

September 14, 2014: The Elevation of the Holy Cross

Epistle: I Cor. 1:18-24:

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 31-35:



Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to our^{bl} law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.” Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid,⁹ and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?” Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a

Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

On September the 14th The Orthodox Church celebrates the Elevation (Exaltation) of the life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The history of this Feastday goes all the way back to the time of Sts. Emperors Constantine and his mother Helen. St. Empress Helen set out to find the cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ had been crucified in Jerusalem. Having found it, St. Helen, together with the Patriarch of Jerusalem Makarios, venerated the Holy Cross, which was then lifted up (elevated) before the multitude of people to be seen.

Having played such an important role in the act of our salvation, the Orthodox Church has always given the proper respect and veneration to this instrument of victory over death and the forces of darkness. This is why St. Paul writes and says: ***"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God"*** (I Cor. 1:18).

Being connected to the voluntary and redeeming Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, this Feastday is always marked with fasting.

So, let us venerate the life-giving Cross, as the Orthodox Church sings: **"We venerate Thy Cross, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify."**

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Sanaploianu Cristian & Veronica
Serghe Ion & Rozica
Dinca Cornel & Gabriela**

Thank you all very much!

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

**On September 14, 2014, 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
October 4, 2014, at the Romanian Center.
This is a fundraising for the kitchen renovation.**

**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 Liviu Sasu at 780-489-5381 for tickets!

Thank you for your support!

Employment Opportunity

**Saipan Construction Canada, located in Edmonton, Alberta,
is hiring heavy duty mechanics.**

Those interested should contact Florin Gramescu at 587-712-0678.