

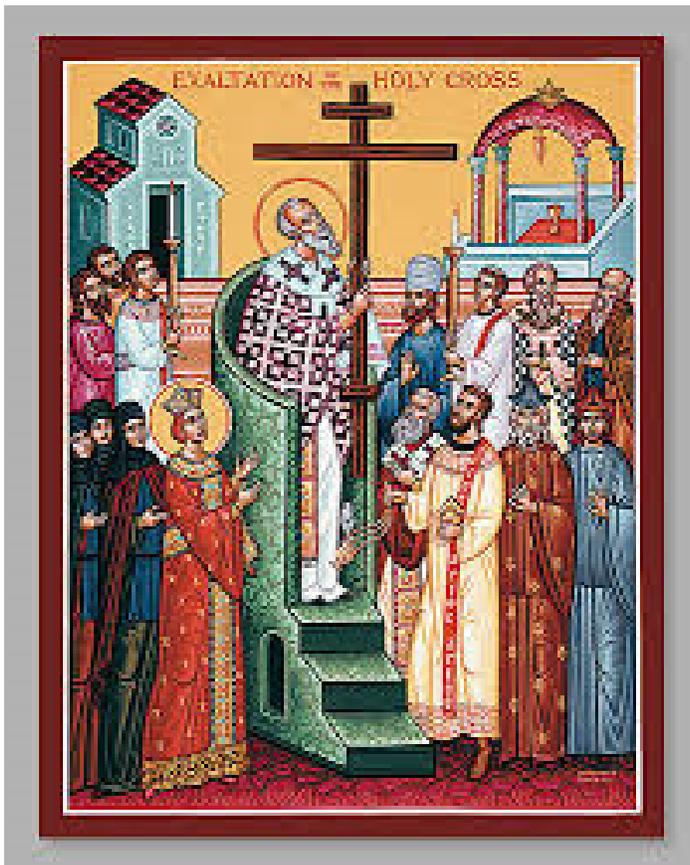
September 9, 2018

The Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18:

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel: John 3:13-17:



No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

On September 14 the Orthodox Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

This is the first Royal Feast of the Church (Ecclesiastical) year, which began on September the 1st.

Being such an important Feast, the Church Fathers decided to set aside two Sundays (before and after) for the celebration of this instrument of salvation: the life-giving Cross.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is part of the conversation between the Lord Jesus and Nicodemus who came by night to Him. Right from the start, Jesus is telling him that the only way to enter the kingdom of God is through the gate of Baptism: "I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (3:5). Then, Jesus moves the conversation to the pinnacle of His public ministry: the salvation of the world through His voluntary Passion.

Pointing out the fact that the event of Crucifixion had been prefigured in the Old Testament, as part of the chosen people's journey from slavery to the promised Land ("as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up"), the Savior explains that God's infinite love for mankind was the reason for His voluntary and redeeming Passion (For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son), and the rewards for those who believe and follow Him: "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Matthew Cotfasa
Alexandru Mustea**

Sunday Fellowship

**The following families are scheduled to look after
this Sunday's fellowship:**

**Mieila Ion & Marieta
Rinchița Eugen & Geta
Zerfass Dan & Flory**

Thank you all very much!

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

On September 16, 2018, the New Sunday School year begins. Following the Divine Liturgy, a special service of invocation will take place for the students and their teachers.

The program is structured on three groups:

Group A: 4-7 years, teacher: Gabriela Luca Damian

Group B: 8-12 years, teacher: Veronica Ciocan

Group C: 13-18 years, teacher: Ileana Gavris.

All children are welcome to join the program and the parents are asked to register their children with the teacher of their respective group

The Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival will be held on September 29, at the Romanian Center.

This is a fundraising event.

We extend our invitation to all of our members and supporters to participate in event.

Tickets are **\$60.00/adults and \$15.00/children (7-14 years).**

Contact Mariana Diaconu la 780-473-6711
or 780-660-4748 (texting only).

Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them **to pay their membership as soon as possible.**

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

We also encourage you to **renew your financial pledge** and be as generous as you can.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!