29 NOVEMBER 2026 SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11/29/26

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✠ Martin M. Pushchak (req. by Family)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✠ Kenneth and ✠ Helen Warner (req. by Debbie Warner)

11:00 AM (E) ✠ Anna Marie Shufran (req. by Debra Shufran)

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / NICHOLAS OF MYRA, ARCHBISHOP

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✠ Jean Ferko (req. by Mike Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✠ Jean Simkovitch (req. by Andrew Simkovitch & Christine Skidmore)

11:00 AM (E) ✠ Msgr. William Biebel

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

11/22/26 **$531.00**

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD - DECEMBER COLLECTION – Breakfast Cereal

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.

LITURGY TIME CHANGE – Sunday, December 13, Erie 8:30 AM / Girard 11:00 AM

ANGEL GIVING TREE

The Angel Tree will be in the church narthex with envelopes labeled with different monetary amounts. During the Christmas season, this is a good way to share with those less fortunate. The funds collected will be sent to Second Harvest Food Bank which supplies food to soup kitchens, shelters and food pantries throughout Erie County. The last day to donate will be Sunday, December 13.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER – Sunday, December 13

Parish dinner will be after the 11 AM Divine Liturgy. Donations of soft drinks and desserts to share are requested. All other food will be provided. It is good to share a meal together.

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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*

JESUS, SUN OF RIGHEOUSNESS

Sun worship festivals were common in pagan culture during the dawn of Christianity. Saturnalia was celebrated the last week of December throughout the Roman Empire. This was the festival to the sun god Saturn. This great public festival is largely the reason the Church at Rome chose to place the celebration of the Nativity of Christ in this same time of December.

The Church saw the good elements of the people's worship of the sun and transferred these to the Sun of Righteousness. The acknowledgement of the power of nature in the dawn of the new day, the gift-giving to friends and neighbors and the celebration of life itself- all were part of this pagan festival week.

In the Roman Empire, December 25 was the feast of the unconquered sun. This was the winter solstice festival at the conclusion of the weeklong celebration of Saturnalia, the feast of Saturn the sun god. As winter comes on the days get shorter; the forces of darkness are defeating the sun. But with the winter solstice, the days cease getting shorter and start recovering. The sun remains unconquered and begins its slow recovery. These events are natural fit for the Christian community looking to spread the message of Christ.

Never Alone

But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this So that you might have peace in me. (John 16:32-33)

Jesus knew most of his followers would scatter when it mattered most, afraid to be seen with him because their own lives could be at risk. He knew he would be isolated. And that is a feeling with which we as humans are all too familiar. Perhaps the person we loved most in the world has died, or a trusted friend has betrayed us, or we feel misled by someone who provided what we thought was good advice. We guard our hearts rather than trusting again, and we feel so alone.

That feeling is understandable. Other humans always will let us down, often unintentionally. But their failings and our own need not rob us of the peace that surpasses all understanding. Jesus held on to that peace, offering prayers to God even as he breathed his last. He showed us we are never truly alone, and no one can snatch peace from us. -*Living Faith*

FOR REFLECTION

God often asks us to consider what we don't want. Noah didn't want to build the ark. Moses didn't relish the idea of leading people through the wilderness. And Mary likely didn't want to give birth in a cold and smelly stable. We are most at peace when we can let go of the things that we think we want and do God's will (as best as we can discern it).

ALMIGHTY GOD

We worship God using familiar natural elements – gifts he blesses us with. Flames flicker on altars. Holy water flows. Sacred healing oils anoint. Bread and wine – fruits of earth, sun, water, life – feed us and connect us.

It's God's idea that we encounter the power of God through these things because our awesome God is God of heaven and earth, the expanding universe and tiny atoms alike. And this mighty God – who has power over everything – also makes himself accessible, tender, gentle and close to everyone. We won't need to be afraid.