

September 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	
Sunday Before Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
SUNDAY, 9/7	<u>9:00 am</u> Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners <u>10:30 am</u> Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention
MONDAY, 9/8	<u>7:30 am</u> Divine Liturgy for special intention
TUESDAY, 9/9	<u>NO</u> Divine Liturgy
WEDNESDAY, 9/10	<u>6:15 pm</u> Divine Liturgy for special intention
THURSDAY, 9/11	<u>NO</u> Divine Liturgy
FRIDAY, 9/12	<u>7:30 am</u> Divine Liturgy for special intention
SATURDAY, 9/13	<u>5:00 pm</u> Divine Liturgy (English) for special intention
SUNDAY, 9/14	<u>9:00 am</u> Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners <u>10:30 am</u> Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Announcements

**1-Upcoming Feasts in Our Church Calendar**

Sunday, September 14 — we will commemorate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a day that reminds us of the power and victory of the Cross of Christ in our lives. Join us in prayer and reflection on this solemn occasion.

Monday, September 8 — we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, honoring the birth of the Mother of our Lord. Let us entrust ourselves and our families to her maternal care.

May these holy days renew our faith and strengthen our love for the Cross and for the Mother of God.

**2-Fall Youth Retreat 2025**

The Fall Youth Retreat (FYR) will take place September 12–14 (Friday–Sunday) at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg, PA.

This year’s theme is: “The Saints: Beacons of Hope.” The main speaker will be Subdeacon Alex Bricki from the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Flyers and registration materials (English and Ukrainian) are available.

For details, please contact Fr. Lubomir Zhybak (zhybak@hotmail.com) or Michael Spak, FYR Coordinator ([michael\\_spak@yahoo.com](mailto:michael_spak@yahoo.com)).

*Upcoming Events  
in Parish & Eparchy*

Sep. 8<sup>th</sup> – *nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Sep. 14<sup>th</sup> – *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

Today, the Church rejoices at the birth of the one chosen from all eternity to be the Mother of God — the Most Holy Theotokos, Mary. Her nativity is a celebration of hope, a dawn of salvation, and a reminder that God's promises are fulfilled in unexpected, tender, and human ways.

A Sign of God’s Providence

The birth of Mary is not recorded in Scripture, but it has been celebrated in the tradition of the Church since at least the 6th century. According to tradition, Saints Joachim and Anna — once considered barren — were blessed with a child in their old age. Her birth was a miracle of grace, a sign that God's saving plan was moving forward, even when human eyes could not yet see it.

In a world that often measures worth by power or achievement, Mary’s nativity reminds us that God chooses the humble, the quiet, and the trusting. Her life — from its very beginning — was set apart for holiness, and yet it was marked by simplicity, prayer, and silent obedience.

A New Beginning

Mary’s birth is the threshold between the Old and New Covenants. Just as Eve’s disobedience brought the fall, Mary’s yes — beginning already in her heart from her earliest years — opened the way for the Redeemer to come. Her nativity is like the first light of dawn before the sunrise, preparing the way for Christ, the true Light of the world.

As we contemplate her birth, we are invited to begin anew ourselves — to be reborn in grace, to trust in God’s plan for our lives, even when we don’t fully understand it.

A Model for Our Families and Community

The nativity of Mary also reminds us of the importance of family and community in forming saints. Joachim and Anna raised Mary in the faith, and their home became the garden where the new Eve would grow. Today, we are called to foster such “gardens of holiness” in our own families — homes where love, prayer, forgiveness, and peace flourish.

Mary was born into a family that longed for God — let us make our families places where God is welcomed, honored, and loved.

A Prayer for the Feast

O Mary, full of grace, from your birth the world was blessed with hope. Teach us to live with trust in God’s plan, with humility in our hearts, and with courage to say yes to the Lord in all things. Be a mother to us, guide our families, and bring us ever closer to your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**Sunday collections for the weekend of 8/31/25, including envelope offerings - \$510, donations - \$320, candle - \$20, online giving - \$30**

**Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$880**

**Reflection on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
*"And the Word became flesh" — but first, the Mother was born.*

Support Mother of God  
Ukrainian Catholic Church



**Protection of the Mother of God**  
**Ukrainian Catholic Church**  
**Byzantine Rite**  
2880 Highway 138 NE  
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya  
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci  
Fr. Deacon Christopher Todd

Parish office phone 770-760-1111  
Emergency phone 224-400-0558  
**Email:** parish@mogchurch.com  
**Website:** www.mogchurch.com

**Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.**

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

***THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;  
PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN  
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.***