

ST. PIUS X BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2336 BROWNSVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15210
(412) 881 -8344

email-stpiusxchurch@verizon.net

website-stpiusbyz.org

Monsignor Russell A Duker. Administrator
Raphael J. Ruggiero - Altar Server Joseph Rhoads, John Nicholas Ference
Cantor, Gerry O'Connor. Assistant Cantor, Josh Solomon

REMEMBER - WHEN ENTERING THE CHURCH **WEAR YOUR MASK AND USE THE HAND SANITIZER PROVIDED**

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR ELEVATION OF THE CROSS WEEK

<i>Sunday, September 13, 2020</i>	<i>11:00 am The Sunday Before the Exhaultation of the Holy Cross + Deceased Msgr. Nicholas Smiciklas By Parishioners of St. Pius X Church</i>
<i>Monday, September 14, 2020</i>	<i>12:00 Noon – Holy Day – Elevation of the Holy Cross</i>
<i>Sunday, September 20, 2020</i>	<i>3:00 pm Divine Liturgy in Celebration of Monsignor Russell A. Duker's 50th Anniversary in the Priesthood HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH – OAKLAND Most Reverend Archbishop William Skurla, Celebrant</i>
<i>Sunday, September 27, 2020</i>	<i>11:00 am The Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross + Michael Ewanick by Bonnie Ewanick</i>

***NOTE – There will be no Divine Liturgy at St. Pius X Church on Sunday, September 20, 2020**

Galatians 6: 11-18

Brethren: See, I write to you in my own large handwriting! Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised are making a play for human approval – with an eye to escaping persecution for the cross of Christ. The very ones who accept circumcision do not follow the law themselves. They want you to be circumcised only that they may boast about your bodily observance.

May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters is that one is created anew. Peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life, and on the Israel of God.

Henceforth, let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body. Brethren, may the favor of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY. ..

As we prepare to celebrate the discovery of Jesus' esteemed Cross, we now focus our attention on this impressive instrument of our salvation. In being lifted up upon the lowly tree of the praiseworthy cross, Jesus proclaimed that His outstretched arms would draw all people to Himself. Thus drawn to Christ, the Apostle Paul claims that his view of the world and his relationship to it are seen through the prism of the holy cross which gives purpose and direction to life.

SCRIPTURAL LESSONS FOR TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY...

EPISTLE: Galatians 6: 11-18 (Section 215)

Today's holy epistle lesson comes from the last paragraph of the Holy Apostle Paul's letter addressed to the Church at Galatia. Paul emphasizes to the Galatians the meaning and the significance of the venerable Cross of Jesus in their everyday lives. As the Christian's honored symbol of victory, the august cross of our Lord signifies that the world and all of its transitory components are things that are "dead" to us; and similarly, we are "dead" to the illusionary material things of this fleeting world. We are in the present terrestrial world for a relatively short period of time, but through the power of Jesus' life-creating cross and the redemption achieved through it, we have access to a New Life in the everlasting Kingdom of God. This eternal existence has been prepared by God the Father for all of us who share the burden of carrying the salutary cross of Jesus as we pass through this lifetime that has been given to us here on earth.

GOSPEL: John 3: 13-17 (Section 9)

The gospel message for this Sunday before the Elevation of the Illustrious Cross is taken from that section of the Holy Evangelist John's account where Jesus is being questioned by Nicodemus, a prominent Jewish religious leader. As Jesus explained God's reason for sending His Son to earth, the theme of the salvific Cross comes to the fore. The most perfect way by which God's Son could demonstrate His immense love for all of us and secure our eternal salvation was for Him to offer His life for the world's redemption. He had to be lifted up on this sacred wood, so that through the perfect sacrifice upon the life giving cross, salvation would be achieved, giving us access to everlasting life. We faithful followers of Christ, who have shared "our load" of His admirable cross and have borne vicariously the burden of His salutary passion by shouldering our own "little crosses" each day of our lives, are assured of an eternal reward as God passes us from his transitory life into the fullness of New Life with Him in His heavenly Kingdom.

PREPARATORY SUNDAY FOR THE UNIVERSAL ELEVATION FEAST...

Today is the Sunday Before the Elevation of the Splendorous Cross, as well as the Sunday following the Nativity of the Most Holy Godbearer. We thus are continuing our celebration of the solemn commemoration of the holy birth of the All Glorious Virgin Mary, and we also are preparing for the observance of the discovery of the revered cross of our Lord. Because of the central role played by the meritorious cross of Christ in the plan for our redemption, our Byzantine Catholic Church gives added emphasis to this esteemed salvific symbol by focusing on its importance on both the Sunday preceding and the Sunday following the Holy Elevation Feast.

NINETEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 11TH OF SEPTEMBER "DAY OF TERROR"...

Last Friday, 9/11, our nation paused to recall that exactly nineteen years ago on September 11, 2001, at 8:46 am, acts of unbridled terror were initiated by maniacal fanatics against the people and government of the United States. As a result of these dastardly deeds, several thousands of our fellow citizens died, and over the course of the past eleven years, we have had to deal with sentiments of shock, bewilderment, confusion and anger. As terrible as those initial moments were and in the midst of such a horrendous loss of life, we nevertheless witnessed extraordinary expressions of faith, courage, and compassion. We honor those courageous individuals who gave their lives unselfishly in the service of others, and because we are people of faith in the resurrection, we look forward with hope for divine justice. As we remember these events, let us recommit ourselves to God in prayer for His divine assistance to aid us in reshaping the world through acts of faith, hope and charity. Let us make this nineteenth anniversary of "The 9/11 Day of Terror" a time to dedicate ourselves to building a just and peaceful world for all peoples. *May God continue to bless America!*

HOLY DAY MONDAY: THE EMINENT ELEVATION OF THE TRIUMPHANT CROSS...

Tomorrow, September 14, we celebrate ceremoniously The Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Majestic Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. On this most important holy day and liturgically significant feast, we commemorate the actual discovery of the sanctifying wood of the true cross of Jesus. The initiative to find Christ's redemptive cross was begun by Empress Helen, the eighty year old mother of the Byzantine Emperor Constantine the Great. In the year 326 A.D., excavations were begun in Jerusalem near Golgotha, and eventually the three crosses of Great Friday were unearthed. Constantine and Helen, both of whom eventually became saints of the Church, had a

significant basilica constructed over the holy Sepulcher, which also was discovered nearby. This great church was dedicated on September 13, 335 A.D. Then on the following day, September 14, Bishop Macarios, the Bishop of Jerusalem, triumphantly carried Christ's distinguished cross through the Holy City, and before taking it into the new edifice, he Elevated it in all directions, symbolically displaying this estimable instrument of our salvation to the entire universe as the people fell to their knees in profound veneration. On the Holy Elevation Feast, the noble cross of the Lord is displayed solemnly on the tetrapod in the middle of the church where it remains for seven days. During this time, we make our way to the Golgotha of the tetrapod to venerate the exalted cross. We venerate the worthy cross of Christ by approaching the tetrapod, making two metanies (a deep bow, lowering the hand to touch the floor and then making the sign of the cross); kissing the sacred cross and then again making another metany. Each time that we make these three metanies, we repeat silently to ourselves: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" In visual commemoration of Christ's victorious passion which is signified by His marvelous cross, red vestments are employed on the elevation holy day and throughout its post festive period. The faithful should endeavor to wear something Red on the Universal Elevation Feast and the following Sunday in symbolic tribute to the Lord Whose praiseworthy Blood was shed willingly for our redemption upon the glorious wood of the miraculous cross. Traditionally, a strict fast is prescribed on this holy day. Put forth the sacrificial effort to fast in honor of Jesus' supreme sacrifice made on this laudable wood in expiation for all of our sins,. In this way, we thus unite ourselves with our Savior's salutary sufferings as a gesture of our love for Him and out of profound respect for His vivifying cross, the venerable symbol of our salvation.

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

*St. Michael the Archangel,
Defend us in battle Be our protection against the
Wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
And do thou , O Prince of the heaven);host s, By the power of God,
Call into hell Satan And all the evil spirits, Who prowl
throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen*

WEEKLY OFFERING UPDATE

September 6, 2020 - \$624.00- 36 people present

PERSONALS - Please pray for the intentions of those listed in our Prayer Request Book. Also, if there is anyone you would like specifically mentioned in the bulletin for prayers, please phone the rectory at (412) 881-8344.

SHUT INS Please remember our shut-ins Joe Budd, Pat Bycura, Gerry Shallenberger, and Paul Dolgos

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember to keep in your prayers Peggy Palmieri, Sam Langol, Flo Chatham, Bill Kerr, Bill Langol, Nick Cheberenchick, who is recovering from heart surgery and Normal Langol, who is recovering from knee surgery.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

A huge thank Tom Kalka for his extraordinary efforts in helping to move and set up the rummage sale in the auditorium.

WINNING LOTTERY

August 5, 2020 - #981 Winner - Liz. Ticket sales supplement St. Pius.

FOOD BANK

March, April and May food bank donation amounted to \$53.00. The total for year to date is \$188.00. Please consider donating to this very worthwhile cause. Thank you.

CARPOOLING FOR MONSIGNOR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY LITURGY

Sunday, September 20, 2020, 3:00 pm

Please fill out the form in the vestibule of the Church or phone Gerry O'Connor 412 721-6311 if you need a ride or can provide a ride to Holy Spirit Church in Oakland.

MT. SAINT MACRINA VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE

(This can still be accessed)

Virtual Pilgrimage will include:

Welcome from Sr. Ruth – Marion Hymns
Akathist to the Mother of God – Divine Liturgy
Panachida for all Deceased Pilgrims
Children and Teen Programs

Tune in to our You Tube channel
Basillians – Uniontown, PA

For further information, follow us on Facebook or visit-sistersofstbasil.org

THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES HAVE

LIVESTREAMING

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Cathedral
- Log onto stjohsbyzantinecathedral.com click the bar that says Live Broadcast
- Divine Liturgy Sunday, 9:00 am

St. John Chrysostom - Log onto sjcbcc.com Click the bar that says Live at sjcbcc
Divine Liturgy Sunday 10:30 am.

Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church - holyghostbyzantinecatholic.org click on arrow
Divine Liturgy Sunday 9:00 am. Also broadcast on radio 810 9:00am.

St. Gregory Byzantine Church, Upper St. Clair - Log on to

<http://www.facebook.com/stgregory> Divine Liturgy
Saturday 4:00 pm Sunday 9:00am.