



**Saint Nicholas
Greek Orthodox Church**

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Sunday, September 14, 2025

Elevation of the Holy Cross

8:45am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns of the Day

Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who were crucified in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ σαρκὶ σταυρωνθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι,
Ἀλληλούϊα.

Entrance Hymn

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at the footstool of His feet; for He is holy. Save us, O Son of God, who were crucified in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Resurrectional for the Holy Cross in the First Mode

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Σταυροῦ. Ἦχος α΄

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου, καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων, διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

Kontakion of the Cross in the Fourth Mode

You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.

Instead of “Holy God”

We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Τὸν Σταυρόν σου προσκυνοῦμεν, Δέσποτα, καὶ τὴν ἁγίαν σου ἀνάστασιν δοξάζομεν.

Hymn to the Theotokos

Theotokos, you are mystical Paradise, * for without husbandry you have blossomed Christ, * by whom on earth the Cross, as a life-bearing tree, has been planted and watered. * As it is now exalted, * we adore Him and worship Him and magnify you.

Communion Verse

O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us. Alleluia.

Ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς τὸ φῶς τοῦ προσώπου σου, Κύριε. Ἀλληλοῦῖα.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18 – 24

Brethren, the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart.” Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Gospel Reading

John 19:6 – 11, 13 – 20, 25 – 28, 30

At that time, the chief priests and the elders held counsel against Jesus, how to destroy him. And they went to Pilate, saying, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;

and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. Then when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Saints and Feasts

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325.

A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation.

At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as

he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy.”

It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country. Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Wisdom of the Fathers

“Surely we should honour and use this divine trophy of the freedom of the whole human race. Its appearance alone puts the serpent, the originator of evil, to flight, triumphs over him and disgraces him, proclaiming him defeated and crushed. It glorifies and magnifies Christ, and displays His victory to the world. If it were really necessary to disregard the Cross because Christ suffered death on it, then His death too would be neither honourable nor salutary. So how can we have been baptized into His death, as the apostle tells us? And how can we share in His resurrection, if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death ? On the other hand, if someone were to reverence the sign of the Cross without the Lord’s name written upon it, he could justly be accused of doing something incorrect. Since ‘at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth’ (Phil. 2:10), and the Cross bears this venerable name. How very foolish not to bow the knee at Christ’s Cross!

“Inclining our hearts as well as bending our knees, come,

‘let us worship’, with David the psalmist and prophet, ‘at the place where His feet stood’ (Ps. 132:7), where His all-embracing hands were outspread and His life-giving body was stretched out for our sake.”

- St. Gregory Palamas, *Homily* 11 “On the Precious and Life-giving Cross,” §27-28.

Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your God-pleasing prayers the servants of God:

Connie (Constantina) Joufflas; Robert Tewis; Lance (Stylianos) Schmitt; Olivia Coe; Robert Foster

If you would like for yourself or a loved one to be added to the prayer list, please contact Fr. Jeremy.

Parish Information

Church School

Church School for our children begins following Holy Communion. We have two classrooms: one for elementary-school ages, and one for middle school and up. Please allow our Church School kids and their teachers to come up for Communion first.

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

Our Adult Ed class will begin following Coffee Hour today, September 7. We will meet in the classrooms downstairs. Any who would like to learn more about our Orthodox Faith, whether a newcomer or a life-long member, are welcome to

attend. Please contact Fr. Jeremy to be added to the distribution list for readings.

Byzantine Chant Classes

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **October 4 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, September 11** at 12pm.



This Week at St. Nicholas

- Wednesday, September 17: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, September 18: 6pm Parish Council
- Saturday, September 20: 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers