

Whatever Their Size, Carry Them

“Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel’s will save it.” One who knew the meaning of Jesus’ words so well was Flannery O’Connor, the distinguished Catholic novelist who died in 1964 at the age of 39. From the age of 25 she lived with the knowledge she had a terminal disease, Lupus, – not to mention her sufferings from bone disintegration, shingles, anemia, and a tumor. Yet it was during fourteen years of sickness and suffering that she produced her greatest works of literary art. Her strong faith enabled her to say: “I have never been anywhere but sick. In a sense sickness is a place, more instructive than a long trip to Europe. Sickness before death is a very appropriate thing and I think those who don’t have it miss one of God’s mercies ...”

Those are strong words! How could a young woman call sickness one of God’s mercies? Yet Jesus’ words in the Gospel are just as strong: “If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his

cross, and follow in my steps.”

In some way Flannery O’Connor was able to accept the cross of her sickness and follow in the Lord’s footsteps. But she didn’t do it with a nice sweet smile on her face. She did it with strong courage and conviction. She realized that her own sickness was the very thing that helped her to look at life around her with the eyes of faith; and to translate that life into literary pages that would win her international fame as a writer. Each one of us is called upon to carry a cross in our life at some time. For some it may be the cross of emotional or spiritual suffering, rather than physical suffering. Sometimes there are big crosses, sometimes small. Whatever their size, Jesus calls upon us to carry them.

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SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 202-262-5040

Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Andrii Chornopyskyi – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – September 17, 2023

Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever + Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Sunday September 17 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(For the Parish) (+Nestor Bazarko from Family)
Sunday September 24 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(For the Parish) (+Katherine Szypot from the Iwanczuk-Petric Family)

THE PRIESTS ARE ON SPIRITUAL RETREAT THIS WEEK IN N.J.

Fr. Robert and Fr. Andrii are away this week on the Annual Priest Retreat of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia from Monday to Friday. If there should be an emergency; please ask the hospital to call any Catholic Priest to administer the Sacraments. If there should be a death in the parish; please call the parish emergency number at 202-262-5040, and leave a message. We will make arrangements for the funeral as soon as possible.

IN YOUR CHRISTIAN CHARITY PLEASE REMEMBER +KATERYNA JURACH IN YOUR PRAYERS

In your Christian charity please remember our parishioner +Kateryna Jurach (94), widow of +Stefan, and mother of Mariyka (husband, Vitalij Garber), in your prayers. She entered eternity on Saturday September 9. Her Funeral Liturgy was celebrated on September 13, in our Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family. Burial was in Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Hamptonburgh, NY. May her Memory Be Eternal - Vichnaya Yi Pamyat!

FALL CATECHISM FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-6 HAVE BEGUN

All children ages 3-6 are welcome to join Holy Family's Catechism classes this fall with Co-Catechists Lindsey Fedyk and Julia Dezelski. Classes will be held between the two liturgies from 10:15-11:15. Please email Lindsey (lindseyfedyk@gmail.com) with any questions and to register your family. Classes will be held on: 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Robert Matthew C., Olena Chalupa, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Alice Gogniat, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Nila Iwaskiw, Kateryna Jurach, Frank Karasinski, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Paul Marynowych, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Thomas Nagurney, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Michael Sharr, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Paul Yarrish.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

God With Us Catechism

The Holy Cross

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ. With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption. The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy". This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life. The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.