

St. James Armenian Church (Evanston, IL)

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sunday September 17th, 2017

Morning Service 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Blessing of the Four Sides of the Land (*Antasdan*)



Տօն Վերացման Սրբոյ Խաչին

Կիրակի, Սեպտեմբեր 17, 2017

Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն 9:00

Սուրբ Պատարագ 10:00

Անդաստան

Sweet Basil (*Rehan*) and flower donations are being accepted for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Please call the church office at (847) 864-6263 if you wish to make a donation or bring your own Sweet Basil (*Rehan*) or flowers for the altar to the church.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is the last one of the five major feasts of the Armenian Apostolic Church. It is the most important feast among the feasts dedicated to the Holy Cross, as it is dedicated to the history of the return of the Holy Cross from imprisonment, its elevation and glorification. In the Armenian Apostolic Church the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on Sunday during the period between September 11 and September 17.

Every autumn, the Armenian Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross-one of the five major feasts of the Church, and the most important of the four feasts of the Holy Cross.

The Exaltation refers to the True Cross on which Christ was crucified, which according to Church tradition was ceremoniously elevated for veneration on three occasions. It was first elevated by St. James the Apostle, the first Bishop of Jerusalem, who lifted the cross with the words "We bow before thy cross, O Christ"-a formulation still used in the Armenian liturgy.

The second occasion involved the discovery of the True Cross after a period of some 300 years. In A.D. 326, Queen Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, traveled to Jerusalem to identify the holy places associated with Christ's life. She authenticated the True Cross by placing upon it the body of a recently deceased youth, who was miraculously raised to life when he came in contact with the formerly discarded cross. According to tradition, the True Cross was overgrown with aromatic basil, which is used in the commemoration of the feast day today.

The third occasion came in the 7th century, when the Persians had seized the True Cross of Jesus after conquering the city of Jerusalem. Leading a coalition of forces, including Armenians, the Emperor Heraclius recaptured the cross and, en route to Jerusalem, passed with it through Armenia, where the cross was repeatedly raised up and venerated.

FEAST OF THE CROSS OF VARAK

OCTOBER 1, 2017

FEAST OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE HOLY CROSS

OCTOBER 29, 2017

FEAST OF THE APPARITION OF THE HOLY CROSS

APRIL 29, 2018