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Parish Office: 4200 Homestead Duquesne Rd,
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Administrator: Fr Vitalii Stashkevych

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK:

Sunday 09/20/2026 11:00 AM Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
+George Zebach – Patti Wypych

Sunday 09/27/2026 11:00 AM 18th Sunday after Pentecost
+Olga Palaschak – Mary Ann Meredith

DIVINE SERVICES ATTENDANCE

Sunday 09/13/2026 was 49.

LIVE STREAM VIEWING

Sunday 09/13/2026 was 59.

UPDATES

Rose Petruska is at Concordia at Cranberry, 10 Adams Ridge Blvd, Mars PA 16046

September 20 th	September 27 th	October 4 th	October 11 th
Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/11 COLEEN FEDOR
09/12 MARIE BUMBA
09/18 NANCY LEPSCH
09/28 GERARD FIALKOVICH
09/30 DON KERR

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

09/05/1998 MARLENE & JOE TORBICH
09/08/1984 BETTY JEAN & GERARD FIALKOVICH
09/08/1973 CONNIE & RONALD SHAMBURA
09/08/1990 KIMBERLY & STEPHEN KRIVDA
09/09/1978 TRACY & MICHAEL DICKUN
09/15/2017 FR. VITALLI & MARY STASHKEVYCH

SICK AND SHUT-INS

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who are sick, homebound, hospitalized, living in nursing facilities, or need your prayers for their personal intentions:



Mark Fialkovich, Richard Paloscko, Nancy Pcolar, Rebecca McCullough, Will McCullough, Marie Churley, John Gegick, Emily Cox, Mary Pat H, Gale Joscak, Mary Ann Badar, Rose Petruska, Judy Kosar, Mason Stern, Shawna Lynn Beluscak, Ronald Dusetzina, Connie Leary, Mary Anne Ference Mistick, Mario Peticca, Leah Fitchwell, Agnes McGuire, Matthew Dickun, Betty Macik, Lauren McQuillan, Chris M, David Mall, Karen Perkins, Joan Kovalycsik, Maureen Angel, Anna Marie Choma, Dave S., Michelle Costello, Gina Paglialonga, Jim Petruska, Mary Harbadin, Marci Laskey, Matthew C, Terri S., Georgette Dusatzian, Linda Halchak, Mark Jensen, Jim Speranza, Marky Zvolensky, Georgeann Zvolensky, John Halchak, Celine Mitchell, Joe Spadaro, Sharon Junker, Harmony Elizabeth Hairston, Barb and Chuck Egan, Ryan Wypych, Royann McCarthy, Teddy Horwist, Joe Kelly, Joanna Spisak, Denise M, Liz DeLong, Kyle Asti, Don Gazzo, Jesse Wilson, Lori Downey-Baughman, Kim Herbst and Those serving in the Armed Forces

Each week, a candle will be lit for our shut-ins and all those remembered on our prayer list. May its gentle light be a reminder that they are never forgotten, but are lovingly remembered in the hearts and prayers of our parish family.

2027 LITURGY INTENTIONS: A SACRED TRADITION

In our Byzantine Catholic tradition, offering the Divine Liturgy for the health, intentions, or repose of a loved one is a profound act of prayer and communal support.

The **2027 Liturgy Calendar** is now open. To submit a request:

- **Specify Your Dates:** Requests for anniversaries, birthdays, or special occasions should be submitted early.
- **First Come, First Served:** Dates are reserved upon receiving your offering. While we make every effort to honor specific dates, availability is not guaranteed.
- **How to Submit:** Fill out a request form and place it in the collection basket during service, or send it directly to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your understanding as we prepare for the coming year. Let us continue to lift up one another in prayer through the holy Divine Liturgy.

CANDLES FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL September 13th, 2026

Myron Drabik	For Good Health
	For Special Favor
Barbara Martin	Special Favor
David Savko	For Good Health Bobbi Vaccaro
Patti Wypych	For Special Favor
Gazzo Family	For Good Health
Donna Torbich	For Special Favor
John Skinta	For Peace in Family
	For Happy Death
	For Thanksgiving
	For Good Health
	For Special Favor
Joe Torbich	For Vocation
	For Peace in Family
	For Good Health
	Other
Jerry Spynda	For Good Health Paula Spynda
Lori Downey	Other Don-Special
Judy Kopay	For Special Favor
Rich Trankocy	+Lee
Jim Fitzgerald	For Good Health Michael Benjamin

Tetrapod candle:
September 6, 13, 20, 27 – John Skinta for +Joseph & Joan Skinta
October 4, 11, 18, 25 – For Special Intention of Mark & Linda Fialkovich
November 1 8, 15, 22, 29 – Husband & Father Richard by Barbara & Krestine
December 6, 13, 20, 27 – Mary Joscak (Special intention)

Good Food Good Fellowship

PITTSBURGH PROTOPRESBYTERATE (DEANERY)
INVITES ALL OUR FAITHFUL TO A

Deanery Pasta Dinner

PREPARED AND SERVED BY THE PRIESTS AND DEACONS
OF OUR PITTSBURGH DEANERY

Come and enjoy an afternoon of good food, fellowship, and community!

One Church Family Together

All are welcome!

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 18TH
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

ST. ELIAS PARISH
4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road
Munhall, PA

FREE EVENT
(Free-will offering
will be accepted)

If you are planning to attend, please sign up
on the sheet located in the church vestibule.
DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: OCTOBER 11TH

We hope you will join us!

WHO IS GOD?

God as Creator, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
One of the biggest questions a human being can ask is also one of the simplest: Who is God?
We may have heard many answers. Some imagine God as someone far away, watching the world from heaven. Others think of Him mainly as a judge who keeps track of our mistakes. Some believe that there must be “something greater” but are not sure who or what that is. And some honestly wonder whether God exists at all.

Christianity begins with something beautiful: God is not simply an idea to understand. God is Someone to know. The Byzantine Christian tradition begins its Divine Liturgy with the words: **“Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”** These words tell us immediately who our God is. There is one God, but He exists eternally in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call this mystery the Holy Trinity.

This does not mean that Christians believe in three gods. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, yet there is only one God. The Trinity is a mystery greater than the human mind can completely explain, but it reveals something extremely important: God is communion and love.

God is our Creator. Everything that exists ultimately receives its existence from Him. The universe, the earth, every human life, and everything beautiful in creation exist because God willed creation into being. We are not accidents. Human life has meaning because we were created by God and for God.

God reveals Himself as Father. Christ teaches us to pray, **“Our Father.”** This means that our relationship with God is not supposed to be based only on fear. God desires us to know Him, trust Him, and live as His children.

God the Son, Jesus Christ, shows us just how close God desires to come to humanity. The eternal Son of God became truly human without ceasing to be God. He entered our world, experienced suffering and death, and rose again. In Jesus Christ, God does not remain distant from our struggles. He enters them.

And God the Holy Spirit continues to work within the Church and within us. The Holy Spirit gives life, strengthens us, guides us toward truth, helps us pray, and transforms our hearts. Christianity is therefore not simply an attempt to imitate Jesus from a distance. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ can truly live and work within us. This changes the way we understand faith.

Faith is not simply believing that God exists. Even knowing many facts about God is not enough. The Christian life is an invitation to enter into communion with Him. This is why we pray. This is why we worship. This is why we receive the Holy Mysteries. This is why we try to repent, forgive, love, and change our lives. The Byzantine Christian life is ultimately a journey toward God - the Father who created us, the Son who came to save us, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

And perhaps the most important question is no longer simply, “Who is God?” It becomes much more personal: Who is God to me, and am I willing to know Him?

Sunday after Exaltation of the Cross

V	R	O	B	E	E	D	I	E	C	M	E	F	E	N	P	E	T	I	S
I	E	N	O	S	R	T	A	I	C	E	E	F	E	E	R	T	I	G	U
C	S	R	L	O	R	D	N	O	T	R	O	L	E	A	E	E	A	S	L
T	U	E	O	V	E	L	E	S	S	A	A	A	E	O	F	E	E	W	
O	R	S	A	E	R	S	L	E	Y	A	O	T	E	E	E	E	S		
R	E	E	C	F	E	A	G	S	N	E	E	F	C	E	Y	C	H		
E	S	R	A	A	C	V	R	A	I	A	A	Y	R	E	E	I	I		
I	S	R	M	F	T	A	A	C	T	E	E	H	R	S	F	R	R		
C	U	E	I	A	I	R	C	R	I	E	Y	A	Y	E	E	I	S		
R	S	R	L	Y	O	T	E	O	F	O	H	A	H	O	I	T	Y		
E	N	E	E	E	N	I	H	S	N	E	A	F	R	E	A	C	P		
O	R	S	A	V	R	A	G	A	I	E	O	F	R	E	A	C	P		
N	E	R	O	V	E	L	E	S	Y	E	E	E	R	E	E	E	E		
E	S	R	A	E	R	S	R	A	C	E	E	E	R	E	E	E	E		
D	T	G	D	L	S	A	L	S	A	E	O	A	Y	H	A	R	R		
I	A	N	E	E	L	G	R	A	C	E	H	R	C						
E	T	I	T	E	N	O	R	S	R	P	T	V	H						
C	M	E	R	O	A	O	E	A	Y	H	A	R	R						
E	E	F	N	L	T	F	R	Y	R	A	F	Y	C						
F	T	F	A	L	M	E	R	C	Y	R	R	C	H						
N	H	U	L	O	C	H	R	I	S	T	Y	P	E						
F	L	S	L	W	S	E	H	I	R	E	F	I	L						

ETERNAL
CROSS
SUFFERING
MERCY
GRACE
FAMILY
LOVE
OBEDIENCE
PRAYER
DENY
VICTORY
CHURCH
RESURRECTION
TEMPTATION
LIFE
SALVATION
FOLLOW
CARRY
SACRIFICE
HOPE
FAITH
CHRIST

SUNDAY AFTER EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

There are some things in life that we gladly carry because we know they are valuable. A mother carries her child even when she is tired. A father carries responsibility for his family even when it is difficult. A person carries the burden of caring for someone they love because love makes the burden meaningful.

Today, on the Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Christ says to us: *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”* These words are not easy. We live in a world that constantly tells us the opposite. The world says: avoid suffering, choose what is easiest, protect yourself, satisfy yourself, and do whatever makes you comfortable.

Christ says: Take up your cross. But what does that mean for us today? Our cross is not simply every inconvenience that happens to us. The Cross becomes Christian when we carry our difficulties with Christ, with faith, patience, obedience, and love.

Sometimes the cross is illness. Sometimes it is loneliness. Sometimes it is financial difficulty. Sometimes it is caring for an elderly parent. Sometimes it is raising children in a world that no longer respects Christian values. Sometimes it is remaining faithful to our marriage when things are difficult. Sometimes it is forgiving a person who deeply hurt us.

And sometimes the cross is simply saying “no” to ourselves. That may be the hardest cross of all. Christ says, “Deny yourself.” He does not mean that we should hate ourselves. He means that we should stop making ourselves the center of everything. I cannot follow Christ if every decision begins with, “What do I want?” The Christian question is different: What does God want from me? There are moments when following Christ means controlling my anger instead of speaking harshly. It means coming to church even when I feel tired. It means praying when I do not feel like praying. It means resisting temptation when nobody else would ever know. It means remaining faithful to Christian teaching even when society tells us that faith is old-fashioned.

This is where the Cross becomes real. The Cross is not something we only kiss in church. It is something we are called to live. Sometimes we want Christianity without sacrifice. We want Christ to bless our plans, solve our problems, protect our families, and give us peace. But we do not always want Him to tell us how to live. Yet there is no Resurrection without the Cross. That is one of the great truths of our faith.

The Cross looks like defeat, but through Christ it becomes victory. The Cross looks like weakness, but through Christ it becomes strength. The Cross looks like suffering, but through Christ it becomes the road to eternal life. When I carry my cross alone, I can become bitter. When I carry it with Christ, the same cross can sanctify me.

Brothers and sisters, perhaps each of us came to church today carrying something that nobody else knows about. A worry. A disappointment. A fear. A family problem. A private struggle. Christ does not promise us a life without crosses. He promises something greater. He promises to walk before us. He has already carried the Cross. And now He says: Follow Me. So let us not run from every sacrifice. Let us not be ashamed of our Christian faith. Let us not exchange eternal life for temporary comfort.

May the Precious and Life-Giving Cross protect our families, strengthen us in temptation, give us patience in suffering, and keep our eyes fixed on Christ. And may we learn every day to say: Lord, give me strength to carry the cross You have allowed in my life, and help me to follow You faithfully until the end. Amen.