

Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord:

Tomorrow, **August 1**, the Orthodox Church Commemorates the **Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord.**

The Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: In the Greek Horologion of 1897 the derivation of this Feast is explained: "Because of the illnesses that occur in August, it was customary, in former times, to carry the Venerable Wood of the Cross through the streets and squares of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city, and for relief from sickness. On the eve (July 31), it was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (the Wisdom of God). From this Feast until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the Cross throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate. This also is the Procession of the Venerable Cross."

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined also with the remembrance of the **Baptism of Rus**, on August 1, 988. In the "Account of the Order of Services in the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Great Church of the Dormition," compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Rus, there is the following explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Venerable Cross there is a church procession for the sanctification of water and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places."

Knowledge of the day of the actual Baptism of Rus was preserved in the Chronicles of the sixteenth century: "The Baptism of the Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev and all Rus was on August 1."

In the present practice of the Russian Church, the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 1 is done either before or after Liturgy. Because of the Blessing of Water, this first Feast of the Savior in August is sometimes called 'Savior of the Water.' There may also be a Blessing of New Honey today, which is why the Feast is also called "Savior of the Honey." From this day the newly gathered honey is blessed and tasted.

Kontakion:

*As You were voluntarily crucified for our sake,
Grant mercy to those who are called by Your name;
Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power,
Granting them victories over their adversaries,
By bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!*

See us on the web at:

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E-Mail us at:

Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Church of the Mother of God "The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St.
Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

Rev. Boris Slotsky, Rector

2B Pembroke Lane
Manchester, New Jersey 08759
(732) 350-9588



Glory to Jesus
Christ

Glory Forever

*O Lord, save Your people,
And bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
Over their adversaries.
And by virtue of the Cross,
Preserve Your habitation!*

Troparian - Life-giving Cross

On this day the Church remembers:

Forefeast of the Procession of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross of the Lord • Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia (9th c.) • Martyr Julitta at Caesarea (304-305) • St. Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre (448) • Martyr Julitta at Caesarea(304-305) • St. Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre (448) • Hieromartyr Benjamin, Metropolitan of Petrograd and Gdovsk (1922), and those with him: Archimandrite Sergius and the Laymen, Yuri and John.

July 31 2011

Tone 6 of the Octoechos.

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For health of:**

Members and guests of our parish, offered by the parish council.

Summer Sunday service:**Hours - 9:10 AM****Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM****(General Confession on the first Sunday of each month)****Coffee hour after Liturgy**

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- The **Feast of the Transfiguration**, falling on the sixth of August, will be celebrated in our church next Sunday. The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and nuts, on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord. **Remember to bring fruit next Sunday, August 7, for blessing** when we celebrate this feast.
- The **Feast of the Dormition**, or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos, is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, **preceded by a two-week fast**. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence. It is the custom to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition. We will celebrate the feast day on Sunday **August 14th**. **Flowers may be brought to the church on this day.**
- Summer Schedule: Hours 9:10 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Regular service schedule returns September 11th.
- **Special Announcements:**
- A **Panihida** will be held after the Divine Liturgy for **Nadia (Adele) Taran** next Sunday, **August 7**. (40 Days - May her memory be eternal.)
- New colored votives in gold, green, blue and red are being donated in Adele's memory by her family.
- **A meeting of the Parish Council will be today**, after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be August 7**, after coffee hour.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Readings:

- **Romans 15:1-7**
- **Matthew 9:27-35**

BRETHREN, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.