

Holy Cross Orthodox Church

2365 South Olga Drive
Fort Myers, Florida
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Website & Directory Information.

www.HolyCrossFtMyers.Org

12th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 3. Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday before Elevation.

Hieromartyr Autonomus, Bishop in Italy (313). Ven. Vassian (Bassian) of Tiksnensk (Vologdá—1624).

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Galatians 6:11-18, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 3:13-17, Matthew 19: 16-26

Liturgical Schedule:

Sundays - 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Sept. 11 - Saturday – Great Vespers 5:00 pm

Sept. 13 - Monday – Great Vespers/Litya 5:00 pm

Sept. 14 - Tuesday - 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy - Exaltation of The Life-Giving Cross

This Sunday is known as ‘The Sunday before the feast of the elevation of the Holy Cross’

The feast and commemoration of the Elevation (Exaltation) of the Honored and Life-giving Cross falls on Sept 14th in the Holy Orthodox Church’s ecclesiastical calendar.

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulcher of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulcher of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God’s assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: “By this you shall conquer.”

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord’s Body (March 6). In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying, “Lord have mercy,” reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Announcements

Holy Cross Orthodox Church invites you to join us for Bible study at the church on Thursdays at 07:30 a.m. Our Bible Study is a time of fellowship, learning, and growing through the sharing and understanding of God’s word. All are welcome!

Prayer Request for the sick/recovering

Nicholas Maas

Matthew - the late Fr. Timpko's grandson

Megan - David & Phyllis Bartos' daughter

Jazmine - Friend of Sergius

Please email and let us know if there is anyone you would like added to the Prayer List.