

On this the Sunday of the Holy Cross, the Gospel of Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 is read. In this Gospel reading, the Lord tells us to pick up our cross and follow Him. He emphasizes that it profits us nothing if we gain the whole world and forfeit eternal life with Him!

Dearest ones, we are at the middle of Great Lent moving towards Pascha. It is here that the Church reminds us the power of the Life-Giving Cross. The Cross reminds us to have hope even in our darkest despair. The Cross is a symbol of victory to which Jesus Christ destroyed death by death, bringing eternal life with Him to all the world; death having no sting. The Cross as the Gospel reading today tells us, shows us the path we should walk every day of our lives, that of the path of life, that of salvation.

The Cross of Jesus Christ has brought joy to all the world. It is our strength, our staff, our hope, and this is why we venerate it reverently. It is from the Cross of Jesus Christ that we draw strength and grace from God to fight the good fight and finish the race. Let us proclaim loudly, “We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify” giving all honor, worship and glory to Him in the highest, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.