

September 10, 2023  
Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross  
Post-Festive Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*  
*Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Ressurrectional Tone 6, pg. 152, Nativity of the Theotokos: pp. 243-246, Prokeimenon & Alleluia: pg. 251

Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN., SEPT. 10**      **SUNDAY before the EXALTATION of the CROSS,**  
**Post-Festive Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**

+ John Dulick, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

**WED., SEPT. 13**      **EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS HOLY DAY**  
**6:00 P.M.**      **VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY**

*(At St. Mary: Thursday, Sept. 14, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for Exaltation of the Cross Holy Day)*

**SUN., SEPT. 17**      **SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY**

+ Raymond Ozimok, offered by Pricilla & Scott Pharion



*O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant peace to a world that is living in fear. Extinguish hatred and put an end to all programs of terrorism for the sake of your love for humanity.*

Troparion in remembrance of 9/11/2001, (Tone 1)

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

September 10: Jaren Dohanich

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

September 12: Daniel & Kathy Kapaldo

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, Marian Yurosky

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

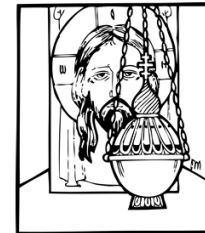
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

**Epistle Readers – September 10: Joanne Futato – September 17: Prudy Peya**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holder s – September 10: M. Bobanic – September 17: F. Hersh**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

September 10 - 13, 2023

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ John Salamon

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Wife, Mary

**O LORD, I LOVE THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS**

*The Church as Our Spiritual Home with God*



**2023-2024 CATECHETICAL SUNDAY - 9.17.2023**

[www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org)



## **Bible Study at St. George: The Story of Scripture, Part 1**

Beginning this September, St. George's will be offering an ongoing Bible study, entitled **The Story of Scripture: Part 1**. Beginning with Genesis, we will walk through 100+ of the most significant portions of Holy Scripture, which will give us an overarching view of the *whole, consistent story* of God's interaction with humankind in the Scriptures. The dates for this Fall will be **September 27, October 11, October 25, November 22, December 13**. We will meet at **6:00 PM**. It will be great if you commit to every session, but feel free to join at any time and miss if you need to. Let's dig into the sources of our theology and tradition together and see the mighty works of God! (We will continue with Part 2 in 2024)

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## **Book Study at St. Mary's in October & November**

In June of 2022, the United States Catholic Bishops launched a three-year Eucharistic Revival which will culminate in a National Eucharistic Congress in 2024. Recently, Bishop Robert Barron, a well-known theologian, author, evangelist, and apologist, published **This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival**. On three consecutive Sunday afternoons, we will have a book study on this small but powerful and informative book. On **October 29, November 5, and November 12**, we will gather at **3:00 PM** at St. Mary's. Each week we will discuss one chapter of the book, which is available at \$2.00. You may also wish to purchase a book even if you cannot attend the book study.

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## **Historic Gathering of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America**

### **You are invited to Participate!**

Metropolitan Archbishop William, Bishop Kurt, and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Church invite YOU to attend the "Metropolitan Assembly" at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, New Jersey, on Friday, November 3 through Sunday, November 5, 2023! The theme of the Assembly is to "learn about our past and to prepare for our future!" Guest speakers include Dr. Paul Magosci, noted Author and Historian; Bishop Nil Lushchak of the Eparchy of Mukachevo; Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York; as well as other clergy and lay leaders. The Assembly includes lectures, discussions, fellowship, and a gala dinner with folk music and dancing. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between 18 and 35. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is <https://www.byzantineassembly2023.org>. The email is [byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com](mailto:byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com). Hope to see YOU there!



## **A Note from Fr. Geoff**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Faithful Cross! Above all other,  
one and only noble Tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom,  
none in fruit thy peer may be:  
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,  
sweetest weight was hung on thee.* (St. Venatius Fortunatus)

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. In our liturgical year, this provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the Cross of Christ apart from the somber ethos of Holy Week and Good Friday. The Cross is our "*weapon of peace*" - the means by which Christ has won our victory over sin, death, and hell. And it is the ladder by which we are raised up to new life. In the Cross, we see that God's way of wielding power and authority is different from the way of this world. Christ wins by losing, he reigns through suffering, his throne is a device of death.

In the Gospel of St. John, some Greeks come and say to Philip, "*Sir, we wish to see Jesus.*" Jesus answered, "*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified,*" and then begins to speak of his impending death. This has always struck me as very profound. Jesus says he will be "*glorified*" and then explains that "*I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*" (John 12.20-33)

In other words, the "glory" of Christ is seen in the Cross itself. A worldly ruler would be "lifted up" on a throne and *subdue* all people. But Christ is glorified by being lifted up on the *Cross*, in his divine self-sacrifice. And in so doing, he does not subdue all people, but rather he *draws them to himself*.

We, who are his disciples, are those who have been and are being drawn to Christ and his glorious Cross. May we be given the grace to follow after him and his was of the Cross.

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.  
So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!  
Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred Name!*  
(George Kitchin, 19th century)

Yours in the Cross,  
*Fr. Geoff*



# Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16). This is, among Americans anyway, probably the most famous of verses in Scripture. Its fame, of course, precedes America by millennia.

Our Holy Father Saint John Chrysostom includes it in his Anaphora, which we usually pray at The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom after the Holy, Holy, Holy several times a week (except during the Great Fast, when we pray it only once a week on Saturday mornings). So, you see, this verse has been popular among Byzantine Christians long before it was widespread among Americans. We liked it before it was cool.

Our gospel message for this Sunday before the Glorious Elevation of the Illustrious Cross is taken from that section of the Holy Evangelist John’s account where Jesus is being questioned by Nicodemus, a prominent Jewish leader.

As Jesus explained God’s reason for sending His Son to earth, the theme of the salvific CROSS comes to the fore. The most perfect way by which God’s Son could demonstrate His immense love for us and secure our eternal salvation was for Him to offer His life for the world’s redemption. He had to be lifted-up on this sacred wood, so that through the perfect sacrifice upon the life-giving cross, salvation would be achieved, giving us access to everlasting life.

We faithful followers of Christ, who have shared “our load” of His admirable cross and have borne vicariously the burden of His salutary passion by shouldering our own “little crosses” each day of our lives, are assured of an eternal reward as God passes us from this transitory life into the fullness of New Life with Him in His heavenly Kingdom.

## St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir Concert

On Thursday, September 14 at 7:00 PM, seminarians of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary will provide a concert of Orthodox hymns of the Holy Cross, entitled The Holy Cross: The Weapon of Peace at Trinity School for Ministry's Chapel (1123 Merchant Street, Ambridge). There is no cost to attend, and a light reception will follow.



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

# The Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross: September 14

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross originated in Jerusalem in the year 355 to commemorate the dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection. When the true Cross of Jesus was found shortly afterwards, this event was commemorated on the same day. In time, the Feast of the Exaltation replaced the feast of the dedication.



In 395, St. John Chrysostom wrote of three crosses which were discovered beneath Golgotha by the Empress Helena. Many other writers speak of miracles which occurred through contact with the true Cross. It was through one of these miracles that the true Cross was recognized by St. Helena and St. Macarius, the Bishop of Jerusalem.

The Holy Cross was kept in the Basilica of the Resurrection in Jerusalem until 614, when the Persians conquered the city and burned the Church. In 628, Emperor Heraclius III defeated the Persians and returned the Holy Cross to Jerusalem. A portion of the Cross was taken to Rome in the seventh century by Sergius I, a Pope of Byzantine origin.

As we celebrate this Major Feast let us remind ourselves that the power of the Cross is given to each and every Christian. But just as a soldier must learn to properly wield his weapons in battle, so a warrior of Christ must learn how correctly to make the sign of the Cross. A shield has no effect if carelessly waved about in the air. Likewise, there are many who receive no benefit from the sign of the Cross because they make it mechanically or haphazardly.

The Cross, once a tool of death, has become a means to life, an instrument of our salvation; it gives strength to resist temptation, to refrain from gossip or harsh words and it dispels fear. Amen.

## He did it for You!

When He had drunk the wine mingled with myrrh and vinegar, He said, “It is finished.” For the mystery has been fulfilled. The things that are written have been accomplished. Sins are forgiven.

(St. Cyril of Jerusalem)

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik      Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

**Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh**

**Holy Mystery of Reconciliation** ..... Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

**Holy Mysteries of Initiation** ..... Contact the pastor

**Holy Mystery of Anointing** ..... Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

**Holy Mystery of Marriage** ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

**Pirohi Sales** ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

**St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club** ..... Everyone welcome to participate

**Opportunities for Stewardship** ... ..Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month.

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*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*