

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

28 Cross Street - Auburn, New York 13021 ([www.stnicholasauburn.com](http://www.stnicholasauburn.com))

**Very Reverend Michael Speck – Pastor**

**(315) 246-6051 (Cell), (315) 255-2998 (Home) [mspeck100@gmail.com](mailto:mspeck100@gmail.com)**

**Office Hours Thursday from 2PM to 4PM or by Appointment**

Reverend Deacon David Donch    Reverend Deacon Michael W. Speck  
Sr. Warden - Greg Michaels    Jr. Warden - Rocco Lupo of Blessed Memory  
Reader Nathaniel Donch

**Sunday, September 12 2021**



## **Schedule of Services**

**Sunday, September 12 – 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy with  
Coffee Hour – Sisterhood Meeting – Church School Meeting**

**Monday, September 13 – 5:00 PM – Vespers**

**Tuesday, September 14 – Elevation of the Cross – 8:30 AM –  
Divine Liturgy**

**Viewing in Church and Funeral of the  
Ever-To-Be-Remembered Servant of God Rocco Lupo**

**Viewing - Wednesday, September 15 – 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
6:30 PM Panikhida**

**Funeral – Thursday, September 16 – 9:30 AM followed by  
Interment at St. Nicholas Cemetery**

**Saturday, September 18 -5:00 PM – Vespers**

**Sunday – September 19 – 9:00 AM -Divine Liturgy with Coffee  
Hour**

*As most of you know, our Junior Warden and life-long church member Rocco Lupo entered into eternal rest this past Thursday. His love for our church and the Orthodox faith was steadfast and unshakeable. His service was exemplary. He worked diligently to assure that the church was in order and prepared for all the services and special feast days and events. In honor of his service to the church, Archbishop Michael has given his blessing for Rocco to be buried with the dignity of wearing an altar server's sticharion. His presence and service will be sorely missed. May God Grant Him Rest Eternal and Life Everlasting in Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Fr. Deacon David will be holding a meeting after Liturgy today, for parents regarding the beginning of our new Church School Program, the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*.**

**The presentation will be held in the church basement. He will be demonstrating a lesson that is a part of this program and be available to answer questions regarding any aspects of the program you would like to know about. We ask that parents attend this short presentation and support this new program so that we will be able to instruct our children in God's Church and His Love for them.**

**Thank you for your support!**

**The St. Marion Sisterhood will hold its first meeting of the 2021-2022 season today Sunday after Divine Liturgy. Plans for pierogi making and the Bazaar will be discussed along with any new and old business. Please consider joining this charitable church organization.**

# **Remembering 9/11: Twenty Years Later**

**To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**



**On the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we remember the day as a tragedy in the truest sense of the word. It is fitting to reflect on this catastrophe with great sorrow, sobriety, and prayer.**

**We remember the lives that were cut short in the collapse of the towers of the World Trade Center, the damage to the Pentagon, and the wreckage of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. There were almost three thousand people who never came home, taken from their family and friends who were left to grieve and try to make sense of their loss. Many more were injured and forever scarred, both physically and**

**emotionally. Even those who were not present at the sites of the attacks have vivid imagery of that day come into their minds unbidden.**

**The repercussions of that terrible day have unfolded and consequences have been felt in all corners of the world. The pain of the terrorist attacks has led to the pain of the past two decades where we have seen “wars and rumors of wars” (Matt. 24:6).**

**On this somber occasion I encourage you to consider with renewed faith the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Soon we will celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.**

**Look to the Life-giving Cross for healing, as God told the Hebrew people to look to the bronze serpent in the wilderness (Num. 21:4-9). Fixing our gaze on the Cross cures the serpent’s bite and reminds us that even great suffering cannot separate us from the love of God.**

**Recall that the Cross, an instrument of death, was revealed by God as the “invincible trophy” (Kontakion of the Cross) which puts evil to flight. By virtue of the Cross, the power of God is manifest and enables us to do difficult things — even forgiving those who carried out these appalling attacks.**

**Great tragedies in our world call us to repentance, and anniversaries like today remind us that we are sojourners and exiles here on earth (1 Pet. 2:11). We look with hope towards the Kingdom of God. Always do we, as St. Paul remarked, “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one” (Heb 11:16).**

**Let us continue to remember in prayer all those who lost their lives, the survivors who continue to live with disability, the first-responders who carry emotional burdens of that day, and the families and friends of the victims who have suffered their grief over these twenty years.**

**May the Lord bring His comfort to all.**

**Yours in Christ,  
+Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada**

# 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.**