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Parish Office: 4200 Homestead Duquesne Rd,
Munhall, PA, 15120
Administrator: Fr Vitalii Stashkevych

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK:

Sunday 11/08/2026 11:00 PM **24th Sunday after Pentecost/Archangel Michael And all Angels**
+Maty & Edward Kruszka – Marie Bumba

Sunday 11/15/2026 11:00 PM **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
Marie & Jim Fitzgerald 50th Wedding Anniversary

DIVINE SERVICES ATTENDANCE

Sunday 11/01/2026 was 48.

LIVE STREAM VIEWING

Sunday 11/01/2026 was 133.

UPDATES

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

November 8th	November 15th	November 22nd	November 29th
Team D	Team A	Team B	Team C

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/07 SARA JAMA PEEK
11/14 WANDA HODOBA
11/15 RONALD HODOBA
11/17 JUSTIN JANIK
11/21 MICHAEL FIALKOVICH
11/23 AUDREY SCHELL
11/24 RONALD SALADA

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

11/12/1976 MARIE AND JAMES FITZGERALD

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.

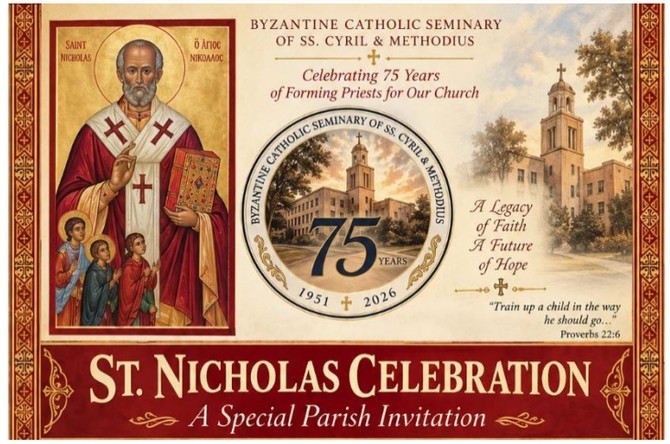
CANDLES FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL November 1st, 2026

Myron Drabik	For Good Health
	For Special Favor
Barbara Martin	Special Favor
David Savko	For Good Health Bobbi Vaccaro
Anna Whitehead	John Whitehead Decd
	For Good Health
Gazzo	For Good Health
Donna Torbich	For Good Health Michelle Yanovich
	For Special Favor
Jim Fitzgerald	For Good Health Michael Benjamin
	For Special Favor Aidan Keller
Marie Fitzgerald	For Good Health Michael Benjamin
Judy Kopay	For Good Health
	For Special Favor
Rich Cochran	For Employment
	For Success in Studies
	For Good Health
	For Special Favor
John Skinta	For Peace in Family
	For Happy Death
	For Good Health
	For Special Favor

Tetrapod candle:

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Husband & Father Richard by Barbara & Krestine
December 6, 13, 20, 27 – Mary Joscak (Special intention)
January 2027 – Diane Popp (For Drabik Family Past & Present)
Februaru 2027 – Mary Ann Mistick (Special intention)
May 2027 – Patti Wypych (For Special Favor)
June 2027 – Lisa Vasko (our Anniversary)
Sepyember 2027 – John Skinta (Special)

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION – SPECIAL PARISH INVITATION



Our parishioners are warmly invited to take part in the **69th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration**, benefiting the **Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril & Methodius**, on **Sunday, December 6, 2026**, at **St. John Cathedral & Center in Munhall, Pennsylvania**.

This year's celebration is especially significant because the Seminary is also marking the **75th Anniversary of its Dedication**. For seventy-five years, the Byzantine Catholic Seminary has played an important role in the life of our Church by preparing men for priestly ministry and helping form future servants of God's people. This anniversary gives us a special opportunity to give thanks for the Seminary's history, mission, and continued service to our Byzantine Catholic Church.

The celebration will begin with a **Moleben to St. Nicholas at 3:30 PM** in the Cathedral. Following the Moleben, guests will gather for the annual St. Nicholas banquet and anniversary program. The evening will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship with clergy, seminarians, families, and faithful from throughout our Byzantine Catholic community.

St. Nicholas has always been remembered for his generosity, compassion, strong faith, and care for others. In that same spirit, this celebration is not only a joyful gathering, but also an opportunity to support the important work of forming future priests who will serve our parishes and communities for generations to come.

We encourage our parishioners to consider joining us for this special event and to help us celebrate this important milestone in the life of our Seminary. It will be a beautiful occasion to pray together, strengthen our bonds as a Church family, and show our support for the future of our Byzantine Catholic Church.

If you are interested in attending the St. Nicholas Celebration, please see Father Vitalii for reservations.

🍝 SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH SPAGHETTI DINNER

Please join us for a delicious **Spaghetti Dinner** at **SS. Peter & Paul Church**, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, PA 15110, on **Sunday, November 8, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**.

Enjoy a wonderful dinner featuring **spaghetti, meatballs, salad, breadsticks, dessert, and a drink**.

Tickets: Adults – **$13.00**; Children ages 6-10 – **$6.00**; Children 5 and under – **FREE with the purchase of an adult ticket**.

In addition to a great meal, there will be a **Chinese Auction and Raffle** with opportunities to win wonderful prizes.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of good food, fellowship, and parish community. **Everyone is welcome!**

WHEN FOLLOWING CHRIST CHANGES YOUR LIFE

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." (Mark 8:34) Have you ever noticed that when someone begins taking their faith seriously, not everyone is happy about it?

Perhaps a person who once enjoyed gossiping with friends no longer wants to participate. Someone who used to spend Sunday mornings sleeping or enjoying other activities now makes attending the Divine Liturgy a priority. A person who once responded to every insult with anger begins choosing forgiveness instead. Suddenly, people start asking questions: *"What happened to you? Why have you changed? You used to be different!"*

Sometimes these words come not from strangers but from the people closest to us: friends, coworkers, and even family members. The truth is that when Christ enters our lives, something must change. We cannot sincerely follow Him and remain exactly as we were before. But change is not always welcomed by those around us. The world often encourages us to seek comfort, pleasure, popularity, and success. Christ calls us to something greater: holiness, sacrifice, humility, and eternal life. These two paths do not always lead in the same direction.

Jesus never promised that following Him would make everyone love us. In fact, He warned His disciples that faithfulness would sometimes bring rejection and misunderstanding. Yet here is something very important: Christ never teaches us to hate those who reject us.

When someone mocks our faith, we should not respond with insults. When someone speaks badly about us, we should not seek revenge. When friends distance themselves because we are trying to live as Christians, we should not become bitter. Instead, Christ tells us: *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you"* (Luke 6:27).

This is perhaps one of the greatest challenges of Christian life. It is easy to love those who support us. It is much harder to love those who misunderstand us. But true Christianity is revealed not simply by how often we pray, but by how we treat people who hurt us.

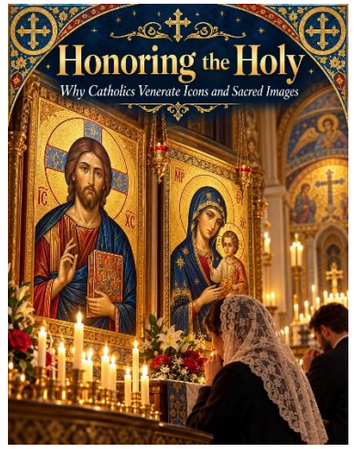
Think about the Prodigal Son. He left his father's house searching for happiness in the pleasures of the world. Eventually, he found himself among the pigs, hungry, miserable, and alone. But when he finally returned home, his father welcomed him with open arms. That is what Christ does for each of us. He lifts us out of our sins, cleanses us through His mercy, and restores our dignity as children of God.

Why would we ever want to return to the life from which He has rescued us? Every Sunday, as we stand before the holy altar and approach the Eucharist, we are reminded of what truly matters. We receive not temporary happiness but Christ Himself, the One who offers us eternal life.

Dear brothers and sisters, do not be ashamed when your faith changes you. Do not be discouraged when others misunderstand your desire to live closer to God. And never allow disappointment to turn your heart against another person. Continue praying. Continue forgiving. Continue loving. Continue walking with Christ. Remember: no friendship, popularity, worldly pleasure, or temporary comfort is worth losing our eternal communion with God. One day, everything we possess in this world will pass away. But the love of Christ and the life He promises will remain forever.

Let us ask ourselves one simple question today: Am I willing to lose the approval of the world in order to remain faithful to Christ? May the Lord give us the courage to follow Him without fear, the humility to love those who oppose us, and the perseverance never to turn away from the path that leads to eternal life.

WHY DO CATHOLICS VENERATE ICONS AND SACRED IMAGES?



Understanding the difference between worship and veneration. Have you ever wondered why Catholics have icons, statues, and images of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints in their churches and homes? Why do we bow before icons, kiss them, or light candles in front of them? Some Christians question these practices, believing that they violate God's commandment against making idols. But is honoring a sacred image the same as worshiping an idol? To understand this beautiful Catholic tradition, we must first understand what Scripture actually teaches.

Does the Bible forbid sacred images? In the Book of Exodus, God commands His people not to make idols or worship them (Exodus 20:4-5). However, this commandment does not mean that every religious image is forbidden. God Himself instructed Moses to make two golden cherubim for the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:18-22). He also commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent, through which the Israelites received healing when they looked upon it in obedience to God (Numbers 21:8-9).

The distinction is important: **God forbids the worship of created things, not the use of sacred images that direct our hearts toward Him.** Interestingly, when the Israelites later began treating the bronze serpent as an idol, King Hezekiah destroyed it (2 Kings 18:4). This reminds us that sacred objects must never take the place of God.

Worship belongs to God alone. The Catholic Church makes a clear distinction between worship and veneration. **Worship belongs to God alone:** the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. No saint, angel, icon, or statue deserves divine worship. Veneration, however, is an expression of honor and respect. When we honor an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are not worshiping wood and paint. We are honoring the Mother of God, who said yes to God's will and brought our Savior into the world.

When we kiss an icon of Christ, our love is directed toward Christ Himself, not toward the material image. Just as we might kiss a photograph of someone we love without believing the photograph is that person, sacred images help us express love for those they represent.

Why are icons especially important in the byzantine catholic tradition? In our Byzantine Catholic tradition, icons are much more than religious decorations. They are often called *windows into heaven* because they remind us that the Kingdom of God is already present among us.

The deepest reason we can depict Christ is the mystery of the Incarnation. The eternal Son of God became truly human. Jesus Christ had a human face, walked among His people, and could be seen and touched. As the Gospel tells us, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Because God became visible in Jesus Christ, we can depict His human appearance. Icons proclaim this wonderful truth: **God did not remain distant from humanity. He came to dwell among us.**

What should an icon teach us? Every time we stand before an icon, we should remember that our goal is not simply to admire something beautiful. An icon invites us to prayer, repentance, and holiness. An icon of Christ reminds us to follow His commandments. An icon of the Theotokos teaches us humility and obedience to God. Icons of the saints remind us that holiness is possible even in our ordinary lives. The next time you enter our church, take a moment to look at the holy icons around you. They silently proclaim the Gospel and remind us that we belong to a communion of faith extending from earth to heaven. **We do not worship icons. We worship the living God whom they help us remember, love, and follow.**

FEAST OF THE HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Every day, whether we realize it or not, we are making a choice. We choose between truth and lies, between good and evil, between following God and following our own desires. Sometimes these choices are obvious. Other times, they are hidden in the small decisions of everyday life.

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Archangel Michael and all the heavenly powers, the Church reminds us of a very important truth: There is a spiritual battle taking place, and every Christian must decide whose side he is on. The name Michael means, *"Who is like God?"* According to the tradition of the Church, when Lucifer rebelled against God because of pride, the Archangel Michael stood firmly in faithfulness to his Creator. Michael did not ask what was popular, what was convenient, or what would benefit him. He knew one thing: God alone is worthy of our worship and obedience.

And this is precisely the lesson we need today. We live in a world where people increasingly want to decide for themselves what is right and wrong. We hear phrases such as, *"Follow your heart," "Do whatever makes you happy,"* or *"Live your own truth."* But Christianity teaches us something different. We are not called to create our own truth. We are called to follow the Truth, who is Jesus Christ. The greatest temptation of the devil is not always to make us commit some terrible sin. Sometimes it is simply to convince us that we do not need God. We become too busy to pray. Too tired to attend church. Too proud to forgive. Too comfortable to change our lives. And slowly, without even noticing, we begin to place ourselves at the center of everything. This is exactly what pride does. Pride says, *"My will be done."* Humility says, *"Thy will be done."*

Brothers and sisters, the Archangel Michael reminds us that faithfulness to God requires courage. It takes courage to remain honest when dishonesty seems easier. It takes courage to defend our Christian faith when others mock it. It takes courage to forgive someone who has hurt us. It takes courage to raise our children according to Christian values when the world teaches them something different. Being a Christian does not mean simply believing that God exists. It means choosing to stand with Him every day.

But today's feast also brings us great comfort. We are not alone in our spiritual struggles. God has given us the holy angels as protectors and helpers. They do not replace Christ, but they serve Him and assist us according to His will. That is why the Church teaches us to ask for the protection of the holy angels, especially when we face temptation, fear, and uncertainty. And every time we gather for the Divine Liturgy, we are reminded that our worship is united with the worship of heaven. We sing the thrice-holy hymn together with the angelic hosts, glorifying the one true God.

Dear brothers and sisters, today let us ask ourselves one simple question: Am I standing with God only when it is convenient, or am I faithful to Him even when it costs me something? May the Holy Archangel Michael inspire us to reject pride, resist temptation, defend the truth, and remain faithful to Christ. And may we never forget that the greatest victory in our spiritual battle is not defeating another person, but overcoming sin within our own hearts. Holy Archangel Michael and all the heavenly powers, protect us, strengthen our faith, and lead us closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Archangel Michael and All Angels

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

GUARDIAN
GOD
ARCHANGEL
HUMILITY
PROTECTOR
SERAPHIM
SHIELD
HOLINESS
CHERUBIM
MICHAEL
WARRIOR
HEAVEN
GLORY
SALVATION
SWORD
GABRIEL
MESSENGER
PEACE
LIGHT
FAITH
ANGELS
RAPHAEL
PRAYER



What does it mean to be a Christian? Not simply belonging to a religion, but living in communion with Christ

If someone asks, *"Are you a Christian?"* it may seem easy to answer. Perhaps we were baptized as children. We belong to a parish. We attend church on Sundays. We wear a cross. We celebrate Christmas and Pascha. We may even say, *"My family has always been Christian."* All of these things can be important. But Christianity asks a deeper question: Do I actually know Christ, and am I living with Him?

To be a Christian is not simply to belong to an organization or agree with certain religious ideas. At the center of Christianity is not a philosophy, a moral system, or a collection of traditions. At the center is Jesus Christ. Christ did not simply say, *"Learn My teachings."* He said, *"Follow Me."* That invitation changes everything.

Following Christ means allowing Him to enter every part of my life, not only the hour I spend in church. My faith should affect how I speak to my family, how I treat difficult people, how I use money, how I respond when someone hurts me, what I do when nobody is watching, and how I carry suffering.

This does not mean Christians are perfect. A Christian is not someone who never falls. A Christian is someone who, when he falls, turns again toward Christ. This is why repentance is so important in Byzantine spirituality. Repentance does not simply mean feeling guilty. It means changing direction. When I discover pride, anger, selfishness, dishonesty, or hatred within myself, Christ calls me not to despair but to return to Him and allow Him to heal me.

Christianity is therefore a life of communion. We pray because we desire communion with Christ. We read Scripture because we want to hear His voice. We fast because we want to become free from the things that control us. We confess our sins because we need His forgiveness and healing.

And above all, we come to the Divine Liturgy and the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist shows us something extraordinary about Christianity: Christ does not simply want us to remember Him from a distance. He gives Himself to us. He desires such deep communion with us that we receive His precious Body and Blood.

But communion with Christ must also transform how we live. If I receive Christ in the Eucharist but refuse to forgive my neighbor, something is wrong. If I make the Sign of the Cross but deliberately live without Christ the rest of the week, my faith has become only an external habit.

The Byzantine Christian tradition calls us toward something much greater: theosis, being transformed by God's grace and growing into His likeness. Day by day, Christ teaches us to love more deeply, forgive more freely, become more humble, fight against sin, care for others, and place our lives into God's hands.

This journey lasts our entire lifetime. So perhaps the most important question is not simply: *"Am I a Christian?"* A better question is: *"Am I becoming more like Christ?"*

Being Christian means belonging to Christ, walking with Christ, falling and returning to Christ, receiving Christ, and gradually allowing Christ to transform us. Christianity is not simply a religion we practice. It is a life we live with Christ and, ultimately, a life in which Christ lives in us.