

01 JUNE 2025

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL 6/1/125

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

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✕ Sandor & ✕ Pauline Aranyos (req. by Larry & Paula Reinhart)

11:00 AM (E) ✕ Eileen (Betza) Romeo (req. by Mark & Denise Spangler)

5<sup>TH</sup> ALL SOULS SATURDAY 6/7/25

Friday: 6:30 PM (G) All Souls Divine Liturgy

Saturday: 9:00 AM (E) All Souls Divine Liturgy

PENTECOST SUNDAY 6/8/25

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✕ Terri Ferko (req. by Mike Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✕ Ron Riel (req. by Michael & Kathe Gido)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

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

05/25/25 \$610.00

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD JUNE COLLECTION – Ketchup or Mustard

*Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”*

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.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.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.

THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

An ecumenical council is a gathering of the bishops of the world summoned by the pope to share the responsibility of teaching and guiding the Catholic Church. The first such council met in Nicea (modern Turkey) in the year 325. It was presided over by Emperor Constantine and approved by Pope Sylvester I. This council began formulating the Nicene Creed. It also condemned the heresy of the priest Arius who taught that Jesus was not equal to God the Father, thus denying the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. This heresy caused much turmoil in the early Christian Church and had to be forcefully addressed by this council. This year is significant because it is the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this council.

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

*Marked With Christ’s Sign*

As Christians, we are marked by the Lord as His own. We are the sheep of His flock. As we read in St. John’s Gospel, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd; I know my own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for My sheep” (John 10:14-15). Just as a shepherd may mark his sheep by branding them, we have been “branded” with a special mark – the Sign of the Cross – which was placed on our foreheads at the time of our Baptism. This was to remind us that now we are God’s, and that He has claimed us as His own.

This “sign” is one that will be placed before us and within us throughout our lives. It was present at our Baptism when we died with Christ, and it will be there at our death when we will rise to new life in Christ. We will have it for strength when we need the Lord to protect us. That is why it is important to reverently and frequently make the Sign of the Cross. Eastern Christians sign themselves literally a few dozen times during the Divine Liturgy, as it is a constant reminder of Whose we are, Whom we serve, and through Whose death and resurrection we have been saved.

TAKING A BREAK

God is deeply concerned with our rest, both physically and spiritually. Our souls find a holy rest in detachment from the world, a state of being that we can pray for and practice. Disconnecting from the clamor around us is the first step. We need to turn down the volume of our lives and plug into a peaceful experience, whether it be through reading a book, listening to soothing music, watching a sunset, or engaging in a deep and thoughtful conversation. This type of activity settles us in our spirit, but still engages us in something that will fill us up with the things of God.

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

Older monks used to say that the soul is a kind of sailboat. The Holy Spirit is the wind which fills its sails and drives it forward. The gusts of wind are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Lacking the impulse and grace of the Spirit, we do not go forward. Ask God for the grace to get you where He wants you to go.

*The Jubilee Prayer*

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer through the earth, to you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever, Amen.*

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## STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS – APOSTLES OF THE SLAVS

The patron saints of this parish were brothers who were born in Thessalonica, located in the Byzantine Empire. Their parents spoke both Greek and a Slavic dialect. The brothers grew up speaking both languages. They were sent to Constantinople for their higher education. Later the Byzantine emperor sent them as missionaries to spread Christianity in Slavic territories. They developed the Slavonic alphabet from their knowledge of Greek and translated Scripture and liturgical books into Church Slavonic. St. Cyril became a monk and died in Rome on February 14, 869. St. Methodius became a bishop for the Slavic region of Moravia and died on April 6, 885. They are remembered for bringing Christianity to the Slavic areas of Eastern Europe.

### *Prayer to Sts. Cyril & Methodius*

*O Holy Slavonic Apostles, Cyril and Methodius, you led those lost souls and us with them from the darkness of pagan error to the light of the true faith of Christ. Now you rejoice with Christ in heaven. We rejoice in your glory, with which God has rewarded your untiring zeal. We humbly thank Him for the great gift of Christianity which our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us through your efforts. Intercede with God for us who are unworthy descendants of Adam. Grant that we may be strengthened in the true faith which you preached in the Slavic lands. Amen*

\*St. Cyril translated many church books from Greek to Church Slavonic.

He died in Rome on February 14, 869.

## EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION

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### *Prayer for God's Assistance*

*Almighty God, Father of mercy and God of all consolation,*

*Come to my aid and deliver me from all adversity.*

*For I believe, O Lord, that all trials of this life are under your care,*

*and that all things work for the good of those who love You.*

*Take away from me fear, anxiety, and distress.*

*Help me to face and endure my difficulties with faith, courage, and wisdom.*

*You are my strength and refuge, my comfort and hope, my delight and joy.*

*I place my trust in Your love and compassion.*

*For blessed is Your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*

*Now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

*Our Shield and our Stronghold. Amen.*

### *Prayer to Sts. Cyril & Methodius*

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### *Prayer to the Mother of God*

*O awesome beauty for all the faithful,*

*You are the true fulfillment of the prophecies.*

*You are the glory of the apostles and the joy of the martyrs,*

*The pride of women and a wondrous protection for the whole world.  
O Lady, with the mantle of your mercy,  
Protect our Church and all the people who sing out to you:  
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you,  
And through you He grants great mercy to the world. Amen.*

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

### *Prayer to the Guardian Angel*

*By St. Peter the Studite*

*O Holy Angel of Christ: in homage I come to you, my holy guardian who, since my baptism, has been assigned to me to protect my body and soul. I beseech your powerful intercession. I have often offended you by my laziness and bad habits. You are without stain In your glory, and I have often driven you away by my sins. I pray and beseech You, most holy guardian, be merciful to me, your sinful and unworthy servant. Be my defender and aid me against my enemies. Through your intercession, make me Worthy to be a partaker of the kingdom of God with all the saints forever. Amen.*

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

**CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY** is operated out of the First Presbyterian Church of Girard. It is intended to serve those needing help from the Girard/ Lake City area. To receive assistance you must register with an ID and additional proof of address in the 16417 or 16423 zip codes. Groceries are normally distributed on the first and third Thursday of the month. For more information call the Girard Presbyterian Church at (814) 774-3985.

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

### *Prayer for Our Nation*

*God our Father, giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people. Send your Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will, O God. Grant us the courage and wisdom we need in making decisions affecting the destiny of our country. For all glory and honor are due to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

### *THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER*

*O most generous God, we join all creation in raising to you our words of thanksgiving through Jesus Christ, your Son. For generation upon generation peoples of this land have sung of your bounty; we too offer your praise of the blessings we have received at your hands. Continue to make our land fruitful and let our love for you be seen in our generous response to those in need. Praise and glory to you Lord God, now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

### *Prayer to Respect All Life*

*Lord, help us to show respect for all life. Help us to have compassion for the elderly, for unborn children and their mothers, for persons with disabilities, and for all those who are unable to protect themselves. Remind us that all human beings are sacred to you and that You love each of us. Give us the courage and the strength to protect those who cannot protect themselves and to support leaders who also value and respect all life. Ever hopeful that our nation will be more caring towards those who cannot speak for themselves, let our light shine now to illuminate the darkness of ignorance and prejudice so that in the future we will be known as a nation which respects all life. Amen.*

### *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.*

## **PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

*O God of all the nations, the one God who is and was and always will be, in your providence you willed that your Church be united to the suffering of your Son. Look with mercy on your servants who are persecuted for their faith in you. Grant them perseverance and courage to be worthy imitators of Christ. Bring your wisdom upon leaders of nations to work for peace among all peoples. May your Spirit bring about conversion for those who contradict your will that we may live in harmony. Give us the grace to be united in truth and freedom, and to always seek your will in our lives. We give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

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## **LENTEN FAST**

In the Byzantine Rite we do not eat meat or dairy products on the first day of Lent, Monday, February 27 and on Good Friday, April 14. During the weeks of the Great Fast, we do not eat meat on Wednesdays and Fridays. Refer to your church calendar for these regulations.

## **KEEP GOD’S HOUSE CLEAN**

Please do not leave cookie or cracker crumbs, cereal, candy, pieces of snack food, etc. on or under the pews after attending Liturgy. Food particles attract insects, rodents, and other pests. Those who volunteer to clean the church should not have to be cleaning up the food debris of others. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Prayer for those Affected by Hurricane Matthew*

*O God, our refuge and strength,  
our help in times of trouble.*

*Have mercy on the lands where the earth has given way.*

*Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods.*

*Prosper those who rebuild houses,  
and strengthen those who rebuild hope  
so that entire communities*

*may face the future without fear. Amen.*

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT - Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Gracious One.**

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!  
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΒΟΨΚΡΕΨΕ! ΒΟΨΤΙΝΝΟ ΒΟΨΚΡΕΨΕ!**

## **Prayer for the Poor and Homeless**

*Lord, how does it happen that in a free nation – there are so many people who are poor and even homeless? How does it happen that in a nation where schools are free for everyone, there are people who cannot fill out an application for employment because they cannot read or write? Help us to grow toward a greater understanding of the poor and their problems so that we can better help them help themselves. We know that self-reliance leads to self-confidence, so let us help the poor find the ways to be independent and productive. Finally, Lord, let the poor and homeless develop a great faith in You, and guide them toward a permanent way of life which is secure. Amen*

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**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT** - *Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Gracious One.*

**PRAYER FOR YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE - 2015**

*O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the kingdom of heaven above all things. For You are our God, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

***The Resurrection of Christ***

*Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ, let us adore the all-holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One. We bow in worship before Your cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify your resurrection, for You are our God, and we have no other, and we magnify your name. All you faithful, come: let us adore the holy resurrection of Christ, for, behold, through the cross joy has come to the world! Let us always bless the Lord, let us sing his resurrection, for by enduring for us the pain of the cross. He has crushed death by his death.*

***Prayer for a Loved One's Return to the Church***

Lord, Jesus, knowing that You give everyone the grace to seek and to find You in their lives. I now pray for (name person) who has turned away from Your Church. Grant your grace to this person, Lord, that my loved one may come back to full union with You in the Church. Grant him/her the eyes of faith to see that in Your Church the fullness of life can be found. Let my life and the lives of all the faithful be so truly Christian that we may be a sign and an encouragement for all. Amen.