

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS 9/15/24

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✦ Thomas Kearney (req. by Kay Kujan)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✦ Fr. Robert Karl (req. by Victor & Sandra Wheeler)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9/22/24

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✦ Eileen Betza Romeo (req. by Mark & Denise Spangler)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✦ Mary Ann Hrinda (req. by Fern Antolik)

11:00 AM (E) ✦ Ron Riel (req. by Luniewski Family)

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

09/08/24

\$1843.00**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 in their own homes are as follows:* Jan Kondratic, George Smilo, David Kearney, Helen Law, George Huzinec, Michael Molnar, Maureen Huzinec. *Those in nursing homes are as follows:* Elizabeth Andrijiv (Pleasant Ridge Manor), Catherine Kasinec (St. Mary's Asbury Ridge), Shirley Crisswell (Brevillier Village), Fred Koeberle and Helen Bauman (Sarah Reed Senior Living Center). If you know of anyone who should be on this list, contact Fr. John.

EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION

God with Us Eastern Catholic Formation is the official catechetical apostolate of the Eastern Catholic Bishops of the United States. The website address is: www.godwithusononline.org This website now makes available radio podcasts, online lectures, a monthly newsletter, books and other education materials which serve to promote a better understanding of Eastern Catholics and their expression of the Catholic faith in the United States. The resource material on this website is constantly updated or changed to better meet the needs of its users.

E.C.F. CLASSES – 9:15 – 10:30 AM (Note time change)

All students through 8th grade are WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED to attend. E.C.F. classes on Sundays 10/13, 11/10, 12/8, 1/12/25, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13 (Palm Sunday), 5/11 (Mother's Day). NOTE: On Sunday, September 8, wear something "blue."

SAVE THE DATE!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Erie and Girard Byzantine Fellowship Dinner - Sunday, October 20, 12:30 PM at SS Peter and Paul Social Center. There will be no charge for this catered dinner. This is an effort to enhance and build up the community spirit of Byzantine Catholics in Erie County. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the narthex or call 814-825-8140 and leave a message by Sunday, Oct. 13

*JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner***SUFFERING IS THE WOMB OF WISDOM**

Think of the musician who plays a string instrument. In order for him or her to master the violin, cello, or other instrument with strings, he or she must develop calluses. At first, there is a lot of pain associated with this. Slowly but surely, as the calluses develop, the pain goes away, and the musician is able to play with more ease.

The same is true for the therapy patient. He or she goes through an initial time of pain, as that particular part of the body toughens up and the muscles begin to work as they should. But the results can be dramatic, as can be seen many times over.

People sometimes look upon their sufferings as curses from God. While this may appear to be true, especially in the moment of suffering, the opposite is actually true. Through their suffering, they learn to become better people, more dependent on the God who loves them. If they cannot do this, the "calluses" on the soul only harden the person, and exacerbate the suffering. Therefore, let us turn to the One who can truly relieve our pain, who suffered and died for us on the Cross.

The Power of the Cross

According to Paul, Jesus' death on the cross seemed to be a sin of weakness to those who were watching; the crowds were shouting and deriding Him from afar. Throughout His life they saw Jesus cure illnesses, drive out demons, and walk on water, but they saw His death as a sign of humiliation and shame. Only criminals were crucified, not the Son of God. Jesus' death on the cross seems to go against human reason and understanding, after all, this seemingly powerful teacher named Jesus could not save Himself during His final hours. Surely, ideas like these were also going through the minds of the Corinthians who were new to the faith. They were Gentile pagans who accepted Paul's message of the Gospel, yet to them, the idea of a weak and powerless leader did not sound too good. Again, as Paul states in the first verse of the epistle reading, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

ALL IN GOOD TIME

Some people say, and many more believe, that as soon as we meet all His conditions, God will answer our prayer. They teach that he lives in an eternal now, that with Him there is no past or future, and that if we can fulfill all He requires to be obedient to His will, immediately our needs will be met, our desires satisfied, and our prayers answered.

While there is much truth in this belief, it expresses only one side of the truth. God does live in an eternal now, yet he works out His purposes over time. A petition presented to God is like a seed dropped into the ground. Forces above and beyond our control must work on it until the actual accomplishment of the answer.

FOR PONDERING....

Be grateful that you are helping Christ to bear the cross and don't grasp at comforts. It is only mercenaries who expect to be paid by the day. Serve the Lord without pay.

-St. Teresa of Avila