

Sept. 13, 2015:

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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.

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**

## **Sunday Fellowship**

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

**Dorobanțu Petre & Loredana  
Gavriș Marius & Ileana  
Tănăsioiu Horia & Camelia**

**Thank you all very much!**

## **THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR**

**On September 13, 2015, the New Sunday School year begins. Following the Divine Liturgy, a special service of invocation will take place for the students and their teachers. We are very blessed and thankful to have highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to provide the best religious education for our children.**

**The parents are warmly advised to bring their children on a regular basis to the Sunday School Program.**

## **The Harvest Festival**

**This year's Harvest Festival will be held  
on September 26, 2015, at the Romanian Center.**

**This is a fundraising event.**

**We extend our invitation to all of our members  
and supporters to participate in this event!**

**Tickets are \$50.00/adults and \$15.00/children (7-14 years)**

**Please call Claudiu Nanu at 780-914 - 4723 for tickets!**

**Thank you for your support!**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**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 for the rest of the year.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**