

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Newsletter

Paphos Gate, 1010 Nicosia; PO Box 21964, 1515 Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel. (357) 22 662132; Fax: (357) 22 660767

Email: holycross@cytanet.com.cy; URL: www.holy-cross-nicosia.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Arhin, ofm



October 2021

Year 26 – No. 10

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES (For Sunday)

- 4:00 pm Polish: *Every 1st Saturday of the month*
- 4:00 pm Spanish: *Every 2nd Saturday of the month*
- 6:30 pm English

SUNDAY MASSES

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

- 10:30 am St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Kyrenia - *Every Sunday* - English
- 12:00 pm St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Kyrenia - *Every Sunday* - English
- 5:00 pm Famagusta - *Every Sunday* - English

The Transitus of St. Francis is a celebration on October 3rd of the passage of the saint from his earthly life to the glory of heaven.

Transitus is a Latin word which means “passage” or “crossing over.” In all of the accounts written about the death of St. Francis, it is always remarked that he crossed from earthly life to eternal life with the Lord, filled with joy. In celebrating the Transitus, we are reminded that death is a part of life, that the final journey of our earthly existence is nothing to be feared, but to be celebrated and embraced. For it is only through death that we come to the full joy of the Lord.

The celebration of the Transitus mirrors that of Christ’s dying and rising to eternal life. St. Francis modeled his life after Christ and lived according to God’s will.

*Fr. Jerzy Kraj ofm
Vicar General*

The Transitus of Saint Francis.

There is no one ritual for the Transitus, and therefore many expressions have developed for this liturgy. Certain prayers or writings of St. Francis and accounts from his early biographers are common. One of them, “The Life of St. Francis” by Thomas of Celano, recalls how when Francis was dying he asked that the washing of the feet from the Gospel of John be read. This Scriptural passage is often included in the Transitus. Since Francis spoke of dying as embracing Sister Death, the ritual is solemn but not sad and inspires the participants to richly live the Gospel until the end of their days.

Friars around the world will be celebrating the Transitus on October 3rd. Please join us for this special evening:

“Remember when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given.”

-St. Francis of Assisi

*Fr. Andrew Arhin ofm
Parish Priest*

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI AT HOLY CROSS

SUNDAY 3 October - At 4:00 pm

The Transitus to remember the death of Saint Francis of Assisi.

MONDAY 4 October

5:30pm - Solemn Vespers

6:00pm - Holy Rosary

6:30-SOLEMN MASS

followed by a reception in Saint Francis Hall

The Holy Father’s Intentions for the month of October 2021

Intention for Evangelization: - Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.



You are beauty, You are meekness, You are the protector,

October Calendar

CELEBRATIONS

Saturday 2 October
The Guardian Angels
Memorial

Monday 4 October
St Francis of Assisi
Feast of the Franciscan Family



Thursday 7 October
Our Lady of the Rosary
Memorial



Monday 18 October
St. Luke, Evangelist
Feast



Thursday 28 October
St. Simon and St. Jude,
Apostles Feast



Month of the Holy rosary
Learning Christ from Mary

“Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of *“learning him”*. In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. *Jn* 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother.

The first of the “signs” worked by Jesus – the changing of water into wine at the marriage in Cana – clearly presents Mary in the guise of a teacher, as she urges the servants to do what Jesus commands (cf. *Jn* 2:5). We can imagine that she would have done likewise for the disciples after Jesus’ Ascension, when she joined them in awaiting the Holy Spirit and supported them in their first mission. Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to “read” Christ, to discover his secrets and to understand his message.

This school of Mary is all the more effective if we consider that she teaches by obtaining for us in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even as she offers us the incomparable example of her own “pilgrimage of faith”.¹⁷ As we contemplate each mystery of her Son’s life, she invites us to do as she did at the Annunciation: to ask humbly the questions which open us to the light, in order to end with the obedience of faith: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word” (*Lk* 1:38)”

From the apostolic letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, by pope John Paul II, on the Most Holy Rosary

Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok ofm

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St Francis (1182-1226) was born and died in Assisi. He was the son of a rich merchant Bernardone, received a good education, and in the beginning followed the ways of the world. He was taken prisoner in the battle between the Assisians and the Perugians, and after his release decided to abandon everything for Christ. His father became extremely displeased at his actions, and disinherited him. In 1220 he founded a new order which within ten years numbered five thousand brothers. His followers were called Friars Minor because they were to consider themselves as the least among religious. He wore ragged old clothes, begged for food and preached penance.

In 1212 with St. Clare of Assisi he founded the Order of “Poor Ladies,” now known as the “Poor Clares.” He also founded the “Third Order of Penance” (the Third Order) which included lay people. In 1224 he became the first person recorded to receive the stigmata (the five wounds of Christ). He died on 4 October, 1226 at Portiuncula, Italy. He was canonised by Gregory IX less than two years later.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, formerly known as the Feast of Our Lady of Victory and Feast of the Holy Rosary, is celebrated on 7 October, the anniversary of the decisive victory of the combined fleet of the Holy League of 1571 over the Ottoman navy at the Battle of Lepanto.

In 1571, Pope St Pius V organised a coalition of forces from Spain and smaller Christian kingdoms, republics and military orders to rescue Christian outposts in Cyprus, particularly the Venetian outpost at Famagusta which, however, surrendered after a long siege on 1 August before the Christian forces set sail. On 7 October, 1571, the Holy League, a coalition of southern European Catholic maritime states, sailed from Messina, Sicily, and met a powerful Ottoman fleet in the Battle of Lepanto. Knowing that the Christian forces were at a distinct material disadvantage, the holy pontiff, Pope Pius V, called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory, and led a Rosary procession in Rome.

During the month of October, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Holy Rosary, **we pray the Rosary every day in our church before the 6:30 pm Mass.**

SAINT LUKE

St Luke, the inspired author of the third Gospel and of the Acts of the Apostles, was a native of Antioch in Syria and a physician, and one of the early converts from paganism. He accompanied St Paul during several of his missionary journeys. He was also his companion while in prison at Rome on two different occasions. His account of these events, contained in the Acts, is first hand history.

Luke’s Gospel is, above all, the Gospel of the Merciful Heart of Jesus. It emphasises the fact that Christ is the salvation of all men, especially of the repentant sinner and of the lowly.

SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

The Church celebrates the feast of Sts Simon and Jude whose names occur together in the Canon of the Mass and who are also commemorated on the same day. Possibly this is because according to tradition they both preached the Gospel in Mesopotamia and Persia. St Jude is the author of a short Epistle which forms part of the New Testament.

HAPPY FEAST DAY TO OUR FRANCISCAN FATHERS, SISTERS AND TERTIARIES.

PARISH NEWS

COMMEMORATION OF THE SOULS OF OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On Tuesday 2 November 2021
Visit to the “Old” Cemetery of Nicosia Buffer Zone
and to the “New” Cemetery of Tseri

We will visit our old cemetery in the buffer zone in Nicosia in the morning of Tuesday 2 November, All Souls Day. At the cemetery we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist for the souls of the departed who rest at that cemetery. After the Mass we will go round the cemetery and bless the graves.

In the afternoon of the same day, we will visit our new cemetery in Tseri. At 3:00 pm we will recite the Holy Rosary for the souls of our beloved departed and at 4:00 pm we will begin the Holy Mass. After the Mass the graves will be blessed.

Wait for the further announcement for transportation.



Come and See

Children's and family Mass will resume on Saturday, October 2 at 4pm followed by a meeting with parents and children. During this coordinating meeting we will discuss the schedule of the next Masses and lessons. The decisions made will be announced later.

The Legion of Mary

Will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary
On 31st of Oct 2021.

Thanksgiving Mass 8:00 am at Holy Cross Church
Retreat will follow at Saint Francis Hall



HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS & MESSAGES

The Parish Council met twice in September 2021, the last time with the Patriarch of Jerusalem, HB Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa on his first pastoral visit to Cyprus.

It was an honour and a joy for all of us on the Parish Council to meet with the Patriarch at Holy Cross, on his first pastoral visit to Cyprus as our Patriarch now and we remembered the previous meeting we had at the Parish Council before he became the Patriarch of Jerusalem, about two years ago and the issues we discussed then, before the Covid-19 crisis.

The Patriarch invited each one of us to speak regarding our circumstances, involvement and experience at Holy Cross and discussion followed on the work and the issues which concern the Parish Council.

Among others, the protective measures in relation to the pandemic as they relate to and affect our Parish and its activities, the Holy Cross website and its restoration (following the serious server crash and a major loss of data due to hacking it suffered), the catechesis for children, the Movie Nights, the webcasts of the liturgies, the Holy Cross YouTube channel and the planning for the 2022 Holy Cross calendar were discussed. It was also noted that the Parish Council decided to hand out a bookmark dedicated to the devotion to the Holy Cross with prayers, on the occasion of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross at our parish.

As regards the protective measures for Covid-19 and the activities these affected, the Patriarch encouraged us, bearing in mind the pandemic conditions and regulations, to also consider how best to resume and how to invite faithful who may have stayed away for so long, to return back to the church, thinking of the “post-covid era”.

We pray for our Patriarch and for our parish, our priests and religious, all the families and the faithful young and old and for the Parish Council, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Saint Joseph. May the Risen Lord shower upon us abundant blessings, His Spirit and His graces always!

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

You are our sweetness, You are our eternal life.

MORE NEWS

POPE FRANCIS CATECHISM

CATECHESIS OF POPE FRANCIS [22 September 2021]

Catechesis: [The Apostolic Journey in Budapest and in Slovakia](#)

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear Brothers and Sisters: My recent [Apostolic Journey to Budapest and Slovakia](#) was centered on *prayer*, *roots*, and *hope*. Above all, it was a pilgrimage of *prayer*, framed by the [closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest](#), and the celebration of the [feast of Our Lady of Sorrows at the shrine of Šaštín in Slovakia](#). Prayer, witness and reconciliation are especially important for a Europe where the sense of God's presence has become weakened. In the [Divine Liturgy celebrated in Prešov](#), we recalled the deep *roots* of Christian faith and life in those lands, grounded in the evangelizing efforts of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and often forged by the experience of suffering and martyrdom. Throughout my Journey, I saw signs of *hope* for the future: in the enthusiasm of the [young people at Košice](#), in so many young families and many quiet examples of charity and concern for those in need. In my [meetings with our Jewish brothers and sisters](#), with the followers of other religions and with the [Rom community](#), we stressed that the path to the future must be travelled *together*, in a spirit of fraternity. I am grateful to all who made my Journey possible and I ask you to pray with me that the seeds we have sown will bear much fruit.

WINTER TIME

In the night between Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 of October we must turn our watches 1 hour back.



SUNDAY
EVENING MASS AT
6:30 PM
SUMMER & WINTER

SUNDAY READINGS

27 th Sun of OT (3 Oct)	28 th Sun of OT (10 Oct)	29 th Sun of OT (17 Oct)	30 th Sun of OT (24 Oct)	31 st Sun of OT (31 Oct)
Gn 2:18-24	Wis 7:7-11	Is 53:10-11	Jer 31:7-9	Dt 6:2-6
Ps 128:1-6	Ps 90:12-17	Ps 33:4-5 18-22	Ps 126:1-6	Ps 18:2-4 47 51
Heb 2:9-11	Heb 4:12-13	Heb 4:14-16	Heb 5:1-6	Heb 7:23-28
Mk 10:2-16	Mk 10:35-45	Mk 10:35-45	Mk 10:46-52	Mk 12:28-34

APOSTOLIC LETTER

PATRIS CORDE

OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. *Rev* 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. *Lk* 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

3. *An obedient father*

As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams, which in the Bible and among all ancient peoples, were considered a way for him to make his will known.^[13]

Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy. He did not want to "expose her to public disgrace",^[14] so he decided to "dismiss her quietly" (*Mt* 1:19).

(To be continued)

You can receive the Parish Newsletter electronically.

Write 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 (holycross@cytanet.com.cy), or leave them in an envelope in the Church Library.

Deadline for submissions: 24 October

Coffee Morning in the Library

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

Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Saviour. [from St Francis Hymn of Praise]