

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2024**

**AFTERFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**

**Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 and 1 Cor. 15:1-11**

**Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 and Matt. 19:16-26**

**Kontakion – Tone 1**

**O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance. / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries. / And by virtue of Your Cross, / preserve Your habitation.**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Joseph, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna and Birgit. Amen!

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THE WEEKLY BULLETIN  
**HOLY SPIRIT  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

[www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

**September 15th, 2024**

**AFTERFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS - In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.** Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition. Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6). In order to discover which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found. Christians came in a huge crowd to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326. During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate.

## Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5pm Saturdays

**Hours:** 9:45am Sundays

**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00am Sundays

**Confessions:** Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

**Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

## Dates to Remember

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of September**

**Great Vespers at 6 pm**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of September**

**Divine Liturgy at 9 am**

**Panikhida for Lidya Novinskaia at 4 pm**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of September**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of September**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Visitors Welcome

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us. Following Divine Liturgy, please join us for light refreshments in the church hall.

### Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence, Archbishop Michael – 9/11 Commemoration

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael was at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church on Wednesday, September 11th to worship with us and commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Co-serving with His Eminence were Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Protopresbyter Chris Talleos, Hieromonk Ieremia Berbec, Protopresbyter Iakovos Fitzpatrick, Archpriest George Kevorkian, Father Michael Palamara and Father Michael Pejovic. The service was in honor and remembrance of the firefighters, police, first responders, and all who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001, at World Trade Center, Pentagon and Pennsylvania. A powerful homily was delivered by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. Parishioners of Holy Spirit Orthodox Church welcomed members of the Volunteer Fire Departments to worship with us. Following the Memorial Service was a blessing of fire engines and other fire equipment. A light dinner followed the service.

### Thank you!

Through your tireless work and sacrifice Holy Spirit Orthodox Church managed to raise approximately 16,000\$ at the last New Jersey State Fair. Furthermore, on our last Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday, Holy Spirit Orthodox Church raised 100\$ for the needs of this ministry.

### Religious Education

The HSOC Sunday program began on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All youths are welcome and invited to participate. Speak with Beth Lamlamay to register your child or for more information.

### Warwick Applefest 2024 is Coming! Sunday, October 6, 9am-5pm

This is one of the biggest events in the country with more than 30,000 people attending. HSOC will again participate in this one-day fundraising event in beautiful Warwick, NY. This is your opportunity to volunteer in this event and one of HSOC's biggest fundraisers. A sign-up sheet will be available soon. For more information, speak with Mike and Nadine Olsen or Mark Benda.

### DDB Appreciation Dinner in the New York City Deanery

You are cordially invited to attend a New York City Deanery Appreciation Dinner for the 2023 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, hosted with gratitude by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. The dinner will take place on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at 5:00 pm at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 46 Seymour Street, Yonkers, NY 10701. You are encouraged to bring family members and parish guests.

### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com).