



BROKEN TO BE MORE BEAUTIFUL

Many years ago the architect planned that the walls of the Royal Palace be covered with sheets of beautiful mirrors from Paris. But when the shipment of glass arrived from Paris every mirror had been smashed in travel. The entire shipment was destroyed! The entrance could not be completed. Just as the workmen started gathering the broken pieces together to discard them the architect said, "Wait a minute. I've got an idea!" He then took them up in his hands and walked over to the entry. The skilled architect then put some glue on the wall and arranged the tiny pieces. He did this several times until he had an enormous distortion in reflections, sparkling with a rainbow of brilliant colors! At no point were they broken alike and at no point was the angle exact. Today, the Royal Palace is a dazzling brilliant display of prisms, reflecting light! As I read this story I could only think of one line, "Broken to be more beautiful!"

God takes the broken things in our lives, as the architect took the broken pieces of those mirrors and makes them over into the better things of His divine purpose. God can do wonders with a broken heart and a broken life if we will give Him the pieces. But this is exactly what most of us refuse to do: take the pieces to Him! I love the proverb which says, "God can draw straight even with crooked lines." He can use your grief to help build a better you, if you will bring the pieces to Him.

-"Surviving the Loss of a Loved One" by Fr. Anthony Coniaris



Prayerful petitions for the Tenth Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks

Again we pray to you, O Lord, for those who lost their lives in the unjust attacks of September 11th. Grant their souls peace and forgiveness of sins and offenses and grant consolation to their bereaved families. Hear O Lord, and have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Again we pray to you O Lord, look with merciful eyes upon your unworthy servants. Preserve our land from further attacks of hateful enemies, crush the power of evil, but comfort our hearts, increase the power of love, and grant us wisdom and understanding. Hear O Lord, and have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy. (3x)



September 10, 2017

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross; Octoechos Tone 5; Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God; Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, Nymphodora

Changeable Part: Pages 21-22
In the Booklet of Changeable Parts
(Small white book)

Announcements:

Today: St. George's and St. John's Parish Picnic

Our St. George's & St. John's Parish Picnic will take place today following the Divine Liturgy. This Sunday is also the official beginning of our new school year for our St. George's and St. John's Church Schools. We ask ALL the children to please come forward at the end of the Divine Liturgy to receive a special blessing. Following the Divine Liturgy please remain for our parish picnic that has always been a wonderful time of Christian fellowship.

Exaltation of the Cross

On Thursday, September 14th, we celebrate the Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross. To commemorate the discovery of the Holy Cross which took place in Jerusalem in the year 326, we will have on Wednesday evening, September 13th, a Vespers Divine Liturgy at 7:00 p.m. at St. George parish. On the Feast itself, Thursday, September 14th, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's parish (McKees Rocks, PA). Please remember that according to the Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA a **strict fast** is prescribed on this day (Art. 475). This strict fast is prescribed for us in order to honor the suffering of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Church School Registration

As we prepare to begin the new school year for our St. George's Church School, registrations are now available in the Church vestibule. I ask all our parents to please take & fill out the registration form (one per a child). We need to have them returned ASAP. All children 4-14 years of age are to be registered for our catechetical program. Remember that it is important that our children receive the proper Eastern Christian Formation. This formation is offered to them here at St. George's. We are blessed with a wonderful catechetical program and instructors. As a Church, let us pray for our children because they are the future of our parish family.

Flowers for the Cross

For the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Thursday, September 14th, the Cross adorned with flowers will be brought in procession from the Altar Table to the center of our Holy Church. The Cross adorned with flowers will remain on the Tetrapod until Thursday, September 21st

Eparchy of St. Josaphat Pilgrimage will be Saturday, September 16, 2017 at Shrine of the Holy Cross Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, (526 West Rayen Ave., Youngstown, OH 44502) starting at 11am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 12:30pm lunch, 2:30 pm Akathistos in honor of the venerable and life-giving Cross of our Lord. For more information, call 330-744-5820, yngholytrinity@att.net, www.holytrinityucc.com.

On Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2017, Soyuz Ukrainok, Pittsburgh Br. 27 will sponsor its annual Vyshyvani Vechornytsi with Presentation of Debutantes at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott (777 Aten Road Coraopolis, PA 15108). Cocktails: 5:30-6:30pm; Program & Presentation of Debutantes: 6:30pm; & Dinner to follow. Dancing 8:00pm to 11:00pm to the Music of the Continental Dukes. Tickets: Adults \$45, Children \$20, Dance only \$10. For reservations call Anne Konecky at 412-343-0309 or Slava Komichak at 412-833-6657 by Sept. 18th.

Pyrohy

Our total income from last week's sale was **\$335.00** Sincere thanks to all our dedicated pyrohy workers for their hard work during this summer. Help is very much needed with our pyrohy activity as preparation for our Pyrohy Festival! Thank you.

Collection- May God bless you...

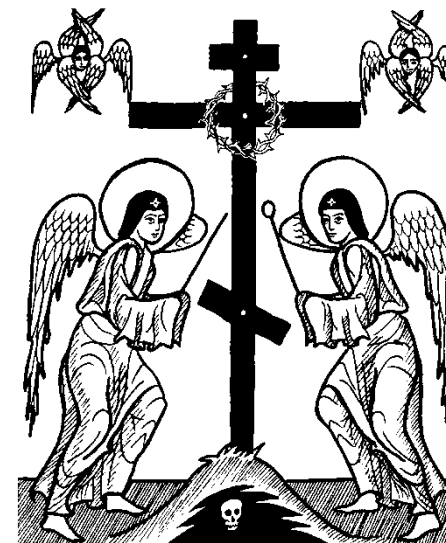
The grand total for Sunday of September 3, 2017 was **\$1,757.00**
(Collection: \$1344.00, loose & candles: \$62.00, Pyrohy: \$335.00, Stuffed cabbage: \$16.00)

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

The Blood of Christ and the Skull of Adam

The mount of Calvary or Golgotha means in Hebrew the "place of the Skull." Some biblical scholars have erroneously attested that it was called this name because the rock formations there resembled a skull. Yet, the actual reason for the name comes from an ancient Jewish tradition that the skull of Adam was brought on the Ark by Noah, and then buried under Calvary.

At the moment of Christ's death, the earth quaked and the rock was split in two, thus allowing the atoning Blood of Christ to liter-ally flow over the bones of Adam. This is why in our iconographical depictions of the Crucifixion, we see a skull and cross-bones at the base of the Cross.



About the Three-Barred Cross

The Three-barred Cross is common in the Eastern Church. The three bars distinguish the Holy Cross as the Cross of Christ, as opposed to other crosses used in different denominations. The smaller upper bar represents the sign placed above the Lord's head, which read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". The slanted lower bar reflects the fate of the thieves crucified on either side of the Lord: one side pointing up to Paradise, the other downward to Hades. On either side of the Cross are often pictures of the spear used to pierce the Lord's side, and the pole with the sponge used to give Him sour wine to drink.

Prayer to the Holy Cross

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered; and let those who hate Him flee from His presence. As smoke vanishes, let them vanish; and as wax melts from the presence of fire, so let demons perish from the presence of those who love God and who sign themselves with the sign of the Cross and say in gladness: Hail, most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, for Thou drives away the demons by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ crucified on thee, Who went down to hades and trampled on the power of the devil, and gave us thee, his venerable Cross, for driving away all enemies. O most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, help me, with our Holy Lady, the Virgin Mother of God, and with all the Saints throughout the ages. Amen.