Timothy to attend our services. Questions will also be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) The Sacrament(s) are also available on weekdays by appointment.

### Zoom Meeting Bible Study

**Bible Study with Father Timothy** — Tuesday, September 15th at 7 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in the parish e-mail.**

Note: Father Timothy would also welcome scheduling a Zoom Meeting with you and your family at any time by appointment. Simply e-mail him at <[frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)>.

### **Adult Zoom Meeting: “The Relationship Project”**

Join Father Timothy this Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. in weekly one-hour Zoom meetings that explore “The Relationship Project” produced by *Faithtree Resources*. Discover the struggles of young people and how we can best relate to their anxieties and challenges. The three-part program aims to build the primary relationships of a young person: with their parents, priest, people of faith and friends. This curriculum that was written by a team of Orthodox theologians, pastor-teachers, therapists, and youth workers has been blessed by His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH. Sign-up with Father Timothy to participate.

### **Join in our Parish Bible Study Zoom Meetings**

An “Orthodox Bible Study” provides a broad and complete study of the full context of Holy Scripture (Old and New Testament) It is a comprehensive approach to understanding God’s Word from Holy Tradition that includes: The Apostolic writings, Church Councils, the Canonical Texts, Patristic Sources, Liturgical Texts of Services and the experience of saints who have given testimony through their life as witnesses of the faith through the centuries. This week’s “Virtual Bible Study Zoom Meeting” will take place on Tuesday evening, September 15th, at 7 p.m. Each study is limited to one hour. Each week’s topic on the Sacrament of Confession is part of our continuing study on our life in the Spirit. For recorded sessions or study guides, e-mail Father Timothy at: <[frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)>.

### **Upcoming Events**

First Day of Church School Classes - Sunday, September 27

Patronal Feast of the Holy Archangel Michael - Saturday, November 7

The 57th “Sweetheart Ball” - at the Universal Hilton Hotel

**(November 28, 2020)**

**Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.**

**Holy Bread Offering List**

Sep 14 - Feast of the Holy Cross  
Sep 20 - open  
Sep 27 - open  
Oct 04 - the Deeb family  
Oct 11 - open

**Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

Note: There are no Coffee  
Hours scheduled

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; [pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org)) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread.

**Personal Tours of our New Church Sanctuary**

Personal tours are being scheduled by appointment for all who are interested in designated "sponsorships" or "dedications" of various parts of the new church sanctuary that are available. The tour will also provide answers to questions. Please contact Father Timothy for more information at: [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)

**Young Adult Fellowship "Wine and Cheese Party"**

Any young adult (21-40) are welcome to attend a gathering at the home of Richard Ajalat [616 Groveview Lane; La Canada; CA 91011; 818-800-2418] on Friday, September 20, 2020. For more information contact Richard, also via his e-mail <[rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org)>.

*A Prayer for September 11th*

O Thou who didst pray for them that crucified Thee and who didst commend Thy servants to pray for their enemies, forgive, O Lord, those who hate and maltreat us, and turn our lives, and the lives of all those who suffered at the hands of our enemies, from all harm and evil to brotherly love and good works. For this we humbly bring our prayer, that with one accord and one heart we may glorify Thee who alone art the Lover of mankind. And as Thy first martyr Stephen prayed to Thee for those who slew him, so we fall down before Thee and pray: Forgive, O Lord, all those who hate us and maltreat us, and let not one of them perish because of us, but be saved by Thy grace. Set our hearts on fire with love for Thee, O Christ our God, that in its flame we may love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that, keeping

Thy commandments, we may glorify Thee together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.



# CHURCH SCHOOL 2020-21

Starts 9/27/20

## ***NEW CLASS BREAKDOWN / NEW PROCEDURES***

Due to the current situation the following will be our new procedures until Fr. Timothy decides that we can come back to the onsite classes.

In an effort to keep Church School as normal as possible, all classes will take place on Sundays at 1:30pm.

This will give our families that do come to church or watch services on Zoom time to get their children ready.

We will be using our Current Curriculum with some changes. In an effort to increase our Church School / Youth Department, we are now developing a Jr High Group this year with a brand new curriculum from which our Jr. High students will benefit.

### **Class Breakdown**

PreK – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades

6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades (Jr. High)

8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades (High School)

**Register Today = ON LINE**

We are also in the process of revising our Website for Youth Ministries that has links for Church School and Teen Groups. Please go to the website and click on Youth Ministries, then Church School which will give you all the information you need including a link to register on line.

The completion of the Website should be completed by the end of October.

## **Parish Council Zoom Meeting - Monday, September 21**

### **Parish Council Nominations**

On Sunday, November 15, 2020 we will be holding a brief Virtual Special Meeting of the Voting Membership solely for the purpose of receiving and accepting nominations for Parish Council members to be elected for there (3), three-year terms (January, 2020 to December, 2022). At this meeting the Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be open from the floor. It is important that persons being considered be able to fulfill the commitment to serve. Therefore it is necessary that all nominees first be personally asked if they would accept nomination, and second be approved by the Pastor as someone who is qualified. The Parish Constitution prescribes that all nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging members of the parish for at least one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. The nominees must also be committed in attending monthly Parish Council meetings held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month. We sincerely thank Joe Ayoub [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; Adam Lamar [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; and Deacon Andrew Monsue [completing his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]. Our one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Julie Bitar [second year appointed], and Michael Mitchell [first year appointed]. The Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 22 and 29. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla, Regan Hines, John Khouri, Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Dan Raju, and Kris Thabit. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her eighth (10th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. All interested in serving on the Parish Council should contact: Connie Barilla, Nominations Chair at: [cmatthews46@yahoo.com](mailto:cmatthews46@yahoo.com)

### **Bookstore Sales Continue With Delivery**

Contact Bobbi Monsue at: [bobbi\\_monsue@att.net](mailto:bobbi_monsue@att.net) for your special order of books, icons, jewelry, cards, lamps, censers, incense, and much more; especially for that special occasion or personal gift.

## **Building Fund Update**

We are still unable to have a clear date for the completion of our Church Building Project for a very important reason: A certified occupancy will be granted by the City of Los Angeles when the Department of Building and Safety verifies that we have complied with the peripheral requirements of our site plan. This means we cannot and may not be able to complete the project without a line of credit (loan) with a lending institution or a parishioner loan program. Some additional LA City requirements may be expected to be completed as a prerequisite for our occupancy.

At the current time we have invested 2.7 million dollars to reach our goal of having a watertight building. As of August 31st we have 1.2 million dollars within our construction Building Fund Account of which one-half of the amount is already committed under contract with third party contractors currently working on the site. By January of 2021 we will have contractually obligated the remainder one-half of the account funds for additional new construction work. Without additional funding it will greatly impede our ongoing progress as we will be unable to contract for any additional work to be done on the project. As has been expressed in the past we estimate our shortfall will be approximately five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to complete the project.

Your urgent financial help is needed between now and the end of 2020. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation between now and the end of the year to take advantage of any Tax Benefits that would be available to you. For more information on a pledge commitment or sponsorship, please contact Ron Zriack at <[ronaldzraick@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldzraick@gmail.com)> or Father Timothy at: <[frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)>.

## **Have You Received your “Real” (National) ID”?**

### **What is a Real ID?**

In January 2018 the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** implemented phase 4 of the “REAL ID Act” (Law) that sets a new standard for state issued driver’s licenses and identity documents. The State of California and other states were granted an extension to comply with the Federal Law by October 10, 2020. A “Real ID” is issued at local offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles and will require providing hard copy documents that verify one’s identification. Those documents include: a) a birth certificate of a U.S. state or territory; an unexpired passport, certificate of naturalization or citizenship, an unexpired permanent resident card, a certified legal document supporting name change, if applicable; b) an original or certified Social Security number, W-2 form, SSA-1099 form; c) two (2) forms of proof of California residence that may include home utility bills, medical documents, insurance documents, IRS or California tax return. NOTE: All names used on legal documents must be consistent on all records. Your California Driver’s License may be used as your “Real ID” when it shows a gold (California bear) logo on the top right of your driver’s license. Otherwise a “Real ID” is issued as a separate form of identification from your California Driver’s License. See Fr. Timothy to receive an official document of the above.

### **Why will I need a Real ID?**

A “Real ID” is a form of identification that meets increased security standards for state-issued driver’s licenses and identification cards. Travelers will be required to provide either a real ID or another TSA-approved form of identification (i.e., Passport) for air travel or to visit a secure federal facility such as a military base after October 1, 2020.

### **How may I acquire a Real ID?**

Anyone may register on-line at: [dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv](http://dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv) in order to receive a code for a non-appointment when visiting a local DMV office. Appointments may also be made on-line, however, on-line appointments may require waiting for a month or more.

THE FOREFEAST AND THE SUNDAY BEFORE  
THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION  
IN JERUSALEM

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الخامس  
لنسيخ نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة، المساوي للآب والروح في الأزلية وعدم الابتداء،  
المولود من العذراء لخلصنا، لأنه سر أن يصعد بالجسد على الصليب ويحمل الموت،  
وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة

أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ، إِنَّا نَقُدِّمُ لَكَ لِإِسْتِشْفَاعِ صَلِيبِ صَلاَحِكَ الْمُحْيِي، الَّذِي وَهَبْتَهُ لَنَا نَحْنُ غَيْرِ  
الْمُسْتَحِقِّينَ. فَخَلِّصِ الْمُلُوكَ وَمَدِينَتَكَ، جَاعِلًا لَهُمْ سَلَامًا، مِنْ أَجْلِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ، يَا مُحِبَّ  
الْبَشَرِ وَحَدِّكَ.

كَمِثْلِ بَهَاءِ الْجَدِّ الْعُلُويِّ، أَظْهَرْتَ الْجَمَالَ السُّفْلِيَّ لِمَسْكَنِ مَجْدِكَ الْأَقْدَسِ، يَا رَبُّ. فَتَبَّتْهُ  
إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ، وَتَقَبَّلْ طَلِبَاتِنَا الْمُقَدِّمَةَ لَكَ فِيهِ بِغَيْرِ فُتُورٍ، بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ، يَا  
حَيَاةَ الْكُلِّ وَقِيَامَتَهُمْ.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع  
أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحِقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُم  
بَطَلِبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بظُلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ  
وَالصَّارِحِينَ بِغَيْرِ فُتُورٍ، أَنْقِذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُم رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

لَقَدْ ظَهَرْتَ الْكَنِيسَةَ سَمَاءً كَثِيرَةَ الْأَنْوَارِ، تُنِيرُ كُلَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ. وَنَحْنُ فِي وَقُوفِنَا الْآنَ نَصْرُحُ  
قَائِلِينَ: تَبَّتْ يَا رَبُّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ.

## الرسالة

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثَكَ

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهُي

\*فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ

يَا إِخْوَةَ، انظُرُوا مَا أَعْظَمَ الْكُتَابَاتِ الَّتِي كَتَبْتُهَا إِلَيْكُمْ بِيَدِي\* إِنَّ كُلَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُرْضُوا بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ، يُلْزِمُونَكُمْ أَنْ تَحْتَتَبُوا، وَإِنَّمَا ذَلِكَ لِئَلَّا يُضْطَهَدُوا مِنْ أَجْلِ صَلِيبِ الْمَسِيحِ\* لِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَحْتَتَبُونَ هُمْ أَنْفُسُهُمْ لَا يَحْفَظُونَ النَّامُوسَ، بَلْ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَحْتَتَبُوا لِيَفْتَخَرُوا بِأَجْسَادِكُمْ\* أَمَّا أَنَا، فَحَاشَى لِي أَنْ أَفْتَخِرَ إِلَّا بِصَلِيبِ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بِهِ صُلِبَ الْعَالَمُ لِي وَأَنَا صُلِبْتُ لِلْعَالَمِ\* لِأَنَّهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ لَيْسَ الْخِتَانُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا الْقَلْفُ، بَلْ الْخَالِيقَةُ الْجَدِيدَةُ\* وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ يَسْلُكُونَ بِحَسَبِ هَذَا الْقَانُونِ، فَعَلَيْهِمْ سَلَامٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَعَلَى إِسْرَائِيلَ اللَّهُ\* فَلَا يَجْلِبُ عَلَيَّ أَحَدٌ أَتْعَابًا فِيمَا بَعْدُ، فَإِنِّي حَامِلٌ فِي جَسَدِي سِمَاتِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ\* نِعْمَةٌ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مَعَ رُوحِكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ. آمِينَ.

## الإنجيل المقدس

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: لَمْ يَصْعَدْ أَحَدٌ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ إِلَّا الَّذِي نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ الَّذِي هُوَ فِي السَّمَاءِ\* وَكَمَا رَفَعَ مُوسَى الْحَيَّةَ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ، هَكَذَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يُرْفَعَ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ\* لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ، بَلْ تَكُونَ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ\* لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ الْعَالَمَ، حَتَّى بَدَّلَ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ، بَلْ تَكُونَ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ\* فَإِنَّهُ لَمْ يُرْسِلِ اللَّهُ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ لِيَدِينِ الْعَالَمَ، بَلْ لِيُخَلِّصَ بِهِ الْعَالَمَ.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، الا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية.

**Pastor's Sermon**  
**The Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross**  
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig  
September 13, 2020

The Feast and message of the Holy Cross speak to us as parents, grandparents, godparents and teachers. The Church places so great an emphasis on the meaning of the Cross this week that it includes three (3) gospel lessons, beginning today: The Pre-feast and Sunday before the Feast, tomorrow, September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The lesson points to the many choices we face as children, young people, young adults, husbands, wives, parents, godparents; choices that always begin with parenting and the challenge to love with the sacrificial love of God. It is the same lesson heard in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism when Godparents are reminded of their commitment to Christ and their responsibility to teach their Godchildren by example (word and deed). It is the same lesson heard in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony when a couple is challenged to love as Christ loved the church, “submitting to one another out of reverence of Christ.” It is the same lesson heard at the time of an ordination when one responds to God’s call to service. It is also the lesson learned in the Sacrament of Healing, and includes the Sacrament of Confession and reconciliation.

With each Sacrament, the lesson remains the same: Love is never mastered. It is always tested. It is grounded in commitment and devotion. It always begins in humility. It is selfless and (as we hear St. Paul say) is not proud, not rude or boastful, does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It is full of mercy. It protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres. It grows with patience and is never practiced in a vacuum. It is greater than faith and hope [see I Corinthians 13]. Love is eternal.

In today's gospel we clearly hear that love took the initiative: *God so loved the world that He gave...* It is sacrificial but not presumptuous; not without consideration or thoughtfulness. God's love is also not conditional. He did not say: "Get your act together and I'll love you." His love is not, "I'll love you if..." or "I'll love you when..." It's not even something He needed to explain: "I love you because..." His love is grounded in His relationship with His creation. And as the Author of Life, however, His love is also not permissive. It cares. It speaks the truth, but lovingly. It extends itself. It reaches out. Consequently, as Christians: Love works with others for a greater good and considers a team effort more important than one's personal agenda or interest.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is always on the 14th of September. While it is a day with historical significance tied to the Holy City of Jerusalem and specifically the Church of the Holy Resurrection—that we today, celebrate its dedication; the Feast of the Cross is observed as a day of strict fasting because (like the fast on Wednesday of each weekday), we are reminded of our Lord's passion; and like the fast of the Friday of each weekday, we are reminded of our Lord's Death.

(Tomorrow) Monday's Divine Liturgy will take place at 11 a.m. The Gospel reading for the Feast is of our Lord's judgment and crucifixion, reminding us of his passion; his saving work. It is the most important Feast of the fall season, celebrating the redeeming love of God and renewing our lives and equipping us with virtue of spiritual power.

We are reminded that the Holy Cross is called the "life-giving" Cross: **A sign of hope**, as Christ is seen not as a victim but victor: He who trampled down death by Death. It is a symbol of God's unconditional love as we hear in today's Gospel. The Feast of the Holy Cross is among several days in the Church calendar devoted to the theme of God's boundless love, His supreme sacrifice and what it means to be committed to Christ. Finally, the Holy Cross is for us an ironic emblem. It is called a "weapon of peace" and



and “trophy invincible.” It is the symbol of deliverance and healing. For St. Paul the Cross is our boast. It is the cause of joy because its end is God’s victory over sin and death: His triumph in the Holy Resurrection!

These very facts are heard in the content of today’s short and very concise Gospel lesson: *“No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”*

God’s prophetic word is complete and there is no need for any new prophet. Most importantly, as Christians we must now be vigilant in knowing how to respond and not react to all that we see and hear around us. In every circumstance our response is in love. That love, however, is grounded in the truth. And our actions cannot be anything other than what is based upon that Christ has fulfilled and accomplished for us.

### **Prayer**

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance, granting victory over the adversary and by the power of your life-giving Cross, guard and protect all who follow Thee!