

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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)

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9/27/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✠ Martin M. Pushchak (req. by Anna Marie Dowd)
Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) Blessings for Jason James Ottum (req. by Ray & LeaAnne Luzier)
11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

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

09/13/26 \$758.00

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.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.

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.

CHRIST THE LADDER

Christ’s coming into the world marks the opening of heaven. He came down the ladder from heaven and ever since then heaven has remained open. As the ladder, Jesus is the only way to communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. There is a constant stream of traffic on that ladder. Those angels ever going up and coming down are our prayers. Up to gain help and inspiration – down to bring a little bit of heaven, a breath of godly air into this world of struggling humanity. “Prayer,” writes St. John of the Ladder, “is a continuous ascension to heaven.” We may add, so is the liturgy and the reading of God’s word – a continuous ascension to where God is.

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.*

TAKING UP ONE’S CROSS

The Church is concerned never to disassociate the cross from the tomb, the crucifixion from the resurrection, death from life. The grief of Good Friday ends in the joy of Easter Sunday. The Church always connects the elevation of the cross and the shining forth of divine light. Christ, who is the Light of the World, offers us the challenge to deny our very selves, take up our cross and follow him (Mark 8:34).

It is not to some chosen disciples only that Jesus addresses these words, it is to all of us. Our Lord offers us a great lesson in how to acquire holiness: self-renunciation, taking up one’s cross, and following Christ. Each of us must accept our own cross; not the cross of our choice, but the cross of Christ – that is to say the portion of suffering and trial that God has assigned to us especially – and which is one of the aspects of the cross of Jesus.

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross presents us with an excellent opportunity to exalt and enthrone in our hearts the cross of Christ. Let us look upon our own earthly trials as a share in Christ’s passion, the mystery through which the cross receives its honor and power.

To Whom Shall We Go?

*Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”
Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:67-268*

Many left Jesus after he said, “unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will not have life in you.” Peter heard the same words and decided to stay. He was probably just as confused as the others, but he had already allowed the beauty of Jesus’ life and love to captivate his heart. I think that’s what gave Peter the ability to hope and trust, even when he felt confused by Jesus’ words.

Life is beautiful, but it contains riddles that confuse us and test our faith. Sometimes we ask: Where are you, God? But like Peter, we stay because we know there’s nowhere else to go. This insight comes through persistent prayer. That’s how we come to know that God’s personal love and guidance are always there for us, even in situations we don’t understand. *-Living Faith*

NOT MY FAULT

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is a “no fault” state. We have “no fault divorce,” “no fault auto policies,” etc. In other words, there is no guilty party ever; all share the blame for the divorce, the accident, etc.

It appears that in today’s society, all of society has a “no fault” clause. We have stopped seeing a perpetrator and a victim – all are victims. We do not accept responsibility for any wrongs we may have committed. Instead, we blame society, the Government, our upbringing - whomever or whatever we choose to blame.

What we Christians sometimes fail to realize is that God does not have a “no fault” clause when it comes to our sins. He expects us to take responsibility for all of our thoughts, words, actions, as well as our failure to love Him and our neighbor. His Son paid the ultimate price for our sins once and for all when He died upon the Cross, and now He expects us to live up to our standing as His sons and daughters.