

**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**3rd Sunday of Great Lent
Sunday of the Holy Cross
March 12, 2023**

Third Sunday of Great Lent



The Tree of Life (Mark 8:34-9:1)

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN THE GREAT FAST is the twenty-first day of the forty-day fast. We are half way to our Holy Week observance of the Lord's passion and resurrection. At this mid-point the Church directs our attention to the holy cross and to Christ's injunction, "*Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me*" (Mk 8:34). We are encouraged to continue to "*have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires*" (Galatians 5:24) during the rest of this fasting season.

The cross, adorned with flowers, is brought forth for veneration as on September 14. While that feast commemorates the historical events of the finding of the cross by St Helena and its return to Jerusalem after the Persian invasion, today's commemoration focuses on the meaning of the cross in our lives, especially during the Great Fast. The cross is the altar on which the Lamb of God was slain and is for

us a constant reminder that we live in light of His perfect oblation. The joyous hirmoi of the Paschal Canon are sung at orthros today and the glorious cross is displayed in the church throughout the week, silently echoing the injunction we hear in this Epistle: “Let us hold fast our confession ...and come boldly to the throne of grace” (Heb 4:14, 16). Be steadfast in faith and in standing before the holy place in these days as we near the celebration of the eternal sacrifice of our great High Priest.

The Gospel of the Cross

The Gospel read at the Divine Liturgy today is part of a series of five vignettes in which we see Christ coming to the end of His earthly ministry. Describing the first part of this ministry, Mark emphasizes what has been called the “Messianic secret.” As Jesus teaches and performs miracles, people are regularly told to keep silent about what He has done. First of all He must form His disciples to see Him as the Messiah, the Christ. Finally, as Jesus and His followers are walking from one village to another, “...*He asked His disciples, saying to them, ‘Who do men say that I am?’ So they answered, ‘John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered and said to Him, ‘You are the Christ’*” (Mk 6:27-29). With Peter’s act of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Church is born.

The Lord then begins preparing His followers to see what kind of Messiah He really is. Like many in those days, the disciples assumed that the Messiah would be a kind of Jewish Julius Caesar driving out the occupiers and restoring the kingdom to Israel. In the second vignette Jesus announces that as Messiah He will suffer, die and rise again. “*And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke this word openly*” (Mk 8:31-32). There is no Messianic secret here. The disciples must be prepared for what is to come.

This is so far from the disciples’ expectation that Peter objects. “*Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, ‘Get behind Me, Satan – for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men’*” (Mk 8:32-33). Peter objects; he knows what victorious generals – the things of men – look like. This third vignette shows that he as yet hasn’t a clue about the things of God.

Finally, we come to today’s Gospel selection: the fourth vignette in this sequence. My kingdom is not what you think. Its throne is the cross and whoever wants a place in this kingdom must accept a cross as well: the cross of self denial.

As Metropolitan Anthony Bloom once said, “The Lord has told us that in the Christian Church and in the Kingdom, a King is not one who overpowers others to exact from them unconditional and slavish obedience, but He is the one who serves and gives His life for others.

“St. John Chrysostom teaches us that anyone can rule, but that no one but a king gives his life for his people, because he so identifies with his people that he has no existence, no life, no purpose but to serve them with all his life and if necessary, with his death.”

As followers of Christ today we may find that our stations in life will give up many opportunities for self-denial. The clergy are continually called upon to make sacrifices for the Church they have been called to serve. Monastics in their communities and spouses in their homes have daily opportunities to offer themselves for one another and the members of their families. Every Christian with open eyes will see that God gives us countless opportunities to humble ourselves for the service of others in the parish or the wider community in which we live. Taking up the cross means putting others first every day.

Our changing society is increasingly giving us opportunities to shoulder the cross in a more drastic way. You may lose your job. You may lose your health. You may lose your home. You may lose your pension or your reputation. You may lose everything on which you rely.

In this we look to Christ as our model. In the words of St. Paul, “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:5-11).

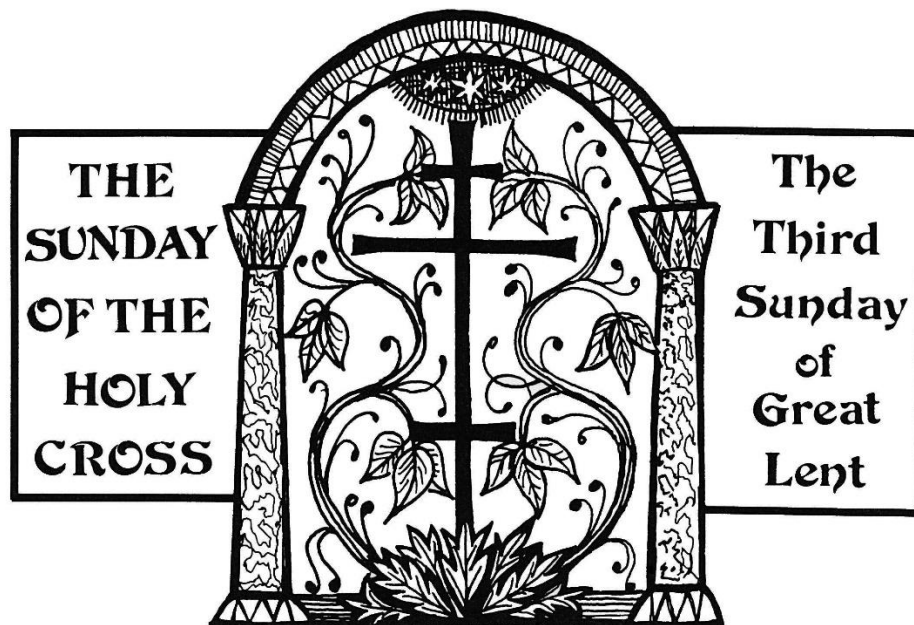
Christians living in countries dominated by other religions or by an aggressive secularism are finding themselves increasingly isolated and discriminated against for their faith in Christ. They might find it easier to see the choice that they are called to make than we in our as yet more accepting society. Their choice may be to

deny Christ or leave town. Our choice may be to affirm a neighbor's abortion or to lose the friendship of their family.

In either case these cautionary words of our Lord apply: *“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels”* (Mk 8:35-38).

Fasting and Taking Up the Cross

We still have a few weeks of the Fast remaining. They give us the opportunity to assess whether we are more committed to our small comforts or to the call of Christ. If we are so enslaved to certain foods and entertainments, how will we be able to give up something more serious for the sake of God's kingdom? The Great Fast helps us to see the depth of our willingness to take up the cross in our daily life.



Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
23	January 15, 2023	6,690.00
12	January 22, 2023	11.00
47	January 29, 2023	1,510.50
30	February 5, 2023	1,328.00
25	February 12, 2023	335.00
11	February 19, 2023	530.00
36	February 26, 2023	127.00
25	March 5, 2023	1,600.00

Syrian Earthquake Relief \$ 775.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions: For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. Eugene Mitchell, Fr. James Graham, Fr. John Azar, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Jan Munn, Fr. Imad Daher, Tyler Long

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Friday 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday - 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

LENTEN SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Great Compline – Tuesday 7pm

Akathist hymn – Friday 7pm

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN – Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

National Association of Melkite Youth

NAMY Conference 2023

Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples

Who: Melkite Youth throughout the US, ages 13-18

When: Monday July 10th- Friday July 14th, 2023

Where: St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire

Why: Faith, Fellowship, Fun

For more information:

Please contact Fr. Thomas & Pres. Rebekah Moses at namy@melkite.org

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 7)



You des-troyed Death by Your Cross, You o-pened Par-a-



- dise to the thief. You changed the weep-ing of



the Myrrh-bear-ers, and com-man-ded Your A-pos-tles to



pro-claim that You, O Christ God have ri-sen



gran-ting to the world great mer-cy.

Troparion of the 3rd Sunday of Lent

(Tone 1)



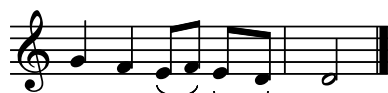
O Lord, save Your peo - ple and bless Your in - he - ri -



- tance. Grant vic - t'ry to our coun - try o - ver it's e - ne - mies,



and pre - serve Your com - mu - ni - ty by the



po - wer of Your Cross.

Kondakion for Great Lent



Tri-um-phant Lea - der, to you be - longs our prize of
vic - to - ry! And since you sa - ved us
from ad-ver-si - ty we of - fer you our thanks: we
are your peo - ple, O Mo - ther of God! So,
as you have that in - vin - ci - ble pow - er, con -
- tin - ue to de - li - ver us from dan - ger that we may
cry out to you: Hail, O Vir - gin and Bride e - ver
pure!

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine measures. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Lenten Hirmos



In you, O Full of grace, all cre-a - tion re-joi - ces: the



or - ders of an - gels, and the hu - man race as well.



O sanc-ti - fied Tem - ple, spi-ri - tu-al Pa-ra - dise and



glo - ry of vir - gins, from whom our God who ex-ists be-



- fore all e - ter-ni-ty, took flesh and be-came a lit-tle



Child. He has ta - ken your womb as His



throne ma-king it more spa - cious than the



hea - vens! There - fore, O Full of grace, in



you all cre-a - tion re-joi - ces. Glo - ry to you!

Prokimenon

Reader: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

All: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Reader: To you, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

All: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Reader: O Lord, save your people.

All: And bless your inheritance.

Readings for the Week: *(during Great Lent the weekdays are non-liturgical, the following readings are, however, appointed)*

Monday:	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 13:10-23
Tuesday:	Corinthians 1:18-24	Matthew 13:36-43
Wed:	Galatians 2:16-20	Matthew 9:18-26
Thursday:	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Matthew 25:14-30
Friday:	2 Timothy 3:10-15	Matthew 25:1-13
Saturday:	Hebrews 6:9-12	Mark: 7:31-37

Saints of the Week:

Mar. 12: Holy Father Theophane the Confessor
Mar. 13: Deposition of the Remains of our Father Nicephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople
Mar. 14: Venerable Father Benedict
Mar. 15: Holy Martyrs Agapios and his companions
Mar. 16: Holy Martyr Sabinos the Egyptian
Mar. 17: Holy Father Alexis, the Man of God
Mar. 18: Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem
Mar. 19: Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria

Word Search

C	O	J	F	Z	J	Y	U	D	W	C	W	M	E	Q	M	M
R	G	S	E	S	O	L	N	O	N	W	D	V	L	V	V	Z
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B	C	Y	F	O	L	L	O	W	N	M	W	O	S	W	D	E
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Y	J	W	O	D	E	G	E	M	U	S	A	F	P	E	L	F
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Angels
Anyone
Ashamed
Cross
Death
Deny
Follow
Generation

Glory
Good News
Himself
Kingdom
Life
Lose
Loss
Power

Profit
Sake
Save
Soul
Suffers
Wishes
World

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus **JFK Council**

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm.

Odd-numbered months at St. Ignatios

Even-numbered months here at Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Odd-numbered months at Most Holy Trinity

Even-numbered months here at St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group

Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:

Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession

Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation

Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning

Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing

Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton,
please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-479-5910.

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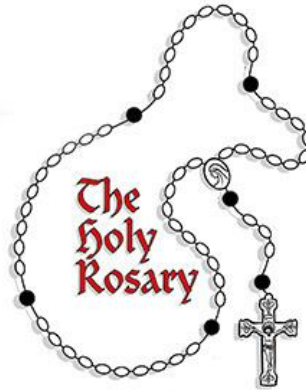
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