



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 (609) 393-1234  
Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi V. Rev. Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus  
saintvladimir.org  
facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666

### AFTERFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS – SEPTEMBER 15

### THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS & LIFE-GIVING CROSS – SEPTEMBER 14

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### **Troparion – Tone 3**

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

##### **Troparion – Tone 1**

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

##### **Troparion – Tone 3**

Thou didst defeat error and didst triumph in martyrdom, Nicetas, namesake of victory; for thou didst conquer the ranks of the enemy and didst end thy contest by fire.// Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

##### **Kontakion – Tone 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 2**

Thou didst stand firm and didst defeat delusion and hast received thy martyr's crown, Nicetas, namesake of victory; thou art rejoicing with the Angels,// together with them thou art praying unceasingly to Christ God for us all.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries// by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 7**

Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is holy!  
V. *The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!*

#### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

##### **Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross (Sept. 15)**

From September 15 until the Leavetaking, we sing "O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O son of God crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia" at weekday Liturgies following the Little Entrance.

## **The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross (Sept. 14)**

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found. Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khosrôes II attacked Constantinople, defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khozróēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians. With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church. In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

### **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### **Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20**

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.

### **Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1**

When He 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."

### **Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26**

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

## **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED**

To add a name, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

### **For the Sick / Caregiver**

Carmine (8/25)	Matushka Mary (9/8)
Marianne (8/25)	Father Paul (9/8)
Anthony (8/25)	Alexandra (9/8)
Subdeacon Serge (9/1)	Bill (9/15)
Melody (9/1)	Kelly (9/15)
Michael (9/1)	Liam (9/15)
Charlotte (9/1)	Lynne (9/15)
Thomas (9/8)	

### **For the Deceased**

Chris (9/15)

## **SERVICES**

### **Service Schedule for the Week of September 15**

**Sunday September 15** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Saturday September 21** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday September 22** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Annual Parish Picnic at the church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 in Hamilton (next to Brothers Pizza)

## **DONATIONS**

### **Weekly Giving**

September 8 – 91 adults, 23 youth, \$4,274

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clean up at the picnic grounds for the Annual Parish Picnic will be held on Saturday September 21 at 1:30 PM (after the close of the Farmer's Market). Many hands are needed to help – please let Father know if you will be there!

Sunday School lessons will commence today. Children will leave services every Sunday after Holy Communion and go to the classrooms in the basement of Daria Hall. The teachers and parents will escort the children to Daria Hall.

The annual Parish Picnic will be held after services next Sunday September 22 at the church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 in Hamilton. **There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for items/food needed for the picnic.** The church will provide burgers, hot dogs, and roasted pig.

Catechumen classes will be held on Saturday evenings after Vespers (5:00 PM). The first class will be held on September 28. Parishioners are more than welcome to attend along with those studying to convert to the Orthodox faith.

Starting September 7 through November 2, on Saturdays only from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, there will be a large Farmer's Market held at our church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 in Hamilton.

Gift cards and other items for the Annual Turkey Social are needed. Please refer to the papers on the tables in Daria Hall. If you have questions or a donation, please see Nina Laushell. All gift items will be needed by Sunday October 6. Thank you!

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Cole Johnson – September 18

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

## COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

### SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Sept. 15	James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock
Sept. 22	<b>ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR</b>
Sept. 29	Sami Bachir, Nour Ragab
Oct. 6	Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
Oct. 13	<b>ANNUAL TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR</b>
Oct. 20	Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick, Amber Touch
Oct. 27	Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun
Nov. 3	Tyler Burger, Ludwin Lopez
Nov. 10	Galina Shubina, Vera Pschenyczny
Nov. 17	<b>FAST</b> Fiyori Habtesillasse, Lemlem Woldearegay
Nov. 24	<b>FAST</b> Peter Abdallah, Jim Galcik
Dec. 1	<b>FAST</b> Natalia Kolomatskaia, Trudy Ellmore
Dec. 8	<b>FAST</b> Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Hannah Dougherty
Dec. 15	<b>FAST</b> Mimi & Alan Berck, Amleset Gebrekvistos
Dec. 22	<b>FAST</b> Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Svetlana Sosedov
Dec. 29	Valeria & Timothy Srock, Guy Radcliffe
Jan. 5	Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco
Jan. 12	Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett
Jan. 19	Juan Garcia, Benjamin & Julie Stell
Jan. 26	Karina Kotelnicki, Paul & Patty Denko
Feb. 2	Anna, Leon & Simeon Brasowski, Brittani & Alex Brasowski
Feb. 9	Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Stefania Balasa

*Have a healthy, blessed week!*