

FEAST OF THE
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th



September 14, 2014
THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION
OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15– SEPTEMBER 21

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – SATURDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS; THE HOLY GREAT MARTYR EUSTACE, HIS WIFE THEOPISTES, AND THEIR CHILDREN AGAPIUS AND THEOPISTUSN
6:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS; THE HOLY APOSTLE QUADRATUS OF MAGNESIA

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),
please **stop** and be attentive - будьмо уважні!*

September 14

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Two events in connection with the Honorable Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Honorable Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Honorable Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Honorable Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarius told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became

well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: “Lord, have mercy!” Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord’s Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world. (Prologue of Ohrid)

Pastoral Visits

As a new deacon serving our parish I would like to take the opportunity to meet and visit with everyone in order to get to know you better and to understand how I might best serve you and our community. I will be contacting everyone to set up a convenient time to meet.

– Fr. Deacon Frank

Clothing collection

If you wish to donate clothing to benefit Ukrainian soldier, you may bring it to the church up until next week, September 21st. If you wish to drop clothing off during the week please contact Fr. James at 619-905-5278 to make arrangements. Items that are especially useful are camouflage hunting/military jackets.

Open House Saturday, October 4th

11AM - 3:30 PM

I encourage all of you to come to our open house on Saturday, October 4 - and - to bring a guest!

Invite your neighbors, family, friends. There will be a church tour every hour informational display in the church hall covering topics such as: Liturgical items, Music, Iconography, Parish Life, and, of course, food.

Patriarch Sviatoslav, echoing the desire of our Lord Himself reminds us that, as Christians, we have the responsibility to believe, live, serve, and share the witness of our faith in Christ, not just among our family members, but with our neighbors, wherever we may live.

Let us all take to opportunity to put the words of the Gospel into action and to show all that we are a “Vibrant Parish - a place to encounter the Living Christ!

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Fr. James or a member of the Pastoral Council.

DROUGHT

Encountering drought in one's soul

Abbot Tryphon

Like much of the country, Washington State is experiencing drought. When most people think of Seattle, they think of rain, lots of rain. Anyone who would choose to live in the Puget Sound region, better like rain, we tell our visitors. We love lush green forests, and rushing streams. We love our mountains, snow capped year round. We love the mist that rises over our lakes and rivers, and we love our foggy autumn days. We love our rain!

We have been experiencing a weather pattern like none any of us can remember, with the longest period of 80 degree weather on record. October is usually the beginning of our rainy season, but the long term forecast doesn't look good. Weather forecasters are projecting our upcoming winter will be warmer and drier than normal. With little rain in sight, and many of us worry that the extreme drought conditions that have impacted much of our nation, may have arrived in the Pacific Northwest.

Drought has had a significant impact on whole civilizations, even being responsible for the total abandonment of great cities, now buried beneath the sands of history. The Great Dust Bowl led to the mass migration of our own people, as farms and towns were gobbled up by dust storms, having a devastating impact on the lives of thousands of families.

As we all meditate on the dire possibilities, should this drought continue, it is perhaps a good time to take a look at another type of drought, one that impacts the souls of believers. Periods of spiritual dryness come to all of us, and just as the earth is impacted, with the death of plants and animals, so too can this spiritual drought bring death to the soul.

The image of the nineteenth century "rainmaker" comes to my mind, when traveling entrepreneurs managed to garner sums of money from local townspeople and farmers, with the promise of "making rain". The desperate locals would fork over their remaining meager savings in the hopes of bringing the much needed rain for their crops, and dried up wells.

During periods of spiritual dryness, people tend to look in all the wrong directions, in a desperate attempt to quench their thirst for the meaning of life. Trying to fill a spiritual void, they look to entertainment, material goods, and worldly abandon, hoping to quench the drought they sense has taken hold of them. Like the farmers and townspeople of the Dust Bowl, they pay money to the "rainmakers" of pop music, entertainment, and material goods, all in a desperate attempt to find meaning for their lives, all the while ignoring the ocean of Living Water that resides within.

UKRAINE IS FLOWING IN BLOOD!

Appeal of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

We, the bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church from Ukraine and from countries of Ukrainian settlements in North and South America, Australia, and Europe, gathered at the annual Holy Synod in Lviv, conscious of the responsibility entrusted to us for our flock, raise our voice on behalf of the people of Ukraine and call out to the people of the world: "Ukraine is flowing with blood!" This peaceful sovereign nation has been subjected to a direct military intervention by a northern neighbor. Hundreds of units of heavy weaponry and technology, thousands of armed mercenaries and soldiers of Russia's standing army are crossing the borders of Ukraine, sowing death and destruction, in disregard for the terms of the ceasefire and recent diplomatic efforts. At the same time, propaganda continues at an unprecedented level of hatred and distortion of the real state of affairs, which is no less damaging than weapons of mass destruction.

The entire world has been able to witness how, over the last months, the aggressor commits crimes against humanity on the territory of Ukraine. The whole world was shocked with the criminal act of the downing of the Malaysian plane, in which 298 people from 10 different countries died. Thousands of people, especially women and children, have been recklessly killed; and it has not been possible to even bury them with dignity. Many of the wounded are forced to simply wait for death due to the inaccessibility of medical assistance. Thousands of people are being kidnapped and subjected to torture and public humiliation against their human dignity.. Hundreds of thousands of refugees are being forced to flee their homes due to threats against their lives and the danger of death. If these crimes are not stopped immediately, with the onset of the winter cold, the death toll

will increase tenfold. Those, who kill people in Ukraine today, will not hesitate tomorrow to turn their weaponry against anyone, in their own country and beyond its borders, or attack any other nation in the world.

In the face of such grave crimes we call out to the consciences of believers of all religions and faiths, we appeal to all people of good will, to heads of state, and members of the international community: "Stop the bloodshed in Ukraine!" Today, silence or inaction, reluctance to recognize the gravity of the situation, which has arisen in our country, can not only turn everyone into a mute or indifferent witness, but also into an accomplice of the sin of murder, which cries to heaven for justice as the Scripture says: "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground" (Genesis 4:10). How can we not recall the words of Saint John Paul II, who in the distant year of 1979, in the vicinity of the former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, said: "War is caused not only by those who wage it directly but also by those who do not do everything in their power to avoid it." We especially call for responsible action from those whom the Lord has given authority, to take the necessary decisions at the political level in order to restore peace and security in Europe. And once again we call all believers and people of good will to urgent prayers for the end of aggression and the restoration of a lasting and comprehensive peace in Ukraine.

Convinced that God is with us in our sufferings and troubles, that He will hear our common pleas and prayers, and with the coordinated efforts of the international community, we will be able to stop the bloodshed, to defend human dignity, and restore life-giving peace.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk)
Major Archbishop of Kyiv and Halych

His Grace Ihor (Vozniak)
Metropolitan of Lviv

His Grace Volodymyr (Vijtyshyn)
Metropolitan of Ivano-Frankivsk

His Grace Vasyl (Semeniuk)
Metropolitan of Ternopil

His Grace Ivan (Martyniak)
Metropolitan of Przemyśl and Warsaw

His Grace Lawrence (Huculak)
Metropolitan of Winnipeg

His Grace Stephen (Soroka)
Metropolitan of Philadelphia

His Grace Volodemer (Koubetch)
Metropolitan of Curitiba

His Excellency Borys (Gudziak)
Eparch of the Eparchy of St. Volodymyr the Great in Paris
for the Ukrainians of the Byzantine rite

His Excellency Bryan (Bayda)
Eparch of Saskatoon

His Excellency Vasyl (Ivasiuk)
Eparch of Kolomyia and Chernivtsi

His Excellency Volodymyr (Juszczak)
Eparch of Wrocław and Gdańsk

His Excellency Hlib (Lonchyna)
Eparch of the Holy Family Eparchy of London

His Excellency David (Motiuk)
Eparch of Edmonton

His Excellency Dmytro (Hryhorak)
Eparch of Buchach

His Excellency Ken (Nowakowski)
Eparch of New Westminster

His Excellency Meron (Mazur)
Eparch of the Immaculate Conception Eparchy in
Prudentopolis

His Excellency Mykhail (Koltun)
Eparch of Sokal-Zhovkva

His Excellency Paul (Chomnycky)
Eparch of Stamford

His Excellency Peter (Stasiuk)
Eparch of Melbourne

His Excellency Richard (Seminack)
Eparch of Chicago

His Excellency Stephen (Chmilar)
Eparch of Toronto and Eastern Canada

His Excellency Taras (Senkiv)
Eparch of Stryi

His Excellency Yaroslav (Pryriz)
Eparch of Sambir-Drohobych

His Excellency Bohdan (Dzyurakh)
Bishop of Major Archbishop's Curia,
Secretary of the UGCC Synod of Bishops

His Excellency Petro (Kryk)
Apostolic Exarch of Germany and Scandinavia

His Excellency Vasyl (Tuchapets)
Exarch of Kharkiv

His Excellency Josaphat (Hovera)
Exarch of Lutsk

His Excellency Mykhail (Bubniy)
Exarch of Odesa, Administrator of Crimean Exarchate

His Excellency Stepan (Menok)
Exarch of Donetsk

His Excellency Daniel (Kozlinski)
Apostolic Administrator of the Protection of the Mother of
God Eparchy in Argentina

His Excellency Ivan (Bura)
Apostolic Administrator of Parma Eparchy

His Excellency Dionisio (Lachovicz)
Apostolic Visitor for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic
faithful in Italy and Spain

His Excellency Venedykt (Aleksiychuk)
Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv Archeparchy

His Excellency Josyf (Milian)
Auxiliary Bishop of Kyiv Archeparchy

His Excellency Eugeniusz (Popowicz)
Auxiliary Bishop of Przemyśl and Warsaw Archeparchy

His Excellency Bohdan (Manyshyn)
Auxiliary Bishop of Stryi Eparchy

His Excellency Josaphat (Moshchych)
Auxiliary Bishop of Ivano-Frankivsk Archeparchy

His Excellency Hryhoriy (Komar)
Auxiliary Bishop of Sambir and Drohobych Eparchy

His Excellency Basil (Losten)
Bishop-emeritus

His Excellency Irynei (Bilyk)
Bishop-emeritus

THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

~ Western Region ~ presents

State of the Christian Church in Ukraine



Sat., Sept. 27, 2014

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptizer Ukrainian Catholic Church

4400 Palm Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91941

619-697-5085 (Office) pastor@stjohnthebaptizer.org

Presenter: Fr. James Bankston

Pastor. St. John the Baptizer

Moderator: V. Rev. George Morelli, Ph.D

Asst. pastor St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, San Diego; Pres. SSJC-WR.

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A freewill offering will be taken.

Business meeting of The Society of St. John Chrysostom-Western Region during lunch (approx. 1 p.m.).

All welcome. Coffee and tea provided. If attending the meeting, please bring a sack lunch.

Contact: Bob Greenwell: 619.644.3600 or Fr. George Morelli: (760) 920 6530

Directions to St. John the Baptizer

US 8Fwy E. or W. Exit: "Spring St." S. on Spring St. (approx. 1 mile) to Palm Ave.; Left on Palm to 4400 . Left into Church parking lot. US 94/125 Exit Spring St. N. to Palm Ave. and to church.

For interesting news articles related to this topic see:

<http://stjohnthebaptizer.org/news.php>

The Society of St. John Chrysostom-Western Region, is an ecumenical organization of laity and clergy of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches which was established to make known the history, worship, spirituality, discipline and theology of Eastern Christianity, and to work for the fullness of unity desired by Jesus Christ.

Sunday offering for September 7

Amount	Number
\$12.00	1 (loose)
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	3
\$35.00	1
\$40.00	1
\$50.00	2
\$60.00	1
\$75.00	2
\$80.00	1
\$100.00	2
\$160.00	1
\$200.00	1
\$300.00	1
\$400.00	1
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\$1812.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1737.00
 Guest: \$75.00

Average / parish household (42): \$41.36
 Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00
 Deficit: **(\$388.00)**

Other Gifts: \$4000.00

Please Note:

When you are away, please don't forget that the church still relies on your contributions. Our bills do not go on vacation. Your absence on any Sunday does not negate your obligation to support your home parish.

Cards for sale

Various Greeting Cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

Going to the Hospital?

Please let your Father James know, so that he can add you to the prayer list, or, if you like, pay you a visit. If you know someone else is in the hospital please let Fr. James know.

Share 2014

We do not doubt the Resurrection of Christ, His gift of salvation to us all. How are we prepared to reciprocate for this most wondrous of gifts? Let us help our eparchy bring Christ's salvation to others by making a contribution to **Share 2014 – Annual Eparchial Appeal.**

Ми не сумніваємося у Воскресінні Христа і Його дару для нашого спасіння. Як ми готові віддячити Йому за цей найчудовіший із всіх дарів? То ж допоможемо нашій єпархії принести Христове спасіння до інших внесок в **Share 2014 – Єпархіальний Заклик.**

Goal:
\$120000

2014

Stewardship Pledges

Pledges received: 18

Pledges:
\$39116

It is impossible to plan any sort of budget until all pledge forms are turned in. If you haven't returned your pledge, please do so.

Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Fr. Deacon Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667
 Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279
 Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357
 Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008
 Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

Social Committee Chairpersons:

Vacant: Please consider volunteering as chairperson.

Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698
 Fr. Deacon Frank Avant: (760) 805-1667



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston

frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

Deacon: Fr. Deacon Frank Avant

fhavant@mac.com

Fr. Dcn Frank's cell phone: (760) 805-1667

Exalting the Cross

Inasmuch as the cross has become as it were the altar of this fearful sacrifice – for on the cross the Son of God died for the fall of man – therefore the cross is justly revered and worshipped and depicted as the sign of the common resurrection of all men, so that those who bow down before the wood of the cross might be delivered from the curse of Adam and receive the blessing and grace of God for the doing of every virtue. For Christians the cross is magnification, glory, and power: for all our power is in the power of Christ who was crucified; all our sinfulness is mortified by the death of Christ on the cross; and all our exaltation and all our glory are in the humility of God, who humbled Himself to such an extent that He was pleased to die even between evildoers and thieves. For this very reason Christians who believe in Christ sign themselves with the sign of the cross not simply, not just as it happens, not carelessly, but with all

heedfulness, with fear and with trembling, and with extreme reverence. For the image of the cross shows the reconciliation and friendship into which man has entered with God.

Therefore the demons also fear the image of the cross, and they do not endure to see the sign of the cross depicted even in the air, but they flee from this immediately knowing that the cross is the sign of the friendship of men with God ...

Those who have understood this mystery and in very fact have known in experience the authority and power which the cross has over demons, have likewise understood that the cross gives the soul strength, power, meaning, and divine wisdom ... To the degree of the reverence which one has toward the cross, he receives corresponding power and help from God. To Him may there be glory and dominion forever. Amen.

St. Symeon the New Theologian