

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS 9/13/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✠ Helen Bauman (req. by Mike Ferko)
Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✠ Arnold and ✠ Shirley Jones (req. by Larry & Paula Reinhart)
11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 9/14/26

Monday: 6:30 PM (E) ✠ Roman Andrijiw (req. by Family)

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS 9/20/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family
Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✠ Don Hrinda (req. by Family)
11:00 AM (E) ✠ Martha Karmazon (req. by Mary Jane Carson)

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:
09/06/26 \$1114.00

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD- SEPTEMBER COLLECTION – Frosting
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
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.

SAVE THE DATE - Erie & Girard Byzantine Fellowship Dinner – Sunday, Oct 18
Join your Byzantine family at 12:00 PM at the Sts. Peter & 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, September 27.

HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS
What does a hardened heart look like? Only God knows for sure, but it can manifest itself in outward rigidity or a penetrating coldness from within. It can be a heart that has numbed itself against a tide of uncomfortable emotions or experiences. Over time our hearts can become impenetrable, unable to receive the joy, spontaneity, and peace our Lord wants to give us.
If you heart is starting to get a little crusty around the edges, never fear – the Holy Spirit will come to your aid. He can work on any hard heart and turn it into a “heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26). He can help us to have a heart like Jesus’ heart.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – September 14
This holy day is connected to the history of the huge basilica which was built over the place where Jesus was crucified and the place where He was buried. Both places are in different sections of the same church. It is known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (tomb). Located in Jerusalem, the church was dedicated on Sept. 13, 335. The next day, Sept. 14, a special ceremony was held inside the church to honor or exalt pieces of the cross of Christ which were discovered during the excavations involved in building the foundation of the church. This is the exaltation the holy day is referring to because it happened on Sept. 14. The Byzantine Emperor Constantine and his mother, St. Helen, were instrumental in determining the location and supervising the construction of this church in Jerusalem which still can be visited today.

Celebrities
[Jesus said:] “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21).

We are a celebrity-crazed society. Whether the celebrity is an actor, singer, sports figure, politician, religious leader or other achiever, we hold that person in awe. Even in the smaller circles where we spend our daily lives, there are “celebrities.” Jesus tells us, however, that all that really matters is doing God’s will.
For some, doing God’s will catapults them into celebrity status on earth. Most of us are called to do things that may not garner us accolades or awards but that contribute significantly to spreading God’s love in this world. God puts no value on our status in this world or on the earthly treasure we accumulate. Jesus came to call us to love God and one another. Regardless of our status or lot in life, this is all that matters. There is no greater role than to be God’s messenger of faith, love, and hope.

THE JOY OF THE CROSS
The Lord’s cross is not merely a nice artistic addition to our Churches, but is really a constant reminder of our faith in the Lord. It was through the cross that Jesus trampled down death by His own death and through the cross that joy has come into the world. It seems strange that the cross is referred to in terms of joy, but it is the joy of the cross which Paul and the other apostles preached so boldly. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul states that the cross brings reconciliation and peace, “For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross” (Colossians 1:20). This statement echoes the passage in the Gospel of John where Jesus says that when the son of man is lifted up, he will draw all things to himself. Again, the cross brings about the unity of all, both Jew and Gentile, male and female, we all stand before Him as equals.

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

SCRIPTURE PRAYER - May the Word of God dwell in our hearts and guide the actions of our lives.