



Prophet Elias News

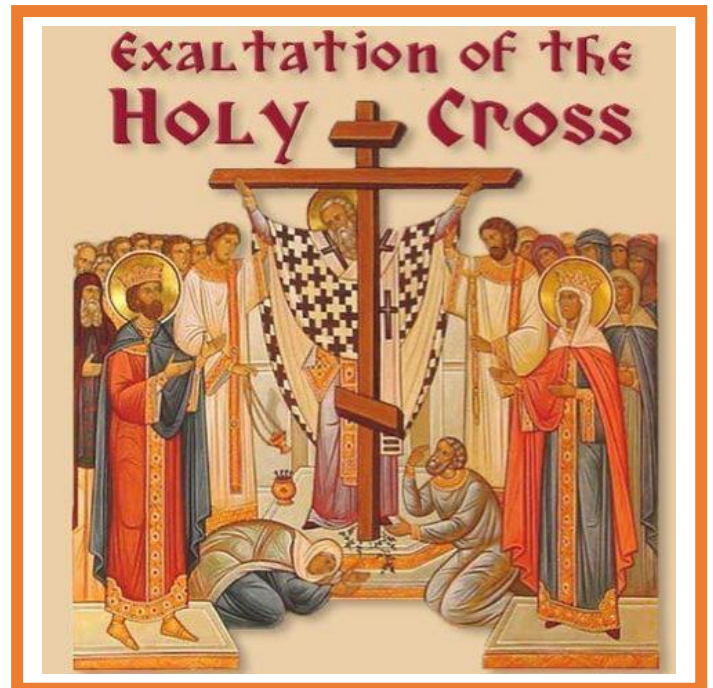
News and Views for the Orthodox Church
of the Holy Prophet Elias in Devon
September 2023



The Cross Reveals God's Mercy and Grace by Father Steven Kostoff

This month we celebrate the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy and Lifegiving Cross of the Lord. At the Divine Liturgy for the feast, we venerate the “life-giving wood” of the Cross, and hopefully we will continue to do so in our domestic prayers, alone or with our family members, through to the Leavetaking of the Feast on Thursday, September 21.

The Apostle Paul confesses, “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” [Romans 1:16]. At the very heart of the Gospel is the Cross of the Lord, and this is what Saint Paul is not ashamed of. Thus, whenever we commemorate the Cross, we are reminded of this and of the profound words we hear at every Liturgy after we commune with the Lord: “...for through the Cross, joy has come into the world.”



To understand just how this bears upon our own lives, there is a powerful passage about the Cross in Saint Innocent Veniaminov's book, *Indication of the Way Into the Kingdom of Heaven*, that I would like to share. It is an excellent example of how the saints speak and write with a total honesty about our human weaknesses and propensity toward sin, while simultaneously expressing the incomparable consolation of God's mercy and grace. They never discourage, but encourage—though we may have to squirm a bit at first when we read their assessment of our present condition.

“When the Lord is pleased to reveal to us the state of our souls, then we feel sharply that our hearts are corrupt and perverted, our souls are defiled, and we are merely slaves of sin and passions which have mastered us and do not allow us to draw near to God. We see that even our supposed good deeds are all mixed up with sin and are not the fruit of true love, but are the products of various passions and circumstance ... and then we most certainly suffer ... in proportion as the Lord reveals to us the condition of our souls, our interior sufferings increase....

“But in whatever situation you may be, and in whatever suffering of the soul ... do not despair, and do not think that the Lord has abandoned you. No! God will always be with you and will invisibly strengthen you even when it seems to you that you are on the very brink of perdition. God will never allow you to be tried and tempted more than He sees fit. Do not despair and do not be afraid. With

full submission surrender totally to Him. Have patience and pray. God is our loving Father. Even if He permits a person to fall into sin it is only in order to make him realize his own impotence, weakness and nothingness ... to teach him never to trust in himself and to show that he can do nothing good without God. It is to heal his soul that the Lord lays crosses on a person to make him like Jesus Christ ... to perfectly purify his heart in which He Himself wishes to dwell with His Son and His Holy Spirit.”

The words of Saint Innocent are timely in an age of “self-sufficiency,” when we are convinced that we can handle all the situations of life with a bit of ingenuity, cleverness, and “expertise.” God is sometimes forced to break through our self-sufficiency with the crosses to which Saint Innocent refers above. There are situations in life that we then realize how only by God’s saving grace can we be strong enough to pass through a furnace of suffering or hardship strengthened and grateful for His enduring love for us.

Father Steven Kostoff is rector of Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. He is also a member of the adjunct faculty of the theology department at Xavier University in Cincinnati, where he has taught various courses on Orthodox theology. Source: [The Orthodox Church in America](#) September 17, 2014 Reprinted by kind permission.

Two Thoughts to be Feared

Understand two thoughts, and fear them. One says, "You are a saint," the other, "You won't be saved." Both of these thoughts are from the enemy, and there is no truth in them. But think this way: I am a great sinner, but the Lord is merciful. He loves people very much, and He will forgive my sins.

Saint Silouan of Mount Athos (September 24th)

I See His Blood Upon the Rose

I see his blood upon the rose
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,
His body gleams amid eternal snows,
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower;
The thunder and the singing of the birds
Are but his voice – and carven by his power
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,
His cross is every tree.

Joseph Plunkett (1887-1916)

(Executed for his part in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin)

*I couldn't resist this poem's linking of the themes of Creation
(Sept 1st) and the Life-Giving Cross (Sept 14th) Ed.*

Miracles

As to me I know nothing else but miracles,
Whether I walk the streets of Manhattan,
Or dart my sight over the roofs of houses toward the sky,
Or wade with naked feet along the beach just in the edge of the
water,
Or stand under trees in the woods,
Or talk by day with any one I love,
Or sit at table at dinner with the rest,
Or look at strangers opposite me riding in the car,
Or watch honey bees busy around the hive of a summer
forenoon,
Or animals feeding in the fields,
Or birds, or the wonderfulness of insects in the air,
Or the wonderfulness of sundown, or of stars shining so quiet
and bright,
Or the exquisite delicate thin curve of the new moon in spring;
These with the rest, one and all, are to me miracles.

Walt Whitman

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein

This Month We Celebrate

On Friday September 1st: **THE CHURCH NEW YEAR**

Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Environment

On Monday 4th: **Holy Prophet and God-Seer Moses**

We wish **Moses K** and **Moses (Josh) W** a **Happy Feast and Many Years!**

New Martyr Gorazd, Bishop of the Czech Lands and Slovakia (1942)

Executed by the SS for giving sanctuary to the assassins of Reinhard Heydrich, 'Butcher of Prague'
and architect of the Holocaust

On Tuesday 5th: **Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth**, Parents of St John the Baptist

We wish **Zac L**, Presbytera **Elizabeth C**, **Alice S**, **Lily S** and **Elizabeth T**
a **Happy Feast and Many Years!**

On Wednesday 6th: **Saint Bega (Bee)**, Abbess of Copeland in Cumbria (7thC)

We wish Matoushka **Jenny Bega M** and all those in the Parish of **Saint Bega**, **Saint Mungo**
and **Saint Herbert** in Keswick a **Happy Feast and Many Years!**

On Thursday 7th: **Saint Kassiani the Melodist** (9thC)

On Friday 8th: **THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Saint Maria, Fool-for-Christ of Diveyevo (1931)

On Wednesday 13th: **Saint Cornelius** the Centurion, first gentile convert to Christianity

On Thursday 14th: **THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE GIVING CROSS**

Repose of **Saint John Chrysostom** (407)

On Saturday 16th: **Saint Edith** of Wilton (984)

We wish **Edie O** a **Happy Feast and Many Years!**

On Sunday 17th: **Saint Sophia** and her daughters **Faith (Vera)**, **Hope (Nadezhda)** and **Love (Lubov)** (2ndC)

We wish **Sophia R** and **Nadya K** a **Happy Feast and Many Years!**

On Friday 22nd: **Saint Paraskeva**, Fool-for-Christ of Diveyevo (1915)

On Saturday 23rd: **The Conception of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**

On Sunday 24th: Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles **Thecla** (1st C)

Saint Silouan of Mount Athos (1938)

On Monday 25th: **Saint Sergius of Radonezh** (1392)

On Tuesday 26th: **Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian**

We wish **Father John** a **Happy Feast and Many Years!**

On Friday 29th: Hieromonk **Kuksha of Odessa** (1875-1964) (*See* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuksha_of_Odessa)

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

Source: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America <https://www.goarch.org/exaltation>


Noticeboard

Friday September 1 st :	Beginning of the Church New Year Akathist: 'Glory to God for All Things'	6pm	
Sunday 3 rd :	Divine Liturgy	10.30am	
Thursday 7 th :	Vespers	6pm	(For the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God)
Saturday 9 th :	Vespers	6pm	
Sunday 10 th :	Typika	10.30am	(Celebration of the Feast of the Mother of God)
Wednesday 13 th :	Vespers	6pm	(For the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross)
Saturday 16 th :	Vespers	6pm	
Sunday 17 th :	Divine Liturgy	10.30am	(Celebration of the Feast of the Cross)
<u>Saturday 23rd:</u>	Divine Liturgy	10.30am	<u>followed by Bring and Share Lunch</u>
Saturday 30 th :	Divine Liturgy <u>at Combe Martin</u>	10.30	(To be confirmed)
Sunday October 1 st :	Divine Liturgy	10.30am	


All services in Saint Anne's unless stated otherwise

For services in the Romanian parish (Exeter and Newton Abbot) consult <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064673836911> or telephone Fr Julian on **07469 262827**.

Similarly for the Torquay parish either visit https://www.facebook.com/standrewtorquay/?locale=en_GB or telephone Robert Skrivanos on **07971 316416**. For services in Plymouth visit plymchurch.com



IOCS SUMMER INSTITUTE 2023



**'Finding God in the Everyday:
Faith, Profession, Vocation'**

Wesley House, Cambridge, 11-12 September 2023 (9am – 6.30pm BST),
also with Zoom participation

The aim of our Summer Institute this year is to bring together voices from within the wider Church who will speak of how their Christian faith meets their profession, their work, or their vocation.

<p>Our speakers:</p> <p>Dr Sister Vassa Larin Revd Prof Brandon Gallaher Dr Alexander Lingas Dr Hermina Nedelescu Aidan Hart Dr Petre Maican Dr Sebastian Koga MD Dr Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis Dr Ana-Maria Pascal Marina Robb</p>	<p>Participation Fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site participation: £100 • Online participation: £75 <p>Discounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students: £70 on-site/£50 online • IOCS students: £50 on-site/£25 online.
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To enrol and for more information visit:
www.iocs.cam.ac.uk
 Or email us at: info@iocs.cam.ac.uk

Twelfth Night at Exeter Cathedral

Wednesday 27 – Saturday 30 September at 7:30pm

The newly re-founded *Cathedral Players* are debuting with a production of Shakespeare's classic comedy *Twelfth Night*. Staged in the heart of the Cathedral and partially lit by candlelight, the run, from 27 – 30 September, is much anticipated. Grab your tickets now and come along for a night of fun, hilarity and as much staged debauchery as Canon Law will allow!

When twins Viola and Sebastian, find themselves shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria, both believe the other has drowned. Viola disguises herself as a young man and seeks employment in the court of a local Duke, Orsino, who is hard set on wooing the local beauty Olivia, who in turn is resistant to all his overtures of love. When the fresh-faced Viola is sent to petition Olivia for her lord, a love triangle develops, which can only be resolved after much hilarity, 'burning of sack' and, of course, Malvolio's infamous yellow stockings! A variety of seating is available, including standing for those that wish to experience the true 'groundling' experience. So book your tickets now!

Tickets: Range from £10 to £15

[Book your ticket](#)

From *Cathedral Life*

Charlie and Luka's Baptism

Charlie and Luka were baptised by Father Brandon and Father Trayan in Saint Andrew's Church in Torquay on the beautiful Feast of the Dormition. Irina Scorer sponsored Charlie, who took the baptismal name Arsenios, and Nadya Keenan sponsored Luka, who took the name George.



WE
WISH
ARSENIOS
AND
GEORGE
MANY
MANY
YEARS!

Your Own News, Please!

As we gather again for the new Church Year, many of you will have been away during the summer and come back with some vivid memories. Please let us know about any beautiful places you have visited, feasts you have attended, or remarkable people you have met (including local saints we might not know about). There is always room for your input – this is **your** newsletter, after all. *Ed.*

Contributions for the October issue should reach the Editors at martinolsson827@btinternet.com or by post at *Little Linhay, Bondleigh, EX20 2AJ* by **Monday 25th September**, please.

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are entirely those of the named authors or identified sources and should not be taken as representing the views of the parish as a whole.