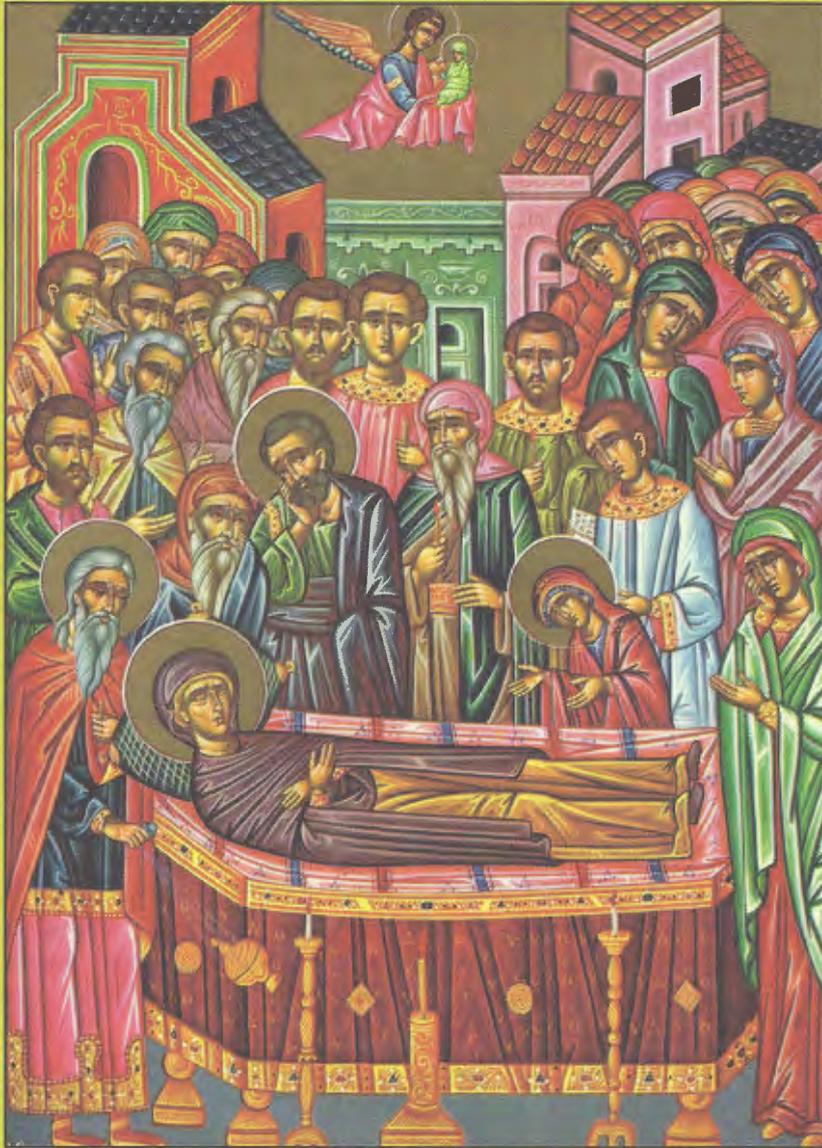


SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Dormition of Saint Ann -- July 25th

23 JULY 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7/23/17

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✱ Walter and ✱ Marie Yurcan (req. by Jim Yurcan)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✱ John and ✱ Juliann Danovich (req. by Mike Kohan)

11:00 AM (E) ✱ Ronald E. Bilski (req. by Don & Pauline Kowalski)

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7/30/17

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✱ Paul Vasil (req. by David Pangratz)

11:00 AM (E) ✱ Evelyn L. Kearney (req. by Ron & Charlotte Kujawinski)

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 in their own homes are as follows:* Anna Lupichuk, Shirley Crisswell, Maureen Huzinec, Yvonne Gulick, Marion Pennock, Fred Koeberle, Betty Antolik, Ann Krajnik, & Karen Muryn Brown. *Those in nursing homes are as follows:* Elizabeth Kowal (LECOM Senior Living Center), Michael Bokoch (VA Hospital), Ed Bosak (Independence Court), Helen Bauman (Sarah Reed Senior Living Center) and Margaret Krivonak (St.Mary's West). If you know of anyone who should be on this list, please contact Fr. John

2017 ERIE COUNTY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY –Sunday, August 6

The Byzantine Catholic parishes of Erie County will hold their annual picnic @ Waldameer Park @ Coaster #1 shelter. The best place to park is the West 6th and 8th Street parking lot (Rainbow Gardens entrance). Everyone is meeting at the shelter following the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy. Call Kathy Adams at 459-4461 with any questions.

2017 ARCHEPARCHIAL ALTAR SERVER FAITH AND FUN DAY – Thurs. Aug. 24

Registration will be at Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks at 9:15 AM. The day will include the Divine Liturgy celebrated at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks, PA, lunch at Holy Ghost Hall, visit to the Carnegie Science Center, followed by a 4:05 PM Pirates baseball game at PNC Park. See Fr. John if you are interested.

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

THINKING AHEAD

Most of the tragedies of life occur because we do not think ahead. We consider the present with no thought of the future. It is good to ask ourselves the question, "Then what?" The students of the great Greek philosopher Socrates met every answer with another question: "If this is true, then what?"

I give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, a welcome to a stranger, clothes to the needy, then what? Then, says Jesus, God will say to you one day, "Come, O Blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

I fail to give food to the hungry. I fail to visit the sick. I fail to give water to the thirsty or clothes to the needy, then what?" Then, says Jesus, God will say to you one day, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and His angels."

What we do in life – be it as small as a cup of cold water given to an exhausted soul determines our destiny eternally. It would be good, then, to ask ourselves often: "If I do this, then what? What consequences will this act have for me both now and in eternity?"

THE LION AND THE SKUNK

There is an interesting legend about a loud, noisy and especially objectionable skunk who challenged a lion one day in combat. The lion promptly refused to engage in such a fight.

"Huh!" sneered the skunk, "you're afraid to fight!" "No," answered the lion, "but why should I fight you? You would gain fame from fighting me, even though I gave you the worst licking of your life, which I would do. How about me, though? I couldn't possibly gain anything by defeating you; while on the other hand, everyone whom I met for a month would know that I had been in the company of a skunk."

St. Chrysostom said once, "As long as we remain sheep, we overcome. Even though we may be surrounded by a thousand wolves, we overcome and are victorious. But as soon as we become wolves, we are beaten; for then we lose the support of the shepherd Who feeds not wolves, but only sheep."

PRAYER AND ACTION

In our Christian life too, dear brothers and sisters, may prayer and action always be deeply united. A prayer that does not lead you to practical action for your brother – the poor, the sick, those in need of help, a brother in difficulty – is a sterile and incomplete prayer.

But, in the same way, when ecclesial service is attentive only to doing, things gain in importance, functions, structures, and we forget the centrality of Christ. When time is not set aside for dialogue with him in prayer, we risk serving ourselves and not God present in our needy brother and sister.

– Pope Francis

..Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

3415 Wallace Street † Erie, PA 16504

Served by Fr. John J. Mihalco

Website: www.eriecountybyzantines.org

Telephone: (814) 825-8140 †

Fax: (814) 825-7582

Parish Center: (814) 825-9029 †

eriecountybyzantines@verizon.net



St. Anna (Ann)

St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, was the wife of St. Joachim and the daughter of Mattham, a Levi priest. Anna and Joachim were married and childless for about 50 years. This saddened them, and they vowed that should the Lord bless them with a child they would dedicate it to Him. Joachim went to the wilderness to pray, where the Archangel Gabriel told him that his prayers have been heard, and that Anna will give birth to a daughter who shall be called Mary.

The Archangel also reminded Joachim that, "according to your vow, she (Mary) shall be devoted to the Lord from her infancy, and she shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from her mother's womb. Mary shall not eat or drink anything unclean, nor shall her conversation or life be among the crowds of the people, but in the temple of the Lord, that it may not be possible to say, or so much as to suspect, any evil concerning her." St. Romanos chanted, "Joachim on the mountain prayed to receive fruit

from the womb of Anna; and the prayer of the holy man was received."

The same Archangel appeared to Anna and told her, "I am the angel who has presented your prayers and alms before God; and now I have been sent to you to announce that you shall bring forth a daughter, who shall be called Mary, and who shall be blessed above all women. She shall be full of the favor of the Lord, even from her birth. ... Gabriel then said, "arise, therefore, and go up to Jerusalem; and when you arrive at the gate that, because it is plated with gold, is called 'Golden,' there, for a sign, you shall meet your husband, for whose safety you have been anxious. When, therefore, you find these things accomplished, believe that all the rest which I have told you shall also undoubtedly be accomplished."

Based on the *Protoevangelium of James*

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