

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

Having been invigorated by the restful period of the summer season, a season that is full of feasts, fasts and many opportunities to grow in the image and likeness of God, we approach the beginning of the Ecclesiastical year full of enthusiasm and great expectation. We look at the world in a different light and we are excited to get back to our routines.

Yet this period of rest also has the possibility of making us lose our focus. We see this in other periods of our lives as well. Many of us who make our New Years resolutions in January, see them flounder by April. Goodness knows that I fail at keeping my own resolutions from time to time. We all do. Today I ask you to make a resolution with me now, one that with work we fulfil, and will indeed bring us closer to God. This resolution is to re-dedicate your life to God . By offering your entire self, (your life, your talents and your treasures), you will be filled with the blessings of God and see before you endless possibilities.

Join us as we continue the process of re-dedication. And most especially join us as we “commit ourselves, each other, and our whole life to Christ our God” every Sunday at the Divine Liturgy and every day of our lives.



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PARISH NEWS

Epistle Readers for September

Anyone wishing to become an Epistle Reader,
Please Contact Father Michael

Sunday, September 7, 2025:

Sunday before the Cross:

Aletheia Hadjis

Sunday, September 14, 2025:

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross:

Mary Rankin

Sunday, September 21, 2025:

Sunday after the Cross:

Alexa Florence

Sunday, September 28, 2025:

1st Sunday of Luke:

Kim Eastland

Evening Meal Volunteers

September 24, 2025: Dena Manta and

Alexa Florence

October 22, 2025: Randy and Chris Smith

November 20, 2025: (Thursday)

Ted Pitsoulakis and Jimmy Pliakos

December 18, 2025: (Thursday)

Deacon Paul and Deaconess Romilie

Speed

Anyone interested in taking part in this
worthwhile ministry should contact

Mary Winters at 563-726-2880

PASTORAL NOTES

- We need Vasiliko plants or cut Vasiliko for the celebration of the Litany of the Holy Cross, which will take place on Sunday, September 14th, the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. If you can be of assistance, please bring them to the church by Saturday, September 13th.
- Please Note: The Procession of the Holy Cross on the Feast Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14) will occur following Orthros as is the ancient Tradition of the Church and not following the Divine Liturgy.

PARISH COUNCIL SUNDAY DUTY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 7, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Pete Hadjis

Sunday, September 14, 2025: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis, and Mary Rankin

Sunday, September 21, 2025: Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, and Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, September 28, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Pete Hadjis

Parish Registry

40-Day Blessing

John, the son of John and Kelsey Blamoun, was presented to the Holy Church on Sunday, August 24, 2025.

Funeral

The servant of God, Jennie Elbers, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on July 19, 2025.

FESTIVAL NEWS

- Time to gear up & start our preparations ... we need your help! Please plan to come to the church for:

1. September 1st - RI Labor Day Parade: We participate in the parade, handing out candy & admission tickets. Stay tuned, details to come.

2. September 2nd @10:00am - Baklava cutting & packing (lunch to be served)

3. September 2nd through September 4th @ 8:30 a.m. Kitchen Prep

4. Thank you in advance for helping make our festival a success!

- As we have in previous years, the Sunday following our Festival is a "dress-down" Sunday. Following the Divine Liturgy, we will be cleaning up after the festival. Come to worship dressed to work!

PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, September 7, 2025:
Open

Sunday, September 14, 2025:
Open

Sunday, September 21, 2025:
Open

Sunday, September 28, 2025:
Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, September 7, 2025: Day After
Fest/No Coffee Hour
Sunday, September 14, 2025:

Jimmy Pliakos
Sunday, September 21, 2025:

Diane And Bill
Whitehead
Sunday, September 28, 2025:

Angela and Jason Leon

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8)

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Church celebrates the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Nazareth, Galilee. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without a child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God, everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna, even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts. Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child that the Lord might give them to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore, the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem, the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim, in deep grief, went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but instead she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that God heard their prayers, and that a most blessed daughter, Mary, would be born to them, through whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue, and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

The Exaltation of the Cross (September 14)

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem, as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and, after bringing it to Constantinople, escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labour. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

2025 SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Labor Day Office Closed Rock Island Labor Day Parade	2 8:30 a.m. Kitchen Prep 10:00 a.m. Baklava and Ouzo cake packaging FESTIVAL SET UP AND PREPARATION ALL WEEK	3 Fast Day 8:30 a.m. Kitchen Prep	4 8:30 a.m. Kitchen Prep	5 Fast Day Greek Fest 4:00 p.m through 11:00 p.m.	6 Greek Fest 11:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m.
7 The Sunday before the Cross 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Dress-Down Sunday	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church	9 7:00 p.m. Zoom Orthodox Study Forum	10 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. "In-Person" Orthodox Study Forum	11 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	12 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	13
14 The Elevation of the Holy Cross Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy <i>Please note: The procession of the Holy Cross will occur following Orthros as is the ancient tradition and not the Divine Liturgy</i>	15	16 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	17 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. "In-Person" Orthodox Study Forum	18 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	19 Fast Day	20
21 The Sunday after the Cross 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes begin following Holy Communion	22	23 7:00 p.m. Zoom Orthodox Study Forum	24 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. "In-Person" Orthodox Study Forum	25 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	26 Fast Day	27
28 2nd Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion	29	30 7:00 p.m. Zoom Orthodox Study Forum				