

# *Kidane-Mehret*

Ge'ez Rite Ethiopian Catholic Church



**October 2018**

**Rev. Abayneh Gebremichael, M.A., B.C.C., Pastor**

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am at St. Vincent de Paul, 14M Street SE Washington, DC 20003.

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## **Important Parish Information**

**Newcomers to the parish:** Please fill out your full names and addresses on the Registration Form. The Catholic Church requires that each member of a parish, to the extent allowed by his income, support the day-to-day running of the parish's pastoral activities.

### **Sacraments and Pastoral Care**

**Baptisms:** Please telephone your pastor at the office to make an appointment to fill out the form and make the necessary arrangements. **Marriages:** It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington that couples proposing to marry must first contact, or see, a priest or deacon at least six months prior to the date on which they intend to marry for Marriage Preparation classes. All Catholics are bound to observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage. **Confessions:** are heard before the start of the Divine Liturgy, and any other times by appointment. **Funerals:** Contact your pastor at the parish office to make arrangements. **Hospital Visits:** Notify the pastor if a family member is hospitalized. **Mass Intentions (Stipend):** \$25.00. This is for Memorial Masses, thanksgivings, or petitions

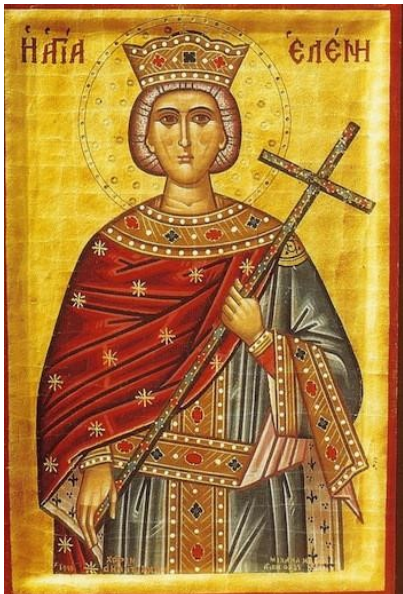
## Why is the Cross important?

Without the cross we can't see glorification. Jesus carried the cross until the end. If He had put it down, our salvation would have been in doubt. The burden of cross made Jesus fall three times but, despite the wounds he bore from being scourged, Jesus courageously stood up and carried it all the way to Golgotha. Christians are called to follow Christ's example and each one of us is told by Jesus Himself to take up our crosses daily.

But what does this mean? What is our personal cross? It is all the circumstances of our daily life: our sicknesses, our disappointments, our sadnesses, our challenges. These are all part of our cross. Then especially there is our spiritual journey to our heavenly homeland. The forces of evil tempt us to quit, to lose hope and stop. Lack of patience, hopelessness, despair, are some of the factors used by the evil one. However, Jesus tell us to not to give up but to pray without ceasing, to put our hope and trust in Him. He sends us His grace, consoles us with His word, and nourishes us in His sacraments, and gives us fellowship with the saints, especially the Mother of God, and all the faithful community in the Church.

The Cross of Christ is very important instrument for our Christian Faith in fact St. Paul tells us that it is the one thing we can boast about!

The Ethiopian community celebrates the feast of Cross in mid-September for several days. The feast of Meskel is a glamorous celebration as the night sky is lit with the leaping flames of the bonfire and the people come together to celebrate in a mixture



of religious and cultural traditions that bring joy to everyone. Poor people are reminded to have their share of food.

The Feast of Meskel started in the 4<sup>th</sup> century by St Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine who

went to the Holy Land in search of the True Cross. When she found it, great bonfires were lit to spread the good news throughout Christendom. Since then this celebration has been continued by the Ethiopian Church tradition. So let us be grateful that we have received the mystery of the Cross from the Author of the life Who is Christ Himself and let us continue to carry our crosses daily until we achieve our glory.

## Prayer

Mary, our model and mother,  
By your obedience and patience you have taught us how to be true children of God.  
Please help us by your powerful assistance to overcome all our weaknesses, and to fulfill perfectly our tasks in life. Amen

## Readings for October

**Oct 7:** Rm 7:1-10; 1Pet 1:21-25; Mt 6:25-34  
**Oct 14 :** Eph 5:21-33; Rev 21:1-8; Jn 3:25-36  
**Oct 21 :** Eph 6:1-9; Rev 12:1-12; Lk 12:16-31  
**Oct 28 :** 1Cor 10:1-10; Rev 14:1-5; Mt 12:1-21

## Psalm 103: 15, 16, 20

As for man, his days are like the grass;  
he blossoms like a flower in the field.  
A wind sweeps over it and it is gone;  
its place knows it no more.  
But the LORD's mercy is from age to age, toward those who fear him...

## Let us pray for:

### The Newly Baptized:

**Sena Jarra**, daughter of Jarra Balcha and Weynshet Taffa  
baptized Sept 16, 2018

**Yohan Berhane**, son of Aman Abdelkadir and Meklit  
Teruneh baptized Sept 30, 2018.

### Those whose civil marriages were renewed by the Sacrament of Matrimony on September 8, 2018.

Tesfaye Abza & Rahel Betemariam  
Michael Tibebe & Enkutatash Messeret  
Mentesnot Elias & Yewubnesh Asaminew

**All baptized Christians throughout the world** that we will show the world that we are Christians by our love for Christ and one another. Especially for the protection of those in war-torn lands.

**Victims of Sex Abuse** in the Catholic Church throughout the world and especially in the United States, and for the abusers that God will heal them.

**The Parish of Kidane-Mehret:** for Peace, Unity, Harmony and Charity in the Parish.

**For the Church:** That in this New Year the Church will shine with the glory of God.

**For the World:** That the King of Peace will reign in every nation and in every heart.

## *We Fly to Our Mother*



“Sub tuum Praesidium”—these simple Latin words are the beginning of a prayer to the Holy Mother of God. The full prayer in English reads:  
*We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God.  
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen*

These are the words of an ancient prayer to Our Lady that date back to 250 AD and are found in Greek written on a papyrus found in Alexandria, Egypt, the flourishing center of early Christianity from which our Church and Divine Liturgy come. Devotion to Our Lady is found in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, and to a lesser degree in the Anglican and Lutheran Churches. It is this prayer the Holy Father has suggested we include with our Rosary and the St. Michael Prayer each day during October.

Each Sunday, when we attend the Divine Liturgy we look at the icon of Our Lady with the Child Jesus clinging to her. The icon that we have is copy of the miraculous Byzantine icon that is in the Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome. It shows the King of Kings as a child Who was confronted by His destiny when the angels presented Him with the instruments of His death. Like any child, He flies to His Mother for safety and comfort. The swiftness

of His fleeing to His Mother’s arms is depicted by the sandal that is falling from His foot. His resurrection and glory are shown in the golden background and in the crown-like halos around His and His Mother’s heads. What is remarkable is the way the Mother of God is looking at us. Her eyes are filled with compassion as if She understands and knows the trials and tribulations that each one of us is experiencing. Yet She is amazingly calm and peaceful. She is there for Her Son and offers Him a hand to hold onto for comfort, all the while indicating Her Son in Whom we should have total faith and trust.

If He flew into Her arms when He was distressed, can we do anything less? On the Cross He gave Her to us as our Mother. The icon portrays her as Queen of Heaven, a status that gives Her unlimited authority in the Kingdom of God. Is it any wonder that the Pope recommends this short and powerful prayer to the Church in these dark times?

If we think about it, this short prayer also reflects the devotion to Kidane-Mehret, our parish Patroness who was granted by the Holy Trinity the authority to save from Hell those who sought her help. Each time we cry to Her for help in the face of temptation, we are asking to be saved from mortal sin. Each time we seek help for healing from sickness, we are asking to be given more time to work out our salvation. Each time we ask Her protection, we are trusting in the loving compliance of Her Son, Jesus Christ with His Mother’s compassionate pleas.

Scripture tells us She will crush the serpent’s head and in the never-ceasing battle between good and evil, we have the greatest ally we could ever have in Mary, the great Mother of God.



## *News from around the World...*

### **Pope accepts Cardinal Wuerl's Resignation**

Pope Francis on Friday accepted the resignation of Donald Cardinal Wuerl, the archbishop of Washington. Cardinal Wuerl first resigned when he turned 75, the age that the Church mandates for the retirement of bishops. The pope cited Cardinal Wuerl's "nobility" and announced that the 77-year-old prelate would stay on as the archdiocese's caretaker until the appointment of his successor. In an interview, Cardinal Wuerl said that he would continue to live in Washington and that he expected to keep his position in Vatican offices that exert great influence, including one that advises the pope on the appointment of his successor.

### **Catholic schools do well in 2018 Blue Ribbon School Awards**

The Catholic News Agency reports that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the 2018 National Blue Ribbon to more than three dozen Catholic schools. Of the nearly 50 private schools to receive the designation, almost 90 percent were Catholic. The awards were made public Oct. 1 in an announcement by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. A total of 349 schools nationwide — 300 public and 49 private — received the honor in 2018. Of the 49 private schools honored, 44 of them were Catholic institutions, including schools in Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. Most of the schools are administered by their respective dioceses. Blue Ribbon Schools are either categorized as "Exemplary High Performing Schools," which means they are among the highest-performing schools in their state on standardized tests, or "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools," which are among the highest-performing in a given state at closing achievement gaps between their student body and all students in the state over the past five years.

### **Synod on Youth begins in Rome**

The Synod on Youth began in Rome earlier this month. Once Pope Francis decided to look into what the young people of the world expected from the Church, he has had young men and women attending meetings at the Vatican to help shape the discussion at the actual Synod of Cardinals and Bishops. After the allegations of sexual abuse surfaced throughout the world and in the United States



in particular, many bishops called for the postponement of the Synod. However, Pope Francis decided to continue with it. The working document explains:

"Taking care of young people is not an optional task for the Church, but an integral part of her vocation and mission in history." In just a few words, this is the specific scope of the upcoming Synod: just as our Lord Jesus Christ walked alongside the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35), the Church is also urged to accompany all young people, without exception, towards the joy of love....

"The Holy Father highlighted when he introduced the Pre-synodal meeting: "The splendid Message to the Young of Vatican Council II comes to mind. [...] It is

an invitation to seek new paths and to journey along them boldly and trustfully, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and opening up to the Holy Spirit, to rejuvenate the very countenance of the Church», as we accompany young people in their journey of vocational discernment during this "epoch change".

## *For our Younger Parishioners...*



## *The Bible describes the Beginning of Everything*

It is easy to forget that God is the Creator because we are so used to everything that is around us. But before the Creation there was nothing. We learn this in the opening chapter of the Bible. In Genesis, the first chapter of the Bible, we read about His creative actions. He took something "formless and empty" and made it into the earth, filling it with all kinds of things. Everything was done in an orderly fashion. All was in darkness, so He gave us light by creating the sun and the moon and the stars and He created time. Having separated dry land from the oceans, there was emptiness, so He created the fish for the sea, birds for the air, and animals for the dry land.

Finally, He created man in His own image, breathing life into him. This does not mean that we look like God because God is spirit, but it does mean that we have a "spiritual soul, intellect and free will." In creating man, God gave him everything he would need to become like Him by making the right decisions and leading a good and moral life.

As we read about God, bringing all that we know into existence from nothing, we also learn that God created all by using His Word whom we know as Jesus Christ. He also used breath, another way of saying Holy Spirit. From that point on, because He created Time, history began... and all men and women who have ever lived have to work out their relationship with the Creator as a potential member of His family on earth and in Heaven where time does not exist.