

On Stewardship and Giving

Gregory the Theologian writes, “You will never overcome God’s generosity, even if you give away all that you have.... And however much you bring to him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God (Or 14.22).”

What Happened on the Cross by John of Damascus (c. 675-749)

By nothing else except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ has death been brought low:

The sin of our first parent destroyed,
hell plundered,
resurrection bestowed,
the power given us to despise the things of this world,
even death itself,
the road back to the former blessedness made smooth,
the gates of paradise opened,
our nature seated at the right hand of God,
and we made children and heirs of God.

By the cross all these things have been set aright...

It is a seal that the destroyer may not strike us,
a raising up of those who lie fallen,
a support for those who stand,
a staff for the infirm,
a crook for the shepherded,
a guide for the wandering,
a perfecting of the advanced,
salvation for soul and body,
a deflector of all evils,
a cause of all goods,
a destruction of sin,
a plant of resurrection,
and a tree of eternal life.



Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



September 15, 2013

Sunday After Holy Cross

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Sunday After Holy Cross

Commemoration of: Great Martyr Nikitas; Philotheos the Wonderworker

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Soson Kirie (Hymn of the Day) Tone 1

Save O Lord, Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the Faith, and protect Your people through Your Holy Cross.

Effrenestho ta urania (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 3

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Tou Stavrou Sou (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 you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

O ipsothis en to Stavro Tone 4

Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 6:16-20

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.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:34-9:1

The Lord said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for My sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange 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 with the holy angels in the glory of His Father." And He said to them, "Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power."

Activities & Announcements

- ✘ Sunday School Blessing for Beginning of 2013/2014 Year- Today we will have a Blessing of the Waters toward the end of services. All teachers and students will be blessed and sprinkled by Fr. Alex before the distribution of Antidoron.
- ✘ Flexible Schedule for Programs on Sundays- At the end of services, Fr. Alex will bless the food from within the Church, teachers and students will be dismissed first, teachers and students will have a 15 minute coffee hour followed by Sunday School for 40 minutes, Greek School for 45 minutes, and when Mrs. Graves returns, in October, our dance group will have practice for 2 hours.
- ✘ Sunday School Meeting with Sunday School Teachers, immediately after Sunday School.
- ✘ Adult Religious Education- Sunday and weekday times will be announced soon!
- ✘ Byzantine Chant Class- Dates and times T.B.A.!

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.*