

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION  
OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th*



*September 13, 2015*

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – *TONE 7***

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION OF  
CHRIST OUR GOD IN JERUSALEM;

THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR CORNELIUS THE CENTURION

*SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 – SEPTEMBER 20*

PLEASE NOTE: Saturday Vespers will resume in October.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

7:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS FOR EXALTATION (SATISFIES OBLIGATION - NOTE TIME CHANGE!)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS  
(OBLIGATORY FEAST)

10:00 AM – DIVINE LITURGY (NOTE TIME CHANGE!)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

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*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),  
please **stop** and be attentive – будьмо уважні!*

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***Cards for sale***

Various Greeting Cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

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“The enthusiasm for false gods cannot be drowned by an indifference to the true God. No secularized, non-religious theory of political freedom is strong enough to overcome them. A people who lack the strength of an ultimate conviction, cannot overcome their faith or their false absolute. The effective answer to a false religion is not indifference to all religion, but the practice of the true religion. If they have politics into a false religion, we shall have to see that religion has something to say about politics.”

– Venerable Fulton Sheen  
(*Philosophies at War*)

“[To have Faith in Christ] means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you.”

– C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



## **PATRIARCH SVIATOSLAV (SHEVCHUK) AT THE END OF THE SYNOD: “TO BE A NON-PRACTICING CHRISTIAN IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS”**

*news.ugcc.ua September 7*

“Being a non-practicing Christian is extremely dangerous. The one who doesn’t want to accept an invitation from Christ is in danger of being cast out from the Kingdom of Heaven. The one who neglects the invitation that he has heard here on earth will stay outside Heaven’s door and eternal life. **It is impossible to be a member of a parish without participating in its life.** It is impossible to be a believer without sharing a belief with others, without leading others to see God, to the sacrament of Baptism. It is impossible to be a Christian without serving others. It is impossible to receive a wedding garment beyond the sacraments of Church community”

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### **September 14**

## **The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross**

Two events in connection with the Honorable Cross of Christ are commemorated on this day: first, the finding of the Honorable Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Honorable Cross from Persia to Jerusalem. Visiting the Holy Land, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Honorable Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarius told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became

well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: “Lord, have mercy!” Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it. Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord’s Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world. (Prologue of Ohrid)

# PLEASE DON'T SAY THESE SIX THINGS AT MY FUNERAL

*by Chad Bird, churchpop.com August 21*

There will come a day, perhaps sooner, perhaps later, when the man in the coffin will be me. They say the dead don't care, but I'm not dead yet, so as long as I'm still alive, I'd like to have some say in what goes on at my funeral. And, truth be told, I think the dead do care. Not that they will be privy to the details of what happens at their own funerals, but they still care about the world, about their family, about the church. The saints in heaven continue to pray for those who are still on their earthly pilgrimage, so how could they not care about them?

Because I do care now, and will care even after I'm with the Lord, here are some things I hope and pray are not said at my funeral. I care about those who will be there, about what they will hear. I want the truth to be spoken, the truth about sin, the truth about death, and, above all, the truth about the love of God in Jesus Christ.

So, please don't say...

## **1. He was a good man.**

Don't turn my funeral into a celebration of my moral resume. For one thing, I don't have one. I'm guilty of far more immoral acts than moral ones.

Secondly, even if I were the male equivalent of Mother Teresa, don't eulogize me. Talk about the goodness of the Spirit who calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the true faith. Talk about our good Father who's made us all His children in baptism. Talk about the good Husband that Christ is to His bride, the church. Don't say, "He was a good man," but "our good God loved this sinful man."

## **2. Chad...Chad...Chad.**

I don't want to be the focus of my own funeral. I was not the center of the liturgy on Sunday mornings, so why should it be any different during my funeral liturgy?

If anyone's name comes up over and over, let it be the name that is above every name—Jesus. He is the one who has conquered death. He is the one in whose arms I will have died. He is the one, the only one, who gives hope to the bereaved. Let me decrease that Christ may increase.

## **3. God now has another angel.**

Heaven is not going to de-humanize me. In fact, once I am resurrected on the last day, I will be more human than ever before, for my human soul and human body will finally be in a glorified state that's free of sin. People don't become angels in heaven any more than they become gods or trees or puppies. The creature we are now, we shall be forever.

God has enough angels already. All He wants is more of His children in the place Jesus has prepared for them.

#### **4. We are not here to mourn Chad's death, but to celebrate his life.**

So-called "Celebrations of Life" (which I have written against in "The Tragic Death of the Funeral") do a disservice to the mourners for they deny or euphemize death. The gift of life cannot fully be embraced if we disregard the reality of death, along with sin, its ultimate cause. Whatever the apparent reason for my decease may be—a sickness, accident, or old age—the real reason is because I was conceived and born in sin, and I built atop that sinful nature a mountain's worth of actual sins.

The only person's life to celebrate at a funeral is the Savior conceived of the virgin Mary, who became our sin on the cursed tree that we might become His righteousness in the blessed font, who buried sin and death in the empty tomb He left behind on Easter morning.

#### **5. Chad would not want us to weep.**

When Lazarus died, Jesus wept. Those tears betoken a God who's fully human, who experienced the sadness and grief we all do at the death of those we love. To cry is not to deny that our friend or family member is with the Lord, but to acknowledge that in this vale of tears there is still death, still loss, still suffering.

I do want those who mourn my death to weep, not for my sake, but for their own, for it is an integral part of the healing process. But while they weep, let them remember that in the new heavens and new earth, God "shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain," (Revelation 21:4).

#### **6. What's in that coffin is just the shell of Chad.**

What's in that coffin is the body that was fearfully and wonderfully made when our Father wove me together in my mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-14). What's in that coffin is the body that Jesus baptized into His own body to make me part of Him. What's in that coffin is the body that ate the saving body of Jesus, and drank His forgiving blood in the Supper, that I might consume the medicine of immortality. And what's in that coffin is the body that, when the last trumpet shall sound, will burst from my grave as a body glorified and ready to be reunited with my soul. My body is God's creation, an essential part of my identity as a human being. It is not a shell. It is God's gift to me. And one day I'll get it back, alive, restored, perfected to be like the resurrected body of Jesus.

Of course, there's always more that could be added to this list—and perhaps you'd like to add more in the comments below—but I believe these get the point across.

I want the beginning of my funeral to be focused on Jesus, as well as the middle, as well as the end, as well as every point in between. I care about those who will attend. Let them hear the good news, especially in the context of this sobering reminder of mortality, that neither death, nor life, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He is the resurrection and the life.

*Originally posted on Chad Bird's blog "Flying Scroll"*

## LONG HANDLED SPOONS

*by an unknown author*

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.' The Lord led the holy man to two doors.



He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.'

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, 'I don't understand.'

It is simple,' said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves.'



### WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS

A brother questioned Abba Poemen saying, "If I see my brother committing a sin, is it right to conceal it?" The old man said to him, "At the very moment when we hide our brother's fault, God hides our own and at the moment when we reveal our brother's fault, God reveals ours too."



Another brother questioned him in these words, "What does, 'See that none of you repays evil for evil' mean?" (1 Thess. 5:15) The old man said to him, "Passions work in four stages – first, in the heart; secondly, in the face; thirdly, in words; and fourthly, through deeds. If you can purify your heart, passion will not come into your expression; but if it comes into your face, take care not to speak; but if you do speak, cut the conversation short in case you render evil for evil."



One brother at Scetis committed a fault. A council was called to which Abba Moses was invited, but he refused to go to it. Then the priest sent someone to say to him, "Come, for everyone is waiting for you." So he got up and went. He took a leaking jug, filled it with water and carried it with him. The others came out to meet him and said to him, "What is this, Father?" The old man said to them, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another." When they heard that they said no more to the brother but forgave him.



**Prayer for Love** - Christ my God, set my heart on fire with love in You, that in its flame I may love You with all my heart, with all my mind, and with all my soul and with all my strength, and my neighbor as myself, so that by keeping Your commandments I may glorify You the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Amen.

**Prayer for a sick person** - Heavenly Father, physician of our souls and bodies, Who have sent Your only-begotten Son and our Lord Jesus Christ to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal also Your servant (name) from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Christ. Grant him (her) patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your word to pray for each other that we may be healed. I pray, heal Your servant (name) and grant to him (her) the gift of complete health. For You are the source of healing and to You I give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Prayer to the Guardian Angel:** O Holy Angel of God, guardian and protector of my soul and body, forgive me every transgression which I have committed this day. Deliver me from all evil influences and temptations, so that I may not anger my God by any sin. Pray for me that the Lord may make me worthy of His grace and to become partaker of His eternal Kingdom with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the Saints. Amen.

**Prayer for Acceptance of God's Will** - Lord, I do not know what to ask of You. You know better than me what my needs are. You love more than I know how to love. Help me to see clearly my real needs which I do not see. I open my heart to You. Examine and reveal to me my faults and sins. I put all trust in You. I have no other desire than to fulfill Your will. Teach me how to pray. Pray in me. Amen.



## Sunday offering for September 6

Amount	Number
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	1
\$40.00	4
\$50.00	3
\$75.00	1
\$85.00	2
\$120.00	1
\$600.00	2
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\$1355.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1355.00

Average / parish household (42): \$16.33

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

**Deficit: (\$770.00)**

**Year-to-date deficit: (\$36239.00)**

### Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

### Pastoral Council:

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

### Social Committee Chair:

Megan Hartman (619) 540-4291

### Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698





**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
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Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

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**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
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Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

***Drawing All to Himself***

O the marvelous power of the cross, the glory of the passion! No tongue can fully describe it. Here we see the judgment seat of the Lord, here sentence is passed upon the world, and here the sovereignty of the Crucified is revealed.

You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when You stretched out Your hands all the day long to a people that denied and opposed You, until at last the whole world was brought to proclaim Your majesty. You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when all the elements combined to pronounce judgment in denouncement of that crime; when the lights of heaven were darkened and the day was turned into night; when the land was shaken by unwonted earthquakes, and all creation refused to serve those wicked people. Yes, Lord, you drew all things to Yourself. The veil of the temple was torn in two and the Holy of Holies taken away from those unworthy high priests.

Figures gave way to reality, prophecy to manifestation, law to gospel. You drew all things to Yourself in order that the worship of the whole human race could be celebrated everywhere in a sacramental form which would openly fulfill what had been enacted by means of veiled symbols in that single Jewish temple.

Now that the multiplicity of animal sacrifices has ceased, the single offering of your body and blood takes the place of that diversity of victims, since you are the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and in Yourself you fulfill all the rites of the old law, so that as there is now a single sacrifice in place of all those victims, so there is a single kingdom formed of all the peoples of the earth.

*St. Leo the Great*

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