

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

Moscow Patriarchate

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Web Site – <http://saintmichaelredford.org>

Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Timothy M. Barna, Rector

Fr. Deacon Daniel Woytowich

Matushka Sherry Barna, Choir Director

Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. – Weekdays Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

General Confession 1st Sunday of month

Private Confession every Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. or upon request

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Epistle 2 Cor 1: 21-24

Gal 6: 11-18

Gospel: Matt 22: 1-14

John 3: 13-17

PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH: Please pray for the following: Stephanie Kennedy, Drake Kennedy, Wellington Kennedy, Conrad Kennedy, Pat Federonko, Gloria Wheeler, Doris Sprague, Gregory Harvilla, Judy Wadysz, Barbara Sapick, Paul Sapick, Mildred Cislo, Anna Hagopian, Reader Gary (Paul) Repella, Michael Gaujanian, Marion Kurtyka, Alice Caddy, William Harvey, Daniel Moran, Brian Kurtyka, Ryan Kerrigan, Frances Munaco, Sonia Kurtyka, Nancy Hawkins, Jim Fisher, and Mark Sudia.

PRAYER: Please continue to pray for those who are afflicted with the Covid 19 virus, as well as those who put their lives on the line administering to the sick, and also for those who serve our communities – police, emergency personnel, fireman, government officials, and those working to provide necessities for us.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECTLY WHILE ATTENDING CHURCH, as mandated by the governor. Also, follow safe distancing practices and sanitize your hands.

SPECIAL THANKS: To members and friends for your continuing support of St. Michael's Church through your generous offerings sent in during this difficult time of the Covid 19 virus. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

SCHEDULED CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, September 13th – Divine Liturgy - Sunday before Elevation of the Holy Cross 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 13th – Vespers for Holy Feast of Elevation of the Holy Cross 5:00 p.m.

Monday, September 14th – Divine Liturgy – Holy Feast of Elevation of the Holy Cross 10:00 a.m.

(STRICT FAST)

FLOWERS FOR THE HOLY PRECIOUS CROSS: Elevation of the Holy Precious Cross is on *Monday September 14th*. Flowers will decorate the Precious Cross on *Sunday evening, and Monday* and also *Sunday, September 20th*. If you would like to donate towards flowers for the cross, place your donation in a "Supplementary Envelope" found in the pews, and mark it FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS, put your name and envelope # on the envelope, and place it in the offering basket.

FROM THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULLETIN . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey

"TODAY THE CROSS IS EXALTED"

These words capture the mood that surrounds our observance of the Feast Day of the *ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS*. We venerate this precious Christian relic, for mankind truly is sanctified by virtue of our Lord's Crucifixion upon it.

Church historians generally agree that two distinct events brought about the institution of this blessed holy day: the finding of the Cross of our Lord by St. Helen in the 4th century and its return from Persian captivity to Jerusalem in the 7th Century. It is a pious tradition of our Church that St. Helen, mother of the Emperor Constantine, did not know exactly where on Golgotha to look for Christ's Cross, since it had been buried for nearly 300 years. As she searched the hillside, St. Helen came across a sweet-smelling plant and decided to dig in that area. It was there that she found the life-giving Cross of the Saviour! This plant was given the name "Basil" which means "the plant of the King."

During the consecration of the church of the Resurrection of our Lord in Jerusalem in 335 A.D., it is said that the Patriarch ELEVATED the Cross for all the faithful to see. Those present fell to their knees and prayed repeatedly: LORD HAVE MERCY! This ritual is still practiced today in Orthodox churches throughout the world.

The Cross was taken from Jerusalem by Persian invaders in 614 A.D. Fourteen years later, the Emperor Heraclius won a great victory over the Persians and returned to Jerusalem with the Cross. Once again, the Cross was treated with great reverence, and was held aloft for proper veneration. Due to the commemoration of the suffering and death of our Lord upon the Cross, this day is appointed to be kept as a **strict fast**.

CHURCH MEMORIAL DONATION:

Bill Saxby (in memory of wife Anna Saxby) \$ 50.00

FUNERAL DONATION:

Steve Stamkovich (in memory of his mother Mendza Stamkovich) and thanks to St. Michael's for letting us use the church) \$200.00

FLOWERS FOR THE HOLY CROSS:

Telep and Munaco families \$ 60.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!