

September 21st, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 6
Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Cross

Scripture Readings

Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle, Leavetaking)

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel, Leavetaking)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 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." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Matthew 22:35-46 (Gospel)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Many Years! anniversaries

2nd - Austin & Tori Jackson
6th - Victor & Terri Volosin
23rd - Rick & Shirley Sandbothe

birthdays

5th - Linda Deak
12th - Ken Denson
13th - Doreen Himelrick
14th - Cassandra Head
17th - Trevor Hendrix
20th - Noah Scott
22nd - Bill Stevens
24th - Dave Guy
29th - Michael Mikita
29th - Bodie Glover
29th - Eilidh Robinson

Calendar

Slavic Fest Prep Continues
Following Coffee Hour Today!

September 24th Moleben
Followed by Adult Study
— Wednesday 6:30p

September 27th Great Vespers
— Saturday 6:30p

September 28st Divine Liturgy
— Sunday 9:30a

Exalt ye Christ...and worship His divine footstool.

"Even now the saving wood of the Cross is distributed throughout the world, and in its fragments we see the power of God, for in one and the same wood we see both the sign of our defeat and the trophy of our victory."

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (c. 313–386)

"The Cross is wood which lifts us up and makes us great. The Cross uprooted us from the depths of evil and elevated us to the summit of virtue."

St. John Chrysostom (c. 347–407) – Homilies on the Cross

"As you contemplate the sticks that Isaac was laid upon, reflect on the cross. As you look on the fire, meditate on the love. Look too on the sheep hanged by its two horns on the plant that is called 'Sabek'. Look too on Christ, the Lamb of God, hanged by his two hands upon a Cross. The plant called Sabek means 'forgiveness', for it saved from slaughter the old man's child. It foreshadows the cross that forgives the world its sins and grants it life. The ram hanging on the Sabek plant mystically redeemed Isaac alone. While the Lamb of God hanging on the cross delivered the world from Death and Hell."

St. Ephrem the Syrian (c. 306–373) – Hymns on the Crucifixion and Cross

"When the first creature was shut out from Paradise, an order was given to the Cherubim to guard the road; but take My cross on your shoulders, and thus go into Eden with haste... Taking the inscription of My cross, robber, walk up to the Cherubim, and they will know the symbol of life."

"The Most High planted in the middle of Paradise the thrice blessed wood, the gift of life for us... However, the robber, seeing how the plant in Eden had been beautifully transplanted in Golgotha, recognized the life in it and said to himself: 'This is what my father lost formerly in Paradise.'"

St. Romanos the Melodist (c. 490–556) – Kontakion on the Adoration of the Cross

"Why do we honor the Cross with such reverence that we make mention of its power in our prayers after asking for the intercession of the Mother of God and the Heavenly Powers, before asking for that of the Saints, and sometimes even before asking for that of the Heavenly Powers? Because after the Saviour's sufferings, the Cross became the sign of the Son of Man, that is, the Cross signifies the Lord Himself, incarnate and suffering for our salvation."

"In making the sign of the cross, believe and constantly remember that your sins are nailed to the cross. When you fall into sin, immediately judge yourself sincerely, and make the sign of the cross over yourself, saying: 'Lord, Thou Who nailest our sins to the cross, nail also my present sin to Thy cross, and 'have mercy upon me after Thy great goodness;' and you will be cleansed from your sin. Amen."

St. John of Kronstadt – (1829–1908) My Life in Christ and Spiritual Counsels

"Before sending you your cross to bear, God has measured it with His beautiful and gentle eyes, with his divine reason, checked it with His infinite justice, warmed it with His loving arms, and weighed it with both His hands to see that it is not one ounce too heavy, and that the cross is not one inch too long."

St. Nektarios of Aegina (1846–1920) – Spiritual Writings and Counsels

"Honesty is the most precious Holy Cross."

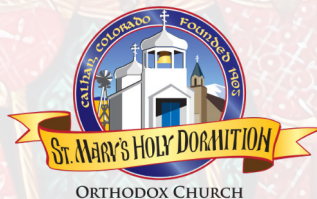
St. Paisios of Mount Athos (1924–1994) – Spiritual Counsels

Troparion | Tone 1

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation!*

Kontakion | Tone 1

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!



Prayer List

living

Clergy: Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan

Community: Mother Cassiana, The Combs Family, Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Emily, Tony, Diane, Bourg Family, Betty, Muriel, Child Gerhard ✕ Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Infant Dominic, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, McKenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael.

Those with child: Libbie

Those who are confined: Ethen, Casey, Basil, Mark, Hannah, Theodore

departed

Charles, Bob Selle

Commemorations

Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Cross, Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy, Saint Demetrius (Dmitri) Metropolitan of Rostov, Venerable Daniel Abbot of Shuzhgorsk Novgorod, Venerable Joseph of Zaonikiev Monastery Vologda, Hieromartyr Hypatius Bishop of Ephesus, Presbyter Andrew, Saint Isaac of Cyprus, 26 Monastic Martyrs of Zographou Mount Athos, Venerable Cosmas the Bulgarian of Zographou Mount Athos, Saint John of Georgia, Saint George (John) of Georgia

Coffee Hour

A big thank you to Kelly Glover, who sponsored last week's coffee hour - Many Years! Today's Coffee Hour is provided by Carrie Guy. Please join us in the hall across the street for a time of fellowship and a light meal. If you would like to sign up to sponsor a coffee hour, please use the form in the parish hall to select a date and sign up.

September 28th
—Linda & Colleen Hendrix

October 5th
—AVAILABLE

October 12th
—Slavic Fest!

October 19th
—Jennifer Pinnell

October 26th
—AVAILABLE