

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:****Julian Searfoorce**, on his 3rd birthday.**Readings:**

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 (Cross)
- John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35 (Cross)

BRETHREN, the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

At that time, the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab'batha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Gol'gotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag'dalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your

mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst."

When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth--that you also may believe.

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:****Hours – 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****Private Confession – Half hour before any service.**

See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month**Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month****Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room****Church School will begin again soon.****We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.****Announcements:**

- **Next Sunday, September 21st**, our parish will be having a **barbecue** at Natalie and Robert Morris' house, 6060 Main St. Mays Landing. The BBQ will be held immediately after the Liturgy. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs if you would like to contribute a food or beverage item to the BBQ.
- **The next council meeting will be on September 28th after coffee hour.** If you are a council member and have an agenda item for this meeting, please notify Trudy.

Special Announcements:

- **Any Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.

St. Maximus says: "Do not compare yourself to weaker persons, but rather reach out to the commandment of love. For by comparing yourself to these weaker persons, you fall into the pit of conceit; in reaching out for the latter (the commandment of love), you advance to the heights of humility."

Rest of St. John Chrysostom:

Saint John Chrysostom died on September 14, 407, but because of the feast of the Exaltation of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord, the commemoration of the saint was transferred to **November 13**. On January 27 we commemorate the transfer of the holy relics of St John Chrysostom from Comana to Constantinople, and on January 30, the Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs.

The Universal Exaltation Of The Precious And Lifegiving Cross"

The Exaltation (or Elevation) of the Cross, celebrated on **September 14**, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

The day of the Elevation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official **emblem** of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of "*Lord have mercy.*" This ritual is still done in the churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross at the end of the **Vigil** service of the holy day following the **Great Doxology** of Matins.

The troparion of the feast which was, one might say, the "*national anthem*" sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire "*by the virtue of the Cross.*" Today the troparion, and all the hymns of the day, are "*spiritualized*" as the "*adversaries*" become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and "*Orthodox Christians*" replace the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

The holy day of the Elevation of the Cross, although it has an obviously "political" origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by "victories" of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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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 Your Cross,
Preserve Your habitation.*

Troparion — Tone 1

Today the Church remembers:

- The Universal Exaltation Of The Precious And Lifegiving Cross**
 ● **Rest of St. John Chrysostom** (407) ● Monk Martyr Macarius of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos—1507) ● Monk Martyr Joseph of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos—1819)

September 14, 2014

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 5 of the Octoechos

(Wine and oil are allowed today. Otherwise it is a

Strict Fast Day according to the Typikon)