Exaltation of the Holy Cross - September 14
September 12, 2021

Saints Cyril and Methodius
Byzantine Catholic Church
2510 Piney Plains Road
Cary, NC 27518-6870
919-239-4877
Reverend Father Vasyl Sokolovych
Parochial Administrator
(908-404-0777)
Ryan Liebhaber, Deacon

Sunday
9:00 and 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy
(If unable to attend in person, our 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
is streamed via our Facebook page.)

E-Mail: sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com
Web Site: sscyrilmethodius.org
| SUNDAY  | SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS | 8:30 AM Confession  
|---------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| September 12 | Gal 6:11-18  
| Tone 7 | Jn 3:13-17  
| | 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
| | 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
| Monday | Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection | 6:30 Vespers  
| September 13 | Heb 3:1-4  
| | Mt 16:13-18  
| Tuesday | EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS | 6:30 Divine Liturgy  
| September 14 | 1 Cor 1:18-24  
| | Jn 19:6-11; 13-21; 25-27; 30-35  
| Wednesday | Nicetas - Great-Martyr | 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy  
| September 15 | Eph 3:8-21  
| | Mk 11:23-26  
| Thursday | Euphemia - Great-Martyr | 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy  
| September 16 | Eph 4:14-19  
| | Mk 11:27-33  
| Friday | Sophia and Others - Martyrs | 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy  
| September 17 | Eph 4:17-25  
| | Mk 12:1-12  
| Saturday | Saturday After the Exaltation of the Cross | 4:00 PM St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy  
| September 18 | Eumenius - Bishop  
| | 1 Cor 1:26-29  
| | Jn 8:21-30  
| SUNDAY  | SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS | 8:30 AM Confession  
| September 19 | Gal 2:16-20  
| Tone 8 | Jn 3:13-17  
| | 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
| | 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy  

Call the parish office (919-239-4877) to make an appointment or to speak with Fr. Vasyl (908-404-0777).

**SSCM CHURCH/HALL SCHEDULE**

The St. Nicholas Mission celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church every Saturday at 4:00 PM.

The Eritrean Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

The Coptic Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting, please contact one of the members: Mike Carpenter, Marie Taylor, Paul Tooley, Paul Cwik, Will Leatherwood, Dan Pope, and Mike Sapsara.

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website. "Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)

On Sunday, September 12 at both Divine Liturgies, commissioning prayers will be offered for the adult teachers and leaders who will be working with our children for the 2021-2022 school year for Eastern Christian Formation, the ByzantTeens, and other youth oriented activities.
SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
September 12, 2021

If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family. If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at:

sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!
SLAVONIC: SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA VIKI!

Please remember in your prayers:
Augustine Griffith, Mary Jo and Bill Smith; Jerry Kingery; Lance Morgan; Sophia Rose; John Patrick Rose; Rachel Blair; David Hoover; Cameron Shuey; Dale Blair; Bernadette’s parents and aunts: Andrew, Etta, Martha and Yolanda; Father Mark and family; Father Vasyl and family.

Please pray for the repose + of the souls of our faithful departed:
+Holly Kingery, +Elizabeth Macario, +Luke Morgan, +Natalie and John Morgan,
+Rev. Fr. Richard Rohrer, +Gloria Shuey, +Victor Quintero, + Maria Victoria Quintero

In Blessed Repose, Grant O Lord, Eternal Rest to the Soul of Your Departed Servants and May their Memory be Eternal.

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills must be paid. Thanks to all who continue to serve our church with their time, talent, and treasure. We are grateful to our volunteers and parents who will serve as catechists for our children for the 2021-2022 school year.

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Many thanks to our church cleaning volunteers which means no one is cleaning more than once every three months. Volunteers may do the cleaning anytime during the week when the church is not in use. Please contact Marie Taylor at marie@8taylors.com if you want to participate in this very important ministry for our church. Thank you to our current volunteers!

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1-7</td>
<td>Margie Tooley</td>
<td>Aug 29-Sept 4</td>
<td>Mary Carpenter</td>
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<td>Aug 8-14</td>
<td>Karen Quintero</td>
<td>Sept 5-11</td>
<td>Nathan Tooley</td>
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<td>Aug 15-21</td>
<td>Cwik/Deaton</td>
<td>Sept 12-18</td>
<td>Lance Morgan</td>
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<td>Aug 22-28</td>
<td>Lisa Rose</td>
<td>Sept 19-25</td>
<td>Will &amp; Sam Leatherwood</td>
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New signs have been placed to direct traffic flow onto and off the church property. Please enter at the "church parking" entrance at the old rectory. The exit is now clearly marked and should not be used for two-way traffic.
In Matthew 25:14-30, we read about the faithful servant and the lazy servant. Jesus told the parable of the talents to the apostles before his imprisonment and death sentence. With it He summed up His earthly activities. Jesus Christ came to earth to reveal to us the love of the Father, and with that love on the cross, He delivered people from the bondage of sin to eternal life. However, many people, full of selfishness, did not accept Christ, and rejected God's love and salvation.

The word talent has broad and deep symbolic meanings. It means different gifts of God; such as, spiritual gifts, love, health, life, time, and opportunities for conversion. It also can mean to lose talent, and not use opportunities for love and conversion. God gives us not only gifts, but also opportunities to use them. Christ says, "He gave them his property, to each one according to his ability." It is not important to the Lord how many talents His servant has received, but what efforts He has made to accomplish all that God requires of him. Talent is the Father's love for me, which must "double" and respond to it in the form of my love for others. My response to that love makes me a son of the Father. Christ invites us to do to our neighbors what He first did for us on earth. If talent is a gift of the love we have received, then our love for Him, expressed in relation to the poor, is the talent we must redouble. Only then will we become like Him, and as children of God be able to share in the glory of our Father in heaven.

To increase talents also means to show your fidelity to God, hope in Him. He who does not double his talent, which is love of God in the person of others, will lose it and with it will lose eternal life. Eternity is an atmosphere of constant and inexhaustible love of God for those who will be with God. It is love that is the basis of salvation and eternal life.

The talent of love we have received from the Father is our immortal soul, as the best work of His love. He who does not fill his soul with love in earthly life will not be able to be saved and will lose eternal life.

The reason for wasting talent by a third servant is the wrong image of God. If we imagine Him as an evil and ruthless ruler, then our attitude toward Him will not be love, but fear and laziness. When we encounter lies, cruelty, and injustice in our daily lives, we get the impression that God has forgotten about us and deprived the world of His care. Then the human heart is cold to good deeds and to the fight against evil, because it sees no hope for the improvement of life.

The third servant, handing over the report for the received talent, condemns the master that he is a cruel and selfish man. Similarly, man condemns God for his unhappy life, “You gave me life, you did not give me happiness.” The lazy servant was punished not only for burying his talent and not acquiring anything, but also for not wanting to admit his frivolous deeds - to repent. He did not want to admit that he had done wrong. To better understand the meaning of the parable of the talents, it should be combined with Jesus' doctrine of the Last Judgment. The parable of the talents is closely related to the science of the Last Judgment, which follows immediately after this parable. The participants in the trial justify themselves, defending themselves with the words, "When did we see you hungry?" Many Christians believe that praying, going to church, confessing and partaking of the sacrament from time to time are enough for salvation. But they do not pay enough attention to the quality of their spiritual life: the spirit of love and fulfillment of all the commandments in daily life. Their behavior is similar to the third servant. Such persons can also face severe condemnation of Christ. The words of Jesus Christ "I was hungry, thirsty, etc." can be continued with the following words: “You came to Me in the temple, in confession, in communion, I gave you opportunities for correction, but you did not use them, did not live by the commandments - served and worshiped idols and served selfishness, for they cared more for the good of the body than for the good of the soul; they preferred human glory because they listened to the thoughts of men rather than the will of God, they trusted in themselves more than in God.”

The Lord God gives each of us His love in various gifts and opportunities to help others, and what do I do with it? Do I keep it just for myself, or can other people feel it in me and benefit from it? The parable of the talents shows that salvation is obtained by giving love to others, which then fills us even more. Lack of love in the world can cause us fear and induce laziness to perform good deeds. But this is a purely human approach to life. The Apostle Paul says, "Brethren, be steadfast, steadfast in yourselves, working in the Lord always, knowing that your work in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Cor 15:58) Amen.
FATHER VASYL’S HOMILY FOR THE SOLEMN HOLY DAY
THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
September 14, 2021

We worship Your Cross, Lord…

Reflecting on today's holy day and its spiritual significance for us, let us first try to answer the question, “Why did our Lord Jesus Christ have to suffer such a shameful death on the cross for the salvation of mankind?”

The salvation we so often speak of means the renewal of human nature, which has been overshadowed by sin and fallen under the power of death. The renewal of human nature could be accomplished only by the one who created that nature, that is, God. Neither angels nor man could renew human nature themselves, so it was necessary to overcome sin in human nature and thereby to overcome death.

Death on the cross in the time of Jesus was the greatest disgrace and was reserved for the worst criminals. Jesus Christ, who came to earth to renew human nature, to overcome sin and death in it, decided to accept death on the cross and allowed himself to be considered a criminal in order to show all the malice and danger of sin. As the prophet Isaiah commanded, “He took on our ailments, and He bore our pains.” The punishment that saves us was upon him, and with his wounds we are healed.

Christ accepted death on the cross as a way of cleansing human nature from sin, not only out of justice, but above all out of love for us, and solidarity with man. He did not leave us after original sin but came to our aid. By his death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, Jesus gave proof of victory over sin and death. Everyone who believes in Him will be able to receive cleansing from sins and be set free from death.

Jesus' death on the cross became the greatest sacrifice on earth and the highest manifestation of God's love for man. The veneration of the Lord's Cross reminds us of this great sacrificial love of God for us and invites us to be filled with such a spirit of sacrificial love for God and neighbor in the example of Christ. We can do this quite simply when we practice all of our spiritual exercises not out of duty, but in the spirit of love for God; sacrificing time for personal prayer, and participation in worship for the glory of God and the good of our souls.

Another important thing that our holy day draws our attention to is the significance of the cross itself for us. The cross is a symbol of the salvation of the human race. It was not the cross itself, like a tree, that saved man, but Jesus crucified on that cross. That is why we put the cross on the domes of churches, we carry it on our chests as a symbol of salvation, and as a symbol victory over sin and death.

The Holy Cross was highly revered by the early Christians. Let us remember that great power comes to us from the Holy Cross, because on it the Son of God died out of love for us in order to restore to us the joy of heaven. Therefore, in the various circumstances of our lives, let us never lose sight of the Crucified Jesus. On today's holy day, let us bow to the life-giving tree of the Holy Cross and pray to the Savior, “Save us, Lord, with Your Holy Cross!” Amen.

Do you want to share the Catholic faith? Would you be interested in participating in street evangelization? Marie Taylor and Karen Quintero have been going out on a Saturday afternoon, asking the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of people walking by and start a conversation about the Catholic faith by distributing free rosaries, medals, and pamphlets. They are looking to add another person (or two?) to increase the possible opportunities. Email Karen at karennquintero@gmail.com if you’d like to know more.
THE HALL REMAINS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GUIDELINES FOR OUR CHURCHES FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC

In keeping with advice from the CDC, and the local authorities, the following guidelines replace previous Covid rules.

1. A mask should be worn by anyone distributing communion or assisting to distribute communion.
2. The celebrant should use precautions when handling the gifts or singing or speaking near the gifts. These precautions may include wearing a mask, keeping the gifts covered, standing at a distance from the altar, and sterilizing the hands before touching the gifts.
3. The clergy should not drink out of the same chalice that is used for distribution before distribution. They may use a separate chalice, or receive by intinction. Distribution of communion should continue using single-use spoons, either individual metal spoons that are sterilized, or spoons that can be burned.
4. Beginning Friday, August 20, in accordance with local guidelines and in consultation with our Eparchy, people over the age of five are required to wear masks.
5. We will not turn anyone away for their inability to wear a mask.
6. Exemptions include:
   *The person has a medical or behavioral condition or disability and cannot wear a face covering (including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance).
   *Is under five (5) years of age.
   *Is actively eating or drinking.
   *Is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible.
   *Is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.
7. The requirement does NOT include the outdoors.
8. People are encouraged to practice safe distancing.
9. No one should ask whether or not someone is vaccinated.

DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY OR SATURDAY EVENING

1. Keep in mind, the bishop cannot dispense from Divine Law. The Ten Commandments require us to keep the Lord’s Day holy. From the beginning, Christians have obeyed this commandment by attending the Eucharist on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection. We are also required by Divine Law to refrain from work if possible and to avoid commerce if possible.
2. Beginning on Sunday, June 6, the dispensation from attending the Divine Liturgy is revoked within the Eparchy of Passaic. Watching a livestream does not fulfill the obligation to attend the Eucharist.
3. Just as before the pandemic, anyone is relieved of the obligation for a serious reason such as sickness, immobility, fear, caring for someone else, to protect your own health or the health of others.

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
REQUESTS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY - 2021

It is a beautiful part of our Byzantine Catholic tradition to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated for a special intention or for health and God’s blessings upon a LIVING person, or for the repose of the soul of a DECEASED person. Liturgy requests are now available for the remaining months of 2021. A donation or stipend is an offering made to the priest for the Divine Liturgy for such a request. The suggested donation or stipend for the Divine Liturgy is $20 (Panachida is $15) and is given to the priest. (Please know that if you are unable to pay the stipend, Father will honor your request.) If your donation or stipend is by check, do not make the check payable to the church, but rather to Father Vasyl Sokolovych. After the request is received, it will be recorded in the church liturgical calendar. Special dates may be requested, but they may not always be available. If this is the case, you will be notified of a rescheduled date and time. If you would like to request a specific date, please do so now. Please know that we will work to provide the dates requested, but we cannot guarantee it. The dates are assigned on a first come first served basis and are reserved upon receipt of the offering. Envelopes are now available in the narthex to request a Divine Liturgy. The Eparchy has recently increased the suggested stipend for a Liturgy to $20. Request for a Panachida remains at $15. To make your request, fill out the information on the envelope. Please include your check or cash and drop it in the collection basket.