

# Holy Cross Catholic Church

## Newsletter

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Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Arhin, ofm



September 2020

Year 25 – No. 9

### SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES (For Sunday)

- 4:00 pm Polish: *Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month*
- 4:00 pm Spanish: *Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month*
- 6:30 pm English (Children/Families)

### SUNDAY MASSES

- 8:00 am English
- 9:30 am Greek
- 10:30 am English
- 12:00 pm French: *Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 pm Tagalog: *Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 pm Indian: *Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 pm Sinhala: *Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month*
- 6:30 pm English

### WEEKDAY MASSES

- 7:30 am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - English
- 7:30 am Tuesday - Greek  
*St. Anthony Devotion*
- 6:30 pm Every day- English

### MASSES IN NORTH CYPRUS

- 12:00 pm St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Kyrenia  
- *Every Sunday* - English
- 7:00 pm Famagusta - *Every Sunday*  
English

Pax et Bonum!

Have you ever wondered why they chose the Cross as the symbol for Christianity? It was an odd choice from the very beginning.

To the Romans the cross was an instrument of death and torture. The cross brought back lots of bad memories of the very worst that the Romans had been.

Judaism has the star of David, perhaps Christianity could have chosen another celestial image to raise people's minds to heaven, like the image of the star of Bethlehem.

Today, we stand proudly with the Cross as our symbol, because God is not done bringing resurrection to His people. The power of the Cross operates even today.

The cross is the symbol of our faith, the Cross is the sign of our redemption.

And so every September this Feast Day is a little reminder for us all. Jesus loves us very much. He loves us enough to die on that Cross to save our souls.

May God bless us on this Feast Day, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Amen

**Fr. Andrew Arhin ofm**  
**Parish Priest**

### The Holy Father's Intention for the Month of September 2020

#### **Respect for the Planet's Resources**

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

**STARTING SEPTEMBER**  
**ALL COMMUNITY MASSES RESUME !!!**

*Holy Cross, whereon the Lamb of God was offered for the sins of the world, deliver and save us.*

Tuesday 8th September

**THE NATIVITY OF THE BVM  
Feast**



**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The feast commemorates the birth of her who was to be the Mother of the Savior because the Blessed Virgin Mary occupies a unique place in the history of salvation. The Lord God reserved for her the highest mission ever entrusted to any creature.

*"Let us celebrate with joy the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for from her arose the sun of justice, Christ our God".*

**THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

But what does exalting the Cross mean? Is it not maybe scandalous to venerate a shameful form of execution? The Apostle Paul says: "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles" (1Cor. 1:23). Christians, however, do not exalt just any cross but the Cross which Jesus sanctified with his sacrifice, the fruit and testimony of immense love. Christ on the Cross pours out his Blood to set humanity free from the slavery of sin and death. Therefore from being a sign of malediction, the Cross was transformed into a sign of blessing, from a symbol of death into a symbol *par excellence* of the Love that overcomes hatred and violence and generates immortal life."

*Pope Benedict XVI (Audience, September 17, 2006)*

*O God, who by the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life and peace: Grant us so to glory in the Cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

Monday 14th September

**THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY  
CROSS  
Solemnity**



**THE STIGMATA OF ST FRANCIS**

Authorised by Pope Paul V, the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi is a feast day celebrated within the Franciscan communities. Stigmata, from the Greek word, generically points to a "brand" or a "mark." In the Christian context it refers to the bodily marks resembling the wounds of the crucified Christ. St. Francis was the first person, historically recorded, who bore the marks of the crucified Christ in his hands, his feet, and in his side

Thursday 17th September

**THE STIGMATA OF ST FRANCIS  
Feast**



**ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

At the time that Jesus summoned him to follow Him, Matthew was a publican, that is, a tax-collector for the Romans. His profession was hateful to the Jews because it reminded them of their subjection; the publican, also, was regarded by the Pharisees as the typical sinner. St. Matthew is known to us principally as an Evangelist.

Monday 21st September

**ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND  
EVANGELIST  
Feast**



**OTHER MEMORIALS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

**ST GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE (3 Sept.)**

**ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP & DOCTOR (13 Sept.)**

**SS ANDREW KIM TAEGON, PAUL CHONG HASANG AND COMPANIONS, KOREAN MARTYRS,  
CANONISED BY POPE JOHN PAUL II in 1984. (20 Sept.)**

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST (27 Sept.)**

**ST JEROME, PRIEST & DOCTOR (30 Sept)**

## SUNDAY READINGS

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of OT  
Year A (6 Sept)**

Ez 33:7-9

Ps. 95:1-2 6-7 8-9

Rom 13:8-10

Mt 18:15-20

**The Exaltation of the  
Holy Cross (FEAST)**

Num 21:4-9

Ps 77:1-2 34-38

Phil 2:6-11

Jn 3:13-17

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of OT  
Year A (20 Sept)**

Is 55:6-9

Ps 145:2-3 8-9 17-18

Phil 1:20-24 27

Mt 20:1-16

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of OT  
Year A (27 Sept)**

Ez 18:25-28

Ps 25:4-5 6-7 8-9

Phil 2:1-11

Mt 21:28-32

*Hope of Christians, Trophy of victory over hell, save us, O Holy Cross.*

## PARISH NEWS



### CELEBRATION OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

**SUNDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER:** All Masses will be of the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross.

**MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER:** 5:30 pm Solemn Second Vespers of the Solemnity

6:10 pm Holy Rosary

6:30 pm Mass of the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**Note:** Due to the pandemic the veneration of the relic can be only Spiritual (no kissing or touching of the relic)

### COME AND SEE

The celebration of the sacrament of the First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September during the 10.30 am Mass!!!

Due to the pandemic, the Come & See activities will, for the time being, be confined to the First Holy Communion group only, so we invite parents to register their children by the end of September.

Those wishing to register, please send an e-mail to [HolyCrossCome.See@gmail.com](mailto:HolyCrossCome.See@gmail.com). Alternatively, you can fill in and submit a paper registration form available at the church. For more information you can contact Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok, ofm.

Regarding catechism classes for our youngest children, and post-communion children, the information about the resumption of classes will be made known as soon as the coronavirus situation will stabilize to such an extent that the gatherings can be held without endangering anyone's health.

Regarding the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation we suggest to those who are interested to get in touch directly with Fr. Zacheusz or Sr. Perpetua. I hope to see you all very soon!

*Fr. Zacheusz, ofm*



## HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS & MESSAGES

The Holy Cross Parish Council at this time would normally be organising the Holy Cross Feast for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, to celebrate in a special way the feast of our Parish which is dedicated to the Holy Cross.

Last year, on 14th September 2019, after the Holy Eucharist, a dinner was organised in the Parish Garden, which included music, dance, special food and drinks. Entry tickets, at a small cost, were available in advance for parishioners to secure a place and everyone was invited to take part with their family and friends.

This year however, due to the pandemic, we are not able to have similar celebrations as last year and the Parish Council will be discussing the way it can adapt its Annual Plan, given that such popular events organized every year will have to be considered each one separately closer to the time according to the circumstances.

These events include the Advent Retreat, the monthly Movie Nights, the Lenten Pilgrimage, the Holy Friday Way of the Cross drama, the Holy Cross Parish Lunch in the Presbytery Gardens and the live presentations from each of the various groups of our Parish.

At its next meeting, the Parish Council we will also be considering the production of the 2021 Holy Cross Calendar and its theme, so that it can be completed in time and be available to all parishioners before the end of Advent.

We invite you as well, at this time, to submit proposals to be considered for inclusion in the Annual Plan of the Parish Council. Proposals can be given to any member of the Parish Council or sent by email to the address of the Parish Council given below.

On the occasion of the feast of our Parish of the Holy Cross, we pray to the Risen Lord to bless us in a special way, each one of us in our Parish and to help us to best serve Him and our brothers and sisters in Christ. May He grant each one of us His supernatural light and mercy to experience strongly His presence, power and love in our own lives and in our Parish every day!

Akis Hjiiossif (Chairman of the Parish Council – email: [holcrossparishcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:holcrossparishcouncil@yahoo.com))

*Hope of the hopeless, Light of those who sit in darkness, save us, O Holy Cross.*

## MORE NEWS

### CATECHESIS OF POPE FRANCIS [SEPT 2020]

#### **Pope Francis to Resume General Audiences With Presence of the Faithful**

**The audiences will be held in the San Damaso courtyard of the apostolic palace throughout September rather than their usual location of St. Peter's Square.**

The Vatican has announced that Pope Francis' weekly general audiences will resume with the presence of the faithful from Sept. 2.

In a [statement](#), the Vatican said the decision was taken "following health guidelines from the authorities," and would take place in the San Damaso courtyard of the apostolic palace, starting at 9.30 a.m.

It added that participation is "open to all" who wish to attend, "without the need for tickets" and entrance will begin "from 7.30 am from the Bronze Door" which is located under the colonnade on the right of St. Peter's Square facing the basilica.

Holding the audiences in the San Damaso courtyard marks a break from their usual locations of St. Peter's Square or the Paul VI Hall.

Designed by the Italian architect Martino Longhi il Vecchio, the 16th century courtyard dates back to the pontificate of Pope Gregory VIII and is large enough to contain several hundred visitors. It is usually used for heads of state and other visitors when arriving for private papal audiences by vehicle, or for ceremonies such as the swearing in of new Swiss Guards.

Pope Francis cancelled all public appearance with the faithful on March 7 as the coronavirus outbreak took hold in Italy, preceding the country's nationwide lockdown which began two days later.

Since then, he has held all his general audiences in the library of the apostolic palace and had them live streamed on Vatican television and on the internet.

The Pope later began appearing from the window of the apostolic palace to give his Sunday Angelus address, but otherwise has refrained from making public appearances with the faithful because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Italy currently has 878 recorded cases of COVID-19, up slightly from a low earlier this month.

#### **Audience Catechesis**

In his livestreamed audience catechesis today, the Pope noted how the pandemic has made the world's problems "ever more evident and indeed more serious."

"Among these is social inequality, itself the fruit of an unjust global economy that creates boundless wealth for a relative few and greater impoverishment for the rest of our human family," the Pope said according to a summary of the catechesis provided by the Vatican.

God's plan, he continued, was for the earth to be "created as a garden, to be cultivated, not brutally exploited" and that, as stewards of creation, "we are called to ensure that its fruits, which are destined for all, are in fact shared by all."

The Pope added that the Church reminds us that "the principle of the subordination of private property to the universal destination of goods is the first principle of the whole ethical and social order."

No one can "stand by idly" when millions of people "lack access to primary goods, when inequality and lack of opportunity threaten the very fabric of society, and when greed endangers the very environment in which we live."

Christian hope, which trusts in the transforming grace of the risen Christ, "impels us to work for the healing of our world and the building of a more just and equitable social order," the Pope concluded.

#### **FROM THE DIARY OF SAINT FAUSTINA NOTEBOOK 1**

25 During the night, the Mother of God visited me, holding the Infant Jesus in Her arms. My soul was filled with joy, and I said, "Mary, my Mother, do You know how terribly I suffer?" And the Mother of God answered me, / know how much you suffer, but do not be afraid. I share with you your suffering, and I shall always do so. She smiled warmly and disappeared. At once, strength and a great courage sprang up anew in my soul; but that lasted only one day. It seemed as though hell had conspired against me. A terrible hatred began to break out in my soul, a hatred for all that is holy and divine. It seemed to me that these spiritual torments would be my lot for the rest of my life. I turned to the Blessed Sacrament and said to Jesus, "Jesus, my Spouse, do You not see that my soul is dying because of its longing for You? How can You hide Yourself from a heart that loves You so sincerely? Forgive me, Jesus; may Your holy will be done in me. I will suffer silently like a dove, without complaining. I will not allow my heart even one single cry of sorrowful complaint."

26 End of the novitiate. The suffering does not diminish. Physical weakness dispenses me from all [community] spiritual exercises; that is to say, they are replaced by brief ejaculatory prayers. Good Friday [April 16, 1928] - Jesus catches up my heart into the very flame of His love. This was during the evening adoration. All of a sudden, the Divine Presence invaded me, and I forgot everything else. Jesus gave me to understand how much He had suffered (1 1) for me. This lasted a very short time. An intense yearning - a longing to love God.

(To be continued)

#### **Coffee Morning in the Library**

#### **ATTENTION!!!**

**DURING THE TIME OF PANDEMIC THE MORNING COFFEE  
IS SUSPENDED!!!**



*You can receive the  
Parish Newsletter electronically.  
Send an email to Berna  
(bernadette@cytanet.com.cy)*

#### **Notices, Contributions, etc. for Parish Newsletter**

Please send your notices and other contributions for the next newsletter to Berna (bernadette@cytanet.com.cy) and/or to the Parish priest (holcross@logos.cy.net), or leave them in an envelope in the Church Library.

**Deadline for submissions: 21 September**

*Foundation of the Church, Salvation of the world, save us, O Holy Cross.*