#### **OUT OF OFFICE**

Fr. Richard will be out of office from Monday, September 29 to Monday, October 6, 2025. Please keep him in prayer as he takes a well deserved break.

#### CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Please note the following dates for the Children's Faith Formation sessions:

- Sunday, September 7th—Pre-Registration opens online at the link: https://forms.gle/gQog3trDUnAorj328
- Sunday, September 14th—Orientation and Registration Part 2 at 11:00am in the church hall.
- Sunday, September 21st—Faith Formation sessions begin at 11:00am and rehearsal for Youth Mass at 12:00noon to 1:00pm.
- Saturday, September 27th, 6:00pm Mass and Sunday, September 28th 7:00am and 9:00am Mass will be Youth weekend.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

AFF resumes this Sunday, September 14th at 11:00am in the church. They will continue with the Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality, the focus being on "The Mass". All are invited to attend and please bring a friend as we continue our journey of faith as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year.

#### **SVDP SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER**

Tickets for the below event will be on sale after all Masses on Saturday, and Sunday, September 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st, from St. Vincent de Paul members. Please support their effort as it assists with their outreach ministry to the elderly at Ozanam home by providing meaningful assistance as well as providing care packages to our needy brothers and sisters.



# Stella Maris Church Community

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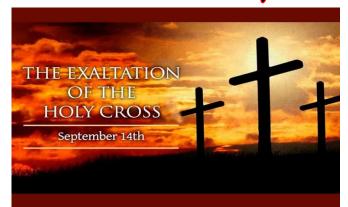
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Richard Brown Associate Pastor: Fr. Jude Akagha Deacon: Mark Hitchener

Church Council Chair : David de Morasse Finance Chairperson : Neville LynFatt

MASS TIMES: Sunday 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Tuesday – Saturday 6:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION: Appointment/Announced

# The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



**Year C - September 14, 2025** 

## **Today's Readings**

1st Reading: 2nd Reading: Gospel Reading:



Num. 21: 4-9 Phil. 2: 6-11 Jn. 3: 13-17

Response: Never forget the deeds of the Lord,

but ponder them deep in your heart.



#### A reflection for the Feast of the Exaltation of the **Holy Cross**

William Orbih reflects on the readings for September 14, 2025

The cross used to be nothing more than an instrument of torture and death. The Romans used it to punish those they considered criminals, to strike fear in the hearts of those who might dare challenge their so-called peace. It was the cruelest form of execution.

Everything changed the day Jesus was crucified. Once he died upon the cross, what was once merely an instrument of Roman punishment became in Christ the symbol of humans' salvation from pain and death. It became an instrument of divine mercy, a symbol of love, and above all, our hope for God's total deliverance at the end of time.

The cross compels us toward justice, compassion, and solidarity with all those who suffer. It challenges us to open our eyes to the plight of the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the oppressed, and to vehemently challenge the structures responsible for their suffering, while we do what we can to alleviate their distress. It warns us not to rest until there is justice for all, to resist the constant temptation to participate in corruption or selfishness, but to transform the vicious circle of life into a circle of grace and mercy.

Above all, the cross challenges us to take God and our faith more seriously. For every Christian, the cross remains the most powerful reminder of the religion of love, justice, and peace that Christ inaugurated.

As Pope Francis reminds us: "The Way of the Cross alone defeats sin, evil, and death, for it leads to the radiant light of Christ's resurrection and opens the horizons of a new and fuller life. It is the way of hope, the way of the future. Those who take up this way with generosity and faith give hope and a future to humanity."

The cross is our message and our hope. May we, on this feast day, embrace it anew.







#### 14th September

Simon Roberts ♦ Kristofer Shelley ♦

#### 15th September

Craig Harrisingh ♦ Ann Marie Grant ♦

#### 16th September

Mikhail Archer ♦ Gary Neill ♦

#### 17th September

Savannah Chung♦Neil Grant♦Andrea Hitchener♦

Ariane Howell ♦ Theodore Thomas ♦

#### 18th September

Laverne Belnavis ♦ Tania Brown ♦ Michele Johnson Mary Olga Lee♦Paul Pasmore♦Andrene Wilson♦

#### 19th September

Angel Beswick♦Nia Collings♦Wendy Fox♦

Claude Hughes ♦ Tiffany McDaniel ♦

#### 20th September

Chad Ziadie ♦ Coleen Chong ♦ Michael Jones ♦

Jessica Harding♦Michelle Williams♦

Susanna Kim♦





**16th September ❖** Vendryes & Marie Miller

**18th September** ❖ Steve & Vanderlyn Hanna

**19th September ❖** Justice Lloyd & Carol Hibbert ❖Lloyd & Donna Walker

**20th September ❖**Peter & Diane Tapper

