

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the eternal memory of:**

Lorraine Friesinger, cousin of Linda Jankowski

Readings:

- Galatians 2:16-20 (*Sunday After Cross*)
- Mark 8:34-9:1 (*Sunday After Cross*)
 - **I Corinthians 15:1-11**
 - **Matthew 19:16-26**

BRETHREN, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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

Pannikidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour – after Liturgy

Church School - 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

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

Announcements:

- **Church School** has begun for the school year. Classes meet at 9:30 AM downstairs in the community room. Church School does not meet on the first Sunday of each month. Registration forms for Church School are available at the candle stand.
- The next **meeting of the Parish Council** will be on Sunday, September 29th, after coffee hour.
- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be sponsoring their **Annual Feast Day Luncheon** on Sunday October 6th. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Children under 12 and Sunday School Students are free. Sisterhood members are encouraged to check the sign-up sheet downstairs to see what food items are still needed.
- **His Grace Bishop Michael** will be visiting our parish on the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd. The Sisterhood will be sponsoring a luncheon on Sunday November 3rd after the Divine Liturgy in his honor. More information will be forthcoming.

Special Announcements:

- Special 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.

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord::

Yesterday, September 14th, the Church celebrated the **Feast of the Elevation of the Cross.**

Desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body. In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple; she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khozroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633). The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khozroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

Founded 1966

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**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

**Afterfeast of the Elevation of
the Cross.**

*As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake,
Grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;
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.*

Kontakion -

Today the Church remembers:

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross • Sunday after Elevation •
Greatmartyr Nicetas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372) • Uncovering of the Relics of St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene (3rd c.) • Martyrs Theodotus, Asclepiodotus, and Maximus, of Adrianopolis (305-311) • Martyr Porphyrius the Actor (361) • Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (415) • St. Philotheus the Presbyter, in Asia Minor (10th c.) • Ven. Joseph, Abbot, of Alaverdsk in Georgia (570) • St. Joseph the New of Partos, Metropolitan of Timisoara (1656)

September 15, 2013

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 of the Octoechos



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