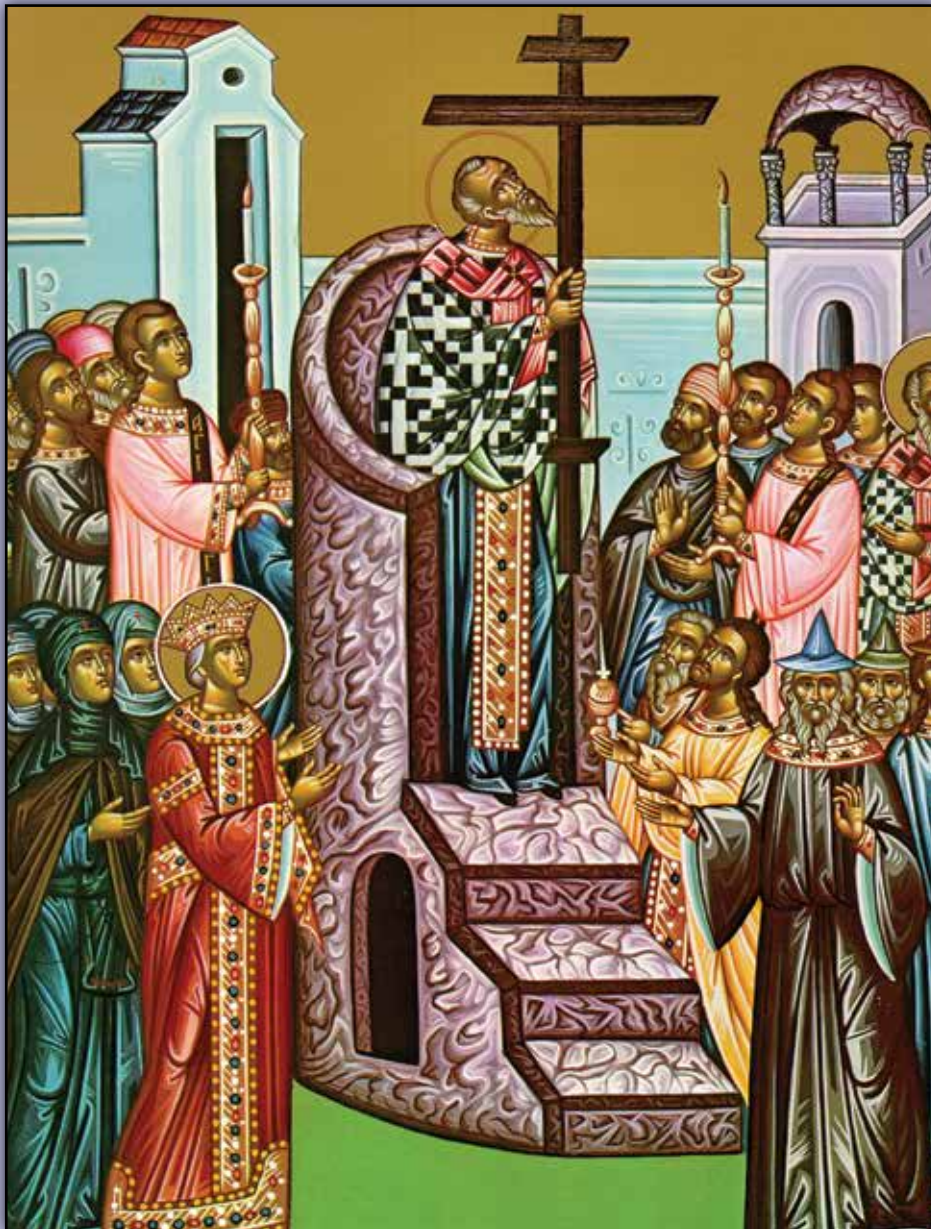


SUNDAY BEFORE  
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

## September 13, 2020: Sunday Before the Exaltation

Epistle: Gal. 6: 11-18

Gospel: Jn. 3: 13-17

|                        |       |   |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| <b>Mon., Sept. 14</b>  |       | <b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Solemn Holy Day)</b> |
|                        | 9:00  | + Prospine Dende (Lauren Telep)                       |
| <b>Tues., Sept. 15</b> | 9:00  | + Fred Jacobs (Linda Walsh & Girls)                   |
| <b>Wed., Sept. 16</b>  | 9:00  | + John Sereditch (M/M Allan Stepkovitch)              |
| <b>Thurs. Sept. 17</b> | 9:00  | + Diann Yuhnick (Joyce Spenser)                       |
| <b>Fri., Sept. 18</b>  | 9:00  | + Evelyn Trently (John & Mary Ann Turko)              |
| <b>Sat., Sept. 19</b>  |       | <b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>                      |
|                        | 2:00  | Confessions.  |
|                        | 4:00  | + Matt Beckage (Sedlak Family)                        |
| <b>Sun., Sept. 20</b>  | 10:00 | For Our Parishioners                                  |



## THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

We celebrate the feast of the Holy Cross -- that Cross which dispelled darkness and restored light. In celebrating this feast we are raised aloft with the Crucified, leaving earth and sin behind and taking possession of heaven. Possess the Cross and you possess treasure, for surely the most precious object on earth is rightly called a treasure. If there had been no Cross, there would have been no crucified Christ, no Life nailed to the wood, no Immortal fountain of blood and water flowing from a pierced side

to purify the world, no declaration of our freedom, no paradise. If there had been no cross, death would not have been slain, hell would not have been robbed of its prey. How immeasurably great and priceless, then, is the cross — great because so much good was wrought through it; priceless because the Cross was the instrument of Christ's sacred trophy of victory. On it the devil was fatally wounded, and death thereby was slain. The gates of hell were shattered as the Cross became the means of universal salvation.

The Cross has also been called Christ's glory and exaltation. It was the cup he yearned to drink, the crown upon the torments he bore for us. Here is how He Himself spoke of it: "Now is the Son of Man glorified! God is glorified in him and shall straightway glorify him again." His words were fulfilled on the Cross. Christ likewise viewed the Cross as his exaltation. "And I, when I am lifted up, shall draw everyone to myself." Clearly, then, we must regard the Cross as Christ's glory and exaltation.

## **IF SOMEONE TURNS AWAY FROM GOD, THEN WHERE HAVE THEY TURNED?**

I want to share some thoughts with you, given by the Holy Spirit. This may really be valuable for someone you know, whether they be relative, friend, or acquaintance — anyone who has given up on God, the Church, Religion, Faith, etc.

We who believe in God and the Church, and who practice our Faith both through public worship and private prayer, may find this difficult to understand. First, we need to acknowledge that we believe in God as our Almighty Father, and as the Supreme Authority in our life. We are ultimate-

ly accountable to Him for everything we do or fail to do — for all our words, deeds, actions, and intentions. We are accountable for all of our sins, whether they are against God, against others, or even against ourselves. We accept that, no matter how many good deeds we do, we are ultimately dependent upon God's mercy, forgiveness, and love, in order to enter into Eternal Life, won for us by the death and resurrection of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. That's why we practice our Faith, and go to Confession, and receive the Holy Eucharist. Seems pretty straightforward

and normal for us who practice our Faith, doesn't it?

But we need to realize that there are those who don't accept God as their Supreme Authority. They may even tell you that they are not accountable to any god. OK, fine — we respect what they say and their right to say it, even if we don't agree. But we need to ask the question of such a person: then who IS the authority in your life? To whom are you accountable? If someone has turned away from God and the Church, then to whom or what have they turned, and will that new choice of theirs sustain and love and forgive them as God can? Are all those “worldly” options in the society around us really as good and promising, as the goodness and hope and peace that only God can give? In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, verse

19, we read this: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” How true!

May our Loving Shepherd Jesus Christ, through you and me, search out and bring back to His flock, all of those precious sheep who have lost their way in the world. May they wake up and realize that Jesus is the One true Treasure, more precious than all the gold and wealth in the world! Let us, by our good Christian example, show them the Way, the Truth, and the Life—Who is none other than Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.

*-- by Fr. Paul Wolensky*

## **TABERNACLE STOLEN FROM CANADIAN CATHEDRAL**

The tabernacle that was stolen earlier this week from the St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral in St. Catharines, Ontario was recovered on Wednesday, September 9.

A group of parishioners from the cathedral discovered the tabernacle in Centennial Park, which is located near

the cathedral. The tabernacle was partially submerged in a canal, and parts of the ciborium were missing.

According to local media, the Eucharist was not found in the tabernacle, but because it was in a body of water, it may have dissolved.

A host that is dissolved ceases to be a consecrated host.

After Mass on Wednesday afternoon, someone came to the rectory door with one of the tabernacle's brass doors. The man said that he had been given the piece of the tabernacle on the street, by a man who said that someone gave it to him in Centennial Park.

The tabernacle's other door has not yet been found.

The tabernacle was discovered the day after Bishop Gerard Bergie of St. Catharines issued a public plea for its return, saying there would be "no questions asked" if it turned up. Bergie also noted that the tabernacle, which is made of steel, would not have much monetary value.

Video footage captured two people, believed to be a man and a woman, breaking into the cathedral at approximately 4:30 a.m. on September 8.

Fr. Donald Lizzotti, rector of the cathedral, told CNA that he believed

the thieves had previously cased the cathedral to determine how to steal the tabernacle.

"And they came back later and actually pried the cover, which is over the old metal tabernacle," he said. "They pried that off and put it on the floor. They took brass doors off of that," and then finally took the entire tabernacle off of the altar.

Lizzotti told CNA that the police were unable to find fingerprints and they believe the thieves had wiped the scene clean.

The cathedral had previously been subjected to numerous thefts and acts of vandalism, including the theft of two bronze lamp posts in 2019. The lamp posts were recovered after the thieves attempted to sell them to a scrapyard.

No suspects have been identified in Tuesday's tabernacle theft.

*by Catholic News Agency*

## **DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS**

The 2021 Divine Liturgy Intention Book has arrived. Divine Liturgy Intentions may be offered for those who are deceased, ill or for family, friends and special occasions for loved ones. I

noticed that many people in our parish often "order" the Divine Liturgy for their loved ones on Saturday or Sunday but NEVER come to church for the requested Liturgy, while there are



people who are asking for Liturgies on a weekend and want to come but those days are already taken by someone who called at the beginning of the year and “preordered” Divine Liturgies for the entire year.

In order to be fair to everyone, no more than 4 Intentions from a family will be accepted for the weekend Divine Liturgies per year. You are always welcome to offer intentions for a weekday Divine Liturgy.

## OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian Charity, please remember the souls of these Parishioners who recently fell asleep in the Lord:

+ **Edward Stecco** was buried from St.

Cyril's on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
+ **Nadia Cucura** was buried from St.

Cyril's on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.  
**May their memory be eternal!**  
**Вічна Память!**

## CONTINUING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Eastern Catholic Education Directors (ECED) will again present free online course offerings as part of the God With Us online faith formation program during the fall and spring 2020-2021.

To register visit [EasternCatholic.org](http://EasternCatholic.org) or [GodWithUsOnline.org](http://GodWithUsOnline.org). At these

websites you can access recordings of previous God With Us online webinars as well as find further study resources, the Byzantine Gospel reflections, make donations and sign up for upcoming events and webinars. It will be a valuable religious education resource.

## FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Our second Food Truck Festival will be held Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The first one was successful; but, this one has the appearance of being even better. We have secured several excellent vendors: R and R Potato Pancakes prepare their delicacies from an old

family recipe. Grumpy Crab will be back, as will Russen's, Roseanna's Pizza, Krista's Creations and Lou's Funnel Cakes. 2WayzOne Passion will offer Mexican/American food. We will feature a Kids' Korner, selling toys and treats. On Sunday, Texas BBQ, Murtz Desserts, and Chilly Willy will join

the vendors. There will be music and free balloons for kids. Please join us;

tell your friends and neighbors; and, help support our Parish.

## **FOOD TRUCK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our second Food Truck Festival fundraiser is almost here: Saturday and Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Because there will be more vendors, there is a need for additional help with selling raffle tickets, wiping tables,

general crowd control, etc. Anyone able to volunteer some time on either of the days will be welcomed. A sign-up board is located at the back of the church. Hope to see everyone at the Festival.

## **RAFFLE TICKETS**

A raffle will be held in conjunction with the Food Truck Festival. First prize is half of the ticket sales. Second prize is a \$300 Waterford crystal bowl. Third Prize is a gift basket. Tickets have

been mailed for parishioners to either purchase or sell. Please call Jule (570) 357-6171 if you would like more tickets. We appreciate everyone's efforts to support the parish.

## **PASTA DINNER & \$5,000 RAFFLE**

St. John Vianney Parish, Montdale & Royal, is having a Drive Thru Pasta Dinner & \$5,000 raffle on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> noon to 3:00p.m. Dinner tickets are \$10 and raffle tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. Pasta Dinner tickets must be purchased by

September 27<sup>th</sup> and can be purchased outside of the Church at Masses on September 19-20 & 26-27 or by contacting the Parish Office 570-254-9502, ext. 1 [ccrc402@comcast.net](mailto:ccrc402@comcast.net). Raffle tickets can be purchased at the drive thru.

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of September 2020 is

Team #1: Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

**Sunday Collection for Sept. 5 & 6, 2020: \$**

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***The Cross Raised for All the World to See***

The cross is raised and appears above the earth, which until recently malice had kept hidden. It is raised, not to receive glory (for with Christ nailed to it what greater glory could it have?) but to give glory to God who is worshiped on it and proclaimed by it.

It is not surprising that the church rejoices in the cross of Christ and robes herself in festal clothes, revealing her bridal beauty as she honors this day. Nor is it surprising that this great throng of people has gathered together today to see the cross exposed aloft and to worship Christ whom they see raised upon it. For the cross is

exposed in order to be raised and is raised to be exposed.

What cross? The cross, which a little while ago was hidden in a place called "The Skull" but now is everywhere adored. This is what we rejoice over today; this is what we celebrate; this is the point of the present feast; this is the manifestation of the mystery.

For this hidden and life-giving cross had to be exposed, set on high like a city on a hill or a lamp on a stand, for all the world to see.

*Saint Andrew of Crete*