

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

Exalting the Cross

Inasmuch as the cross has become as it were the altar of this fearful sacrifice - for on the cross the Son of God died for the fall of man - therefore the cross is justly revered and worshipped and depicted as the sign of the common resurrection of all men, so that those who bow down before the wood of the cross might be delivered from the curse of Adam and receive the blessing and grace of God for the doing of every virtue. For Christians the cross is magnification, glory, and power: for all our power is in the power of Christ who was crucified; all our sinfulness is mortified by the death of Christ on the cross; and all our exaltation and all our glory are in the humility of God, who humbled Himself to such an extent that He was pleased to die even between evildoers and thieves. For this very reason Christians who believe in Christ sign themselves with the sign of the cross not simply, not just as it happens, not carelessly, but with all

heedfulness, with fear and with trembling, and with extreme reverence. For the image of the cross shows the reconciliation and friendship into which man has entered with God.

Therefore the demons also fear the image of the cross, and they do not endure to see the sign of the cross depicted even in the air, but they flee from this immediately knowing that the cross is the sign of the friendship of men with God ...

Those who have understood this mystery and in very fact have known in experience the authority and power which the cross has over demons, have likewise understood that the cross gives the soul strength, power, meaning, and divine wisdom ... To the degree of the reverence which one has toward the cross, he receives corresponding power and help from God. To Him may there be glory and dominion forever. Amen.

St. Symeon the New Theologian



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

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Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

September 14, 2025 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Schedule of Services

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| Sunday | 14 | <u>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners |
| Thursday | 18 | 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Sara by Caroline |
| Saturday | 20 | <u>Saturday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Alex Soley, Jr. by Jim Forkel & family 5:00 PM Vespers |
| Sunday | 21 | <u>Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners |

We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Dot Wochok | Mary Ann Baran | Mary Ann Horne | Francis Hughes |
| Gary Dorencz | Michele Lewis | Kim Hughes | Ken Hrusosky |
| Mitchell Stachnik | Abbie Sheedy-wc | Jim Sima | |

Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.

Parish Membership is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

A Biblically based stewardship is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

Couples who are planning to be married at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages," as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound should contact the pastor or parish business office.

Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia parish members should contact the pastor.

No eulogies or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

Cremation is permitted but not encouraged. Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

Appropriate behavior and dress are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday. If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.

Grand Raffle Update

1st Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, October 5th

2nd Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, November 16th

Grand Drawing - Sunday, December 14th

Countdown - 90 Days

Grand Prize - \$5,000

RAFFLE TICKET SALES UPDATE

Keep up the good efforts...

Dont' stop now!

| | <u># of Tickets</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>%</u> |
|--------|---------------------|---------------|----------|
| Goal | 350 | \$35,000 | 100% |
| Sold | (96) | (9,600) | 27.43% |
| Unsold | 254 | \$25,400 | 72.57% |

NEED MORE TICKETS?...SEE ROBERT PALASZ

“TICKET WARRIORS” - Parishioners who have already SOLD tickets

Larry & Lisa Bergman, David & Anne Bzdill, Mary Cimbalista, Dennis & Gerry Davis, Dennis Dombrowski, Gary & Sharon Dorencz, Jim Forkal, Linda Gaydos, Drs. Nicholas & Cynthia Grabavoy, Bob & Sheila Horne, MaryAnn Horne, Marianne Horvath, Ken & Donna Hrusosky, Marilyn Lopez, Dennis & Cynthia Mrowca, Cecelia Okonski, Johnny & Hazel Oreluk, Mary Oreluk, Richard Palasz, Robert & Jean Palasz, Jack & Jamila Pawchak, Betty Pawlowski, Joseph & Jean Schudt, Matthew & Abbie Sheedy, Michael Sheedy, Gloria Mee, Mike Triggs, Bill & Nancy Withers, Daryl & Mary Jean Wuske

Exaltation of the Cross September 14th

The Exultation of the Cross, celebrated on September 14th, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was “elevated” in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the “universal elevation” of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

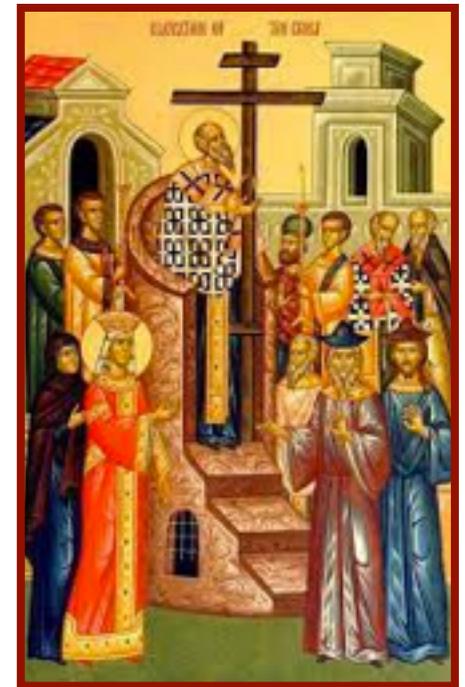
The day of the Exultation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official emblem of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of “Lord have mercy.” This ritual is still done in the churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross at the end of the Vigil service of the holy day following the Great Doxology of Matins.

The troparion of the feast which was, one might say, the “national anthem” sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire “by the virtue of the Cross.” Today the troparion, and all the hymns of the day, are “spiritualized” as the “adversaries” become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and “Church” replaces the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

The holy day of the Exultation of the Cross, although it has an obviously “political” origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by “victories” of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom “not of this world,” and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the “city of God.”

Thus, at the Exultation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to Him by the adoration of His holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.

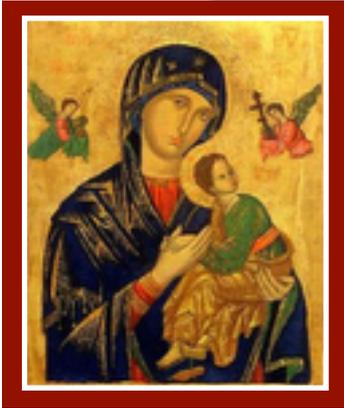


Mary's Helpers - Afternoon of Prayer

Monday, September 15th

11:30AM

Join us as we pray for the sick of our parish,
especially Michele Lewis
A lite lunch will follow.



Saturday, September 20th

As we begin the new Liturgical Year, the church and the grounds could use a little sprucing up. Join us on Saturday, Sept 20th starting at 10AM, for a little parish family time cleaning the church and some problem spots on the grounds. We will have a few different crews working some of the problem areas.

A BBQ lunch will also be provided for all attending!



Sunday, October 5
2:00pm - 3:30pm

Tinley / Orland Park
Our spot is on the North side of 159th St
by Home Depot, west of the stop light

LIFE CHAIN is an annual, nationwide, peaceful, prayerful hour of silence on public sidewalks supporting the dignity of and right to life. Many thousands of churches participate each year in this annual event of prayer and witness to the sanctity of unborn life.



BROKEN

MARY

THE KEVIN MATTHEWS STORY

IN THEATERS
OCTOBER 7 ONLY



Broken Mary: The Kevin Matthews Story

Some things break slowly. Other shatter in an instant.

When his health crumbles and his fame begins to fade, radio legend Kevin Matthew finds redemption next to a dirty dumpster - from an unlikely source: a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Annunciation has purchased 17 tickets for the 6:50pm show at Marcus Orland Park Cinemas

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to reserve your seat

Watch the official trailer and get tickets at www.brokenmaryfilm.com

If you cannot make it to Orland Park on October 7th check out other local theaters who are playing this film on October 7th.