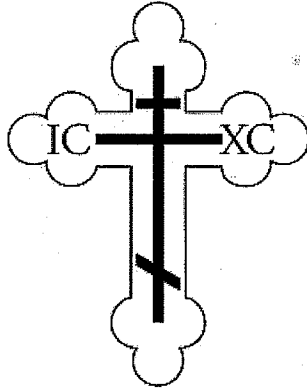


Saints of Orthodoxy
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
Children's Bulletin

March 18, 2012
Sunday 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 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.**

Pg. 1~ Cover/ Troparion Kontakion

Pg.2~Story

Pg.3~ Game/ Activity

The Sunday of the Holy Cross is the Third Sunday of Great Lent, also called Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross. On this Sunday, services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week and the holy Resurrection. For the catechumens of the early church, and the faithful preparing for Pascha today, the spiritual theme starts to change from personal *faith*, and personal *effort*, to Christ. The Church teaches that it is Christ's cross that saves. One cannot take up his own cross and follow Christ unless one has Christ's cross which he took up to save mankind. Partaking of this tree, one will no longer die, but will be kept alive.

This is done to refresh, reassure and to encourage those participating in Great Lent. The Church equates the appearance of the cross at this time to the banners and symbols that precede the return of a victorious king. The Epistle reading is from Hebrews 4:14-5:6 and explains Christ's priesthood, and the Gospel lesson from Mark 8:34-9:1 ends with *And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."*

