

September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Church venerates the True Cross and celebrates the double anniversary of the finding of the Cross in September 326, and the dedication of the churches Constantine built on the sites of the Holy Sepulcher and Calvary.

Salvadoran Wooden Cross Activity

The artisans of La Palma, El Salvador, have a unique and joyful way of depicting the relationship between spiritual and secular aspects of life. Traditional wood objects such as crosses and angels are decorated in bright, clear colors with motifs that often include the houses of the village and local flora and fauna. Bright colors, simple drawings, and a high-gloss finish are their unique style. This Salvadoran-style wooden cross is simple and fun to make with older kids. Follow our design, or create your own.

You will need:

- premade crosses (like these)
- paintbrush
- colored permanent markers or paint markers
- fine-point black permanent marker
- clear acrylic spray
- white paint

Directions:

1. Paint the cross white. Let it dry. Paint a second coat of white.
2. After second coat has dried, use the fine-point black permanent marker to create designs like the ones to the right. Use these designs or create your own.
3. Using the colored permanent markers, color in the designs.
4. After everything has dried, use the clear acrylic spray to spray a very light coat. Use a light touch or your colors will run. Multiple coats will give you a glossier finish.

Optional: After your cross has dried, use Command® strips to hang your cross on the wall.

