



# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

CROSSINGVILLE

Lord's Day - 03-27-2022

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory be forever!

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 7. Veneration of the Cross. Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica (3rd-4th c.).** Martyrs Manuel and Theodosius (304). Ven. John the Clairvoyant, Anchorite, of Egypt (394-395). The “GLYKOPHYLOUSA” and the “AKATHIST” Icons of the Mother of God on Mt. Athos.

## HOLY HYMNS

### Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen, //  
granting the world great mercy.

### Tone 1 Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Your Cross, // preserve Your habitation!

### Tone 7 Kontakion (Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;  
it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.  
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;  
for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell: //  
“Enter again into Paradise!”

### Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Cross)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

### Tone 8<sup>1</sup>

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!  
(Ps. 73:2)

V. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the  
midst of the earth! (Ps. 73:13)

### Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:  
the assembly of angels and the race of men.  
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,  
the glory of virgins,  
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –  
our God before the ages.  
He made your body into a throne,  
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.  
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.  
Glory to you!

## HOLY SCRIPTURE

### Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts

and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”;

### Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

## HOLY WORDS

The Elevation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord’s Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan “goddess” Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.



Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire. In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God’s assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: “By this you shall conquer.”

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord’s Tomb was uncovered. Not

far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6). In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363). Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khozróēs II attacked Constantinople defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khozróēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "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." (oca.org)



## **Parish Services and Activities**

(Calendar changes see website)

[www.orthodoxcrossingville.org](http://www.orthodoxcrossingville.org)

## **SEE LENTEN CALENDAR**

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**TODAY - DIVINE LITURGY OF ST BASIL** - Coffee Hour, Parish Education [the Catechesis of the Good Carpenter (older class) will not meet today] All other Atriums as usual...

**TODAY**  
**Archdiocesan Mission Vespers**  
**4:30pm**  
**St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park, PA**  
**Lenten meal to follow**

This week:  
Mar. 30th - PreSanctified Liturgy- 6pm -bring Lenten dish to pass  
Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> - PreSanctified Liturgy - 6pm -bring Lenten dish to pass

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our Paschal Celebration is just a few weeks away....

→ Orders for Pascha breads are being taken:  
**large 18\$ and smaller loaf style 14\$**  
→ Orders for chocolate crosses from Romolos for paschal baskets. **Dark or milk 3.50\$ each. Talk to Jane Cap about placing your order.**

**\*\*\*Church Cleaning Sign-up is in the Vestibule please take time to serve and keep our parish clean.**

**\*\*PARISH CLEAN UP DAY – Sat. April 9<sup>th</sup> Akathist at 9am – clean up from 10am-1pm**

**\*If you have not seen our first issue of our new quarterly newsletter Living Stones please check it out. Thank you to all who contributed!**

**#Items are still needed for the parish education rooms- see Kyra or Olivia if you would like to donate.**

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Cleanse your mind from anger, remembrance of evil, and shameful thoughts, and then you will find out how Christ dwells in you. (St. Maximus the Confessor, Chapters on Love, 4.76)

## **Pray with out ceasing...**

**PLEASE INCLUDE THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:** Those in need – Judy and the newly born Ophilea, Fr. Andrew, Fr. Isaac, Fr. David, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Zachariah, Iguman Patrick, Hieromonk Herman, Fr. Dusan, Fr. Christopher, Prez. Alexandria, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Mat. Trudi, John, Boris, Tamara, Olga, Susan, Ron, Karen, Mary B. Margret, Bill S., Lexi, John, Nickolas, Timothy, Preston, Olivia, Jesse, Grace Delani, Jeremiah, Sandy, William, Steve A., Anna, Sally, Noah, Annisatita, Paul, Irenia, The Homebound Mary G, Theodore  
Catechumen/Inquirers- Matthew, Katherine, Abigail, Karis, Josiah, Bethany, Brenda, David and Family...  
Special requests... Paul, Gilbert, Joanne, Phyllis, Anthony, Paul, James, Sean, Liam, Kim, Margaret, Loren, Janet, Lynn, Helen, Dan, Jonathan, Nicholas, Maya, Mia, Charles, Gregory, Donna, Laura, Laken, Bob, Gary, Bill, Stevie, Kristen, Paul, (Add your own requests here)..  
Departed : newly departed James and Valentina, Proto-deacon Michael, Priest Anastasy, Marie, Vincent, Richard