

Dear friends in Christ,

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast was instituted to commemorate two historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, in 320 in Jerusalem, and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, which mark the site of the Crucifixion. However, its significance is far greater. The cross of Christ reminds us of how the son of God bore the weight of all sin and evil, out of love for all humanity. It reminds us that he is present in the very worst of our suffering. It reminds us that love is stronger than sin and death. Amid war, civil strife, and violence, the cross is a sign of hope, love, and the promise of resurrection.

Pope Benedict preached on this feast a number of years ago and reflects on the significance of the Holy Cross to our faith. Here is an excerpt from that homily:

*"What a great thing it is to possess the Cross! He who possesses it possesses a treasure" (Saint Andrew of Crete, Homily X on the Exaltation of the Cross, PG 97, 1020). On this day when the Church's liturgy celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Gospel you have just heard reminds us of the meaning of this great mystery: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that men might be saved (cf. Jn 3:16). The Son of God became vulnerable, assuming the condition of a slave, obedient even to death, death on a cross (cf. Phil 2:8). By his Cross we are saved. The instrument of torture which, on Good Friday, manifested God's judgement on the world, has become a source of life, pardon, mercy, a sign of reconciliation and peace. "In order to be healed from sin, gaze upon Christ crucified!" said Saint Augustine (Treatise on Saint John, XII, 11). By raising our eyes towards the Crucified one, we adore him who came to take upon himself the sin of the world and to give us eternal life. And the Church invites us proudly to lift up this glorious Cross so that the world can see the full extent of the love of the Crucified one for mankind, for every man and woman. She invites us to give thanks to God because from a tree which brought death, life has burst out anew. On this wood Jesus reveals to us his sovereign majesty, he reveals to us that he is exalted in glory. Yes, "Come, let us adore him!" In our midst is he who loved us even to giving his life for us, he who invites every human being to draw near to him with trust.*

*This is the great mystery that Mary also entrusts to us (today), inviting us to turn towards her Son. In fact, it is significant that, during the first apparition to Bernadette, Mary begins the encounter with the sign of the Cross. More than a simple sign, it is an initiation into the mysteries of the faith that Bernadette receives from Mary. The sign of the Cross is a kind of synthesis of our faith, for it tells how much God loves us; it tells us that*

*there is a love in this world that is stronger than death, stronger than our weaknesses and sins. The power of love is stronger than the evil which threatens us. It is this mystery of the universality of God's love for men that Mary came to reveal here, in Lourdes. She invites all people of good will, all those who suffer in heart or body, to raise their eyes towards the Cross of Jesus, so as to discover there the source of life, the source of salvation.*



*The Church has received the mission of showing all people this loving face of God, manifested in Jesus Christ. Are we able to understand that in the Crucified One of Golgotha, our dignity as children of God, tarnished by sin, is restored to us? Let us turn our gaze towards Christ. It is he who will make us free to love as he loves us, and to build a reconciled world. For on this Cross, Jesus took upon himself the weight of all the sufferings and injustices of our humanity. He bore the humiliation and the discrimination, the torture suffered in many parts of the world, by so many of our brothers and sisters for love of Christ. We entrust all this to Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother, present at the foot of the Cross." POPE BENEDICT*

May the Holy Cross of Christ strengthen us all and help us to persevere in faith.

Blessings on your week!  
Fr Johnson

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**PLEASE NOTE: No Daily Mass on 09/18/25**

### Monday, September 15

9:00 AM Daily Mass  
10:00 AM Women of Faith  
7:00 PM Baptism Prep Class

### Tuesday, September 16

No Daily Mass  
5:30 PM Faith Formation K-6

### Wednesday, September 17

8:30 AM Confessions  
9:00 AM Daily Mass  
7:00 PM House of Prayer  
7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal  
(for 11AM Sunday Liturgy)

### Thursday, September 18

**No Daily Mass**

12:15PM Steps to Freedom  
1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle  
6:30 PM Knights of Columbus—  
Fourth Degree Meeting  
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
(for 9AM Sunday Liturgy)  
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

### Friday, September 19

7:00 AM Brothers in Christ  
9:00 AM Daily Mass  
9:30 AM Benediction then Adoration until 9PM  
10:00 AM Guardians & Angels

### Saturday, September 20

3:30 PM Confessions  
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass  
6:00 PM Wine & Cheese after Mass

### Sunday, September 21

9:00 AM Sunday Mass  
11:00 AM Sunday Mass  
Coffee & Donuts after both Masses  
6:30 PM Teen Group



SAINT  
**CORNELIUS**  
BISHOP  
AND  
MARTYR

SEPTEMBER 16

### Scammers are at it again!



This is a reminder that Fr. Johnson and Fr. Raphael will never email asking for Gift Cards. If you receive an email that asks for this, always check the email address. It will

not be from their @stjude-redmond.org email, which is the only email they are using for parish communications. Please **do not respond**, and delete the email.

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