

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 5.
Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday Before the Elevation. Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem (335). Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.). Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion, of Alexandria (237). Martyrs Seleucus in Scythia, and Stratonicus (3rd c.). Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi in Romania (4th c.). Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia (4th c.). Martyrs Elias, Zoticus, Lucian, and Valerian (4th c.). St. Peter of Atroë (9th c.). Greatmartyr Ketevan, Queen of Georgia (1624). Ven. Hierotheus the Younger of Iveron.

FIRST ANTIPHON

God, my God, attend to me! Why hast Thou forsaken me? **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Why art Thou so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer; and by night, but find no rest. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Thou dwellest in the sanctuary, the praise of Israel. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

SECOND ANTIPHON

O God, why dost Thou cast us off forever? **O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old **O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Remember Mount Zion, where Thou hast dwelt. **O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

O Son of God, crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord reigns, let the peoples tremble!

Troparion: 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.

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the Cherubim; let the earth quake.

Troparion: 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.

The Lord is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples!

Troparion: 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.

Bow down in worship to the Lord in His holy court.

Troparion: 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.

LITTLE ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Priest: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool, for it is holy!

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.

KONTAKION

(Tone 4) As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name; 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.

INSTEAD OF HOLY GOD

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy resurrection we glorify.

The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: Extol the Lord our God, / worship at His footstool, for it is holy!

v: The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble.

THE READING FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (1:18-24)

Brethren: For 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.

Alleluia, Tone 1

v: Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.

v. God is our King before the ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (19:6-11,13-20,25-28,30-35)

When the chief priests and the officers saw Jesus, they cried out, "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, Gab'batha. 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. So the soldiers did this. 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. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness -- his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth -- which you also may believe.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord! You are a mystical paradise, O Theotokos, in which Christ blossomed; through Him the life-bearing Wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its Elevation, as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you..

COMMUNION HYMN

The light of Thy countenance has shone on us, O Lord! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS (SEPTEMBER 14)

The pagan Roman emperors tried to eradicate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulcher of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulcher of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer." In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died 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 Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established. *From www.oca.org*

September 13, 2009

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH & BLESSINGS OF

Happy 12th Birthday (Sept. 12) & God's blessings Joseph Neely.....Dedo & Baba
 David & Ashley Goodman 12th Anniversary (Sept. 13) God's blessings.....Mom & Dad
 Happy Birthday & God's blessings Grandson Mark Zambito, Joseph Eckert,
 Joey Neely, Stasia Butrie, Peter Samaras,
 Happy Anniversary & God's blessings Walter & Allison Borkovich.....Anne Smith
 Health & God's blessings Olga Elavich, Families of Miculka, Kuptz & Oginsky,
 Helen & Doug Phillips, Olga Haw & Family, Mary Harrison, Carol Allen,
 Marion Sztaba, Sick & shut-ins of St. Nicholas.....Anne Smith
 Special Intention Maggie, Nancy & Kenneth Laycock, Diane, Arthur Zambito
 & Family, Gloria Zelenko, Jaxon Cords, Stephanie Biernacki, Irene Curico Family,
 Anne Smith.....Anne Smith
 David Tome, Anna Branoff, Mary Harrison, John & Gloria Zelenko, Ted Weston,
 Rosemary Vuckovich, Anne Smith, Walter Sudia, My family & friends.....J. Tome
 Special Intention.....J. Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose-In memory of my sister Sophie Ignotov 96th Birthday (Sept. 4).....Boyka Polymeros
 Maria Sztaba, Teofilia Rakocza, Wasyli Rakocza, Anthony Sztaba,
 Kathryn Sztaba, Marion Ligeza, Filimon Cozacioc.....Marion Sztaba
 Stella Branoff-4 months.....Tom, Linda, Peter & Marilyn
 Carl Smith & our son, Mary Smith-memory of Birthday, V. Rev. Alexander Znamensky,
 Matushka Vera Znamensky, Maria Sztaba, Cynthia Brooke,
 Ivan Ponomarenko-memory of Birthday.....Anne Smith
 Marko Vuckovich.....Stojan & Mira Prusac

ETERNAL LIGHT

Filimon Cozacioc-Memory of Birthday (Sept. 13).....Emilie & Christina

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas. Please join us for coffee and donuts in the parish hall following the veneration of the cross.

Flowers for the Cross If anyone would like to donate the flowers for the Cross which will be used today and next Sunday, please call the parish office.

The Parish Council will meet on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 pm. Please call the parish office if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Schedule of Services for the week of September 13

Saturday, September 19

4:30 PM

Great Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday, September 20

9:30 AM

15TH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY PENTECOST – Tone 6

10:00 AM

SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Third Hour

Divine Liturgy

Tim & Hannah Seeley extend an invitation to their parish family to their Open House-Housewarming Party on Saturday, September 26 beginning at 10am and continuing all day at their new home at 1902 Greenbriar Ln, Flint, MI 48507. If you would like, you may bring a dish to pass. Everyone is invited!