



**ST. PETER & ST. PAUL
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**105 CLIFTON AVE
ANSONIA, CT 06401**

Rectory Phone 203-734-3895

Church Hall 203-732-2414

Fax 203-732-3191

Fr. Ed Cell 413-218-6404

Email: YoungE8073@aol.com



Leaders of the Apostles and teachers of the world, pray to the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Web Site: www.stspucc.org.

Very Rev. Archpriest Edward Canon Young, Pastor

September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 7; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God; Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross; The Holy Priest-Martyr Autonomus (284-305)

Epistle: Gospel: Tone:

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS: MONDAY–FRIDAY 10:00AM

SATURDAY: Not Now! 4:00PM (Vigil Sunday-Eng.)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (Ukr.) & 10:00 AM (Eng.)

Confessions are heard before each Divine Liturgy:

Saturday 3:00PM to 3:30 PM

Sunday 8:00AM to 8:30AM and
9:30AM until 10:00AM

Religious Education – Saturday 10:00AM – 11:00AM
Call Alice O'Doy @203-734-3055 for more information.

Preservation – Please use the form in church vestibule, mail it to the church or bring it to Bob Jaskilka, Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Address or Name Change/New Phone Number –

Please update your records. See Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. to update this info.

Returned checks are subject to a **\$35.00 fee**.

Bulletin Notices – Notices for the bulletin must be **in writing** by Wednesday @6PM to be included in that week's bulletin.

Parish Council meets every 3rd Wednesday of every month @7:15pm in the church hall.

Rectory Office Hours - Thursday 10AM – Noon
or by Appointment on other days

******Please Note ******

Mass Offerings, Sorokousty

Mother's Day, Father's Day

**Checks must be made out to the Fr. Young
not the Church ! Thank You...**

Baptism Arrangement for baptism is to be made personally at the Parish Office. Please call rectory for an appointment.

Marriage – Arrangements for marriage are to be made at least **6 months prior** to the Wedding date. Please call rectory for an appointment.

Sick Calls – To arrange for Sacraments for the elderly and sick at home, please call Parish Office Fr. Young at 203-734-3895, **Please advise the rectory of any hospitalization.**

In your Estate planning – Remember Sts. Peter & Paul Church in your will.

Stewardship - "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). All Catholics, should give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church

Special Share in the Eucharist *– Bread & Wine

offered for a week, month, or year. Donations: one week - \$20.00 Donors/intentions will be listed.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr or Fr. Edward Young

Eternal Light *– offered to light for a week \$10.00.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Virgin Mary's Lamp and Sacred Heart Lamp* also available for offering! Offered to light for a week is 10.00, each.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

All start on Monday to Sunday!

***Offering must be made when dates are reserved!**

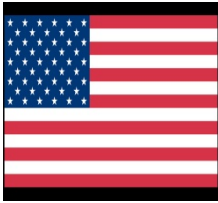
A **Welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul Parish** to all who are worshipping with us today. If you are over twenty-one years of age and have not yet registered, have moved or will be moving, or have a new telephone number, **please fill out the form below**. Each household **must be registered** at St. Peter and St. Paul and every adult receives a set of stewardship envelopes. Registration also entails an annual dues to the parish. If a parishioner is not registered, it is difficult for church authorities to issue him or her a sponsor certificate, reference, or any other certification.

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ E-mail _____




City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please come down to the Basement to be properly registered after or before liturgy)



Prayer for Our Country USA: Almighty God, bless our nation and make it true to the ideas of freedom and justice and brotherhood for all who make it great. Guard us from war, from fire and wind, from compromise, fear, confusion. Be close to our president and our statesmen; give them vision and courage, as they ponder decisions affecting peace and the future of the world. Make me more deeply aware of my heritage; realizing not only my rights but also my duties and responsibilities as a citizen. Make this great land and all its people know clearly Your will, that they may fulfill the destiny ordained for us in the salvation of the nations, and the restoring of all things in Christ our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

<i>Bread and Wine Offering - None Offered</i>			
09/11	Saturday		Beginning of Religious Education 10:00 AM
09/12	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Pro Populo (For Parishioners) - За Всіх Парафіян + THEODORE & MELANIA Smerznak & Wasil & Anna Homkowicz
09/13	Monday		No Liturgy
09/14	Tuesday	10:00 AM	+ WILLIAM & CLEMENTINA STEVENSON
09/15	Wednesday	10:00 AM	The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross NO MEAT + WILLIAM Decho
09/16	Thursday	10:00 AM	Special Intention
09/17	Friday	10:00 AM	Deceased of the Jenks, Nesevitch & Krynitzky Families
09/18	Saturday		No Liturgy
09/19	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Pro Populo (For Parishioners) - За Всіх Парафіян God's Blessing on of Religious Education Teachers & Students

ETERNAL LIGHT		<i>None Offered</i>	
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP		<i>None Offered</i>	
SACRED HEART of JESUS LAMP		<i>In loving memory of +Stephen Cirkot from Carol Stumpf</i>	
BREAD & WINE OFFERING RESERVED DATES 10/25/21-10/31/21 11/1/21-11/7/21	ETERNAL LIGHT LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 9/20/21-9/26/21 10/4/21-10/10/21 11/8/21-11/14/21 11/22/21-11/28/21 12/20/21-12/26/21	BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 9/20/21-9/26/21 10/4/21-10/10/21 10/18/21-10/24/21 11/1/21-11/7/21 11/8/21-11/14/21 11/22/21-11/28/21	SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 9/20/21-9/26/21 11/15/21-11/21/21

2021 & Past Church Dues (Blue Book) (Kollekta)

During Lent & every Saturday & Sunday dues current & past will be collected in the church hall after 8:30 AM & 10AM Sunday Liturgies.

Please bring your dues book to the church hall **dues will not be collected in the rectory** Back on January 25, 2005 the Parish Council voted to increase the yearly dues to \$75.00 per member. This is the first increase since 1998. The number of upcoming projects that are needed to keep the church building in good repairs, such as painting, doors, walls, fixing the roof, warranted this increase.

Do not place dues in your weekly envelope offering !

Please remember - this is not our church but YOUR church!

Please fulfill your responsibility to your Church!!

Friendly Reminder - 2021 & Past Church Dues are due during lent to support your church to pay our obligations to keep the church running such as salaries; electricity; oil ; gas; water ; and continual maintenance; repair of the church, rectory and cemetery; insurance ; chancery fees; and telephone just to name a few.

**At Divine Liturgy and All other Services
Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced !!!**

Monthly
PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting
September 15,
2021



Monthly Meeting of St Peter & St Paul Board of Directors
Wednesday evening September 15, 2021 @ 7:15 pm in the
church hall

All Board members are requested to attend!!!!

Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced !!!



2021 STAMFORD CHARITIES DIOCESE APPEAL

The month of September 2021 continues the Stamford Diocese Charities Appeal for **2021**. This fund provides support for many programs in the Diocese as indicated in the Sower. Our offering reminds us that we are members of a greater body of the Church that operates beyond the barriers of our local parish and that each one of us has a role to play in the Church's mission of evangelization and sanctification.

Please note: that at this time our seminary in Stamford is growing and needs your support.

You have received by mail your request for support.

Please help this fund as you have in the past.

Please do not send your donation to Stamford!!! Do not use Paypal !!!

Donations \$6,065 or 86.6% to go \$935.00 This week \$25.00

Michael A. Pawlyk \$25.00

Have you forgot your donation we are so close.....

The 2021 Stamford Diocesan Charities Appeal form has been sent. Please make checks payable to:

"The Byzantine Rite Diocese of Stamford" and send or bring your donation to the church.

Cash is acceptable form for payment.

Since every parish in the diocese has been assigned a Goal for this campaign, **please do not send your gift directly to Stamford.** Our parish needs to be properly credited to meet its goal of seven thousand dollars. **We did not meet our goal in 2020.** While many of our regular contributors have fallen asleep in the Lord, it is even more essential that every parishioner consider such diocesan programs as vocations, religious education, evangelization, and stewardship worthy of personal charity.

Goal \$50,000 – Donated to Date \$14,575 29.2% to go \$35,425

Church Up Keep and Restoration Donations: Donations \$175.00
by Michael A. Pawlyk \$175.00

Volunteers needed for Our 125th Anniversary

The parish will be celebrating Our 125th Anniversary in June 2022.

A committee needs to be formed to discuss ideas for this event.

If your interested please contact Bill Platosz platosz@hotmail.com or Scott Walker sjjawalk@aol.com



Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 9:30 AM there will begin the Recitation of the Holy Rosary of Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. One of the intentions for our prayers will be for our parish, as we prepare to celebrate our 125th Anniversary as a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church here in Ansonia, Connecticut.

New Life A Program for the Separated and Divorced:

If you are recently divorced or separated you may need to give yourself some time to work through your loss and pain. "New Life" is an eight week program designed for persons in the early stages of separation or divorce. In this program, we offer a "safe place" for people to gain a perspective on their loss. Some of the topics that will be addressed in the program are: self image, stress, anger, blame and guilt, loneliness, and how to move toward growth. The program consists of one meeting each week from 6:00 to 7:30 PM for eight weeks, plus exercises to be practiced between the sessions. If you are interested in attending, the program will begin on Sunday, October 3rd from 6:00-7:30pm at St. Thomas the Apostle Church Parish Center, 733 Oxford Rd. Oxford. The program is Free. Registration is required. Please call Maryjane at 203-888-2382 exit 104 or email pastoralcare@stthomasoxford.org to register.

SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
105 CLIFTON AVE.
ANSONIA, CT 06401

One Hundred & Twenty Four Years 1897-2021
PHONE 203-734-3895

Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house.

June 28, 2021

Subject: **Need for Church upkeep and restoration**

Dear Parishioners:

In the year 2022, it will be the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M., Eparch of Stamford, has approved Sunday June 5, 2022 to be present with us to celebrate this significant moment in the history of this parish.

This parish community has been blessed and has much to be proud of in its long history. *Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your House* is quoted from the prayer from the end of Divine Liturgy. It speaks measurably of how the founders of this parish understood the importance of the beauty of God's Holy House.

We, as a parish family, will begin preparation for our 125th Anniversary. There are many needs to be met in our church because of its age. One is our church kneelers. The pads need to be replaced and the kneelers repaired. This is a very costly project, a goal of at least \$50,000. In addition, there are a number of structural issues with the upstairs church and downstairs that need to be addressed. For example, we just received a quote for \$10,000 for repairs that need to be done due to water damage.

In the past year, our church financial situation has been greatly affected because of the Covid19 pandemic. We have been unable to have fundraisers and weekly donations were tremendously low. Therefore, we are launching a fundraising initiative to attend to the many needs of our church.

All members of the parish are called to assist and be as generous as possible in this fundraising effort, following the example of the founding fathers and mothers of this parish, who gave selflessly to build our beautiful church building. We pray our efforts will help sustain our church building for us and future generations.

Enclosed you will find an envelope to make your donation and a stamped return envelope.

Do not use PayPal !

Please make checks payable to:

Saint Peter & Saint Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and wish God's blessings on you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Archpriest Edward P. Young, Pastor

Mr. Scott Walker, Parish President

You have received this letter in the mail. Please be so kind as to use the enclosed return envelope to the parish with your gift to your parish church. God Bless and Protect.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE ALL HOLY LIFE GIVING CROSS

EPISTLE - GALATIANS 6: 11-18 ~ GOSPEL - JOHN 3: 13-17 TONE 7

We hear in today's Gospel for the Sunday before the [Exaltation of the All Holy and Life Giving Cross](#) - the major feast coming this Tuesday - the Good News that God loves us to such a tremendous extent that He sent Himself, His Logos, His Son, into the world to enter into human nature to redeem it, make it new again, fit for life with Him who is Life. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Belief is always accompanied by action, by following through with a life that becomes grafted into the Life that God the Holy Trinity is as a perpetual relationship and movement of love. It's not enough to simply say, *"I believe in God. There, I've said it, I have salvation,"* for we know that the *"demons believe and shudder"* (James 2:19).

In today's Gospel for the Cross the example is put before us of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness - a reference to the poisonous snakes that God sent to humble the Israelites as they grumbled against Him. Moses prayed for God's mercy on the people and so God instructed Moses to make from copper the image of a serpent and lift it high on a pole so that anyone who was bit by the poisonous snakes and looked upon the snake that Moses lifted, would be healed. What Christ is doing here is using the Old Testament as a teaching tool, to show His disciples and all of us that He is the fulfilment of the Old Covenant.

What a great mystery's here: As God would have it, the image of the cause of their death became the remedy for that death—and, as with all the great signs of the [Old Testament](#), it points to something greater to be fulfilled in the New Testament with the coming of the Messiah, God incarnate, and His defeat of sin and death on the cross.

Whereas the copper snake miraculously saved the people of Israel from a temporal death by snakes, they still eventually died a mortal death. But Christ's death on the cross is no temporal victory. Here too, the instrument of healing is itself an instrument of death—just like the snakes that killed the Israelites. Greater is the death caused by sin, if left unhealed and undefeated: a snake can kill the body, but sin can kill the soul.

Christ entered death as man and defeated it as God, the Giver and Author of Life. The very Logos of God who made all life and sustains all life, emerged from death the Victor.

When we speak of belief and God's love, we're speaking of something deeper than the intellectual or even spiritual acknowledgement of God. We're speaking of participation in His divine life. This is what we call deification or theosis in the Church. St. Peter refers to it in his Epistle as becoming *"partakers of the divine nature"* (II Peter 1:4). St. Paul speaks of us becoming sons by adoption, co-heirs with Christ through our participation in His life (Ephesians 1), in the human nature He redeemed by His incarnation, His entry into that human nature. This, by the way, is why Christ is referred to as the "new Adam."

Jesus Christ Himself unpacks for us His meaning when He speaks of belief. He also says emphatically to [Nicodemus](#), *"Unless one is born of water and the Spirit"* (Baptism and Chrismation), he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5). And elsewhere in relation to belief, *"He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."* He says this just before proclaiming, *"Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day"* (John 6:54).

In other words, belief is much more than mere assent; it is relationship and communion with God through the Sacramental life that He Himself has ordained and through which we are united with Him, further up and further in, as we deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow Him.

Of this participation in Christ's saving work, St. Paul also speaks, saying, *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ"* (Gal. 3:27). Through [baptism](#), and then living out our baptism throughout our lives, denying ourselves to follow Christ's will, His way, participating in the Sacraments, receiving Christ's precious and holy Body and Blood, praying and communing with Him, we demonstrate true belief.

This oft quoted verse, John 3:16, is to be understood then within this context with the cross before our eyes. The cross is the supreme expression of God's love for us: the Maker of all, the Giver of all life, was willing to become one of His own creation, be tortured, and lifted up on the cross, the most ignoble of deaths in the Roman world—and one of the most painful—to defeat sin and death on our behalf, to conquer death, so that, in this way, you and I who have been baptized in Him and continue in Him may become fellow conquerors.

For this reason, we lift high the cross, we wear the cross, and on the day of the cross, we will venerate the icon of the Exaltation, glorifying God. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved"* (John 3:16-17).

We proudly wear the cross, the "trophy invincible." If we boast in anything, we boast in the cross, and, as Christ commands and models for us, we deny ourselves, we take up our own symbolic cross as we strive to live for Him and proclaim His Truth in this world, despite whatever rejection we may receive. We follow Him, we live in

Him. We prioritize the life that He alone is over all the temporal and passing things of this world, that we may be saved. We say, "Amen!" to the words of St. Paul, who proclaims, "God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Gal. 6:14).

CATECHISM - CHRIST OUR PASCHA - TODAY'S EPISTLE / GOSPEL LESSON :

ETERNAL LIFE/ETERNITY: Page 16, Section 21; Page 18, Section 27; Page 66, Section 181; Page 76, Section 209_ **GLORIFICATION:** Page 34, Section 73; Page 78, Section 215; Section 88, Section 247; Page 131, Section 379



September 11, 2001 is a day that we will forever remember as our country lost thousands of innocent lives at the hands of men intent on delivering a fatal blow to our way of life. What those fanatics did not count on was the resilience of the American people who refused to allow the hatred of a few shake their faith in their country and their God. We did not break apart in the face of unspeakable tragedy. We broke down and wept in the arms of our neighbors, one nation, under God. We did not fall before our enemies. We fell to our knees before the throne of God and poured our hearts out to him. Churches swelled as even the hardest

of hearts softened as God spoke calmly even in the midst of chaos. Men and women who hadn't uttered a prayer in years had their lips loosened and cried into the heavens. God spoke and God moved in his people and across this country.

In the days that followed those attacks, men and women sacrificed for one another, digging through rubble for signs of life, ministering to those in need, and loving each other with full hearts. People donated their savings, their resources, and even their very blood for those they have never met. This was love, unconditional, being shown for the world to see.

Prayer for Deceased: O God of all spiritual and all Flesh, You trampled death, broke the power of Satan and granted life to the whole world. Now, O Lord, grant also rest to the soul of Your departed servants who lost their lives on 9/11 and its aftermath in a place of light, freshness, and peace, where there is no pain, sorrow, or mourning. As a gracious God and loving mankind, forgive their transgression committed by them in word, deed, or thought, since there is no man alive who has not sinned. You alone are without sin and Your justice is everlasting justice, and Your word is always the truth. For You are the resurrection, the life and the rest of Your departed servants, O Christ our God, and we render glory to You, together with Your Eternal Father, and Your most Holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.





The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross Commemorated on September 14

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire. In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by

which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on 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 Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6). In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found. Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28). The holy empress 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 death. Saint Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died 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 Venerable and Life-Creating 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 Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khosroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633). The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khosroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians. With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

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GOD BLESS AMERICA

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...



—Psalm 33:12