Dear Friends in Christ,

This Monday the Church solemnly celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast has made many people wonder why the Church exalts the cross which, for them, is “a stumbling block and craziness.”

Yes, the cross was really a stumbling block for the Jews and craziness for the Greeks. Nowadays the cross is still a big stumbling block and craziness for many for they could not grasp or accept the wisdom of God who used the cross as the key to open the gate of Heaven and close the gate of Hell. Unfortunately, we misused our free-will, so we shut down the gate of Heaven and open up the gate of Hell.

In God’s wisdom, He transforms the cross—the stumbling block and craziness for many—to become His glory, to show His love, to bring salvation to many!

Jesus uses the cross as a bridge to connect Heaven and Earth. Jesus changes the form of the cross, and again the cross becomes the key to open the gate of Heaven which was closed when our ancestors, Adam and Eve, sinned against God. By dying on the cross Jesus reconciles us with the Father. The cross of Jesus is the road that leads us back to the Father and although many try to take that road, they could not finish it.

My dear friends, without Jesus Christ on the cross, exalting it is really crazy and unwise. Thanks and praise must be to God. The cross that the Church (every one of us) exalts has Jesus on it. The presence of Jesus on the cross makes the cross holy, not the cross itself! With Jesus on the cross, we realize how humble Jesus/God is, how much Jesus/God has loved us. With Jesus on the cross or even just His name is proclaimed “every knee should bend.”

If we exalt the cross and carry it without Jesus on it, we exalt nothing and our carrying of the cross is in vain. If we exalt the cross and carry it with Jesus on it, we exalt God’s glory and love, and we carry with us our salvation.

It is Jesus on the cross that makes it holy. It is Jesus on the cross that gives us courage to take up our daily cross and follow Him.

Let us exalt the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ, we see God’s infinite love and learn from Him who is meek and humble of heart.

Glory and victory belong to Christ,

Fr. Tien

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is in memory of Mary Harrell by Linda Behr.

Weekly Offering

We invite you to try electronic contributions and we hope you find it very convenient. You can use any computer or mobile device to donate electronically. As always, we thank you for your generous sharing of treasures in the spirit and practice of stewardship.

Go to our website – stfrancisassisifranklin.org – to set up online giving. You can also go to your bank to have it automatically sent to the Church. Thank you!

The weekend of September 20th you will have a chance to express your gratitude/appreciation to retired priests who have served parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte, NC. As you have heard before they are only retired from administration, but not retired from doing ministry as a priest. They still go and help with weekend Masses at parishes when they are asked and are available. This collection does not fund only the priests who have retired already, but also for priests who will retire in the future (just like me)! Our assessment this year is $6,041.
You can livestream our daily and Sunday Masses!
Go to facebook.com/maplestreet299
You do not have to join facebook to livestream our Masses.

**DAILY MASS**
Monday thru Friday at 9:00 a.m.
Daily Mass is in our Chapel - Call the Parish Office
to reserve a spot or Live Stream from your home.

**SUNDAY MASS**
Outside Mass in our upper parking lot (bring a chair)
or Live Stream from your home or your car in our parking lot.

Our Sunday Mass is at 8:00 a.m. in English
(For those viewing Mass in your car, our ushers
will give you our password if you need it)

Our condolences are extended to Bill and Dee Moffitt
on the death of their Sister-in-Law, Kathy Moffitt and
to Jose Soto on the death of his Uncle, Rodolfo Soto.
May their souls, along with all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Sue Kozma has invited the
Women’s Guild to meet at
her home on Monday,
September 14th, at 10:30 a.m.
Please call Sue at 239-940-2057 for details and a reservation!

Our Food Pantry (for our present clients)
could use jellies and jams and cash/check
donations for the next distribution on Sept. 16th. Prepared boxes of items (no choices) are
packaged for pick up in our upper parking lot.

There are still many boxes of offertory
envelopes in the foyer of the church. You can
pick them up after Mass on Sunday or in the
church during the week from 10 am until 3 pm.

Use your voice for kindness, your ears for
compassion, your hands for charity, your
mind for truth and your heart for love.

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**Mass Schedule and Intentions**
*Father Tien will offer daily Masses in the Chapel
and Sunday Mass in the upper parking lot.*

**Saturday, September 12**
The Most Holy Name of Mary
NO MASS

**Sunday, September 13**
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M.  †Margaret Driscoll by Beverly Driscoll

**Monday, September 14**
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9:00 A.M.  †Tom Allegretti by Dan Allegretti

**Tuesday, September 15**
Our Lady of Sorrows
9:00 A.M.  Josette Roisin

**Wednesday, September 16**
Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
9:00 A.M.  †The Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia

**Thursday, September 17**
Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
9:00 A.M.  The Rogers and Neary families
            by Kathleen Rodgers

**Friday, September 18**
9:00 A.M.  †The Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia

**Saturday, September 19**
Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
NO MASS

**Sunday, September 20**
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M.  †Tom Allegretti by Dan Allegretti

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Saturday from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.
or by appointment

**The Rosary**
The Rosary is recited everyday
one-half hour before Mass.

"Peace and union are the most necessary of all things for men who live in common, and nothing serves so
well to establish and maintain these as the forbearing charity whereby we put up with one another's defects."

Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
**Feast Day - September 17**