

### *Whatever Their Size, Carry Them*

“Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel’s will save it.” One who knew the meaning of Jesus’ words so well was Flannery O’Connor, the distinguished Catholic novelist who died in 1964 at the age of 39. From the age of 25 she lived with the knowledge she had a terminal disease, Lupus, – not to mention her sufferings from bone disintegration, shingles, anemia, and a tumor. Yet it was during fourteen years of sickness and suffering that she produced her greatest works of literary art. Her strong faith enabled her to say: “I have never been anywhere but sick. In a sense sickness is a place, more instructive than a long trip to Europe. Sickness before death is a very appropriate thing and I think those who don’t have it miss one of God’s mercies ...”

Those are strong words! How could a young woman call sickness one of God’s mercies? Yet Jesus’

words in the Gospel are just as strong: “If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in my steps.”

In some way Flannery O’Connor was able to accept the cross of her sickness and follow in the Lord’s footsteps. But she didn’t do it with a nice sweet smile on her face. She did it with strong courage and conviction. She realized that her own sickness was the very thing that helped her to look at life around her with the eyes of faith; and to translate that life into literary pages that would win her international fame as a writer. Each one of us is called upon to carry a cross in our life at some time. For some it may be the cross of emotional or spiritual suffering, rather than physical suffering. Sometimes there are big crosses, sometimes small. Whatever their size, Jesus calls upon us to carry them.

## SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

## **ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL**

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

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**Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355**

**Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413**

**Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355**

**Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500**

**Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation:** Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

**Day of Feast:** 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

**Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.**

**Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org**

### **September 20, 2020**

## **Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**This Sunday: Epistle Gal 2:16-20**

**Gospel Mk 8:34-9:1**

**Next Sunday: Epistle 2 Cor 9:6-11**

**Gospel Lk 5:1-11**

### **Weekly Liturgy Schedule**

Monday 9/21

No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 9/22

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Jacquelin Cassel by Grace  
Mary Fein

Wednesday 9/23

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Sr. Mary Dunn, OSB by Jim and  
Esther Dershaw

Thursday 9/24

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family

Friday 9/25

8:30am Divine Liturgy: Happy Anniversary Grete and  
Daniel Heatherly

Saturday 9/26

No Divine Liturgy

**Sunday 9/27**

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*Church Bulletin donated in September 2020 by Ana and William Galida for  
health and salvation of Barbara Greavu.*

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at [stgeorge.click2stream.com](http://stgeorge.click2stream.com). Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

All are invited to coffee hour in the small hall and outside provided by Ovidiu and Ioana Apan in memory of deceased loved ones. Thank you!

**Sunday Collection: September 13, 2020**

Loose	\$20.00
Sunday envelopes	\$982.00
Candles	<u>\$123.00</u>
Total	\$1,125.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
Special Intention	Mihai and Elena Florea
In memory of deceased loved ones	Mihai and Elena Florea
Special Intention	Anonymous
Special Intention	Anonymous
Special Intention	Anonymous
Special Intention	Anonymous
H/S Stella Lazar and Family	Mircea Cristea
H/S Suzie Dragos and Family	Mircea Cristea
In thanksgiving for the ladies who helped me with coffee hour	Mircea Cristea

+Patricia Galida  
+John Dragos, husband  
H/S All Family  
Special Intention  
H/S Stella Lazar  
+Metodia and +Mary Cristea  
+Eberhart and Dragos Family  
Special Intention  
Blessings for our anniversary  
+Frank and +Marian Orlando  
H/S Stella Lazar, Mircea's sister  
+Patrick, Bridgit, Gerald, Geneta  
H/S Kathy Walsh  
H/S Peggy Rowles  
Special intention: Linda Sousa  
H/S Barb Greavu and Family  
H/S Sue Sampson and Family  
H/S Susie Preston  
H/S Deb Bredon and Family  
+Gottfried Knetsch, parents and all family  
members  
H/S Jerry Donahue, Barb and Bob Greavu,  
Livi and Geta Barcutian, Sheila Diotale,  
George Knetsch and Family. Happy birthday  
Fr. Ovi and Aunt Alice Loop!  
H/S Barbara Greavu  
+Moise  
H/S Fr. Radu  
+My Dad  
H/S Nasu Mircea Cristea and Nasa Stella  
Lazar  
H/S My Mom

William Galida  
Suzie Dragos  
Suzie Dragos  
Suzie Dragos  
Suzie Dragos  
Suzie Dragos  
Suzie Dragos  
Suzie Dragos  
Scott and Jaime Parker  
Tony Orlando  
Tony Orlando  
Harry and Kathy Walsh  
Harry and Kathy Walsh  
Harry and Kathy Walsh  
Harry and Kathy Walsh  
Harry and Kathy Walsh  
Dave and Debbie Murari  
Dave and Debbie Murari  
Dave and Debbie Murari  
Dave and Debbie Murari  
Chuck Roska Family  
  
Chuck Roska Family  
  
Livi and Georgeta Barcutian  
Livi and Georgeta Barcutian  
Livi and Georgeta Barcutian  
Susie Xeloures  
Susie Xeloures  
  
Susie Xeloures

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## **Special Announcement:**

**Please pray for:** Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

**Sick and homebound:** Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

**For holy Baptism** contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

**For First Reconciliation** contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

**For Weddings** contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

**To guarantee announcements for the bulletin**, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

**Altar Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated by **the Craciun Family for the health of Mrs. Georgeta Barcutian and Mrs. Mary Cornea.**

**Left Iconostasis Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated by **Maria Poplacean in honor of the living and in memory of the deceased persons that were born in the month of September: In honor of Vicky Unger, Connie Unger, Sharon Ernst, Jennifer Johnson, Ana Heim, Ana Ivanus. In memory of Bishop +Louis Puscas, +Opal Junka, +Sherry (Hank) Valentine.**

**Right Iconostasis Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated in **celebration of Grete and Daniel Heatherly's 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Fr. Ovi and P-sa Gabriela Marginean's 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Ana and William Galida. Congratulations and many healthy and happy years to all!**

**Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated **Tony Orlando.**

If you would like to sponsor a candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

**Prescura for August 2020:** Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

## **Announcements**

**Bishop John Michael Botean** will be the guest on AM1260, a Catholic radio station out of Cleveland. It will air today at 1:00pm. Their website is <https://am1260therock.com/>. The show can be listened to at the website or on the radio.

For the sick and homebound, St. George Cathedral offers a **live stream** of the Divine Liturgy which can be found at the following website: [stgeorge.click2stream.com](http://stgeorge.click2stream.com). Please make sure that you turn on the sound at the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

**Amazon** donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to smile.amazon.com. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you for using smile.amazon.com!

**Benefit Dinner for the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery** will be hosted on Saturday, November 7th, at a new location: Saint Elias Melkite Catholic Church in Cleveland. There is no cost to attend the dinner, but registration is required by October 26. Adults 21 and older may attend. Enjoy

buffet dinner, entertainment and an evening with the nuns and their guests. Learn more about and support the nuns and their life of prayer and hospitality. Donations given at the event or designated ahead of time will be doubled by matching donors. If an in-person event is not possible, a live online event may be held. For more information and to register my please visit [www.christthebridegroom.org](http://www.christthebridegroom.org) or call 440-834-0290.

### **Parish events:**

**Stewardship Committee** will meet on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30pm.

### **To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺**

The pastor has been asked to say a few words about mothers at the annual Mother's Day's Tea. His wife is coaching him on proper manners.

Wife: "George, you have such atrocious tea table manners."

Pastor: "You're supposed to stick your little finger out when you drink tea."

Wife: "With the tea bag hanging from it?"

### **Word of Life**

"Throughout salvation history, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. Jesus concludes the parable of the lost sheep with these words: 'there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance' (Lk 15:7)\*."

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

**"Life Matters: Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion"**

For all whose hearts ache from participating in abortion:  
may they be strengthened to seek the Lord's compassion, mercy, and healing  
in the Sacrament of Reconciliation;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

**Happy Birthday! La mulți ani!!!**

James Walsh – September 20<sup>th</sup>

	Mon 9/21	Tue 9/22	Wed 9/23	Thu 9/24	Fri 9/25	Sat 9/26	Sun 9/27
	Charles and Coleen Apostle of the 70,	Hieromartyr Phocas	Conception of St. Abstinence	Great-martyr Thecla,	Grete and Daniel Ven. Euphrosyna of Abstinence	Dormition of the	Callistratus and his 1ST SUNDAY AFTER
9am		Liturgy: H/S Jacquelin Cassel by Grace Mary Fein 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: +Sr. Mary Dunn, OSB by Jim and Esther Dershaw 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: Happy Anniversary Grete and Daniel Heatherly 8:30am - 9:30am		
10am							Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							
12pm							Coffee: 11:30am - 12:30pm
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm			Stewardship Committee meeting Virtual 6:30pm - 8pm				



THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PASSAGES that we find in one of the Gospels but not in the others. The raising of Lazarus, for example, is recorded only in John. The birth of John the Baptist, certain of the Lord's parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet are found in only one Gospel, not the others. It may be that the people who first witnessed one of these events or heard a certain teaching were important to the local community and emphasized it in their preaching. Thus this episode found a place in the Gospel written in that community.

This is not the case for the Lord's call for anyone who would seek to be His follower to "*take up his cross and follow me*" (Mk 8:34). This teaching is found in each of the four Gospels, suggesting that it was important to the first Christians throughout the early Church. One could not be a Christian without carrying one's cross, they all affirmed, but what does this key passage mean? What is one's cross? Is it one's spouse, or one's rheumatism, as is often held, or is it something more?

In the ancient world, the cross was a symbol of shame reserved for executing the least important members of society. From about the sixth century BC until the practice was abolished by the Emperor St Constantine the Great in the fourth century AD, crucifixion was the "preferred" method of executing slaves, captives and the worst criminals who had no rights in the ruling culture. The painful nature of this punishment is the source of our English word *excruciating*.

For Christians, the cross quickly became the symbol of sacrifice, of self-giving in imitation of Christ. As Christ's sacrifice on the cross was the moment of His glorification, so the Christian's sacrifice would be seen as the time of his or her exaltation with Christ as well.

### **Sacrificing One's Life**

The first Christians were acutely aware that they might be called to follow Christ to a literal cross, sacrificing their lives as He did. Thus the apostolic brothers Peter and Andrew and some others were actually crucified by pagan authorities. Countless others since then have met their deaths in a host of ways. Practically every day we commemorate martyrs among the saints. This week alone we honor several martyrs of the Roman persecutions: the Great Martyrs Euphemia (9/16), Eustathius and his family (9/20) and a dozen others. Local Churches may also commemorate other martyrs from the Persian, Arab, Turkish or Communist persecutions.

For the followers of Christ, martyrdom is never very far away. Christians today in many parts of Asia and Africa are giving up their lives rather than deny their faith in Christ their Savior. The demise of militant atheistic Communism was followed quickly by the rise of militant Islamism and even militant Hinduism and ultra-Orthodox Judaism as these peoples strive vainly to purify their cultures from foreign influences. Recently a watchdog group in Europe concluded that more than 100,000 Christians

are killed each year "because of some relation to their faith."

### **Sacrificing One's Self**

As Christ's death was the consequence of His assuming our whole nature, the sacrifice of blood-martyrdom is inseparably tied to the martyr's witness to Christ. The very word *martyr* means witness, a witness made at the cost of one's life. The Gospel indicates another kind of witnessing unto death in this passage, when Christ says, "*let him deny himself and take up his cross...*" (Mk 8:34). In addition to our physical life which may be sacrificed in blood-martyrdom, we also have an inner life: the life of our ego. We want do this, own that, eat or drink this. We can satisfy every urge that our material resources allow, or we can deny ourselves to witness to Christ. This is the heart of *asceticism*, whether in its institutional expression (monasticism) or in the call of every Christian to place God and others first in our lives.

The first such self-denial is that to which St Paul urges us: "*Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Rom 6:11). We are called to destroy that part of us which is bound up with sin – the passions of our broken human nature – and to be crucified interiorly.

In another place, St Paul becomes more explicit: "*Therefore put to death your members which are of the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry*" (Col 3:5).

As St Augustine noted centuries ago, this does not mean that we are to kill or maim ourselves "...but it does mean that one should kill whatever in oneself is unduly attached to the earthly, which makes one take inordinate pleasure in this present life to the neglect of the life to come" (Letter to Laetus). We are to deal violently with our sinful actions and inclinations in imitation of Christ's death on the cross.

In no previous age has the average person been more able to avail himself of entertainments every day. In our society the stuff of popular entertainment is sin: greed, lust, violence and the rest. It permeates TV, sleazy movies, the Internet and even commercials. It appeals to the voyeur and the gossip in us. The follower of Christ is called to put aside these entertainments, dying to internet porn, celebrity gossip, and whatever else is "*of the earth.*"

Our economy is built on consumerism: buying the newest, biggest whatever – simply because we can. Commercials would have us believe that doing so will make us happy and fulfilled. The message of dying to self, on the other hand, calls us to live simply that others may simply live.

Our immediate concerns, our convenience, and the welfare of those closest to us often blind us to the needs of the wider Church and the world around us. Can dying to self also involve putting to death the parochialism of our everyday lives?

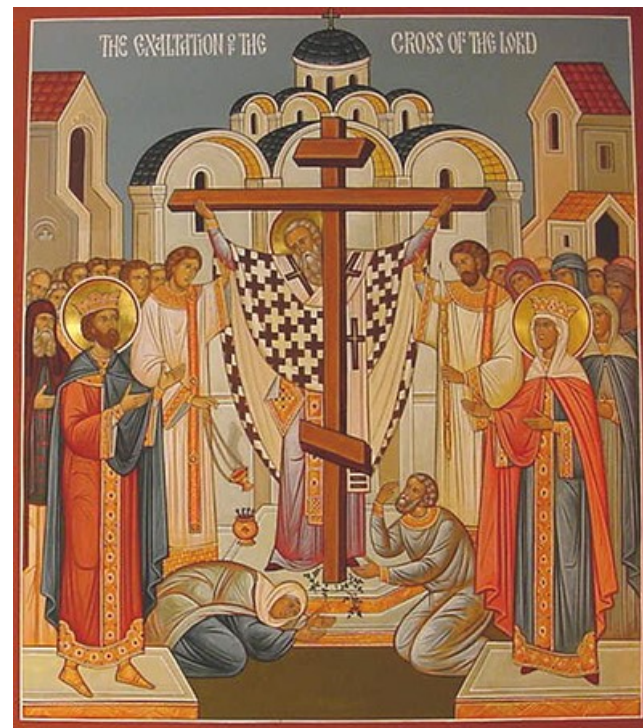
It often happens, as St Augustine noted, that our cross drags us along, rather than we carry it. We find the precepts of the Gospels

burdensome rather than life-giving, and we observe them only out of a sense of obligation. When we do take up the cross, the Fathers remind us, we need to keep our eyes upon Christ whom we are but following. In the words of Caesarius of Arles, "To what place are we to follow Christ, if not where He has already gone? We know that He has risen and ascended into heaven; there, then, we must follow Him. There is no cause for despair – by ourselves we can do nothing, but we have Christ's promise... Human sin made the road rough; Christ's resurrection has leveled it. By passing over it Himself, He transformed the narrowest of tracks into a royal highway" (Sermon 159, 6).

Come, O people and behold a most glorious wonder – let us worship the power of the Cross. A tree brought about death in paradise, but this tree has caused life to blossom forth, for the sinless Lord was nailed to it. Receiving incorruption from it, all you nations, let us cry: You who abolished Death by the cross and freed us, glory to You!

Exapostilarion of the Feast

*Sunday during the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*



**A Tree  
Blossoming  
Forth Life**