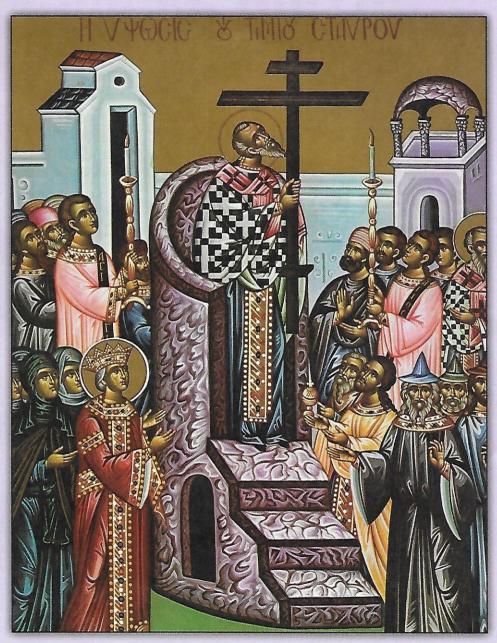
SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

Confession, the Forgiveness of Sins

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (John 20:19-23)

There, the risen Christ gives to His disciples the power of binding and loosing sins – a juridical power. This task of binding and loosing was transmitted from the apostles to their successors, the bishops. In the early church, the

administration of penance was something public; it didn't involve the private giving of counsel or advice. It was something exceptional. You hoped, by God's mercy, that you wouldn't have to be involved in penance. Indeed, the penances that were imposed were by our standards extremely severe. It often requires a leap of the imagination on our part to think of how life was in the ancient church. For example, for fornication - I mean, sex outside of marriage - St. Gregory of Nyssa assigns a penance of nine years without communion. St. Basil is a little more merciful, he says seven years without communion. Finally, in the sixth and seventh century, in the canonical legislation of St. John the Faster, it's been reduced to two years. Even so, by our standard, that may well seem severe.

Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware)

Saints Peter & Paul Crainian Catholic Church

Hurst Street at Union Avenue Post office Box 126 Bridgeport, Pennsylvania 19405

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"Glory to Jesus Christ!"
"Slava Isusu Khristoo!"

September 8, 2019 Birthdate of Mary

THE BIRTH OF Mary the Theotokos is celebrated on Sep. 8, such that we we will celebrate this great holyday this Saturday and Sunday this weekend, Mary's parents Joachim and Anna gave birth to this little Jewish girl, who was destined by God's Providence to become the Mother of Jesus our Savior and Messiah. We will honor Mary this weekend by singing our Marian hymns and anointing all the faithful.

OUR CHURCH PAINTING of the choir loft, assorted windows and sanctuary is just about complete. We trust that you will all appreciate the professional work of the Hooven Companyand. We thank the Hooven people for making our church even more beautiful that ever.

CURRENT JOBS ON THE DOCKET here at the parish include completing the church painting, fertilizing the orchard trees, cutting the bushes along the western side of the hall, painting the rectory garage fascia and soffit boards, and continuing our ongoing battle against the Chinese lantern flies. We are also changing out the bulbs in our main room of the Hall as well as professionally cleaning the school. Wow!

OUR PARISH SCHOOL will begin the new school year with a formal registration of ALL PARISH SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH on Saturday and Sunday, Sep. 21 and 22, before and after the regular liturgies. All our dear parents must understand that every parish child must attend our School, i.e. if you want to have a Ukrainian Catholic Church here in Bridgeport in future years. Simply speaking, your children are our future! Our school is free for all our families and we have classes for all our youth, from Preschool through Highschool

OUR SCHOOL STAFF will meet on Thursday, Sep. 12, at 6:30 pm in our School Library. We trust that all our teachers and staff will be with us Sep. 12 to prepare for the new school year.

OUR PHOENIXVILLE PARISH will host a Ukrainiann festival on Sunday, Sep. 15 from 11 am to 5 pm. All our faithful are invited to share in the music, dancing, eating and imbibing with our Phoenixville brethern.

DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Peter and Barbara Martinick (Parish Sunday School)
Sunday, 9 am +George Hodowanec (The Kochanowsky Family)
Thursday, 7 am +Roman Kruk (Wife Kay)
Friday, 7 am +George Halas (The Maruszczak Family)
Saturday, 8 am +Dempsey Dudziak (Kathy Plush)
Saturday, 6 pm +Davis and Hitchens Family (Maryellen Hitchens)
Sunday, 9 am +Yaroslawa Dejneka (Irene and Sophie)

TODAY'S TROPAR: O Virgin Mother of God, your birth has announced great joy to all the world, for from you has shone forth the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. He abolished the curse and bestowed a blessing on us all. He gave us eternal life.

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND...

TODAY'S KONTAK:

O Most Pure One Mary, your people were freed from punishment for their sins through your birth and later by your delivering to the world our Savior Jesus Christ. We all sing our hymns of praise to you, the Theotokos Mary, for giving birth to the Savior of all the world, Jesus the Christ.

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

TR. Konold