

The Elevation (Exaltation) of the Holy Cross (September 14)

The pagan Roman emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose, so they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, raising a temple to Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Pagans gathered there, offering sacrifice to idols. Yet after three centuries, by Divine Providence, the Lord's Sepulchre and the Life-giving Cross were revealed under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337).

In 313 Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, ending persecution in the West. After defeating Licinius, the Edict extended Eastward. Constantine, aided by God, had seen the Cross in the heavens with the words: "By this you shall conquer." Desiring to find the True Cross, he sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem. She built many churches at Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, and Gethsemane. Though elderly, she searched tirelessly until directed to an aged Jew named Jude. He revealed the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus.

After its destruction, three crosses were uncovered near the Lord's Tomb, along with Pilate's inscription and the nails. To discern the Lord's Cross, Patriarch Makarios touched each to a corpse; at the touch of the True Cross, the man was raised. Crowds venerated the Cross as it was lifted high, crying, "Lord, have mercy." This occurred in 326. Many miracles followed, including the healing of a dying woman. Jude himself believed, was baptized as Kyriakos, and later became Bishop of Jerusalem, suffering martyrdom under Julian the Apostate.

Saint Helen brought part of the Cross and the nails to Constantinople. Constantine then built the great Church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem, consecrated on September 13, 335, with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross established the following day.

Later, after the Persians seized the Cross, Emperor Herakleios recovered it in 628. Stripped of royal garments, walking barefoot, he bore it humbly into Jerusalem. As Saint Andrew of Crete proclaimed: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

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ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



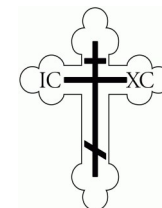
Father James Thayer
215-692-0890

September 14, 2025

THE ELEVATION (EXALTATION) OF THE HOLY CROSS

COMMEMORATIONS:

COMMEMORATION OF THE 6TH
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Orthros Gospel: St. John 12:28-36
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
Liturgy Gospel: St. John 19:6-11,
13-20, 25-28, 30-35

APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS -
Tone 1 - O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance,
granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by
the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - Tone
4 - Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon
the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the
new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy
might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be
led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a
weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

TODAY:

Strict Fast Day
ORTHROS & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.
Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission, 9 a.m.
Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

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Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 12:30 pm - 5:00pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:	Next Week (Sept. 21):
COFFEE HOUR: Fasting Potluck	Potluck
PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabriela Plesa & Macrina Layton	John Child & Heather Taggat
ALTAR CANDLES: - - -	Sidorochev-Michael's Birthday
USHERS: TBD	TBD
CLEANING TEAM: Justin & Kate G., Midena S., Slav & Ola S.	Nick T., Gabi T., Dave & Darby
COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Miriam K., Ryan M., Daniel C., Laura S.	Mike L., Dave & Darby, Steven M.

Mark Your Calendar:

Mental Health Talk
October 11 at 10:00 am
(after Liturgy)

Mental Health in the Modern World: An Orthodox Holistic Approach
Keith Eisenhuth

Feast of St. Raphael
November 1

Bishop Thomas Visit
November 10-17

Nativity Fast Begins
November 15

Save The Date!
July 1-4, 2026

Parish Life Conference
St. Patrick Orthodox Church
(Northern Virginia)

**SEPTEMBER OUTREACH
COLLECTION:**

Cleaning Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, Palestine, and all the holy land	(September Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Helen
St. Catherine Monastery on Mt Sinai	+Michael
St Justin Academy and all students and teachers	+Barry
Fr Luke and the Mission Chapel	+Helen
N.C. Ed & Doris Tatiana	+Timothy
Bethlehem and her family	+George
Ludmilla	+Jamoul
Serge and Linea	+Kh. Joyce Black
Maria	<u>Catechumens</u>
John	Ryan
James	Kassandra
Steven	Jasper
Paraskevi	Matthew
Alexandra	Mary
Alexander	Martin
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries	Meghan-Photini
Dn Nathan, Jacob, John, Irenaeus, Theophanes, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families	John
Those searching for houses, spouses, & jobs	Steven
Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples	Robert
Families struggling to conceive	Liara
Expectant and new mothers and their babies	Asher
Those in mourning	Sarah
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	Andrew
	Carolyn
	Martin & Gabriella
	James
	Anthony
	Slavek
	Nevada
	Josiah, Casie & Ray
	John
	Michael
	Daniel
	Christopher and Naila
	And our inquirers

This Week:

Mon, Sept 15: Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Daily Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
PC Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Tues, Sept 16: Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
Daily Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

Wed, Sept 17: Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Confessions, 6:00 p.m.
Little Compline, 6:30 p.m.
FOCUS Norristown, 7:00 p.m.
Patristic Discussion, 7:15 p.m.

Thurs, Sept 18: Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Confessions, 6:00 p.m.
Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Bible Study (Fr. Noah), 7:15 p.m.
FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.

Fri, Sept 19: Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Festival, 12:00 p.m.
Paraklesis, 4:00 p.m.

Sat, Sept 20: Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Festival, 12:00 p.m.
Great Vespers, 4:00 p.m.

Sun, Sept 21: Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.
Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour (No Sunday School), 11:15 am

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 9/6: 108 Liturgy 9/7: 259
Nativity Vespers: 41 Nativity Liturgy: 96

OFFERINGS 9/7: Candles, \$258.25. Collections, \$1,822.58. Book Shelf Ministry, \$222. Building Fund, \$50. Festival, \$100. Handmaidens, \$62. Icon Studio, \$300. Pastoral Discretion, \$397.52. Seminarian Fund, \$50. Stewardship, \$5,420.59. Total received, \$8,682.94.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!