

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

Sept. 14, 2025: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Epistle: 1 Cor. 1: 18-24

Gospel: Jn. 19: 6-11, 13-21, 25-27, 30-35

This Weekend	4:00 pm For Our Parishioners 10:30 + Mildred Gongliewski (Sister, Mary Ann & Family)
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Mon., Sept. 15	9:00 + Robert Harris (Jule Harris)
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Tues., Sept. 16 to Thurs., Sept. 18	No Divine Liturgies: Clergy Retreat
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Fri., Sept. 19	9:00 + Souls in Purgatory
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Sat., Sept. 20	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions. 4:00 pm + Anna Marcinko (Andrea & Family)
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Sun., Sept. 21	10:30 For Our Parishioners
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Antiphon 1

O God, my God, hear me; why have You forsaken me? The words of my transgressions put salvation far from me.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

O God, I will call to You by day but You will not listen; and by night, yet it will not be foolish of me.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

But You, the praise of Israel, dwell in the holy place.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Antiphon 3

The Lord reigns, let the peoples tremble; He is enthroned upon the cherubim, let the earth quake.*

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.* Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies,* and protect Your community by Your cross.

Great is the Lord in Sion and supreme above all peoples.*

Let them profess Your great name for it is awesome and holy.*

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.* Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies,* and protect Your community by Your cross.

Entrance

Exalt the Lord our God and bow in worship at the footstool
of His feet for it is holy.

Instead of Holy God, we sing:

To Your Cross, O Master, we bow in veneration, and we glorify Your holy Resurrection. (3)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever
and ever. Amen

And we glorify Your holy Resurrection.

To Your Cross, O Master, we bow in veneration, and we glorify Your holy Resurrection.

Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify the most precious cross of the Lord. You are a mystical Paradise, O Mother of God, who though untilled, have brought forth Christ. He has planted upon earth the life- giving Tree of the Cross. Therefore today as we raise it on high we bow low and we magnify you.

Communion Hymn

Let the light of Your countenance, O Lord,* shine upon us.

Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

We should not neglect to mention the need for us to sign ourselves with the Cross when we begin our prayer. We should do this properly and not like those who are ashamed of the

Cross of Christ and wave it before
their face and chest not even placing
their fingers in the appropriate place.
Crossing ourselves carelessly saddens
our Lord and is taken as a sin of the

person of prayer. Such a Cross is not only powerless but it also gives joy to the demons, for then it is not the most terrible weapon against them. The sinner is less afraid of the place of punishment than the demons are of the Cross, for they tremble and flee in fear from the Cross, afraid to even look at its power (for the power of the Cross is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself) which burns them like fire. Armed with the Cross, the holy martyrs went to the most horrible tortures. The saints healed the sick, raised the dead, fearlessly drank poison, passed through fire and water by the power of the Cross of Christ. One of the old Christian writers, from the first centuries of the Christian Church, testifies that the Christians of that era, following the Apostolic constitutions

and traditions, at the beginning of every task or journey signed themselves with the Cross. They did this at departure, putting on robes, putting on shoes, at washing, before and after meals, making fires, before lying in bed, sitting after a journey, in other words: at the beginning of every task, journey or event. Today's Christians, however, taken over by some sort of shame, even when they visit the home of a friend at their birthday or names day, upon sitting for the meal won't even think to cross themselves as if they don't know the words of the Lord: "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when he comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 3:38).

THE OTHER SIDE

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was leaving the room after paying a visit, and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know?" the man said.

"You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle

of the door, on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining. As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was

here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.” “I know little of what is on the other side of death,” the doctor continued, “but I do know

one thing: I know my Master is there, and that is enough. And when the door opens, I shall pass through with no fear, but with gladness.”

CLERGY RETREAT

All the active Clergy of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia will be gathering in Long Branch, NJ, for our Annual Clergy Retreat. The Clergy Retreat will last from Monday, September 15th through Thursday,

September 18th. Please remember all of us in your prayers as we recharge our “Spiritual Batteries.” In case of an emergency, please call any Catholic Priest.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Religious Education classes for grades 3 thru 8 will begin Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in the church under the direction of Mrs. Cathy Marcinko. As of now, there are no classes scheduled for grades 1

and 2 as we do not have any children to attend. If you have a child in grades 1 thru 8 and were not already contacted by phone or text, please call Sandra Berta at 570-301-7421 to make arrangements.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ryan Wilkes and Jessica Sanderson on the joyful occasion of their wedding. May your married life be filled with blessings, love, and

the gentle grace that accompanies a union rooted in faith. May your love grow ever stronger, inspiring all those around you. Mnohaya Leeta and Congratulations, Ryan and Jessica!

UGCC SING CON

UGCCSingCon is an annual gathering of cantors, choristers, choir directors, and anyone interested in the musical tradition of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church. This year

it is being hosted by the parish of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, from October 23-26. The weekend includes workshops on liturgical

and musical topics, vocal exercises, mass choir practices, and liturgical services, including Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy. For further information, visit the website at <https://ugccmusic.com/>, or the

Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ugccmusic>. Student rates and scholarships are available. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is September 26th.

PASTIE SALE

Saints Peter & Paul, Ukrainian Catholic Church, North Wilkes-Barre is taking orders for Pasties for pick-up on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Our Pasties are made with seasoned ground beef and potatoes wrapped in a pie crust pastry and are available with or without onions. Pasties are \$9.00 each and Gravy is available

for \$1.00 for an 8 oz. cup. Call (570) 829-3051 to place your order. (Please specify with or without onions.) Pick-up from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in our School Hall, corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-Barre. Remember, when Baba cooks... everybody's happy!

SIMPSON FUNDRAISER CASH PRIZE BINGO

A fundraiser Cash Prize Bingo is planned for October 12, 2025 at Trinity Hall, Prospect St., Simpson. The Bingo will include 14 games, 3 Specials, and a Jackpot prize. Snacks

and refreshments will be available for purchase. Tickets will be \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

For tickets or more information, call 570-282-5680 or 570-282-0796.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of September 2025 is Team #1: Jerry Sereditch,

Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

Sunday Collection for Sept. 6 & 7, 2025: \$

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.



Ukrainian Catholic
Archeparchy of Philadelphia

Reporting & Giving Soirees

Anchored in Hope

OCTOBER 4, 2025

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 11, 2025

Whippany, New Jersey

To learn more &
to purchase your tickets



Contact us at fundraisers2025@ukrcatholic.org

To make a donation



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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Exalting the Cross

Inasmuch as the cross has become as it were the altar of this fearful sacrifice – for on the cross the Son of God died for the fall of man – therefore the cross is justly revered and worshipped and depicted as the sign of the common resurrection of all men, so that those who bow down before the wood of the cross might be delivered from the curse of Adam and receive the blessing and grace of God for the doing of every virtue. For Christians the cross is magnification, glory, and power: for all our power is in the power of Christ who was crucified; all our sinfulness is mortified by the death of Christ on the cross; and all our exaltation and all our glory are in the humility of God, who humbled Himself to such an extent that He was pleased to die even between evildoers and thieves. For this very reason Christians who believe in Christ sign themselves with the sign of the cross not simply, not just as it happens, not carelessly, but with all

heedfulness, with fear and with trembling, and with extreme reverence. For the image of the cross shows the reconciliation and friendship into which man has entered with God.

Therefore the demons also fear the image of the cross, and they do not endure to see the sign of the cross depicted even in the air, but they flee from this immediately knowing that the cross is the sign of the friendship of men with God ...

Those who have understood this mystery and in very fact have known in experience the authority and power which the cross has over demons, have likewise understood that the cross gives the soul strength, power, meaning, and divine wisdom ... To the degree of the reverence which one has toward the cross, he receives corresponding power and help from God. To Him may there be glory and dominion forever. Amen.

St. Symeon the New Theologian