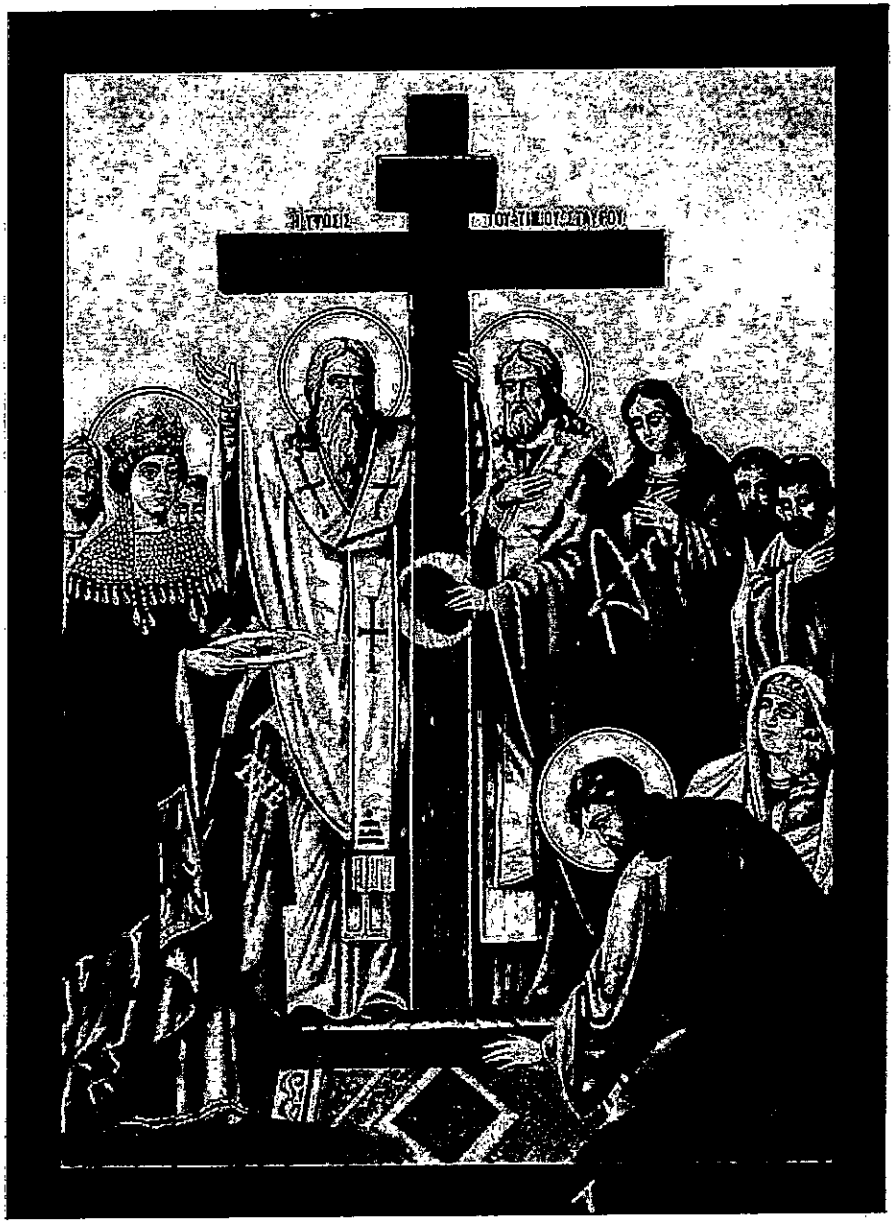


Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

1406 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
www.sspeterandpauluoc.org
www.orthodoxdelaware.org

Father Stephen Hutnick
(302) 798-4455
E-mail: otche@aol.com

HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM – If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR.**

EMERGENCY CALLS – Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS – Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE – Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

September 27, 2026
Volume 61: Number 39
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of September 27 – October 4, 2026
Celebrating our 99th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, September 27 - 17th Sunday – Exaltation of the Holy Cross -Tone 8 – Fast Day
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Panakhyda: +Ella Kurtasz (39 yrs) – Pani Elizabeth, Father Stephen & Family
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, September 30
7:00 AM – Butter and Onions

Thursday, October 1
5:30 PM – Vesperal Liturgy – Protection Mother of God – St. Nicholas - Dover, DE
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, October 2
7:00 AM – Peeling potatoes
10:00 AM – Making sauerkraut Balls
3:00 PM – Making potato balls

Saturday, October 3
8:00 AM – Makin pyrohy
10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

Sunday, October 4 - 18th Sunday Leave-taking of the Holy Cross -Tone 1
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour
****

100th ANNIVRSARY – Saturday, July 17th, 2027 with a 10:00 AM – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with a Banquet at the Claymont Ballroom. Mark your calendars! Our first fund Raiser for the event is the sale of Special T-shirts ($10) polo shirts ($15) and sweat shirts ($20) with the Anniversary Logo on them are available thanks to Michael Kapelus.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

17th Sunday – Exaltation of the Cross – Matins: John 12:28-36; Liturgy: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35
Monday – Ephesians 4:25-32; Luke 3:19-22
Tuesday – Ephesians 5:20-26; Luke 3:23-4:1
Wednesday – Ephesians 5:25-33; Luke 4:1-15
Thursday - Ephesians 5:33-6:9; Luke 4:16-22
Friday - Ephesians 6:18-24; Luke 4:22-32
Saturday after the Cross – 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; John 8:21-30; Day: 1 Corinthians 15:39-45; Luke 4:31-36
18th Sunday – Sunday after the Cross – Matins: John 20:1-10; Liturgy: Cross - Matins: John 20:1-10; Cross: Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34-9:1; Day: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 5:1-11

****

THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE LIFE-CREATING CROSS (September 27; 14)

Not long after the Nativity of the Most Holy Birth-giver of God, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Most Precious Cross of the Lord. The Savior Himself had spoken of His death on the Cross, saying: **"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life** (John 3:14-16). This was accomplished on Holy Friday, when the Lord was "crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried" as the Creed proclaims. And just before He died, He proclaimed **It is finished** (John 19:30)!

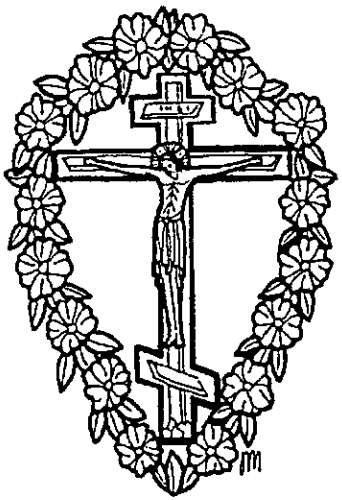
Truly, the Nativity of the Mother of God was seen as the beginning of our salvation and the Cross is seen as the culmination of our salvation. By Christ's death on It, our salvation was accomplished. Mary is also closely associated with the Cross, for she was the "mystical paradise" in whom the Tree of Life sprouted; this Tree of Life, Christ our Savior, then "planted on earth the life-creating Tree of

the Cross" (from the Feast). And as He suffered and died on the Life-f\giving Tree of the Cross, so too we are called upon to take up our own crosses on our shoulders and to die daily for the sake of Him who died for us.

The Feast itself came about because of certain historical events. After the voluntary suffering and death on the Cross of the Lord, the sacred place of His suffering was scorned by the pagans. When the Roman Emperor Titus in 70 AD conquered Jerusalem, he destroyed the city and leveled the Temple on Mt. Moriah, not leaving even a stone upon a stone, as had been foretold by the Savior in a dialogue with His disciples (Mark 13:1-2).

The Emperor Hadrian (117 - 138 AD), a backward and zealous pagan, constructed in place of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city, which he named Helio-Hadrianopolis. Further, it was forbidden for this city to be called by its previous name of Jerusalem. He commanded that the Holy Grave of the Lord be covered with earth and stones, raising on it an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, in 119 AD he erected a temple dedicated to the goddess Venus. Sacrifices were offered before the statue and pagan rites were celebrated, accompanied by prostitution. In Bethlehem, where the Savior had been born of the Most-Pure Virgin, the impious monarch erected an idol to Adonis. All of this he did intending that the people completely forget about Christ the savior and nevermore recollect the place where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

When Constantine the great, Equal to the Apostles (306-337) ascended the throne (being the first of the Roman Emperors to recognize Christianity) he, together with his pious mother, Queen Helena, decided to restore the city of Jerusalem, and in the place of the suffering and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to erect a new Church, top cleanse all of the places connected with the memory of Jesus from the pagan cult, and again consecrated all of them. The Orthodox Queen Helena left for Jerusalem with a great quantity of gold, and the Emperor sent a letter to Patriarch Macarius I (313-323) in which he asked every kind of aid in the holy task of restoring the Christian holy places.



Having arrived in Jerusalem, the pious Queen destroyed all the idols and cleansed the city of pagan cult objects, consecrating the defiled places. She

burned with the desire to raise up the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ and so she commanded that the digging proceed at the place where the Temple of Venus had stood. There the covered Grave of the Lord was discovered, as well as the place of execution, not far from which were found three crosses and four nails, as well as the sign board which had been nailed over His head.

In order to determine which of the three crosses belonged to the Savior, Patriarch Macarius ordered that all the crosses, in turn, be placed on a dead person who was being brought to a place of burial. When the Cross of Christ touched the dead one, he immediately came to life. With great joy, the Orthodox Queen and Patriarch together lifted up the Life-creating Cross and showed it to all the people standing by. Later the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was constructed on the site, enclosing within its walls the place of the crucifixion of the Savior as well as His Tomb and a Feast was instituted for September 14(27) commemorating the glorious Exaltation of the Cross

Tropar - Tone 1 - 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

Kondak - Tone 4 - As You were voluntarily crucified for our sake; grant mercy to those who are called by Your name; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace.

* * * * * * * *

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives within me" (Galatians 2:20). These words of St. Paul in today's Epistle have inspired Christians for the past two thousand years.

We are crucified with Christ, first of all, by our Baptism. Plunged into the water of Baptism, the neophyte is plunged into Christ's death; mystically the neophyte dies with Christ and rises from the dead with Christ. Rising from the water of Baptism as Christ arose from the tomb, the new Christian can be said to live only because Christ lives in him/her.

We are crucified with Christ, dying and rising again in Christ, through our own sin and repentance. Our Lord Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself, and wiped them out through His crucifixion. Thus the only cure for our sins is the Cross of

Christ; we must be crucified with Christ in order to put an end to our sins and rise with Christ in newness of life.

Do we accept our Crucifixion and our death with Jesus Christ? Do we surrender our sins to Christ, that Christ may wipe them out on His holy Cross by His Precious Blood? Do we live in such a way as to make it evident that it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me? That is the challenge of this Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; we must exalt the Cross, not only on the Feast Day, but in the way we live our Christian lives.

+ +

THE CROSS

Whoever possesses the Cross owns a treasure. By treasure I mean that it is the most excellent of all that is good-in name and in fact. Through the Cross our salvation attains its ultimate greatness and our state of original justice is restored. Without the Cross, Christ would not have been crucified. Without the Cross, He who is life would not have been nailed to the wood. If He had not been crucified the blood and the water, fonts of immortality, which purify the world would not have flowed from His side. The lien of the debt which our sins contracted would never have been torn in two, we would not have been released from bondage. we would not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree. Paradise would yet be closed to us. Without the Cross, death would not have been defeated nor the abode of the dead vacated.

Thus, the Cross is a great and glorious thing. Great, because it is the source of countless favors which, like the miracles and sufferings of Christ, play a decisive role in His work of salvation. Precious, because the Cross signifies the suffering and at the same time the victory of God: suffering, because on the Cross He voluntarily tasted death. And victory: through the Cross the devil received a mortal wound, and death, with him was overcome. On the Cross the gates of the kingdom of death were pulled down and the Cross became the salvation of all men.

The Cross is also called the glory and the exaltation of Christ. It is the chalice overflowing of that which the Psalm speaks to us and the culmination of all the torments which Christ suffered for us. Christ Himself teaches us that the Cross is this glory when He says: the Son of Man has entered into His glory, and 'God has received His glorification through Him, and God has clothed Him with p own glory (cf. John 13:31-32). Again: Glorify me Father, with the glory I had before the world existed (John 17:5). And again: Father, glorify Your name. And suddenly there were heard these words from heaven: I have glorified it and I will glorify it again

(John 12:28) - words which referred to the glory which He would obtain on the Cross.

Christ also teaches us that the Cross is this exaltation when He says: I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself (John 2:32-33). It is evident, therefore. that the Crosis the glory and the exaltation of Christ.

-St. Andrew of Crete, Bishop +A.D. 740

****

Feast Day of the Holy Cross

There are two stories surrounding the precious and life-giving Cross of our Savior that bear repeating as we commemorate the Feast Day of its Exaltation and Elevation. The first centers on how it came to e found by Saint Helena in the first place. It seems that the mother of the Emperor Constantine led an expedition to Jerusalem, determined to find the greatest of all Christian relics. Nearly 300 years had passed since Christ's Crucifixion: who would remember what happened to the Cross? After inquiring of scores of Christians and Jews alike, an elderly Hebrew named Jude was able to shed some light on this clouded picture. He believed that the Cross was buried under a pagan temple dedicated to Venus. The temple was destroyed and the Cross discovered! After witnessing a dead man being brought back to life and a sick woman cured instantly after being touched by the Cross, Jude himself declared his belief in Christ and was baptized into the Faith. This humble man received the name "Cyriacus" and later became Bishop of Jerusalem, suffering a martyr's death during the reign of Julian the Apostate.

The second story would occur 300 years later. In the 7th century, the Cross was seized and taken from Jerusalem to Persia. When it was later recaptured and returned to Jerusalem, the Emperor Heraclius, gloriously arrayed in his imperial crown and finest purple robes, attempted to carry it back into the church of the Resurrection. An invisible force, however blocked his path! The Patriarch Zacharias pointed out that the One Who originally carried the Cross to Golgotha did so with great humility. It was only when the Emperor removed his lavish garments that he was able to make his entrance into the Church.

****

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Nicholas Czernik, 9/28 & Mary Ann Michalcewiz, 10/03. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

Pyrohy Schedule: Saturday, October 3

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)
September 27 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
October 4 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
October 11- Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
October 18 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
October 25 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
November 1 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
November 8 - Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE
Week of September 28 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of October 5 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly
Week of October 12 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of October 19 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of October 26 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi
Week of November 2 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus
Week of November 9 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration

WELCOME – On behalf of our Parish Family, we would like to welcome Eric (Herman), Brandi (Olha) and Xavior (Gabriel) Wallace into Holy Orthodoxy and into our Parish Family. May God continue to bless and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

OUR BEST WISHES AND PRAYERS – are expressed to Christos Kyprianou who will be leaving for Alexandria, VA this nest week. We hope that he will come back from time to time to visit. May God protect and keep him for many, happy and blessed years!

COVERED DISH DINNER – What a great success. Thanks to everyone who helped in the set-up, donating food and desserts, and helped in the clean-up. More in the next Bulletin!

MEETINGS: Parish Board – Wednesday, October 21 @ 6:30 PM

SCHEDULING FOR THE PARISH – Please remember that all events, work parties, use of the hall must be cleared through the calendar kept by Father Stephen so that dueling events can be avoided.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE
September 27 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur
October 4 - David and Eve Lazaration
October 11 - Sandy Cramer
October 18 - Sonya Patronik

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE
September 27 – Linda Hnatow
October 4 - Andrew Duncan
October 11 – Jean Roeth
October 18 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
October 25 - Thomas Sulpizi
November 1 - John Plachuta
November 8 - Thomas Sholz

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026
Monday, October 12 – 15 – Clergy Retreat
Saturday, October 17 – UOL Retreat
Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 14 – Wine Tasting
Saturday, November 28 – St. Philip Fast
Sunday, December 20 – UOL Cookie Sale

50th Anniversary Celebration – of the establishment of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary on Tuesday, October 13 beginning with Vespers at 5:00 PM at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church (South Bound Brook, NJ) followed by 6:30 PM Cocktails and 7:00 PM Banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Banquet tickets are $150.00 per person. All are welcome to attend. If interested, please RSVP by October 1, 2026 by calling the Consistory at (732) 356-0090.

HARVEST TEA AND AUCTION – Atonement Global Methodist Church, 3519 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE Sat., Oct. 17 from 12PM – 3PM. Tea Sandwiches, fresh scones, homemade desserts, harp music live auction, books for sale, door prizes & warm fellowship. A variety of teas Tickets: $20.00 call (302) 798-8472 and leave a message.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Andrew Gall, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father Anthony Ugolnik, Father James Weremedic, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pani Matka Maryann Ozlanski, Jonathan Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Joyce Belles, Joycė Bendoakas, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, George Daniels, Taylor Davis, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Rose Eldridge, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farell, Kandi Fullerton, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovniov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, Nancy Hlywiak, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Serhii Ivashyna, Violet Jaskolka, Stephen Johnson, Bill Jones, Linda Josepinson, Elizabeth Kaliakin, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Tommy Knight, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Francis Lano, Ed Lavender, Ron Lazaration, Joan Libera, Karen Livick, Sara Long, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Rick Orner, Sienna Ozboya, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Janilyn Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Chuck Redden, Patricia Redden, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Sandy Roeder, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Richard Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Alexandra Sparco, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Cynthia Stepovij, Nicholas Stepovij, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, John Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Stephen Tur, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook

The Cross: Christianity's Most Precious Relic

Relics may be loosely defined as "spiritual keepsakes". They may refer to some possession or article of clothing of a saint, or even a part of a Saint's body itself! Needlesss to say, such artifacts are viewed as sacred treasures by the Church.

It is logical and understandable then, to note that when Christianity emerged victorious from a nearly three-century struggle with the pagan Roman Empire, the finding of the Cross of Christ was a top priority. An expedition to find this precious relic was led by St. Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. Journeying to Jerusalem in 326 AD, Helen was able to determine that the Cross was buried under the Temple of Venus that the Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. After tearing down the pagan temple and digging deeply below it, Helena's workers found three crosses. How would they know with certainty which cross belonged to Jesus and which were the instruments of death for the two thieves that were crucified with Him?

The answer was provided in a miraculous way! At that very moment, a funeral procession was passing by. The dead man was placed on each og the two first crosses, with nothing changing in his condition. But when he was placed on the third cross, the man was restored to life! Helena knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of her Savior! Patriarch Makarios of Jerusalem lifted it up, or Elevated the Cross for all to see, and the crowd is said to have exclaimed with great reverence: **LORD, HAVE MERCY!**

The Holy Orthodox Church annually commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross with the dolmen observance of the Feast Day of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, which is celebrated on September 14/27. On this day, the Cross is continually praised and glorified as the sign of victory, power and salvation for all Orthodox Christians.