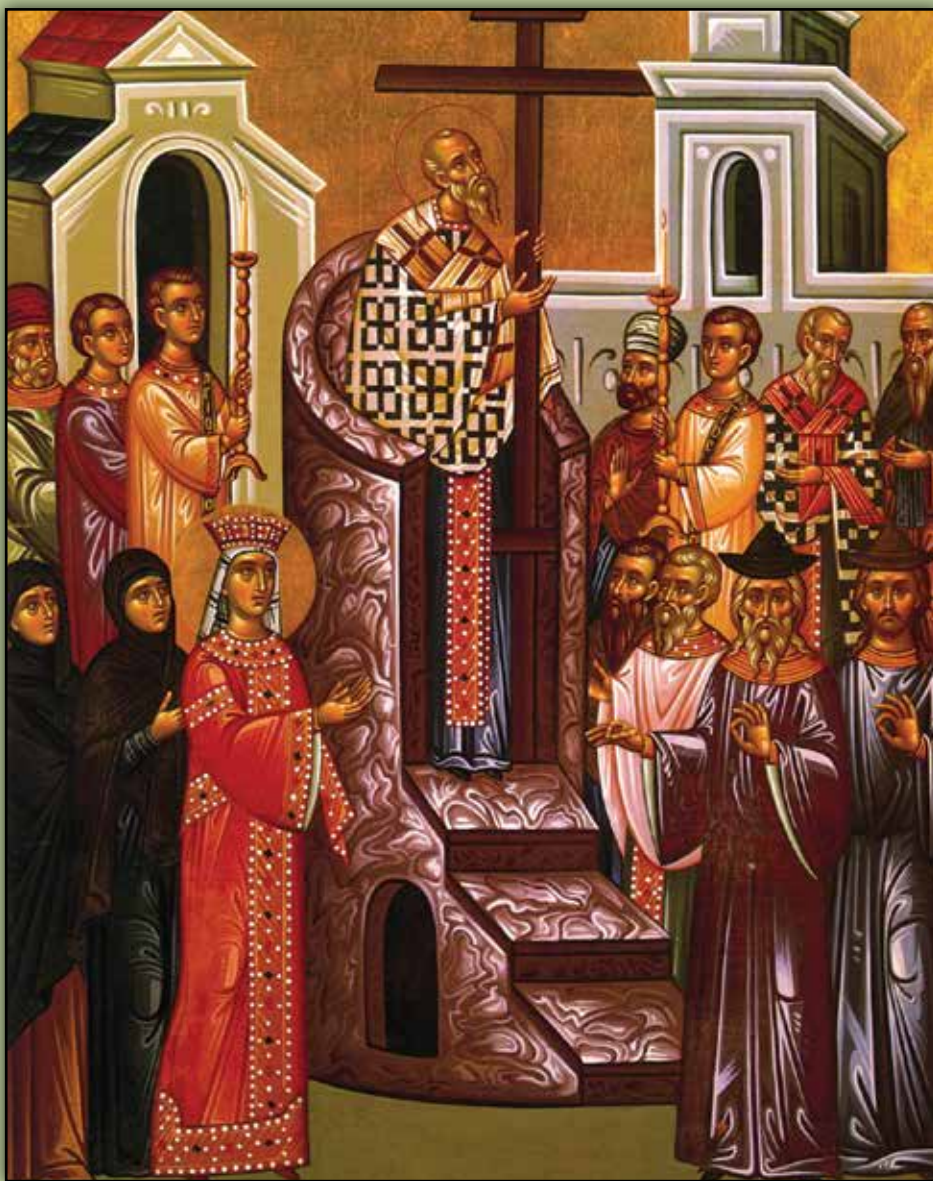


## SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Elevation of the Holy Cross*

## **Sept. 10, 2023: Sunday Before the Exaltation**

Epistle: Gal. 6: 11-18

Gospel: Jn. 3: 13-17

<b>This Weekend</b>	4:00 + Matthew V. Garofalo (Family) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
<b>Mon., Sept. 11</b>	9:00 + Victims of Terrorism
<b>Tues., Sept. 12</b>	9:00 + John Sokirka (Wife & Children)
<b>Wed., Sept. 13</b>	9:00 + Roman Kushner (Rosemarie Drakes & Son, Tom)
<b>Thurs., Sept. 14</b>	<b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Solemn Holy Day)</b> 9:00 Bernice & Marie Kaneski (Chezik Family)
<b>Fri., Sept. 15</b>	9:00 + Andrew & Anna Smagula (Son, Joseph)
<b>Sat., Sept. 16</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Robert Harris (Wife, Jule)
<b>Sun., Sept. 17</b>	10:30 For Our Parishioners

## **NEVER FORGET 9/11**



For years, those numbers simply meant a call for help. Now they also remind us of Sept. 11, 2001, the date of the worst terrorist attack on the United States of America and one of the deadliest days ever on American soil. Those whose lives were lost on September 11 will remain in our thoughts and prayers forever.

## OUR HIERARCHY ON 9/11



Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

On September 11, 2001, the United States of America experienced the darkest hour in its recent history — the deadly terrorist attack that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people.

Twenty two years have passed, but we still feel the consequences of the tragedy that shook the world and caused profound trauma in the global

community. In one day we lost our sense of invulnerability.

After September 11, we — our nation and all humanity — became a deeply wounded people.

But this is not where the story ends. After September 11, 2001 we saw suffering and death, pain and sorrow but also courage, sacrifice, unity, and resurrection. During the attacks, evil mani-

fested itself to be conquered by heroic love.

“Here in New York, we just don’t remember 9/11 — we celebrate 9/12,” commented Cardinal Timothy Dolan quoting one of the New York priests. This is our most precious memory — we remember the unspeakable tragedy and we remember what happened next. We remember solidarity, witness, prayer, service, and hope. In

his appeal issued right after the attacks Metropolitan Stefan Soroka focuses on hope. "Christians are called to be primary instruments of hope and comfort to our fellow brothers and sisters... as opposed to be avenues of despair". "Choose to be messengers of compassion and hope," he asked our fellow faithful of Philadelphia Metropolia. We believe that this call is relevant today. The world has changed but many challenges remained, particularly the struggle for basic human rights and human dignity. Just as 22 years ago, we need peace and justice, which cannot be attained without repentance and forgiveness, faith and sacrifice.

Today the whole world is united

in prayer for those who lost their lives during the attacks. We join the global supplication remembering in a special way before God twelve 9/11 victims of Ukrainian descent.

We encourage our priests and faithful to join together in prayer to remember those who died, were injured, or lost loved ones. Let us pray for strength, healing, and consolation. Let us pray for hope that conquers despair, peace that overcomes war, good that is stronger than evil, love that lives longer than hatred, life that triumphs over death. Let us put our hope and faith in Him who trampled death by death and gave eternal life to those in the tombs.

Eternal memory!

## **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.

## **Praying for the Conversion of a Loved One? Turn to Saint Monica's Powerful Intercession**

*by Caroline Perkins*

Do you have a loved one who has fallen away from the faith?

Consider turning to the saintly intercession and holy testimony of Saint Monica!

Saint Monica is revered as the patron saint of conversion due to her instrumental role in leading her own family members to Christianity.

In addition to her powerful prayers for her son, Saint Augustine of Hippo, to return to Christianity, her example inspired the conversion of her pagan husband and mother-in-law.

The story of Saint Monica illustrates that no one is beyond redemption through God's transformative grace. Even the most wayward individuals can experience a change of heart through the intercessory prayers of those who love them.

Her story can be a source of encouragement for parents who find themselves in a similar situation, grappling with the challenges of raising children in the faith.

For some, the road to redemption may be filled with numerous obstacles. Persistence in prayer can make a difference!

Here is a powerful prayer for the conversion of a wayward child, asking for Saint Monica's intercession:

Under the weight of my heartfelt  
burden,

I turn to you, dear Saint Monica,  
and request your assistance and intercession.

From your place in heaven,  
I beg that you will plead before  
the Throne of the Holy One,  
for the sake of my child, [Name],  
who has wandered from the faith,

and all that we have tried to teach.

I know, dear Monica,  
that our children belong not to us,  
but to God, and that God often permits

this wandering as part  
of one's journey toward Him.  
Your son, Augustine, wandered, too;  
eventually, he found faith and came  
to believe,  
and in that belief became a true  
teacher.

Help me, therefore, to have patience,  
and to believe that all things —  
even this disappointing movement  
away from the faith — work ultimately

for His own good purposes.  
For the sake of my child's soul,  
I pray to understand and trust in this.  
St. Monica, please teach me to persist

in faithful prayer as you did for your  
son's sake.

Inspire me to behave in ways that  
will not  
further distance my child from  
Christ,  
but only draw [Name] gently towards  
his marvelous light.

Please teach me what you know  
about this painful mystery of separation,  
and how it is reconciled in the re-orientation  
of our children toward heaven.

O Saint Monica,  
lover of Christ and His Church,  
pray for me, and for my child  
[Name],

that we may acquire heaven,  
joining with you, there, in offering  
constant  
and thankful praise to God.  
Amen.

## HOSPICE OF THE SACRED HEART

The Hospice of the Sacred Heart is looking for volunteers. Opportunities range from companionship for patients in their homes, long-term care facilities, or in personal care homes to clerical projects in our offices. We also have volunteer activities in our inpatient unit located in Dunmore.

Opportunities range from visiting patients, providing a caring presence by quietly sitting at bedside, meal preparation, and clerical tasks.

If interested, please contact Ann Seechock, Volunteer Coordinator, at 800-657-6405, 570-706-2400 or [aseechock@hospicesacredheart.org](mailto:aseechock@hospicesacredheart.org).

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The Annual Harvest Festival of St. John Vianney Parish will be held at Corpus Christi Church, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township, PA 18447 (Montdale), Sunday, October 1, from noon to 5:00p. The Turkey Dinner will be a drive-thru take out that includes all of the “fixins”. Dinners

are \$15. Outdoor booths under a tent (12p-4p) will include a huge Bountiful Baskets Stand, wreath stand, baked goods, raffles including a \$5,000 raffle and more. Directions: I-81 to Exit 201, turn east, 3-4 miles on right. COME ENJOY THE FALL FOLIAGE AND THE WONDERFUL FESTIVAL!

## **PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOTHER OF GOD**

This year’s 92<sup>nd</sup> annual Pilgrimage honoring the Mother of God will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2023 on the grounds of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase Manor. The theme of this year’s Pilgrimage is “Our Lady, Our Protectress and Refuge” with emphasis on calling upon the Mother of God to protect Ukraine during this time.

The day will begin with the Mystery of Reconciliation starting at 9:00 am. The Hierarchal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 11:00 am preceded by a procession.

Metropolitan Borys Gudziak will be the main celebrant with other hierarchy and clergy concelebrating. Lunch, featuring traditional Ukrainian food, will be available afterwards. There will be Spiritual programs, Rosary and Stations of the Cross for Ukraine. The day will conclude with a prayer service (Moleben) at 4:00 pm in the Grotto and blessing of vehicles followed by departure.

For further information, please call 215-379-3998 ext. 17 or visit the Sisters’ website at [www.stbasils.com](http://www.stbasils.com)

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

The Collection Processing Team for the month of September 2023 is Team

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

**Sunday Collection for Sept. 2 & 3, 2023: \$**



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E-Mail: [sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net](mailto:sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net)

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*

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