

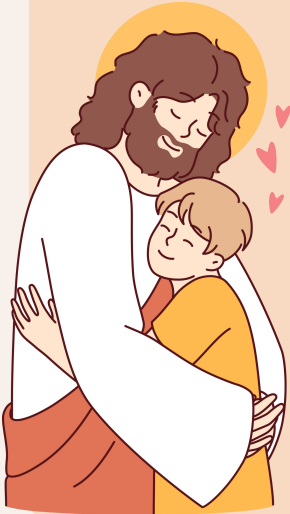
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

MYOCN PEW PALS



Sunday before Holy Cross

In the Epistle, St. Paul reminds us that the most important thing we can ever be proud of is the Cross of Jesus—because it shows us just how much God loves us. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, not to judge us, but to save us.



This can feel very big and hard to imagine—but it really means something simple: God loves YOU so much that He wants you to live forever with Him. And Jesus shows us how to live in that love by caring for others, forgiving, and trusting God even when things are hard.

Imagine this: You get into an argument with your brother or sister. You feel upset, and you don't want to say sorry. But then you remember that Jesus forgave even the people who hurt Him. When you choose to forgive your sibling and make peace, you're living out the love of the Cross in your own home. **Just like Jesus gave Himself for us, we can give love to others—even in small ways like sharing a toy, helping a friend, or saying a kind word.**

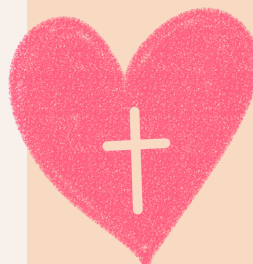
Family Homework

Celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos: Attend Divine Liturgy on Sep 8 or read the story of Mary's Life.

Cross Hunt: Look around your home and see how many crosses you can find. Each one is a reminder of God's love.

Memory Verse

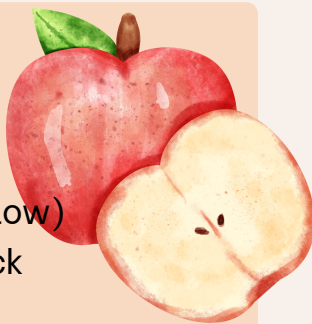
**"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."
– John 3:16**



CRAFT – Apple Stamps

Supplies

- Apples (cut in half)
- Paper plates
- Washable paint (red, green, yellow)
- Large sheet of paper or cardstock
- Markers or crayons



Instructions

- **Prepare the Apples:** With adult help, cut apples in half (width-wise to show the star-shaped seeds).
- **Dip in Paint:** Pour a little paint onto a paper plate. Dip the apple halves into the paint.
- **Stamp the Paper:** Press the painted apples onto paper to make colorful apple prints.
- **Decorate:** Once the apples are dry, write around them:
 - “The Fruits of Paradise” – Inside each apple print, write the “fruits of the Spirit” (love, joy, peace, kindness, patience)

As you stamp apples, remember the apple that St. Euphrosynos gave from paradise.



DISCUSSION PROMPT

What does God’s love mean to you? How can we remember Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross every day in our words and actions?

SAINT STORIES

SAINT EUPHROSYNOS THE COOK

Saint Euphrosynos was a humble monk who lived in a monastery. He wasn’t a priest or teacher—he was the cook! Every day, he worked quietly in the kitchen, making simple meals for the other monks. Even though his work seemed small, he did it with love, humility, and prayer.

One night, a priest at the monastery had a dream. In his dream, he saw himself in paradise, and there was Saint Euphrosynos, surrounded by beauty and joy. The priest asked him, “How did you get here?” Euphrosynos simply said, “By serving God with all my heart in whatever task I was given.”

When the priest woke up, he realized that holiness doesn’t come only from big, important jobs. It comes from being faithful, humble, and prayerful—even in the little things. That day, he found an apple from paradise placed in his hand, given by Euphrosynos in the dream.

This miracle showed that God treasures the simple, loving heart.

Commemorated September 11