Ambo

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

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Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers
Sundays and Feast Days
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Please check weekly schedule for specific days (last page).
Previous Ambos on website.

Articles for publication should be submitted to:
ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FOREFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words:

"By this you shall conquer."
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 on 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 crowds 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 (361-363).
Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.
Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khozróēs II attacked Constantinople defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).
The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khozróēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.
With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.
In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

Coffee Hour Quarter 3 2026

Questions/Concerns/volunteer? call Cathy Weber (412-215-1928)

July 5	*(Sponsored by Una & John)*	September 6
Joyce & Judy	August 9 *(Dormition Fast)*	Shawna
July 12	Matushka Jana	*(Sponsored by Anonymous)*
Matushka Jana	August 16	September 13
July 19	Tammy	Holly Roe
Christopher & Emiko	*(Sponsored by Una & John)*	September 20
July 26	August 23	Heather
Mary	Joyce & Judy	September 27
August 2 *(Dormition Fast)*	August 30	Shawna
Dan & Lavinia	Sarah & Mike Brennan	

Orthodox Church in America

DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

11 September, 2026
Venerable Theodora of Alexandria
№. 173

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

To the Clergy, Monastics, Faithful and Friends of the Diocese of the Midwest

Beloved in Christ,

Twenty-five years ago, on the morning of September 11, 2001, death and evil entered the world and our nation in a shocking and violent manner. Thousands of innocent people lost their lives, and the lives of countless others were forever changed. Parents, children, spouses, friends, neighbors, and colleagues were taken. And those who survived were robbed of their loved ones. In the days and years that have followed the terrors of that day, our nation has borne - and continues to bear—profound sorrow and deep grief.

Twenty-five years have now passed, yet 9/11 remains one of the darkest days in our nation's history. In a matter of moments, violence shattered ordinary lives. And that dark moment was played out before our very eyes and is embedded in our memory forever.

However, we also remember that the powers of evil and darkness did not conquer. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). Indeed, amid the devastation of that horrific day, light broke through. People revealed extraordinary courage, strength, faith, and love. First responders ran toward danger. Strangers carried one another to safety. Communities gathered to pray, mourn, serve, and rebuild. In one of our darkest hours, the light of compassion shone with remarkable power.

On this twenty-fifth anniversary, let us remember those who died, those who continue to mourn them, and all those whose lives were forever changed. Let us honor the courage of those who served and sacrificed. And let us recommit ourselves to being bearers of Christ's unconquered light - choosing mercy over hatred, unity over division, service over indifference, and hope over fear.

May God comfort all who continue to grieve. May God grant peace to our nation and our world. And may the memory of September 11 call us to live with greater faith, compassion, courage, and love.

With love in Christ the Giver of Light,

+Daniel

DANIEL
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

917 North Wood Street • Chicago, Illinois 60622 • 312-202-0420 • www.domoca.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

9/13/2026

Special Intentions:

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Subdeacon Leon Felon

Reader Kenneth Kovach

Reader Frank Tkacz

Reader Daniel Morris

Reader Haralambos Steingass

Horia Dascalescu *(Lavinia's brother)*

Janice Tkacz

Eleanor Wachovec *(friend of Karen Felon)*

Rachel Ohlin *(relative of Tatiana)*

Jeffrey Parhamovich *(brother of Karen Felon)*

Margaret Parhamovich *(sister-in-law of Karen Felon)*

Jean Woycitzky Thompson *(Frank's cousin)*

Debra Parhamovich *(sister of Karen Felon)*

Robert Martin Prock

Valentina Zawolowycz

Child McKenna Kranek

Betty Balasz

Elisabeth Lavrisiuk

Phyllis Gindlesperger

Jerry Czajkowski

Barbara Sheean

Tamara Ponomarenko

Paige Benjamin
(niece of Una Alexandrovic)

Sara Wilmot *(friend of Tim Clos)*

Catherine *(niece of Judy Schwind)*

Elena Rich

Quinn *(niece of John Alexandrovic)*

Erin Zawolowycz

Anthony Swit

Nina Mytrohovich

Alexander Zdinak (Sasha)

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to Fr. Jan Cizmar
st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com
Or calling at 1 (440) 732-8182
Names remain on the list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

ST. THEODOSIUS IS A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate

BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2026

Sunday, September 13
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Sunday before Elevation
Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem (335)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
1:00 PM Parish Picnic
@St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
6306 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH 44134
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Monday, September 14
The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross
Repose of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407)
8:30 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
@Holy Trinity 6822 Broadview Rd. Parma Ohio 44134

Tuesday, September 15
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Greatmartyr Niketas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372)

Wednesday, September 16
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised (304)
6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Thursday, September 17
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadézhda), and Love (Liubóv', Charity), at Rome (ca. 137)
6:30 AM Hours and Typica

Friday, September 18
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
St. Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna (6th c.)

Saturday, September 19
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Saturday after the Elevation of the Cross
Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedon of Synnada (276)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Saint John Chrysostom died on September 14, 407, but because of the feast of the Exaltation of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord, the commemoration of the saint was transferred to November 13. On January 27 we commemorate the transfer of the holy relics of Saint John Chrysostom from Comana to Constantinople, and on January 30, the Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs.

Sunday, September 20
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross
Greatmartyr Eustáthios (Eustace) Placidas, his wife, Martyr Theopistes, and their children, Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (ca. 118)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Monday, September 21
Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Cross
Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy (ca. 130)

Tuesday, September 22
Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinopè (117)
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 23
The Conception of the Honorable Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John
6:00 PM Akathist

Thursday, September 24
Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly (ca. 1796) and Peter the Aleut (1815)
6:30 AM Hours and Typica

Friday, September 25
Repose of Ven. Sergius (Sérgii) the Wonderworker, Abbot of Rádonezh (1392)

Saturday, September 26
Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (2nd c.)
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, September 27
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyrs Callistratus and his company (49 Martyrs—ca. 304)
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour