

ELEVATION OF

THE CROSS



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



***ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

(724) 847-1111

WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK
AND**

METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

**HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND, AND MID-ATLANTIC**

REVEREND FR. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS

***Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 16:23)
When a new person is baptized or Chrismated we say to that person, "Welcome Home!" The Church is where each person voluntarily belongs as one who believes in and belongs to Christ .***

We take this opportunity to welcome those guests worshiping with us.

Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer, please contact Dan Volitich, Joann Rossman or leave message on 724-847-1111.

The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
TONE 6 / EOTHINON 4
FOREFEAST OF AND SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION OF THE
CROSS
CONSECRATION OF RESURRECTION CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE TWO

We offer thee in mediation the life-giving Cross which, of Thy goodness, Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord. Save Thy hierarchs and Thy flock, and grant Thou peace through the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF HOLY RESURRECTION CHURCH IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast revealed the earthly majesty of the dwelling place of the holy glory, O Lord, as the brilliance of the firmament on high. Make firm its foundation unto ages of ages and receive our fervent supplications which are offered to thee therein; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Life and Resurrection of all.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

O beloved Apostle of Christ God, Come quick and save a people with no recourse. He who let you rest your head on his breast, will not reject your pleas on our behalf. Beseech him then, O wise and holy theologian. Dispel from us the dark and ominous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

KONTAKION OF HOLY RESURRECTION CHURCH IN TONE FOUR

*(**On this day Thou hast appeared**)*

The Church is shown to be * a many-lighted heaven * that doth shine a guiding light * upon all them that do believe; * wherein while standing, we cry aloud: * Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

**O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O Lord my God.**

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (For the Fourteenth Sunday of Matthew)

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**"PRAYER IS THE ROOT, THE FOUNTAIN, THE MOTHER
OF A THOUSAND BLESSINGS.**

(ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM)

THE SYNAXARION

On September 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross and commemorate the Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection of Christ our God.

Verses

***New Israel, fulfilling a law that is ancient,
Doth honor thy tomb, O Word, with this consecration.
On the thirteenth befell the consecration of the
Resurrection's fane.***

Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem is honored above all others. Constantine the Great constructed it at the place of Golgotha, where our Savior was crucified and buried, then arose. For a long time this place had been purposely buried beneath the earth by the Jews and heathen; furthermore, during the reign of Hadrian (117-138), a temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built over the site so that this sacred place might be even further desecrated and fall into utter oblivion. It was here that the Cross was hidden. However, at the command of the pious Emperor Constantine, excavations were made and the tokens of the saving Passion were found. It was here, then, that the very great and magnificent temple named in honor of Christ God's Resurrection was built under the supervision of the blessed Helen, while Macarius was Archbishop of Jerusalem. Macarius elevated the venerable Cross and consecrated this temple in the year 336.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Cornelius the centurion; and Venerable Hierotheos the Younger of Iviron monastery on Athos.

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IOCC EVENTS

- 1) DINNER WITH WINE PAIRING : SUNDAY 20, 2026 5:30 ~ 7:30 PM**
- 2) OKTOBERFEST HAPPY HOUR: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 6-9 pm**
BENEFIT INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
- 3) BOURBON TASTING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 7:00 PM**
****TO BENEFIT IOCC****

REFER TO ADVERTISMENT SHEETS FOR ABOVE EVENTS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SERVICES

***(NO VESPER OR MATINS SERVICES
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.)***

**SEPT. 13TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
SUNDAY BEFORE THE CROSS
PROCESSION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
COUNCIL MEETING 12 NOON**

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SEPT. 19TH SATURDAY —COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:30-10:30AM

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**SEPT. 20TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
SUNDAY AFTER THE CROSS**

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**SEPT. 27TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
CALLISTRATUS & HIS 49 COMPANIONS**

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**OCT. 4TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
HEIROTHEUS OF ATHENS**

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**OCT. 11TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH COUNCIL**

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BEGIN TODAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
INSTRUCTOR IS JESSICA HILL**

(AFTER COMMUNION WILL MEET BEHIND ALTAR)

PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Carol, Debbie, Trish, Shannon, Justin, Perry Sassic & family, Roddy, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene, Cindi, Harriet, Joann, Cindy, Ray, Marlene, Julianna, Elias, Carrie, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, Michael, Esteven, Phephile, Kyriel, Justin, Levon, Aiden, Kayla, Joni, Kirsten, Jonathan K., Andrew, Yvonne, Rosemary, Patty, Jessica, Eric, Mikayla, Mira, Asher, and Benjamin.

**FOR THOU ARE THE RESSURECTION, THE LIFE, AND THE REPOSE OF
THY SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP ESPECIALLY:**

Prayers are offered in memory of.....

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UPCOMING SERVICES

SEPT. 14TH MONDAY — ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Monastery of the Transfiguration —DIVINE LITURGY 9:30—11:00am

FAST DAY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF THE EAST PROGRAMS

AWE plans for SEPTEMBER 2026:

+Book Club, culminating on September 13, 2026 via Zoom.

+Service Retreat on September 19, 2026 at St. Moses the Black Orthodox

+ Church and Neighborhood Resilience Project in Pittsburgh, PA.

**SAVE THE DATE: Fall Retreat at Holy Protection Monastery, White Haven, PA
on NOVEMBER 7, 2026. Additional information, including registration details
available closer to date.**

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“ VOLUNTEERS” -> BCOCM COMMUNITY BREAKFAST ON SATURDAY

SEPT. 19TH 8:30-10:30 >> CONTACT DAN VOLITICH

FORGOTTEN FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY CROSS ELEVATION

The Feast Day of the Elevation of the Holy Cross is an event whose details are engrained in the minds of all Orthodox Christians. We know of the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 323 AD led by St. Helen—mother of the Emperor Constantine—in search of our Lord's Cross. We know that this feast received its name by virtue of the Cross being "elevated" for all to see by Patriarch Macarius after its discovery. But there are other facts about this blessed event that are often overlooked.

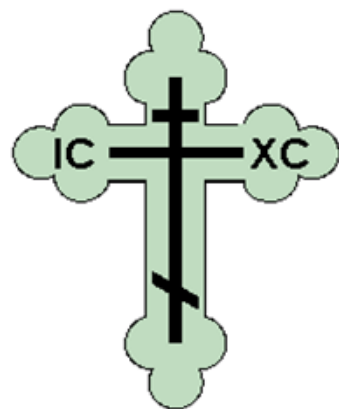
WHO TOLD ST. HELEN TO SEARCH FOR THE CROSS IN THE PLACE IT WAS FOUND?

Tradition tells us that it was a Jew named Jude who advised the Empress. It is said that after the Cross was found, Jude was so overcome by what he witnessed that he was immediately baptized into the Church, taking the name "Cyriacus." He became a zealous follower of Christ—rising quickly to the office of Patriarch of Jerusalem.

WHAT WAS INITIALLY DONE WITH THE CROSS?

After its finding, St. Helen remained in Jerusalem, building churches in Gethsemane, Bethlehem and on the Mount of Olives. Her dream was to construct a great church over the place where our Lord was crucified and buried. She never lived to see her dream fulfilled until September 13/26, 335 AD that the magnificent Church of the Resurrection was formally consecrated. It coincided with the 30th Jubilee of Constantine's glorious reign as Emperor. The Cross would remain in the Church of the Resurrection for nearly 300 years, when King Chozroes conquered Jerusalem and carried it off to Persia. Fourteen years later, the Emperor Heraclius was able to bring it back to its rightful place in the great cathedral.

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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
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**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment**