

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11/11/18

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✦ Evelyn L. Kearney (req. by Judy Pisano & Edna Burbules)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) Blessings for Larry & Paula Reinhart (req. by John & Mary Ann Matasowski)
11:00 AM (E) ✦ Stephan Juskewycz (req. by Yaroslav and Lesya Bugera)

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11/18/18

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✦ Rick Ferko (req. by Mike & Jean Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✦ Bob Mehok (req. by Mehok Family)

11:00 AM (E) ✦ Petro Stolyarchuk (req. by Yaroslav & Lesya Bugera)

YOUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:

11/04/18 \$3349.00

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISH

Please remember in your prayers all of the sick and homebound of our parish. *Those who are in their own homes are as follows:* Marian Kohan, Joseph Hrinda & Karen Muryn Brown. *Those who are in nursing homes are as follows:* Mary Salchak (Edinboro Manor), Frank Gresh (Pleasant Ridge Manor). If you know of anyone else who should be on this list, please contact Fr. John.

DIVINE LITURGY TIME CHANGE: Sunday, December 9 – Erie 8:30 AM & Girard 11:00 AM

ANGEL GIVING TREE

In the spirit of Christmas, an Angel Giving Tree will be in the church narthex with envelopes labeled with different monetary amounts. Please donate according to your means. This is a good way to share a gift with someone who is less fortunate during the Christmas season. The funds collected will be sent to Second Harvest Food Bank which supplies food to soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries throughout Erie County.

PARISH BAKING DAYS

Holiday rolls will be baked on the following Mondays: Nov. 12, 19, 26 and Dec. 3, 10, 17. The rolls are \$11.00 each. For information or to place orders, call 474-5641 or 774-2961.

JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner

STRUGGLE WITH GOD

We read in the Old Testament that Jacob wrestled with God. We are to understand from this story that a great thing happened in the life of Jacob. Somewhere in his career he underwent a conversion, an experience with God. At the same point in his life this ambitious man was truly blessed and touched by God's grace. As a result of this very personal experience with God his life was changed. The new name, Israel, given to Jacob at this point signifies the new person he became.

Just as Jacob had a personal "struggle" with God, a personal meeting with Him so each and every one of us must meet Christ personally and decide for him at some point in life.

Fr. John Meyendorff, wrote,

"We are told in the Gospels that religious education implies a positive acceptance of Christ. This is the real conversion. If this marriage does not take place at some time during the life of a Christian, he is simply not a Christian. We have a very clear statement about this in the tradition of the Fathers. What makes a Christian a Christian is this personal commitment to Christ. One's formal belonging to the church through baptism and other sacramental participation remains a mere potential if the individual commitment does not take place. The sacramental gifts of Baptism and Eucharist and of all the sacraments are essential for an objective membership in the body of Christ; but again they are pure potential if they are not taken seriously and if a conversion of the heart and mind does not occur at some point in one's life."

NATIVITY FEAST: November 15 – December 24

On November 15 the traditional 40 day fast preceding Christmas begins in the Byzantine Rite. This fast is known as the Nativity Fast or Philips' Fast because it starts the day after the Feast of St. Philip (November 14). This period was set aside by the Byzantine church as a period preparing for the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. A highly developed liturgical structure never evolved for Philip's Fast, nor was the fast ever as strict. In fact, little mention is made at all about preparing for Christ's nativity until two Sundays before Christmas with the Sunday of the Forefathers. With the secular preparations for this feast beginning sooner and sooner every year, it is only fitting that we observe this traditional fast as a way to keep a proper perspective for Christmas. Christ will not be brought back into Christmas with clever slogans, but only with spiritual preparation through prayer and fasting.

Prayer for Veterans

God of compassion, God of dignity and strength,

Watch over the veterans of the United States

In recognition of their loyal service to our nation.

Bless them with wholeness and love. Shelter them. Heal their wounds.

Comfort their hearts. Grant them peace.

God of justice and truth, rock of our lives, bless our veterans,

These men and women of courage and valor,

With a deep and abiding understanding of our profound gratitude.

Protect them and their families from loneliness and want.

Grant them lives of joy and bounty.

May their dedication and honor be remembered as a blessing from generation to generation.

Blessed are You, Protector and Redeemer,

Our Shield and our Stronghold. Amen