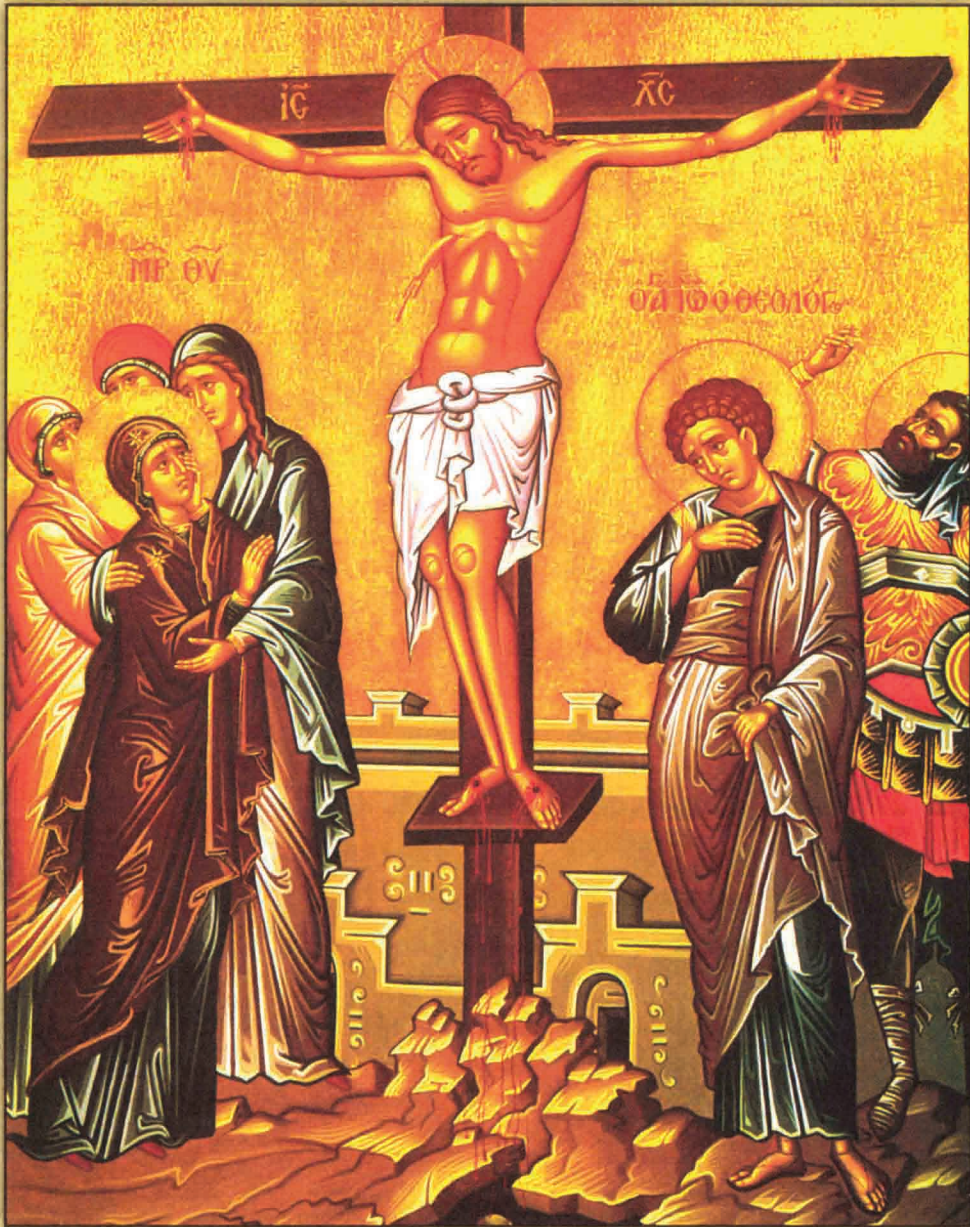


SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross

September 18, 2011

SUNDAY AFTER THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

Tone 5

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 - SEPTEMBER 25

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 – 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

12:00 noon – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

Please Note: Next Sunday, September 25, Fr. James will be in Chicago for the Jubilee celebrations. On that Sunday, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at **12:00 noon**. Fr. Robert Pipta has agreed to serve our community that day.

**Парафіяльний Празник
Parish Patronal Feast**

On Sunday, October 2, we will celebrate our patronal feast of Покрова – The Holy Protection of the Mother of God. Tickets will be available in the church hall after Divine Liturgy. Ticket prices: Adults - \$15.00; school-aged children (13-17) - \$8.00; children 12 and under – Free. Please Help! We need help to set up for the Praznyk Celebration in the Church Hall. Please come at 11:30 AM on Saturday, October 1st. We also need help with serving and with clean up following the festivities.

Generations of Faith:

Mark your Calendars

This Sunday – September 18

The unique contribution of the Eastern Church to the transformation of the World.

November 20:

The Divine Liturgy - Preparation and Proskomedia.

January 19:

The Divine Liturgy - From “Blessed is the Kingdom” to the Gospel.

March 18:

The Divine Liturgy - From the Gospel to the Great Entrance

May 20:

The Divine Liturgy – The *Anaphora* and Holy Communion.

Great Vespers

The celebration of Great Vespers on Saturday evenings and on the eve of Great Feast will resume on Saturday, October 1.

What is tithing?

In Sacred Scripture, tithing is the setting aside of 10% of the “first fruits” of one’s labors. Many Protestant congregations strongly encourage and sometimes even require their faithful to tithe. While we don’t require it, I certainly encourage you to consider tithing. If not 10%, perhaps 5%.

If your monthly income is:

**A 10% tithe would be
per month**

**A 5% tithe would be
per month**

\$1,000
\$2,000
\$4,000
\$6,000
etc...

\$100
\$200
\$400
\$600

\$50
\$100
\$200
\$300

Parish Meeting

The next parish meeting will be on Sunday, October 23. Please make every effort to attend. Further information regarding our financial situation will be given and elections for the Pastoral Council will take place.

I Don't Get Anything Out of the Liturgy

- As a priest I have heard this complaint countless times.
 - The truth is that we do not come to church primarily to *get* something out of the liturgy.
 - We come to the liturgy to *give* ourselves, our possessions, our whole being to Christ our God.
 - That is what we do when we place ourselves on the holy table through the *prosphora*, or altar bread which expresses the giving of our total life to God. Only if we first give ourselves to Christ our God, shall we be able to get something out of the liturgy.
 - What we will get is the powerful, redeeming presence of the Lord Jesus.
 - We shall then carry Him out of the church with us to bring Him as Christ-bearers to others.
 - *Let us commit or relinquish ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.*
 - The principle of **relinquishment** which is so much a part of the liturgy needs to be carried over into life and practiced in our everyday Christian living.
 - It will change our lives.
 - It will bring us the peace and power of God.
- Fr. Anthony Coniaris

How Relinquishment Works

Often in my prayers I have asked for what I thought was good, and persisted in my petition, stupidly trying to force the will of God, instead of leaving it to him to arrange things as He knows best. But afterwards on obtaining what I asked for, I was very sorry that I did not pray rather for God's will to be done; because the thing turned out to be different from what I expected.

What is good, except God? Then let us leave all our concerns to Him and all will be well.

– Evagrius of Pontus

LIFE IS THAT TO WHICH

WE COMMIT OURSELVES

We need to remember that in life we are only as strong as that to which we commit ourselves.

If we wish to cross the Atlantic Ocean and commit ourselves to a carton box, we shall be only as strong as that carton box. But if we commit ourselves to an ocean liner, we shall be as durable as that great ship. So it is in life.

If we commit ourselves to the all-powerful, immortal Christ, His power will become our power, His resurrection our resurrection, His peace our peace, His love our love.

So, let us relinquish ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston

Папox: о. Яків Бенкстон

frjames@mac.com

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

Whatever Their Size, Carry Them

"Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it." One who knew the meaning of Jesus' words so well was Flannery O'Connor, the distinguished Catholic novelist who died in 1964 at the age of 39. From the age of 25 she lived with the knowledge she had a terminal disease, Lupus, – not to mention her sufferings from bone disintegration, shingles, anemia, and a tumor. Yet it was during fourteen years of sickness and suffering that she produced her greatest works of literary art. Her strong faith enabled her to say: "I have never been anywhere but sick. In a sense sickness is a place, more instructive than a long trip to Europe. Sickness before death is a very appropriate thing and I think those who don't have it miss one of God's mercies ..."

Those are strong words! How could a young woman call sickness one of God's mercies? Yet Jesus'

words in the Gospel are just as strong: "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in my steps."

In some way Flannery O'Connor was able to accept the cross of her sickness and follow in the Lord's footsteps. But she didn't do it with a nice sweet smile on her face. She did it with strong courage and conviction. She realized that her own sickness was the very thing that helped her to look at life around her with the eyes of faith; and to translate that life into literary pages that would win her international fame as a writer. Each one of us is called upon to carry a cross in our life at some time. For some it may be the cross of emotional or spiritual suffering, rather than physical suffering. Sometimes there are big crosses, sometimes small. Whatever their size, Jesus calls upon us to carry them.