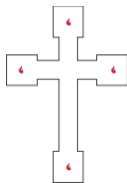# The Parish Feast Day

Every year on September 14th, our parish celebrates its feast day along with the Church. It is called the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This is the name chosen by the early parishioners of our parish. Although it is not our actual anniversary, we do remember it in a special way each year. I thought it might be of interest to learn about the origin of this feast, especially this weekend.

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.