

**SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

Sunday, September 20 SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION  
9:00 a.m. OF THE CROSS  
(Church) +Dr. Thomas G. Ponzurick  
Req. by Mother Helen

Monday, September 21 Codratus  
8:00 a.m. +Ida Magnuson, Bequest  
(Church)

Tuesday, September 22 Phocas (Bishop - Martyr)  
No Liturgy

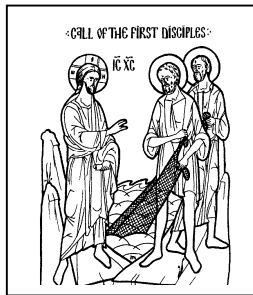
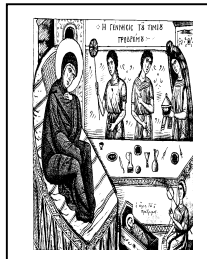
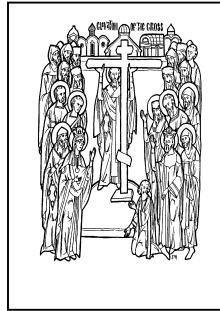
Wednesday, September 23 Conception of John the Baptist  
8:00 a.m. +William Petruska  
(Church) Req. by John Medvitz

Thursday, September 24 Thecla (Proto - Martyr)  
8:00 a.m. +Mary Ann Kasarda, Bequest  
(Church)

Friday, September 25 Euphrosyna (Venerable) (ABSTINENCE REQUIRED)  
8:00 a.m. +Ann Marks, Bequest  
(Church)

Saturday, September 26 The Passing of John (Evangelist)  
5:30 p.m. For the Parish Family  
(Church)

Sunday, September 27 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
9:00 a.m. +Doris Mihalko  
(Church) Req. by William Mendis



‡**CHOOSE LIFE!** For families facing an untimely pregnancy, that they may turn to God for the strength to give birth to a new life, we pray to the Lord.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY – 9/13/2020**

Offering = \$3714.00 Candles = \$121.00 Holy Day = \$415.00 Loose Cash = \$15.00  
**TOTAL = \$4265.00 Offering = \$9688.18**

**PRAYER REQUESTS** – Fred, Kara, Cathy, Anita, Thomas, Michael, Karen, Joan, Shirley, Rachel, Shirley, Shirley, Frank, Marsha, Cynthia, Linda, Annette, and Andrea, Ruthann, Sharlene, Patty, Ida, Barb, Dolores, Fred, Joan, Shirley, Josephine, Mark, Bertie, Janet, Cathy, Ken, Sean, PJ, Ceil, Nadine, Robert, Amelia, Butch, Janet, Carl, Bonnie, Clancy, Georgia, Connor, Marge, George, Jane, Theresa, Charlene, BA, David, Kathleen, Fred, Joan, Dan, Janice, Paulette, Betty, David, Rita, Charles, Brian, Daniel, Donna, Roger, Malory, Paula, Mike, Jamie, Virginia, Paul, Nick, Karla, Ashley, Laura, Denise, Angel, Lynn, Jeff, Kevin, Jamie, Chris, Cindy, Mike, Dianne, Helen, Donna, Riley, Jasson, Anita, Betty, Sonny, Fr. Eugene, Beatrice, Alice, Paul, Rose, Charlotte, Paul, Margaret, Rose, Nancy, Kris, Bruce, Larry, Jodi, Tom, Renee, Buzzy, Pete, Harvey, Amy, Mason, Melanie, Melvin, Jean, Joyce, Joann, Jean, Flint, Mark, Melba.

**THIS WEEKEND - EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES CATECHITICAL SUNDAY 2020** – Begins on September 20, 2020, with the theme “Christ the Heavenly Bread.” Registration will be held after the Divine Liturgies.

**PLEASE CALL IN** – Please continue to call us at 724-434-5355 to RSVP your attendance at Divine Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday. This procedure will last for a while yet. Also please continue to wear your mask and maintain social distance.

**GCU LODGE 81** – is sponsoring its Annual Food Drive through the month of September. Only cash or check donations will be accepted. If donating by check, please make payable to “GCU Lodge 81”. Mailed donations should be sent to St. John Byzantine Church and marked “Attn: Lodge 81”. A collection receptacle for donations will be placed at the handicapped entrance. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 4. All donations will be given to St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Bank in Uniontown and the Food Pantry operated at Holy Ghost Byzantine in Charleroi. Food items cannot be accepted because of COVID-19 restrictions. Thank you for any assistance you can provide!

**51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ROSARY WALK** – Begins at 2:00 p.m., TODAY, at St. George Maronite, Uniontown.

**ADVISORY MEETING** – Tuesday, September 29, at 6:00 p.m. in the school.

FROM A SERMON BY BLESSED ISAAC OF STELLA, ABBOT

Christ will forgive no sin without the Church

The prerogative of receiving the confession of sin and the power to forgive sin are two things that belong properly to God alone. We must confess our sins to him and look to him for forgiveness. Since only he has the power to forgive sins, it is to him that we must make our confession. But when the Almighty, the Most High, wedded a bride who was weak and of low estate, he made that mad-servant a queen. He took her from her place behind him, at his feet, and enthroned her at his side. She had been born from his side, and therefore he betrothed her to himself. And as all that belongs to the Father belongs also to the Son because by nature they are one, so also the bridegroom gave all he had to the bride and he shared in all that was hers. He made her one both with himself and with the Father. Praying for his bride, the Son said to the Father: *I want them to be one with us, even as you and I are one.*

And so the bridegroom is one with the Father and one with the bride. Whatever he found in his bride alien to her own nature he took from her and nailed to his cross when he bore her sins and destroyed them on the tree. He received from her and clothed himself in what was hers by nature and gave her what belonged to him as God. He destroyed what was diabolical, took to himself what was human, and conferred on her what was divine. So all that belonged to the bride was shared in by the bridegroom, and he who had done no wrong and on whose lips was found no deceit could say: *Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak.* Thus, sharing as he did in the bride's weakness, the bridegroom made his own her cries of distress, and gave his bride all that was his. Therefore, she too has the prerogative of receiving the confession of sin and the power to forgive sin, which is the reason for the command: *Go, show yourself to the priest.*

The Church is incapable of forgiving any sin without Christ, and Christ is unwilling to forgive any sin without the Church. The Church cannot forgive the sin of one who has not repented, who has not been touched by Christ; Christ will not forgive the sin of one who despises the Church. What God has joined together, man must not separate. *This is a great mystery, but I understand it as referring to Christ and the Church.*

Do not destroy the whole Christ by separating head from body, for Christ is not complete without the Church, nor is the Church complete without Christ. The whole and complete Christ is head and body. This is why he said: *No man has ever ascended into heaven except the Son of Man whose home is in heaven.* He is the only man who can forgive sin.

(Sermo 11: PL 194, 1728-1729)

**CATHOLIC NON-NEGOTIABLES – INTRINSIC EVILS** - As far as the Catholic Church is concerned, its principal focus in the public arena is the protection and promotion of the dignity of the person, and she is thereby consciously drawing particular attention to principles which are not negotiable. Among these the following emerge clearly today: *(a) protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death; (b) recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage, and its defense from attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different forms of union which in reality harm it and contribute to its destabilization, obscuring its particular character and its irreplaceable social role; (c) the protection of the right of parents to educate their children.* (Pope Benedict XVI, Address to European Parliamentary Group, 30 March 2006)