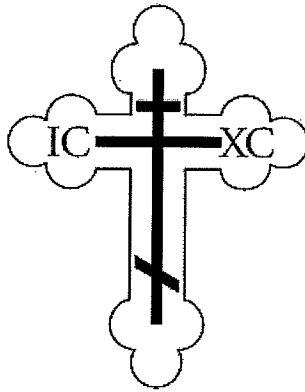


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
April 7, 2013

✙Sunday of the Life-giving Cross✙



“The Cross is the Protector of the Universe!”
- Hymn to the Cross

Upcoming Services

Wednesday- Possible Presanctified Liturgy at 6:30pm

Friday- Presanctified Liturgy at 6:30pm

Saturday- Baptism for Jesse Potts at 3:00pm

Saturday- Great Vespers at 6:00pm



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 7

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the
gates of Eden; It has mysteriously been quenched
by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and
the victory of hell have been vanquished; for
thou, O my Savior, have come and cried to those
in hell: Enter again into paradise.

Today's Bible Verse-

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny
himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

- Mark 8: 34

The Cross

The Sunday of the Veneration of the Precious Cross is the third Sunday of Great Lent. On this day, the cross is brought to the middle of the church. Orthodox Christians prostrate before it, singing: *Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.*

The Veneration of the Cross is celebrated in the middle of Great Lent to remind us of what we are striving for through our prayer and fasting. The cross lets us remember that as hard as Great Lent seems, it is worth it in the end, at the gladness and rejoicing of Blessed and Holy Pascha!

Before Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the cross was used to punish criminals and was seen as an awful thing. However, by dying on the cross for us and for our salvation, Christ has made the cross a symbol of the Holy Orthodox Church and has turned it into a guardian of Christians against demons.

We the Orthodox wear crosses around our necks in order to protect us. Rejoice in the All-holy, venerable and life-bearing Cross!

