

SUNDAY BULLETIN

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***17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
(September 27th, 2020)***

Apodosis of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross



***BLESSED FEAST!
GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR BELOVED!!!***

Liturgical Readings:

THE PROKEIMENON IN TONE VIII:

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

Verse: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

THE PROKIMENON IN TONE VII

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!

GALATIANS 2: 16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and 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.

2 CORINTHIANS 6: 16 – 7: 1

Brethren, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore: "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

MARK 8: 34 – 9: 1

At that time, when Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

MATTHEW 15: 21-28

At that time, Jesus departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Alleluia Verses

*Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!
God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.
Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!*

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION - TONE VIII:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: Glory to Thee!

TROPARION TO THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS - TONE I:

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

GLORY... RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION - TONE VIII:

By rising from the tomb Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

NOW AND EVER... KONTAKION TO THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS - TONE VII:

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell: 'Enter again into paradise!'

Homily by Fr Rodney Torbic

We are blessed beyond measure to have God's Holy Church to worship, experience forgiveness and begin anew in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have the opportunities to experience and learn from Jesus Christ throughout our lives.

The Church provides the regular and necessary nourishment for our souls. We hear the Holy Gospel. We learn of the teachings of the Holy Fathers and Mothers. We experience Christ's Precious Body and Blood.

The Mother of God, the saints and martyrs are alive for us in God's Holy Church. God's love heals us and gives us reason to continue in life when hardships, tragedies and illnesses occur.

The Church makes the dark days of life bearable, Christ light shines in the Church to lead believers forward when no paths seem to be open. The Kingdom of God and life eternal awaits all willing to follow Christ.

Repentance is always necessary. Repentance leads to joy in heaven. (Lk.15:7) Jesus said: "Learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but **sinner**s to repentance." (Mt.9:13)

St. Matthew's Gospel reading for today describes a woman of strong faith appealing to Jesus to heal her daughter vexed by the devil. The woman was persistent. The disciples wanted to send her away.

Jesus did not send the woman away but tested the woman in a way the depth of her faith was revealed and rewarded. Jesus ultimately healed the daughter and acknowledged the mother's strong faith.

Mothers and fathers of every generation learn from the mother of strong faith in St. Matthew's Gospel. The mother in St. Mathew's Gospel teaches parents to have strong faith in Christ when they have sons or daughters vexed by the devil.

Parents are wise in turning to the Lord with persistence and great faith. St. Matthew's Gospel states: "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.: (Mt.7:8)

The Church is where we unite with Christ and where we grow in Christ. Apostle Paul told the Romans: "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom.12:2)

Christians are called to be careful in the journey to the Kingdom of God. Perils and temptations always exist. This world is overly materialistic and full of alternatives which lead far from the Kingdom of God.

The soul is most valuable for believers and requires constant care. Perils and temptations exist which are often subtle. The devil takes great joy in tarnishing the soul. All that appears to be good is not necessarily good.

The Holy Apostle Paul offered wise words to the Thessalonians: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (I Thess.5:21) In the daily decisions of life which affect the soul, keep Holy Apostle Paul's words as guides.

The daily pressures of life may increase at this time with the coronavirus. Personal circumstances may be greatly affected in life with health and job changes and challenges.

Bear in mind the value of the soul in every decision made. The Lord Jesus Christ made it clear in today's Gospel of St. Mark. The soul exceeds the value of the whole world. (Mk :8:36)

Joy in the Lord Jesus Christ exceeds all joy. Joy in Jesus Christ is found in the Cross and Resurrection. Today we celebrate the Leave-taking of the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Life-giving Cross.

Followers of Christ are encouraged to deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow Christ. (Mk.8:34-35) The Lord Jesus Christ set the permanent example to find joy for all believers when He took up His Cross.

We read the wisdom in Hebrews: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2)

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 20TH & 27TH

Thank you for your continuing financial support! Please, remember that without our fund raisers and fish fries that we cannot hold at this time, your contributions are more important than ever.

Offering \$1674.00; Candles \$46.00; Dues \$100.00; Funeral \$100.00

BELL TOWER FUND - \$19,978.88

\$20 in memory of Sandy Simko from Danica Wess

Large Candle Donations

In memory of Mie Tumbas from Milica Knepp

In memory of Amelia I Joe Kondash from Richard Kondash

In memory of Eva Viswish Johnson from Cameron Palmer

In memory of Bosal Lazo Vockovich from Dan I Dyne Tomak

In memory of Damjana I Lazo Gjurich from Dan I Dyne Tomak

In memory of Mildred Tumbas (22 yr departed) from Milica Knepp

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE LARGE CANDLES (\$25) - THANK YOU!

UPCOMING EVENTS

***MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY at 7:45 PM – Evening Prayer through the Conference call
(339) 207-6529***

SATURDAY (October 10th) - Memorial Saturday

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy and Pomen

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY (October 11th) – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (2. Cor. 9, 6-11); Gospel (Lk. 5, 1-11)

11:00 AM -12:30 PM - Pork Chop Dinner (Cost \$13) Take Outs only

Dear ones,

Please, keep in your hearted prayers our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ

- who suffer of cancer: Jenifer, Linda
- who pray the God for the restoration of health: Irine (Martinovich), Grace (Vuckovich), Ranka (Banda), Edward (Gartell), George (Momcilovic), Nektarios
- who passed away – Sandra (Simko)