

## THE CROSS IS OUR GUIDE

According to the dictionary, an **ILLUSION** is defined as "a false idea or concept." Most are harmless, but some can be fatal. In a desert, chasing a mirage that looks like water can lead to death. In life, the grass always looks greener on the other side. We live at a time when it's difficult for people to tell whether they are coming or going, or to know which way to live their lives.



Society presents illusions before us, beckoning us to live its way. Wealth is one such mirage. Voices tell us it is the most important factor in life . . . that it is the secret to happiness. They beckon us to seek wealth at whatever cost. But those who answer this call find that it is far from the answer to life and its meaning.

Another enticement is pleasure. The world calls out to all to seek out every form of pleasure, sinful or not. "Do your own thing," it says. Power and fame are misleading ideals. These false goals attract many, and they don't leave a stone uncovered to achieve them. Alcohol and drugs can be quite alluring. Thousands get entangled with these, and then find they cannot escape the maze in which they have become lost.

In all these instances, the **CROSS** shouts to us: it is an optical illusion, don't follow that way or you will get lost and will perish! Our Lord said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Following Him, following His example of self-denial and sacrifice, we will find the right road to our destination here on earth as well as in eternity.

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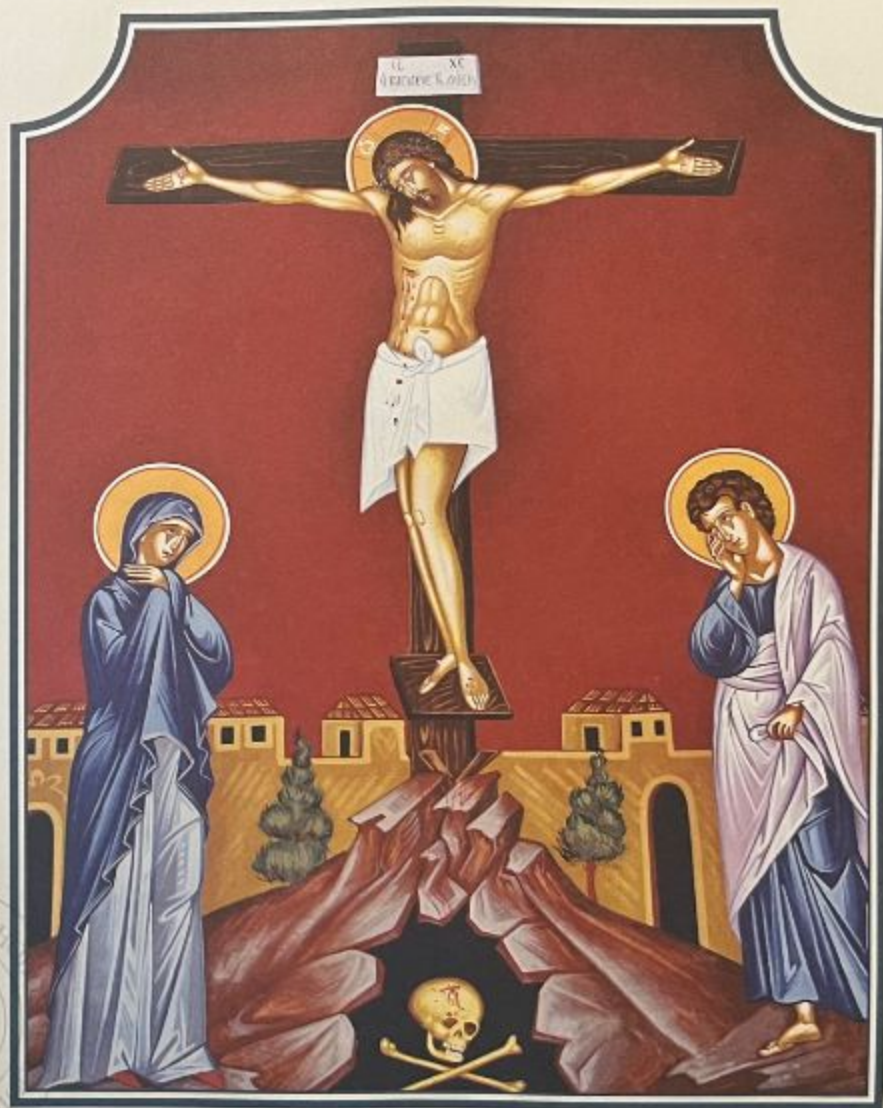
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Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

# SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

**TONE 6 / EOTHINON 4; LEAVE-TAKING (APODOSIS) OF &  
SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead. O Lord, glory to Thee.

## APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

## THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE FEAST

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool, for He is Holy. Save us, O Son of God, Who art Risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

## APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation

## KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE FOUR

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

## MEGALYNARION OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

*Magnify, O my soul, the Elevation of the life-giving Cross of the Lord.*

Verily, death which befell the human race by eating from the tree, hath been abolished today by the Cross; for the curse of the first mother and all her descendants hath been undone by Him Who was born of the undefiled Theotokos, whom all the powers of Heaven do magnify

## KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been signed upon us. Alleluia.

## We Celebrate Today

On September 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the celebration of the Elevation of the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. On this day, we commemorate the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle Quadratos of the Seventy.

### *Verses*

Since in no wise would he offer stones his worship,

The unwise cast stones at worshipful Quadratos.

On the twenty-first Quadratos found a crown in contests.

He preached the Gospel in Athens, and was at first bishop in Athens after St. Publius, and then in the city of Magnesia. Quadratos was considered a "morning star among the clouds," shining forth the light of Christ to the Hellenes in the midst of their dark paganism and evil practices. But darkness always hates the light, and the pagans hated holy Quadratos. They first stoned him, and then imprisoned him, leaving him without bread until his holy soul left his body and entered into the Kingdom of Christ his God in 130. Before that, Quadratos wrote a defense of Christianity and gave it to the pagan Emperor Hadrian, who was so moved that he decreed that Christians should not be persecuted without special cause.

On this day, we also commemorate the Prophet Jonah. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Joy Logue. Sue Thomas. Dolores Nosser. Hugh Cummings. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif Lynne Abraham. Kh. Janet Henderson. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Deacon Terry. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Fr. Paul Yerger. Timmie Fedell.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Sept. Michael Moses (21), Susie Angelo (22), Janet Gleason (24), Dani Kay Thomas, Richard & Peggy Thomas (26), Dobie Nosser (28), Mary Grace Mousa (29), Alan & Sandra Evans, Nicholas James Angelo (30).

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+Fall Festival Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

+Fall Kibbee Sale Saturday November 22.

## The Church Fathers Teach

“  
The cross is the door to mysteries. Through this door, the intellect makes entrance into the knowledge of heavenly mysteries. The knowledge of the cross is concealed in the sufferings of the cross. And the more our participation in its sufferings, the greater the perception we gain through the cross.”

- St. Isaac the Syrian -

The Cross is called Christ's glory; it is saluted as His triumph. We recognize it as the cup He longed to drink and the climax of the sufferings He endured for our sake. As to the Cross being Christ's glory, listen to His words: "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in Him God is glorified, and God will glorify him at once."

- St. Andrew of Crete -

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

# DIVINE LITURGY SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

\*\*DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM\*\*

## **LEAVE-TAKING (APODOSIS) OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

### THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)**

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)**

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."