

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2013



The Sign of the Cross

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 8

11th Sunday After Pentecost
Nativity of the Holy Theotokos
 (One of the "12 Great Feasts")

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour; Church School

TUESDAY/SEPTEMBER 10

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to
 St. Silouan of Mt. Athos

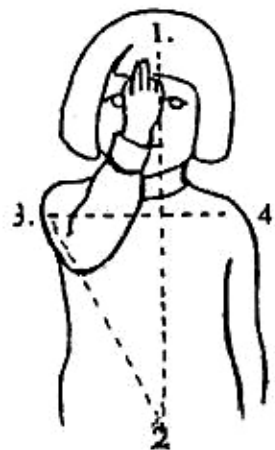
FRIDAY/SEPTEMBER 13

7:00p.m. Vigil of the Holy Cross

SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 14

Elevation of the Holy Cross
 (One of the "12 Great Feasts")
Strict Fast Day: wine & oil allowed

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour; Church School/Teen Class



1. In the name of the Father, — forehead
2. and the Son, — belly ^{NOT HEART}
3. and the Holy, — right shoulder
4. Spirit. — left shoulder
5. Amen. — as you pronounce this word, which means, "so be it," drop your hand, and bow your head.

Offerings Week of September 8

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael, Justina, and Rosalie; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Julia; in memory of Joan and Sandy; for the health of Jason (birthday).

Wine – for protection and safety during travel of Mariana and Stefan; in memory of Katusghka and Bukhuti.

Flowers – for the health of Rebecca and in memory of Peter Lorenick.

Litya Breads – health of Ekaterina.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Sept. 08, 1925 Paul Petsur
Sept. 08, 1977 Mary Mahalick
Sept. 08, 1985 Adam Rzeszowski
Sept. 09, 1978 Xenia Seminuk
Sept. 11, 1964 Michael Grenther
Sept. 12, 1929 Helen Kotliarchik
Sept. 12, 1971 Pauline Kravitsky
Sept. 12, 1974 Anna Naruta
Sept. 12, 1995 Anna Rudzina
Sept. 14, 1978 Stephen Keselchak

Coffee Hour Hosting

Sept. 08 Sarchisian, Dunaenko, Moldoveanu & Chirnoaga
Sept. 15 Peterson, Bakaletz & Mattei
Sept. 22 Kita, Nevitt & Keller

Ushers Schedule

Sept. 08 T. Gorbatuk & J. Stone
Sept. 15 D. Fedechko & C. Dunaenko
Sept. 22 E. Sarchisian & D. Fedechko

Namesday Greetings – Many Years!

St. Ann/Sept. 9: Anna Chirnoaga

Fall Adult Study Classes Will Resume Third Posting – 1 Response to Date

Weekly classes for October and November months are being planned. There will be a series of topics and perhaps differing days of the week and times offered. Maybe a Saturday morning class? Your input is sought. What day of the week? Time? Topics? Typically we meet from 7-8:30p.m.. Please speak/email/inform/ Fr. James of your comments.

98th Anniversary Open House With International Food Festival – October 13 2:00-6:00p.m.

Plan to join us in this celebration. Spread the word to former parishioners, friends of the parish, neighbors and extended family members.

- Healing Service with blessed Oil in the church;
- Followed by children's choir;
- Foods from various nations;
- Tours of the church;
- Silent Ethnic Meal Auction;
- Fellowship;
- Music

Proceeds will benefit the Outreach Mission of our parish and relief work for Suffering Christians in Egypt and the Middle East.

More information will follow. Can you volunteer? Contact Jill Peterson, Kate Margiana, Symeon Combs or Pam Stone.

Parish Council Meeting

September 19th, Thursday 7:00p.m.

Parish Council Workshop

September 28th, Saturday 9:30a.m.

Operation Princeton – NY-NJ Diocese

On September 20/21, Friday and Saturday, all are invited to this diocesan project to help the OCA Mother of God Church in Rocky Hill. Landscaping is the immediate concern. See posting on bulletin board or diocesan website www.nynjoca.org or call Fr. John Cassar 609-306-4168.

Javier Available – Work Projects

Javier does part-time work at our cemetery. He is available for landscaping, general clean-ups, painting etc. To make arrangements call Fr. James 908-685-1452.

Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church – Now 182 Members

This site has grown in the past months. There are daily postings of church news, lives of saints, art, personal sharing, etc. Join us on Facebook!



The Elevation of the Cross

celebrated September 14th (September 27th)

St. Makarios, Bishop of Jerusalem, is holding the Cross high above the crowd for veneration. Pictured in the crowd are St. Helen (lower left) and her son, St. Constantine the Great (lower right), along with scores of saintly bishops, priests and deacons, and leading citizens of Jerusalem. The Church of the Resurrection is visible in the Jerusalem skyline, directly above the Cross. (Adapted from *The Icon Book*, by Boojamra, Essey, McLuckie & Matusiak.)

ful, including Satan and his armies, and the "Orthodox Christians" replace the ruling officials of the Empire.

This holy day, although it obviously has a political origin, remains with us as a day of prayer and fasting: the Cross is held up as the only symbol worthy of our total allegiance.

(Adapted from *The Orthodox Faith*, Vol. II: Worship, by Fr. Thomas Hopko.)

What happened to the Cross itself?

St. Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, in a letter written around 350 AD to Emperor Constantius, the son of Constantine the Great, states that the true Cross was found in Jerusalem during the reign of Constantine. He also briefly describes a tradition that was followed in Jerusalem on the morning of Holy Friday. The bishop, the clergy and the faithful would gather in the Chapel of the Cross which had been constructed by Constantine near Golgotha, and there they would venerate a large relic of the true Cross which was kept in a beautiful silver and gold reliquary.

Before Your Cross, we bow down in veneration, Sovereign Lord, and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify!

The Elevation of the Cross commemorates both St. Helen's discovery of Christ's Cross in the fourth century, and its recovery from the Persians by Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century (at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem).

From this victory celebration on, the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the Churches of the Christian Empire. The day of the feast be-

came the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire, and on that day it was "elevated" by the priests and bishops. The Cross served as the official emblem of the Empire, and was displayed on all buildings and uniforms.

The Troparion of the feast was sung on all public occasions, as a "national anthem" of sorts, and originally petitioned God to save the people, grant victory in war, and preserve the Empire "by virtue of the Cross". Today that Troparion, and all the hymns of the feast, are spiritualized: the adversaries are the spiritually wicked and sin-

Troparion (Tone 1)

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their enemies and by virtue of Your Cross, preserve Your habitation.

Kontakion (Tone 4)

As You were voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name; make all Orthodox Christians joyful in Your Power, granting them victory over their adversaries, by bestowing to them the invincible Trophy, Your Weapon of Peace. †

If you need a cross for your family's icon corner, den or bedrooms, here's a fun way to make one!

A Family Cross

by Niki Krause

Plan some family time together for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon walk in the woods at a local park or another favorite hiking spot. Take a picnic lunch or "trail snacks", and a camera to catch the squirrels, deer, and kids in action.

Take along a pocket knife (adults and Scouts only!), and collect some good, bug-free raw materials for your cross: beech saplings and grapevines work nicely. Rinse everything well when you get home and allow it to dry overnight.

You'll need three twig or vine sections that are 8-12 inches long, three that are 4-6 inches long, and six that are 2-3 inches long, plus several feet of something stringy to bind your cross together: raffia, jute, grape-vine "bark", long strands of tough grass, or colored

cotton cord (used to make "friendship bracelets") all work well.

Lay your cross out on the kitchen table and mark lightly with a pencil where you want each "bar" to be; intertwine the three twigs of vine sections that make up each "bar" (left illustration).

With your raffia or cord, bind together the ends of each "bar": wrap the cord snugly around the twigs or vines several times and tie off neatly (middle illustration).

Make final adjustments to the position of your "bars", then bind each joint: wrap the cord several times from lower right to upper left, then from lower left to upper right (a criss-cross pattern). Wrap additional cord around the "bar" adjacent to each joint for a finished

look, and add a wire or cord loop to the back as a hanger.

When your cross is completely dry, you may want to spray it with a bit of polyurethane to set the cord and seal the twigs or grapevines. (Don't hang the cross on the wall until you're sure it's dry and won't leave a mark.)

The very creative may even try braiding a Greek-style cross of their own design using grape-vines (right illustration), or using pine cones and a wire frame, available from craft stores, to construct a "winter" cross.

Take your home-made cross with you to Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross on September 14/27 for blessing, and show your friends what you made together. †

