



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Today's feast is one of the greatest feasts of the Eastern Churches. It is frequently mentioned in ecclesiastical writings and has always had as its object the triumph of Christ, His resurrection, and the veneration of the holy cross, the sign of His victory over death. The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy

Cross was first instituted in order to commemorate the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection on September 13, 335. The Emperor Constantine built this Church and the one in Bethlehem and they are both in existence today. The Church of the Resurrection had five naves and in the interior a circular structure covered by a dome which protected the sanctuary of the sepulcher or tomb of Christ. The date of September 13 was chosen in order to supplant the pagan feast of the Temple of Jupiter in Rome.

The second historical event which is the source of our present feast was the return of the holy cross to Jerusalem under Emperor Heraclius. The wood of the cross had been preserved in the Church of the Resurrection until May 4, 614 when the Persians captured Jerusalem, burned the Church of the Resurrection and carried off the cross. After the victory of Emperor Heraclius over the Persians, the cross was returned to Jerusalem on September 14, 628. It is said that the Emperor, dressed in his royal vestments, carried the cross through the streets of Jerusalem. He was stopped by the Patriarch, was demanded that he remove his splendid vestments in order to become more like the scorned Christ. The Emperor agreed and walked through the streets barefooted. A crowd of the faithful accompanied him and prostrated before the Holy Cross.

On this day, the Maronite Church celebrates the Rite of the Cross, which is a service of adoration of the cross, the sign of our salvation. The feast which came at the end of the annual liturgical cycle is also directed toward the second coming of Christ, who carries His cross of light and triumph. It is this theme which is the object of the readings and prayers of the seven weeks which follow and which close the liturgical year.

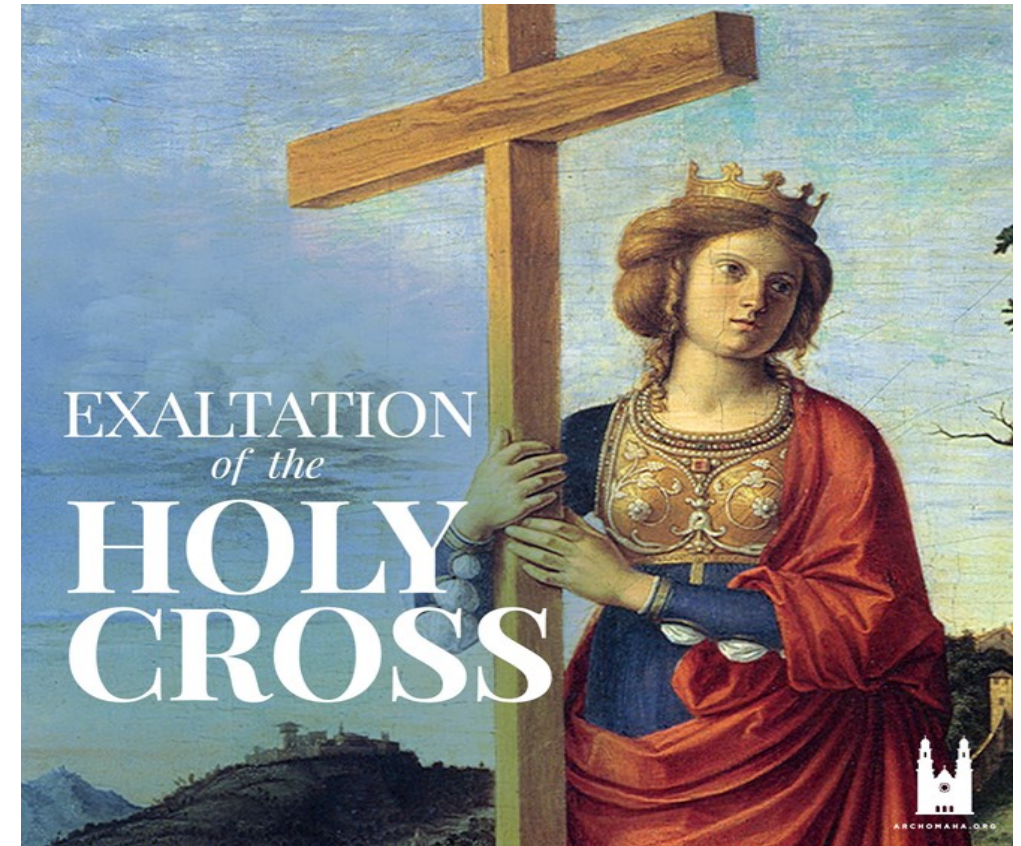
Adoration and honor to the cross of our Savior! Glory and praise to Christ our God, forever,
Amen.

ALL SOULS' DAY

How often do we remember our faithful departed and how often do we pray for them? Mass for the Holy Souls will be celebrated on Sunday, **November 2nd.**

Envelopes are included to put the names of those faithful departed loved ones you wish remembered during this Mass. You can place the envelopes in the collection basket by **October 30th.**

**ST. ELIAS MARONITE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
4730 COVE ROAD, NW, ROANOKE, VA 24017
September 14, 2025**



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 10:30 am
Weekdays: 9:00 am

Emails: Fr@steliaschurch.org
secretary@steliaschurch.org
Office: 540-562-0012
Web Site: www.steliaschurch.org

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Every Friday following the 9:00 am
Liturgy until 5:00 pm

Mystery of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:00 PM to 4:40 PM and Sundays from 9:45 AM to 10:15 AM
or by appointment

LITURGY INTENTIONS

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 2025

Saturday: 5:00 PM: Bette, EJ Thomas, Jr. and EJ Thomas, III, RIP (Michele Thomas)

Sunday: 10:30 AM: Bill Well, RIP (Patricia Well)

Monday, Sept 15: 9 AM- In honor & thanksgiving to St. Sharbel

Tuesday, Sept 16 : 9 AM-

Wednesday, Sept 17: 9 AM-

Thursday, Sept 18: 9 AM-

Friday, Sept 19: 9 AM-

Every Tuesday we will be praying the Novena to St. Anthony after the 9AM Liturgy.

Offertory— September 7, 2025 - \$2,512.00



SECOND COLLECTION— this weekend, September 13 & 14 for our Maintenance Fund

ALTAR EUCHARIST CELEBRATION September

The bread, wine & candles are being offered in memory of
Hanna Moses by Joe Moses & Mandy Tolano



Daily Scripture Readings

Week of September 14, 2025

Monday: 2 Peter 1:1-11 : John 3:11-21

Tuesday: 2 Peter 1:12-21 : John 8:21-30

Wednesday: 2 Peter 3:1-9 : John 12:31-36

Thursday: 2 Peter 3:10-18 : Mark 8:31-38

Friday: Jude 1-7 : John 8:33-38

Saturday: Jude 17-25 : Luke 23:36-43

Sunday: 2 Timothy 2:1-10 : Mark 10:35-45

Gifts and Talents Workshop

You are invited to attend a workshop on discerning your specific gifts, talents that God has given you.

WHEN: Saturday, October 4th

TIME: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, including a brief light lunch break.

WHERE: St. Elias Church Library

Please sign up in the back of the church so we know the quantity of food and materials needed.



REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be a sign-up sheet available in the back of the church, to register your children for Religious Education classes. Please do so as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly .

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED

Sign up sheet in the lobby

CORRECTION... Meeting date changed

Teachers plan to meet on Sunday, **September 28th after the Liturgy.**

If you have a calling to this vocation, please let Fr. George know that you are interested.

CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLANNING

Outreach Staff from the Office of Cemeteries and Funeral Services (OCFS), a Ministry of the Diocese of Richmond will be holding a Regional Outreach at Our Lady of Nazareth in Roanoke Thursday October 23rd at Noon and 6:30pm to inform you by explaining the spiritual and practical reasons for learning about Catholic funeral planning & the Order of Christian Funeral Rites, practices and traditions.

There will be a short presentation along with a question-and-answer session in the hall. Please take advantage of this opportunity to better understand the importance of a Catholic funeral rites and the benefits to pre-planning your funeral arrangements.

Lunch at noon and Dinner at 6:30 will be served during the presentation.

Please RSVP to rwash@richmonddiocese.org