

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

Irene and Dean on their 38th anniversary from their family
Dan and Kira Dangle on their anniversary from their family
Students Safe back to school for all students from the parish council

Readings:

- [2 Corinthians 6:1-10](#)
- [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Lord said this parable: "For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers,

and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'

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 today September 16th.

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

Announcements:

- **Church school will begin today, September 16th.** Class times are:
 - 2nd through 8th grades will meet at 9:30,
 - Preschool through 1st grades meet immediately after communion.
 Returning students need only fill out their name and grade on the sign-up sheet at the candle stand to register. New students please fill out a new student registration form.
- **The next council meeting will be on September 30th after coffee hour.** If you are a council member and have an agenda item for this meeting, please notify Andy.
- **The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos Appreciation Dinner** will be held October 7th at Cousin Mario's. An e-mail was sent to each member with details. (or see Linda Dantine for details)
- **Annual Anniversary Dinner will be held November 4th.** Space is limited! Fr. Matthew sent out an e-mail with details and reservation forms.

Special Announcements:

- **Any Announcements or prayer requests for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up 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.”

Afterfeast of 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

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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:

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross • Sunday after Elevation • Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised (304) • Repose of St. Kiprián, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1406) • St. Sebastiana, disciple of St. Paul the Apostle, martyred at Heraclea (1st c.) • Martyr Melitina of Marcianopolis (2nd c.) • Martyrs Victor and Sosthenes at Chalcedon (ca. 304) • Ven. Dorotheus, Hermit, of Egypt (4th c.) • Martyr Ludmila, grandmother of St. Wenceslaus (Viachesláv), Prince of the Czechs (927) • New Martyrs Isaac and Joseph of Georgia (808).

September 16, 2018

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 7 of the Octoechos