

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10/20/24

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ Jean Ferko (req. by Terri, Kelli, & Kevin Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Margaret Stafford (req. by Petrus Family)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ Ron Riel (req. by Sr. Sylvia and Sr. Margaret Ann)

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10/27/24

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

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ John and ✨ Anna Kostrubanic (req. by John & Jean Kostrubanic)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ Pete and ✨ Mary Gulick (req. by their children)

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

10/1324 \$1253.00

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:* George Smilo, David Kearney, Helen Law, George Huzinec, Michael Molnar, Maureen Huzinec. *Those in nursing homes are as follows:* Elizabeth Andrijiw (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 11/10, 12/8, 1/12/25, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13 (Palm Sunday), 5/11 (Mother's Day).

ERIE AND GIRARD BYZANTINE FELLOWSHIP DINNER – TODAY Sunday, October 20**MERCY CENTER FOR WOMEN CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

The Mercy Center for Women serves women & children who may be homeless or need emotional, financial, spiritual, rehabilitative, or life-skills assistance. They house women and children at their facility while women are going through the various programs to get on their feet. This collection will help their Christmas celebration. We will be collecting \$10 and \$20 gift cards to Tinseltown movies, Target, Walmart, or Chick-Fila as well as nicer quality bath & body items, new socks for women and children and postage stamps. Additionally, they are in great need of liquid laundry soap, baby formula, baby food and bathrobes for women. The gift collection will end on November 24.

GOD IS SEARCHING FOR YOU

We are not orphans. We have a home. We have a Father who waits to receive us with joy – a running Father who is eager to give us the best robe, the best shoes, a ring, and a roast veal dinner with dancing to welcome us home. (Prodigal Son Parable)

So, if you fall, don't give up; get up and return to the Father. He will take you back, not as a criminal but as an honored guest! "For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost," said Jesus.

After Adam and Eve sinned, they were ashamed and hid from God. However, God is pictured as walking through the garden calling "Adam, where are you?" The rest of the Bible may be seen as a record of God's search.

Our task is not to search for God. The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son show that God is already out searching for us. Our task, like that of the prodigal son, is to respond to God's search for us, to move out of the barnyard, to take the first step toward Him in repentance, faith, and commitment.

"As in Paradise, God walks in the Holy Scriptures, searching for man," said St. Ambrose. It is not only in Holy Scriptures that God searches for us. He searches also through the voice of conscience; He searches for us through the sorrows and tragedies of life; He searches for us through the emptiness of life without Him. Yes, and even through your reading this meditation today, He searches and thirsts for your response, your repentance, your return.

Commit Your Cares to the Lord

Talk to God about whatever may be pressuring you and then commit the entire matter into His hands. Do this so that you will be free from the confusion, conflicts, and cares that fill the world today. In fact, anytime you are preparing to do something, undergoing some trial, or simply pursuing your normal business, tell the Father about it. Acquaint Him with it; yes, even burden Him with it, and you will have put the concerns and care of the matter behind you. From that point forward, exercise quiet, sweet diligence in your work, recognizing your dependence on Him to carry the matter for you. Commit your cares and yourself with them, as one burden, to your God.

THE DANGER OF DESPAIR

Try to not give in to despair. It is a dangerous temptation, because our Adversary Satan has refined it to the point that it is quite subtle. Hopelessness constricts and withers the heart, rendering it unable to sense God's blessings and grace. It also causes you to exaggerate the adversities of life and makes your burdens seem too heavy for you to bear. Yet God's plans for you, and His ways of bringing about His plans, are infinitely wise.

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

God's promises and His providence do not lift us from the world of common sense and daily trials. It is through these very things that our faith is perfected. It is in this world that God loves to interweave the golden threads of His love with the twists and turns of our daily experiences.

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