

September 20, 2026

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**The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and
Life-Giving Cross
is celebrated each year on September 27th**



In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption. The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

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THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE FOR FOOD FESTIVAL:

- Tuesday, September 29th 7:00 pm set-up hall with tables and chairs, and bring up supplies.**
- Wednesday, September 30th and Thursday, October 1st 10am cover tables bring up all serving supplies for buffet and bake sale etc.**
- Friday October 2nd 9am vegetable chopping**
- Saturday and Sunday please go to the signup genius there are many empty slots that need filled in to complete the schedule.**

****** Please note that the Sarma prep and rolling is already completed therefore this has been taken off of the work schedule for this week.**

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PURSE BASH IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH



**TICKETS INFORMATION AND
SPONSORSHIP FORMS ARE NEXT TO
BULLETIN**
Any questions contact:
Samantha Baldwin 724-462-1402
smilosh14@gmail.com

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St. Elijah Fellowship & Ministry Committee continues its efforts with the Darrelle Revis Foundation Power Pak program this fall. All signup dates for the school year at Aliquippa HS are in the link below and we need your help! We meet every other Thursday at 6PM in the high school CAFETERIA (moved from the library) to pack snacks for qualifying kids so they have food on weekends. Please consider helping; it's fun and takes about an hour! Thank you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F44ACAF22A0F49-aliquippa>

Together with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church, St. Elijah Fellowship & Ministry will be preparing a Soup and Sandwich lunch for our neighbors at Sheffield Towers on **Saturday, October 24**. Will you consider helping us? We need: help with food preparation in the morning (between 9:30-11:30AM) help with delivery of the lunches to Sheffield Towers (between 11:30-1:00PM) donations of sandwiches and bottles of water For details and to sign up, please access the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FAAAC28A1FAC25-65907573-soup> Thank you! Thank you for your donations of nonperishables for St. Elijah Fellowship & Ministry. We appreciate your continued support! Our need is ongoing for easy-open containers of shelf stable meats, fish, vegetables, soups, ramen noodles, etc. The donation box is too small for extra large containers. Also, ingredients (sugar, flour, cooking oils), sauces, and condiments are not needed. We are also no longer taking donations of clothing. Thank you again for your generosity!

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**NOMINATION FORMS FOR CHURCH EXECUTIVE BOARD ARE LOCATED NEXT TO THIS BULLETIN
FOR THE 2026-2027CALENDAR YEAR! PLEASE SUBMIT THEM TO ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ON THE
COMMITTEE ONCE COMPLETED- DO SO BY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1ST !**