

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 - Rectory Phone: 412-687-1220

Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Altar Servers: Sub-Deacon Raphael Ruggiero & Emanuel Revilak

Website: holyspiritbycath.com - Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com

**SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

## Schedule of Divine Services

**Sunday, Sept. 17: Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

10:25am Rosary, 10:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

**For Michaela Revilak and her (belated) birthday, by her family**

**Monday, Sept. 18:** 11am Confessions through Campus Ministry

6pm Confessions, 7pm Daily Vespers

**Friday, Sept. 22:** 6pm Confessions, 7pm Daily Vespers

**For the health of Elsie Victoria Merem**

**Saturday, Sept. 23: 9:30am Festal Matins for the Feast of the Conception of St. John the Baptist**

**11am Divine Liturgy ~~~ "Light from the East" lecture at 2pm in the Hall**

6pm Confessions, 7pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, Sept. 24:** 10:25am Rosary, 10:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

**For Chanel Revilak on her birthday, by her family**

**Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of the church and leave it in the sacristy.**

**MANY THANKS!** ~ Thank you to everyone who helped make the Divine Liturgy on the 14th a success for both the parish and Campus Ministry, especially those who helped clean up the hall!

**GROUNDS CLEAN-UP:** As with the hall cleaning, we will plan to work on a fall grounds clean-up both weekends that were available for sign-up: Thurs-Sat Sept. 28-30 and Oct 5-7. Thursdays and Fridays will be 5-7pm, and Saturdays will be 10am-2:30pm. Please join us if you can - any and all help is greatly appreciated!

**"LIGHT FROM THE EAST" SERIES:** Saturday, Sept. 23, 2-3:30pm ~ Fr. David will present the first of this year's lecture series in the parish hall. The topic will be "Eastern Catholicism: Meaning and Relevance." All parishioners, college students, and community members are welcome!

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:** If you are interested in learning how to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday mornings before Liturgy, please see Fr. Michael.

**AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY....** In calling all people to discipleship, the Lord Jesus clearly states that it comes at a high cost: the carrying of His illustrious CROSS. The Apostle Paul observed that as we are strengthened through enduring our own trials, we become crucified just like Christ. Jesus Himself gave us the primary example in shouldering the true cross, and He alone provides us with the courage and the fortitude to bear our own unique crosses.

**EPISTLE: Galatians 2:16-20 (Section 203).....**

Brethren: Knowing that man is not justified by legal observance but by faith in Jesus Christ, we too have believed in him in order to be justified by faith in Christ, not by observance of the law; for by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ we are shown to be sinners, does that mean that Christ is encouraging sin? Unthinkable! If, however, I were to build up the very things I had demolished, I should then, indeed be a transgressor. It was through the law that I died to the law, to live for God. I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me. I still live my human life, but it is a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

~~~~~The holy epistle passage for today is taken from the letter written by the Holy Apostle Paul to the Christians of Galatia. Paul elaborates on the concept of the “New Life” that was purchased for us by our Savior at an extremely high price: the shedding of His sacred blood upon the desolate tree of the venerable CROSS. Jesus ransomed us from the power of Evil, for He voluntarily sacrificed Himself upon the miraculous wood of His worthy cross for the sins of us all in order that we might have access to this “New Life.” Paul asserts that we also must be “crucified” with Christ in order that He now would live in us, and we are to reciprocate the love shown by Him Who effected our salvation. We manifest this love most concretely when we similarly carry our own personal cross daily and follow in His footsteps.

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:34-9:1 (Section 37).....**

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel\* will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? What could one give in exchange for his life? Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” He also said to them, “Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come in power.”

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist Mark relates Jesus’ requirements for discipleship. “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his specific cross, and follow Me!” Anyone aspiring to be a genuine follower of the Lord must shoulder on a daily basis the estimable CROSS of Christ. Such a person freely accepts those burdens and tribulations, those sicknesses and sufferings, those anxieties and depressions, and all such manner of incongruities that each of us encounters every day of our lives. These are all “types” of Jesus’ priceless cross, and we must bear them intentionally. It is certainly no easy task! It’s most difficult, and only with God’s assistance can it be done at all! The requisites for discipleship are stiff; but the rewards are magnificent! To be a true follower of Jesus means that one cannot avoid carrying the rugged cross as our Lord Himself did in graphically demonstrating His immense love for each one of us.

**SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTED ELEVATION OF THE LIFE-CREATING CROSS.....** As we observe this Sunday After the Triumphant Elevation of the Honorable Cross, our Byzantine Catholic Church continues to display Jesus’ indomitable cross, elevating it before us, holding it high before our eyes, and symbolically showing it to the entire universe. In elevating the admirable cross of Christ, the Church makes an appeal to the whole of mankind to worship the salutary passion of our Lord Jesus, Who was suspended upon this sanctifying wood for our salvation. With the praiseworthy cross of Jesus, suffering appears no longer as the work of blind fate or random destiny that crushes us and leads us to detest our God. Rather, the laudable cross becomes a proof of God’s love for us! In it, we observe the love that our Divine Savior has for each person ever created. Through our daily carrying of the noble cross, we unite ourselves to the suffering Jesus, and we imitate His love for and His obedience to the will of God the Father. It is precisely through Jesus’ esteemed cross that we have the cleansing of sin and a sharing in the redemption of humanity, for the majestic cross of the Lord is, indeed, our ladder to the summit of heavenly glory: union with the Divine Trinity for all eternity. Let us always esteem, honor, and venerate the salvific tree of the august cross of Christ, the powerful symbol of our everlasting redemption. And may the Supreme Crossbearer, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, grant us the grace, fortitude, and endurance to persevere each day in shouldering our own individual crosses as we imitate His meritorious road to Golgotha and thus reciprocate His magnificent divine love shown for us!