



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church
"Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!"
"Glory to Him Forever! Slava Naviki Bohu!"*

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, our potluck luncheon is open to everyone, especially our guests. Come join us for fellowship.

Start of the Eastern Christian Formation classes

ECF classes for children begin today in the church after the potluck luncheon.

Need to request an appointment with Father?

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

Prayers for the sick or other intentions:

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text or call Father at 216-532-6364.

The Courage to be Myrrh Bearers Women's Renewal

A weekend of empowerment, spiritual reflection, and community fellowship, **November 10-12, 2023**, at the Lial Retreat Center in Whitehouse, OH. Keynote Speaker is Lynne Wardach, ByziMom of <https://www.byzimom.com>. Rev. Dennis Hrubciak is the spiritual director. Registration fee is **\$200 by September 1, 2023**. Online registration form available @ <https://www.parma.org/retreats>

Opportunities to Help with Fundraising....we are called into service

At this time, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial bakery kitchen and then sold at the various local Farmer's Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling. Cleaning the work areas and equipment are also welcomed opportunities to serve.** Please contact John Danovich and schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Saturday).

PROTECT THEM BOTH

A proposed amendment to Ohio's Constitution for a vote on the November, 2023 ballot expands and enshrines abortion at the parish is asked to unite in prayer, distribute educational materials, and encourage voter registration to Vote NO on the abortion expansion amendment. All campaign materials and other helpful resources can be found on the Protect Them Both campaign site:

<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/protect>

Fill the Pantry

The needs of the homeless in our area bring people to our church each week – 4 on Thursday. **We request that a couple people each week fill bags with food from the pantry, so they are ready to be handed out.** This is a great activity for families.

Announcements:

Evening of Hope

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma Foundation will host the Evening of Hope at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South Independence. Bishop Nil Lushchak, Apostolic Administrator for the Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine will be the keynote speaker. We need your support to help our Eparchy accomplish its goals. Please consider one of the sponsorship levels for the 2023 event. All sponsors and attendees will receive parking, dinner, cocktails, fund-a-need, and more. Sponsorship and event registration may be found at the parma.org website. Contact Judith Matsko at 216-741-8773 x1225 with questions.

Historic Gathering of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America

You are invited to Participate!

Metropolitan Archbishop William, Bishop Kurt, and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Church invite YOU to attend the "Metropolitan Assembly" at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, New Jersey, on Friday, November 3 through Sunday, November 5, 2023! The theme of the Assembly is to "learn about our past and to prepare for our future!" Guest speakers include Dr. Paul Magosci, noted Author and Historian; Bishop Nil Lushchak of the Eparchy of Mukachevo; Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York; as well as other clergy and lay leaders. The Assembly includes lectures, discussions, fellowship, and a gala dinner with folk music and dancing. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between 18 and 35. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is <https://www.byzantineassembly2023.org/> and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com. Hope to see YOU there!

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Services for the Week of September 10 – September 17, 2023				
	Day	Time	Service	Readings
Sunday	September 10 Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Ukrainian Liturgy	Gal 6:11-18 Jn 3:13-17
Monday	September 11 Theodora - Venerable		No Services	Gal 4:28- 5:10 Mk 6:54-7:8
Tuesday	September 12 Autonomous Bishop - Martyr		No Services	Gal 5:11-21 Mk 7:5-16
Wednesday	September 13 Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection	6:00 PM	Vespers	Heb 3:1-4 Mt 16:13-18
Thursday	September 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross – <i>Solemn Holy Day</i>	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy & mirovanije	1 Cor 1:18- 24 Jn 19:6-11, 13-21, 25-27, 30-35
Friday	September 15 Nicetas Great - Martyr	6:00 PM	No Services	Eph 1:7-17 Mk 8:1-10
Saturday	September 16 Saturday After the Exaltation of the Cross	5:00 PM	Vespers Confession	1 Cor 1:26- 29 Jn 8:21-30
Sunday	September 17 Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross	8:15 AM 10:00 AM	Matins Divine Liturgy Bless crosses 1 st day of ECF	Gal 2:16-20 Mk 8:34-9:1

Sunday Before The Exaltation Of The Cross



“THE CROSS IS THE DOOR TO MYSTERIES. THROUGH THIS DOOR, THE INTELLECT MAKES ENTRANCE INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF HEAVENLY MYSTERIES. THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CROSS IS CONCEALED IN THE SUFFERINGS OF THE CROSS. AND THE MORE OUR PARTICIPATION IN ITS SUFFERINGS, THE GREATER THE PERCEPTION WE GAIN THROUGH THE CROSS.”
ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN

A week before the feast day of the Universal Elevation of the Holy Cross, the Orthodox Church prepares the faithful through Scriptural readings, prayer and acts of good deeds to celebrate the event of the finding of the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Among the many symbols of the Christian Faith the Holy Cross is considered the most important. It is the symbol of Christianity. It is the symbol of Christ's victory over death. It is the weapon against all evil forces. It is the power of the Saints. It is the flag under which the righteous fought against Satan.

In the Old Testament we have prefigurations of the Holy Cross. In the Book of Genesis, the Tree of Life prefigures the Holy Cross (Gen. 2:9). As the Tree of Life had the power to grant eternal life to Adam, if he ever touched it (Gen. 3:22); likewise, the Holy Cross being the new Tree of Life offers eternal life to those who believe in Christ. Another prototype of the Holy Cross is found in the Book of Numbers (Num. 21:8-9). Moses, in order to save his people from the deadly bites of poisonous snakes received instructions from God to lift up a bronze serpent, and “it shall come to pass that whenever a serpent shall bite a man, everyone so bitten that looks upon it shall live” (Num. 21:8).

Christ himself uses this prefiguration as an example of Him being lifted on the Cross. As all those Israelites who looked upon the bronze serpent were saved from the deadly bites of the viper snakes; likewise, whoever turns to Christ with faith as his own Savior and beholds His Crucifixion will be saved from the deadly bites of Satan. The bite of sin and death is cured through the wounds of Christ, as this was foretold by the Prophet Isaiah saying, “He was a man in suffering, and acquainted with the bearing of sickness, for His face is turned from us: He was dishonored, and not esteemed. He bears our sins and is pained for us: yet we accounted Him to be in trouble, and in suffering, and in affliction. But he was wounded on account of our sins and was bruised because of our iniquities” (Is. 53:3-5). “And He, because of His affliction, opens not His mouth: He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a

lamb before the shearer is dumb, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away: who shall declare His generation? For His life is taken away from the earth: because of the iniquities of my people. He was led to death ... He was numbered among the transgressors; and He bore the sins of many and was delivered because of their iniquities” (Is. 53:7-8, 12).

The moment of Christ's greatest humiliation becomes the moment of exaltation for completing His redeeming work. Through our Lord's death, death has been conquered and life has been granted to the world.

Man becomes righteous before God the Father only through His Son and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Justification by faith in God is part of being brought into the New Covenant, through Jesus Christ, and the new relationship with Him who offered Himself for the life of the world is established.

Salvation is achieved through faith in Jesus Christ who fulfills the Law. With the New Covenant, man becomes a member of God's Kingdom through Holy Baptism and receives the Gift of the Holy Spirit through Holy Chrismation. From that moment onwards the Holy Spirit guides us, leading us to the knowledge of true Faith in God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Christ becomes the center of our life, and we are called to become imitators of Christ.

When man is baptized in the Orthodox Church, he becomes a Christ-bearer vessel through whom Christ's life is shown to the world. St. Paul emphasizes this teaching in his Epistle to the Galatians saying, “For as many of us were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27). Baptism in Christ means that an Orthodox Christian participates in Christ's death and Resurrection (Rom. 6:3). Freedom from sin is granted only through Holy Baptism. What Christ accomplished on the Cross was the actual and real death to sin; likewise, baptism becomes to all those who are baptized canonically. In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism man dies to sin and becomes free from it. In our union with Christ through baptism, in His death and Resurrection, lies the power for victory over sin.

The Holy Cross is the power of God for overcoming sin (1 Corinth. 1:18), and baptism is our Cross! This is the reason why the Bishop or Priest after the baptism hangs around the neck of the newly baptized the Cross, to remind us the words of Christ saying, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinth. 1:18). St. John Chrysostom teaches us saying, that the Holy Cross is a mark of them that perish, because they failed to recognize the things which lead to salvation....Source: pemptousia.com

