



Weekly Bulletin - Sunday, September 29, 2024

Schedule of Services and Events

Date	Time	Service/Event
Thursday, September 26	6:00 p.m.	Vigil - The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross
Friday, September 27	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Friday, September 27	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross
Saturday, September 28	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, September 29	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, September 29	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, September 29	12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Luncheon
Sunday, September 29	2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Marriage Service (See below for details)
Sunday, September 29	3:30 p.m.	Reception and cake
Wednesday, October 2	6:00 p.m.	Service of Supplication
Saturday, October 5	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, October 6	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, October 6	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, October 9	6:00 p.m.	Service of Supplication
Saturday, October 12	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, October 13	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, October 13	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, October 13	1:30 p.m.	Vespers - The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Monday, October 14	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Monday, October 14	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Saturday, October 19	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, October 20	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, October 20	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, October 23	6:00 p.m.	Service of Supplication
Saturday, October 26	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, October 27	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, October 27	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, October 30	6:00 p.m.	Vespers - Holy Apostle Luke the Evangelist

Orthodox Synaxis at Holy Resurrection Church

Everyone is welcome to attend the Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos followed by a meal and a presentation given by Fr. Daniel on Friday, September 27 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church in Lebanon, PA. More information is available [here](#).

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

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 Khosroes 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 Khosroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Siroes, 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."

Source: [The Orthodox Church in America](#)

Symeon and Katerina Shackelford's Wedding

You are invited to join us for the Shackelford's wedding on Sunday, September 29. They were married outside of the Church, and as converts, they are desiring to have their marriage blessed with the service of the Mystery of Holy Matrimony. We hope that you can

set aside your Sunday to share in these moments. After Sunday Divine Liturgy, there will be a lunch, followed by the Wedding, and afterward, a cake reception.

Please use this [link](#) to RSVP to give them a good estimate for food preparations.

Psalter Prayer Group

The Psalter prayer group is currently in need of one more person. If you have not participated in the past, this is how it works. Each person is assigned a different kathisma to start. Each person reads one kathisma each day in sequential order, along with opening and closing prayers and prayers for the living and departed. Between the group, the entire Psalter is read each day. The Psalter prayer group usually takes breaks after Great Lent and the Nativity Fast.

If you are interested in joining the Psalter prayer group, please see [Svitlana Breniser](#). You will need to provide her with your baptismal name and 10 names for the prayer list (living or departed).

Prayer List

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Catechumens

Cipolle, Kate
Rogozin, Daniel
Rogozin, Ryelle
Rogozin, Danielle

Departed

Theodore

To add a name to our prayer list (health, newly departed), please reply to this email or see Fr. Daniel.

September Celebrations

Name Days

- September 30 - Sofia Lutcza

Many Years! Многая Лета!

If you would like to be included in the parish directory of commemoration dates (birthdays, name days, and marriage anniversaries), please submit the information in this [form](#). If you have questions, please see [Anastasia Lutcza](#).

Reminders

Online candle stand: Candles and vigil lights can now be ordered [online](#) to be lit at the next service.

Online donations: One-time or recurring donations to the church can be made [online](#). The recurring option is a convenient way to donate and also helps to better plan our budget.

Benevolent fund: The benevolent fund was established to help those in need. To donate specifically to the benevolent fund, please use the special pink envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the benevolent fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Building fund: The building fund was established to save for future building projects. Our next major maintenance project will be the masonry restoration work that is scheduled to begin in early October 2024. The total cost will be about \$29,000-\$30,000. The building

fund currently has a total of about \$20,000 after making the down payment of \$7,000. The balance of \$22,000-\$23,000 will need to be paid after the job is complete. Please consider donating to the building fund to help us reach this goal of \$3,000. To donate specifically to the building fund, please use the special blue envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the building fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Rectory fund: The rectory fund was established to save for a future rectory close to the vicinity of the church. To donate specifically to the rectory fund, please use the special yellow envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the rectory fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Church cleaning schedule: The church cleaning schedule for the second half of 2024 is available [here](#). A [cleaning list](#) and other helpful information is also available for those volunteering.

Church calendar: You can subscribe to the church calendar (add the church calendar to your mobile device or calendar application) by using these links: [Services](#) and [Events](#).

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser: Our parish is participating again in the annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser. The shopping passes are \$5 and are good for 25% off almost all purchases made on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at all Boscov's locations. Our church keeps 100% of the shopping pass proceeds. If you would like to purchase a discount shopping pass or help sell them, please see Jean Salaneck.

Save the Date - Atlantic States Deanery Gathering: On Saturday, November 9, 2024, our parish will be hosting the next gathering of the Patriarchal Parishes Atlantic States Deanery. More details to come.

A Parish of the Moscow Patriarchate | Reading, Pennsylvania | Founded in 1905
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