

**15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation.** Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadézhdá), and Love (Liubóv', Charity), at Rome (ca. 137). Martyrs Theodota at Nicæa (ca. 230). Martyr Agathocleia (ca. 230). 156 Martyrs of Palestine, including Bishops Peleus and Nilus, the Presbyter Zeno, the Noblemen Paternuthius and Elias, and others (ca. 310).

**2 Corinthians 4:6-15**

**Matthew 22:35-46**



**Martyr Sophia  
and her Three Daughters**

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope, and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding. All three were martyred in the second century A.D.

In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

~ Excerpt from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives>

## SCHEDULE

**Sunday, September 17**.....9:30am Third & Sixth Hours  
10:00am Divine Liturgy  
12:30pm Baptism: Roman Malaszuk

**Saturday, September 23**.....6:00pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, September 24**.....9:30am Third Hour  
9:45am General Confession  
10:00am Divine Liturgy  
11:30am Parish Council Meeting

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**FLOWERS** decorating the Cross for the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross this week are being donated by the Weger, Gulbin, Babich, and Penola families in memory of their departed loved ones. +Dimetri Kopcha (Weger family), +Walter Vladyka (Gulbin family), +Andrew Babich (Babich Family), and +John Shkutzko (Penola family) will be commemorated in Requiem Prayers after Liturgy on September 17. Memory Eternal for those departed loved ones!

**OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES** go out to Evelyn Orinick and the Orinick Family on the falling asleep in the Lord of Evelyn's husband Andrew on September 4th. The Orinicks are long-time members of Holy Trinity. May +Andrew's Memory be Eternal!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** will begin this coming Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. **ATRIUM** begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please be sure to register your children by today, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The link to the registration form can be found in the current weekly email update.



**PLEASE REMEMBER** that His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL will be visiting us on the weekend of **October 7-8**. His visit will include the blessing of our new bells and the bell structure.

**THANK YOU** to the Coffee Hour Committee for hosting Coffee Hour last Sunday. Thank you, also, to those who contributed salads or casseroles to the “Basic” Coffee Hour and those who volunteered to clean up afterward. God grant them Many Years!

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**Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross**

**Troparion — Tone 1**

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries. And by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.*

**Kontakion — Tone 4**

*As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the Invincible trophy, Thy weapon of Peace.*

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*“Repress the feelings of irritation in your soul with love, deaden the powers of the senses with temperance, and let the power of thought soar with prayer. Then, the light in your soul will never dim.”*

+ *St. Maximus the Confessor*

*“No matter how much we may study, it is not possible to come to know God unless we live according to His commandments, for God is not known by science, but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and learned men came to the belief that God exists, but they did not know God. It is one thing to believe that God exists and another to know Him. If someone has come to know God by the Holy Spirit, his soul will burn with love for God day and night, and his soul cannot be bound to any earthly thing.”*

+ *St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, VIII.3*

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*Welcome to all our visitors.*

*Whether you are attending in person or watching from home,  
we are happy to have you join us in worship.*

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## Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

*Offering the Fullness of the Christian Faith*

**Orthodox Church in America**

Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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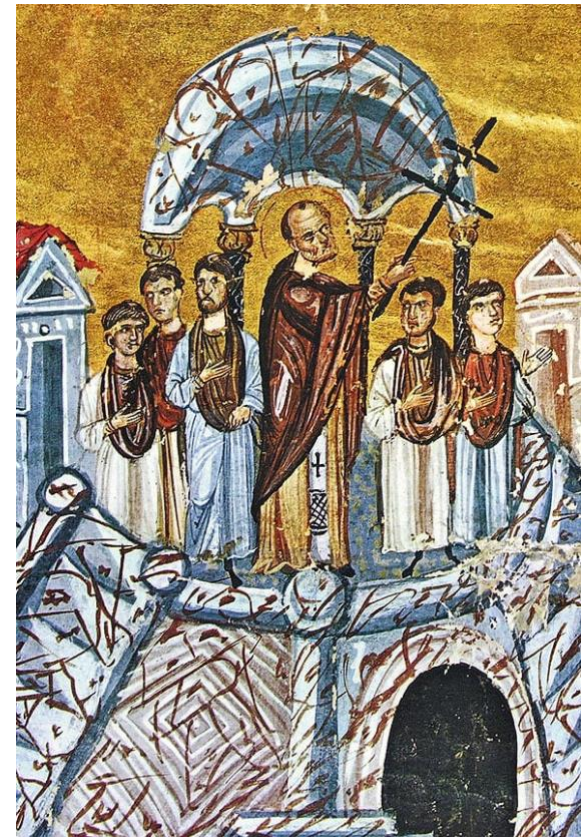
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**Mitred Archpriest George Hasenecz, Attached**

**Carol Wetmore, Choir Director**



**Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross**

*Elevation of the Holy Cross, manuscript, Holy Mountain, 12th Century*  
**September 17, 2023**