

## **PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

The **Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord** is commemorated by the Church on August 1. It is the first of the three “Feasts of the Savior” in August; the second being the great feast day of the Transfiguration; the third being the Translation of the Icon of Our Lord on August 16.

It became a tradition to carry the wood of the Venerable Cross through the streets of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city starting in the beginning of August. This was done because illnesses were more common in August at that time. On the eve of the feast, it was taken out of the imperial treasury and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia. From this Feast until the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the relic of the Cross throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate.