

Sept. 8, 2013:

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. 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.*"

On this Sunday of September the 8th we also celebrate the [Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary](#). We all know the crucial role played by the Virgin of Nazareth in the history of our salvation. Born to her faithful parents Joachim and Ana, the Holy Virgin was entrusted to the temple as a very young child. There she grew up in prayer, fasting and reading the Old Testament Scriptures, including many references of the prophets



about the role that a young Virgin would have in the divine plan for mankind's salvation. Not only did she become the one from whom the Son of God assumed our human nature and became like us in everything except sin, but she also made herself an incessant intercessor for us before the throne of her Son and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Through the intercessions of the Holy Mother of God and the power of the life-giving Cross, O, Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, save us and make us worthy of the everlasting life!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after this Sunday's (Sept. 8) fellowship:

**Paul & Roxana Popa
Daniel & Ioana Potlog
Gabriel & Gabriela Luca-Damian**

Thank you all very much!

The new Fellowship Roster will begin on Oct. the 20th 2013.

**Those who are not on the list and want to participate,
please call Fr. George at 780-473-0029.**

**Those who are on the list and do not want to participate,
please do the same!**

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

On September 15, 2013, the New Sunday School year will begin.

On Sunday, September 8, following the Divine Liturgy, a special service 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

The second edition of the Harvest Festival will be held on September 28, 2013, at the Romanian Center. This is a fundraising for two major projects: a new roof over the main Hall and 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 Viorel Ciocan at 780-994-2304 for tickets!

Thank you for your support!