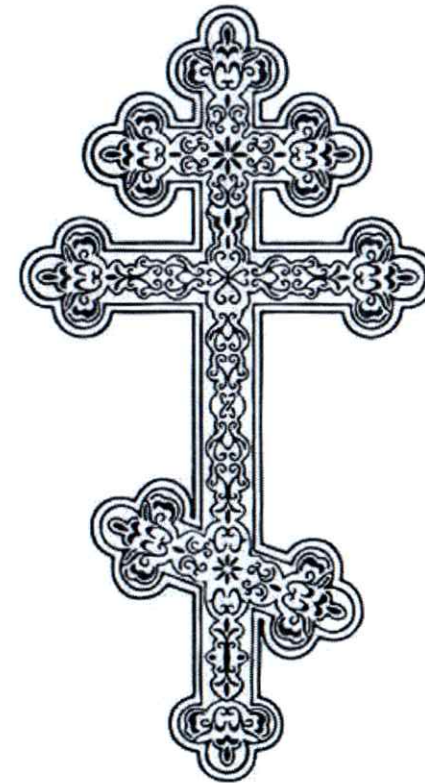


Metropolitan Anthony Bloom on the Cross

And so when we think of the Cross we must think of this strangely intertwined mystery of tragedy and of victory. The Cross, an instrument of infamous death, of punitive death to which criminals were doomed — because Christ's death was that of an innocent, and because this death was a gift of self in an act of love — becomes victory. This is why Saint Paul could say, "It is no longer I, it is Christ Who lives in me." Divine love filled him to the brim, and therefore there was no room for any other thought or feeling, any other approach to anyone apart from love, a love that gave itself unreservedly: love sacrificial, love crucified, but love exulting in the joy of life. And when we are told in today's Gospel, "Turn away from yourself, take up your Cross, Follow Me" — we are not called to something dark and frightening; we are told by God: "Open yourself to love! Do not remain a prisoner of your own self-centeredness." Do not be, in the words of Theophan the Recluse, "like a shaving of wood which is rolled around its own emptiness." Open yourself up! Look — there is so much to love, there are so many to love! There is such an infinity of ways in which love can be experienced, and fulfilled and accomplished. Open yourself and love (others) — because this is the way of the Cross! So, when we venerate the Cross, when we think of Christ's crucifixion, when we hear the call of Christ to deny ourselves — and these words simply mean: turn away from yourself! Take up your cross! — we are called to open ourselves to the flood of Divine Love, love that is both death to ourselves and openness to God, as well as to each and to all.

"Let us Attend!"



*"Thou hast given us thy invincible trophy, the weapon of
Peace ..."*

A PARISH BULLETIN OF
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

Rev. Paul J. Witek, Ph.D., Rector

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15 March 2026

Third Sunday of the Fast – Veneration of the Cross

Bulletin, Sunday, 15 March 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 7. Veneration of the Cross. Martyrs Agapius, Publius (Pausis), Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303). Hieromartyr Alexander of Sídē, in Pamphylia (270–275). Martyr Nicander of Egypt (ca. 302).

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14–5:6 ; **Gospel:** Mark 8:34–9:1

Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish's wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA's daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.

Schedule

- ~ **Monday, 16 March 2026: 9AM Lenten Hours.**
- ~ **Wednesday, 18 March 2026: 6PM Joint Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at All Saints followed by Common Meal.**
- ~ **Saturday, 21 March 2026 9:30AM Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy; 5–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession; 6PM Great Vespers.**
- ~ **Sunday, 22 March 2026, Sunday of St. John of the Ladder 9:30AM, Divine Liturgy followed by Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship.**

Announcements

~ We welcome all those who join us today. Please come downstairs and enjoy fellowship together. We have place waiting for you.

~ Our parish extends deepest sympathies to the Semon Family on the repose of +Helen Semon. The funeral arrangements for Helen are still being worked out and will be forthcoming. May her memory be eternal.

~ Our parish will hold Lenten Pre-order Food Sale on Friday 20 March 2026 from 11AM–4PM. Help is needed for preparation and on the day of the sale itself. For more information about food preparation, please see Ann Schlasta.

~ A Soul Saturday Liturgy will be held this coming Saturday. Please join us in commemorating the faithful departed of our parish community.

~For those that have pussy willow bushes on their property, we will be in need of branches for Palm Sunday. The branches ideally should be cut after catkins (white furry buds) emerge but before the catkins turn green and bud. Cut branches should be kept in a cool dry place.