

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS 10/1/26
Thursday: 6:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10/4/26
Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✠ Sandra Szoszorek (req. by Don & Pauline Kowalski)
Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✠ Mary Ann Hrinda (req. by Klier Family)
11:00 AM (E) ✠ George Smilo (req. by Laura Bole)

OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:
09/20/26 \$476.00

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD-OCTOBER COLLECTION – Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
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.

MINISTRY OF PRESENCE
The Church is often, and rightfully, portrayed as a body at work, laboring in love for the Lord in hands-on activities. But there is just as much value in what is called the ministry of presence, just being there with someone in need. Our simple, physical presence can be a great gift to someone. We are there to talk if needed, or to be silent. We are available if some helpful task needs to be done.

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

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS - October 1
This feast day commemorates the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary in the 10th century to save the city of Constantinople from foreign invasion. She appeared inside a church full of people at prayer. The feast remembers the protective veil of the Mother of God. She spread it over the people, signifying her continued intercession and protection for the Christian faithful. This Byzantine holy day is a beautiful expression of love and gratitude to the Theotokos for her role as guardian, protectress, and intercessor.

Can You Hear Me Now?
An ad for a major telephone company once featured a man asking people, “Can you hear me now?” It was to prove that the reception that this particular company offered was superior to that offered by other similar cellular providers.
But is this not a question that God could be directing to each one of us? After all, it is His plan that all should be saved, though not all will *choose* to be saved. God created no person for destruction, but rather for life everlasting with Him. He asks us to heed His voice, for in so doing, we have made the correct choice. We read, “Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the love of Yahweh your God, obeying his voice, holding fast to Him” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20). This is the path to life. This is our hope of salvation.
There are some who allow the noise of the world to drown out the Voice of the Lord. They become so distracted by the temporary attractions of this world that they take no time to listen to the Word and worship the Lord. These allow the “noise” of earbuds, cellular phones, social media, and the like to take the place of the Lord. And of course, these will never permanently satisfy. It is only in the silence of our hearts and minds that we can hear the Lord’s voice.

KEEPING STILL
So how can you be still? One way is to resist the temptation to formulate a solution to every problem or control the outcomes of your interactions with others. Let the Holy Spirit breathe life into difficult situations; let the Lord do what he does best.
Another way to be still is to abide. When we abide in something, we remain, wait, or dwell in it. Jesus entreated us to abide in him, and he gave a good visual of how to do that. He said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).
Branches are utterly dependent on the vine to grow and bear fruit. A good deal of our anxiety can stem from the belief that we alone must produce the fruit. When we feel this internal pressure, let’s remember that God calls us to be still and trust him to do the rest.

THINK ABOUT IT.....
We all know people who are difficult and cause us stress. Christ asks us, as his followers, to be kind to those who are not kind. It’s easier to do this when we recognize that each one of us is someone else’s “difficult person.”

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