

## Giving With Love

We can give without love but such loveless giving has no value in the eyes of God. St. Paul writes, "If I give away all that I have ... but have not love, I gain nothing" (I Cor. 13:3). It is only when we give because we love that our gift is pleasing and acceptable to God.

Our weekly offering to God is first and foremost an offering of love. One can give without loving but one cannot love without giving.

## From the Fathers

*Do not be irritated either with those who sin or those who offend; do not have a passion for noticing every sin in your neighbor, and for judging him, as we are in the habit of doing. Everyone shall give an answer to God for himself. Everyone has a conscience; everyone hears God's Word, and knows God's Will either from books or from conversation with other people. Especially do not look with evil intention upon the sins of your elders, which do not regard you; to his own master he standeth or falleth. "Correct your own sins, amend your own life."*

St. John of Kronstadt

*You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of him who gives and kindles joy in the heart of him who receives. All condemnation is from the devil. Never condemn each other. We condemn others only because we shun knowing ourselves. When we gaze at our own failings, we see such a swamp that nothing in another can equal it. That is why we turn away, and make much of the faults of others. Instead of condemning others, strive to reach inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgement. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult and outrage and will shield your glowing hearts against all evil."*

St. Seraphim of Sarov

## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN  
GREEK ORTHODOX  
CATHEDRAL OF THE PACIFIC

50<sup>TH</sup>  
**Anniversary**  
1965-2015

September 13, 2015

Sunday Before Holy Cross

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September 13, 2015

## Sunday Before Holy Cross

Commemoration of: Cornelius the Centurian & Martyr; Herotheos the Righteous of Iveron Monastery, Mount Athos

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### Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Angelike thinamis* (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 6

*Ton zoopion Stavron* (Fore-feast of Cross) Tone 2

*The life-giving Cross of Your goodness, which we the unworthy have from You as a gift, we present to You, O Lord, as an intercessor. Save our leaders and our nation and keep them in peace, through the Theotokos, O only One who loves humanity.*

*Os tu ano stereomatos* (For the Consecration) Tone 4

*You have made the earthly beauty of the holy tabernacle of Your glory to be like the majesty of the firmament on high, O Lord. Make it strong forever and ever, and accept our supplications that we unceasingly bring to You there, at the intercession of the Theotokos. For You are the life and resurrection of all.*

*Tu Stavru su ton tipon* (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

*Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross, and like Paul having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever You guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.*

### Kontakion

*Uranos polifotos* Tone 4

*Lord, Your Church appears to us \* to be like heaven \* full of light, and guides with light \* all who believe in You, O Christ. \* And we who stand in it cry to You: \* Savior, establish forever this holy house.*

### Epistle Reading

Galatians 6:11-18

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to

the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

### Gospel Reading

John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

✘ SUN, 9/13– *Sunday before Holy Cross*

### Activities for Today

- ✘ Sunday School Classes begin
- ✘ Adult Religious Education in Bookstore following a brief coffee hour. Our topic for the day is "Praying Daily," based on the "**Ten Point Program for Orthodox Life**"
- ✘ Philoptochos Meeting 12 p.m.

### This Week

- ✘ MON, 9/14– *Elevation of the Holy Cross: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. \*\*\*Strict Fast Day\*\*\**
- ✘ SAT, 9/19– *Post Festival Tours 4 to 5 p.m., pending number of confirmed attendees: \*\*\*Please sign up today (Sunday, September 13th) if you plan to attend and bring a friend or two!\*\*\**
- ✘ SUN, 9/20– *Sunday after Holy Cross*

### To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*