

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Newsletter

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Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Arhin, ofm



September 2021

Year 26 – No. 9

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*
- 4:00 pm English (Children/Families)
- 6:30 pm English Mass

SUNDAY MASSES

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

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

Question:

Why are the months of May and October dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Answer:

The Church has long set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary. According to [this article](#), one reason was because in ancient Greece (remember, the Church went to Greece in its earliest apostolic missions) May was the month of [Artemis](#), the goddess of fertility. Rededicating the month to the Mother of God was a way the early Christians sought to “baptize” pagan culture. As for October, that month has been dedicated to the rosary—a set of prayers said in honor of the Blessed Mother—because Pope St. Pius V credited the Holy League’s victory at the [Battle of Lepanto](#) on October 7, 1571, to the praying of the rosary that he had enjoined upon all Christians in preparation for the battle.

Fr. Andrew Arhin OFM

The Holy Father’s Intention for the Month of September 2021

Universal Intention:

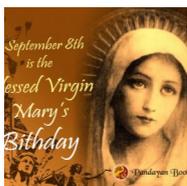
An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

**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.

Wednesday 8th September
THE NATIVITY OF THE BVM
Feast



Tuesday 14th September
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY
CROSS
Solemnity



Friday 17th September
THE STIGMATA OF ST FRANCIS
Feast



Tuesday 21st September
ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND
EVANGELIST
Feast



Wednesday 29th September
MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL,
ARCHANGELS 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.

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

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.

MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

The three Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are the only angels named in Sacred Scripture and all three have important roles in the history of salvation.

Saint Michael is the "Prince of the Heavenly Host," the leader of all the angels. His name is Hebrew for "Who is like God?" and was the battle cry of the good angels against Lucifer and his followers when they rebelled against God. He is mentioned four times in the Bible, in Daniel 10 and 12, in the letter of Jude, and in Revelation.

Saint Gabriel, whose name means "God's strength," is mentioned four times in the Bible. Most significant are Gabriel's two mentions in the New Testament: to announce the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias, and the at Incarnation of the Word in the womb of Mary.

Saint Raphael, whose name means "God has healed" because of his healing of Tobias' blindness in the Book of Tobit. Tobit is the only book in which he is mentioned. His office is generally accepted by tradition to be that of healing and acts of mercy.

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

23rd Sunday of OT
Year B (5 Sept)

The Exaltation of the
Holy Cross (FEAST)
Year B (12 & 14 Sept)

25th Sunday of OT
Year B (19 Sept)

26th Sunday of OT
Year B (26 Sept)

Is 35:4-6

Num 21:4-9

Wis 2:12, 17-20

Num 11:25-29

Ps. 145:7-10

Ps 77:1-2 34-38

Ps 53:3-8

Ps 18:8-14

Jas 2:1-5

Phil 2:6-11

Jas 3:16 4:3

Jas 5:1-6

Mk 7:31-37

Jn 3:13-17

Mk 9:30-37

Mk 9:38-48

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

PARISH NEWS



CELEBRATION OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

SUNDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER: All Masses will be of the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross.

TUESDAY, 14 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)

First Pastoral Visit of the Patriarch of Jerusalem,

HB Archbp. Pierbattista Pizzaballa

The first, long-awaited and due to the Pandemic postponed, pastoral visit of HB Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, will take place from 3rd to 8th of September.

Our Shepherd will come to Nicosia on Saturday, September 4. During his visit he will meet the religious members of St. Joseph and the Sri Lankan Sisters of the Perpetual Help.

He will meet with the Fathers of the Holy Cross parish, with Monsignor George Panamthundil, Chargè d'Affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in Cyprus, with the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and with the parish council.

On Sunday, September 5, the Patriarch will preside the Holy Mass at 8am in Nicosia, at 12noon in Kyrenia and in the evening at 5pm will participate in the Holy Mass presided by the new Maronite Archbishop in Cyprus, HE Selim Sfeir in the Maronite Cathedral. The Patriarch will also visit parishes in Larnaca, Limassol, Paphos and Terra Santa College. During his visit, the Patriarch will meet all religious communities and the Archbishop of Cyprus, Chrysostom II.



Welcome to the new responsible of the Apostolic Nunciature in Cyprus, Chargè d'Affaires, Monsignor George Panamthundil

Msgr. George GEORGE PANAMTHUNDIL

Was born on 20th May 1972 in Trivandrum City (India), ordained on 18th February 1998 as a priest of the Major Syro-Malankara Archdiocese of

Trivandrum.

After serving for two years as a Parish priest in Kerala, India, began his studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, Italy where he obtained the Ph.D. title in Oriental Canon Law; at the same time, studied at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, after which he entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See, 1 July 2005.

Monsignor George Panamthundil served as Attaché, Counsellor and Secretary in Costa Rica, Guinea, Mali, Iraq, Jordan, Austria, at the Apostolic Delegation in Jerusalem and at the Apostolic Nunciature in Israel.

On July 2021 the Holy Father Pope Francis nominated him as a *Chargè d'affaires a.i.* in the Republic of Cyprus.

Monsignor speaks fluent: English, Italian, German, Spanish and French.

COME AND SEE

On Saturday, October 2 at 5.00 p.m. new catechism classes will begin for children who will receive their First Holy Communion next year 2022. Catechism lessons will be held every Saturday at 5 p.m. in the premises of the church. We invite the parents to enrol their children on Saturday, 18 September 2021 from 5 pm in the parish garden. Online registration will also be available on the parish website.

Catechism of post-communion children will continue online, however, we ask parents to attend the first organizing meeting in the church on October 2 at 5.00 p.m.

Children and family mass will be resumed on Saturday 2 October 2021 at 4pm. During the meeting with parents, we will discuss the possibility of returning to the evening Mass, which will depend of the number of children and the new probable pandemic restrictions in the places of worship.



Fr. Zacheusz, ofm

HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS & MESSAGES

The Parish Council met before the summer recess, with an open agenda and dealt with various issues including the protective measures for the pandemic as they relate to our Parish, the Holy Cross website and its restoration, the planning for the 2022 Holy Cross calendar to be prepared in the Autumn with an appropriate theme, the Movie Nights and the way in which the Feast of our Parish in September could be celebrated this year.

As regards the protective measures and possible activities at our Parish, including possible events to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross and the Movie Nights, after some discussion and proposals, it was decided to consider the situation in early September again, at the Parish Council meeting, given the pandemic conditions.

Regarding the Holy Cross website, it was noted, as it was previously reported, that it had suffered a serious server crash and a major loss of data due to hacking. However, after serious efforts on the technical side, it has been recovered and is working again - at www.holy-cross-nicosia.com its previous internet address. Nevertheless, it needs to be fully restored and we discussed the way forward and planned as a first stage, for information regarding the religious and community groups active in our parish to be drafted, reviewed and uploaded to our website. The general design of the webpages is to be reviewed also.

Currently on our website are posted various news items on the homepage, news items, the monthly Holy Cross Newsletter, the times of the masses at the Holy Cross, the daily mass readings and prayers, the Parish contacts as well as the link to the YouTube Channel of our Parish which transmits live the liturgies from the Holy Cross. Also, it should be noted that, on our website each month (instead of the Movie Nights which we cannot have at present due to the pandemic), there is a specific reference to the Life of a Saint posted, with appropriate videos, as well as other news and articles, to inspire us in the faith, the hope and the love we are called to live as Christians.

We pray for the hope and light of the resurrection to be our guide, consolation and strength every moment of everyday, in all the issues we face, today and throughout our lives. May abundant blessings from the Risen Lord be showered upon our Parish, our priests and religious, our families and children and every parishioner, the Parish Council too!

Akis Hjiiosiff (Chairman of the Parish Council – email: 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 2021]

POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE 11 August 2021
"If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law".

Catechesis on the Letter to the Galatians: 4. The Mosaic Law

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we have seen the Apostle insist on the newness of the Christian life, thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Against those who urged the Galatians to obey the precepts of the Law of Moses, Paul replies that the Law was always in the service of God's Covenant with his people. **The Covenant was itself based not on the observance of the Law but on faith in the fulfilment of God's promises.**

Now that God has definitively fulfilled those promises in the paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, those who believe in the Gospel are set free from the demands of the Law. The newness of the Christian life, then, is born of our response to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who brings the Law to fulfilment in the new commandment of love.

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

As a descendant of David (cf. *Mt* 1:16-20), from whose stock Jesus was to spring according to the promise made to David by the prophet Nathan (cf. *2 Sam* 7), and as the spouse of Mary of Nazareth, Saint Joseph stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments.

2. A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (*Lk* 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. *Hos* 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (*Ps* 103:13).

In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love,^[11] who is good to all, whose "compassion is over all that he has made" (*Ps* 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (*Rom* 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: "To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness'" (*2 Cor* 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.^[12]

To be continue

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: 24 September

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