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## Exalting the Cross

For each of us, salvation means no more and no less than taking up daily the same cross of Christ, accepting each day what it brings as the will of God, offering back to God each morning all the joys, works, and sufferings of that day. But those are abstract words. What it means, in practice, is spelled out as always by the poor old body. It means getting up each morning and going to bed exhausted. It means the routine, not the spectacular. It can mean drudgery, pain, putting aside pleasures, happiness, or the love the human heart craves until another time, so that what is necessary at the moment can be done.

It means working for others, touching the lives of others, through the medium of the body. How many times, tired and worn

out and near collapse from the slave labor conditions of the camps, did I think I could not ask another step of the body, did I think in pain and irony of those words "The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak"? Truly, man is a creature composed of body and soul, and we work out our salvation in this vale of tears through the medium of the flesh.

It is the first gift God and our parents fashion for us; it sustains and supports us through a long life and makes possible both joys and sorrows; and when at last we are parted from it in death, it surely deserves whatever rest it can get before it rises to be glorified at the last judgment.

*Father Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.*

## SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Holy Martyr Eustace and his Companions -- September 20th*

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Glory Forever!  
Slava Isusu Christu!  
Slava Na Viki!



Vol 13 #38



 **SAT., SEPT 19**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy) – Mirovanije**

+Stephen “Mickey” Burich  
(remembrance of 50th wedding ann. 9.17)

requested by: M/M Ken Kish

 **SUN., SEPT 20**  
**11:00 a.m.**

+Stevie Dimoff  
(remembrance of 51st birthday 9.20)

requested by: Dimoff Family

+John Lucas  
(32nd anniversary of passing 9.20)

requested by: Family

**The Sunday After the Universal Elevation  
of the Cross – Mirovanije**

+Conrad John Straub  
(remembrance of 90th birthday 9.4)

requested by: Sister: Liz & Siblings

**Tues., Sept 22**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**First Day**  
*ECF classes at Hall*



 **SAT., SEPT 26**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**(Vigil Sunday Divine Liturgy)**

+Helen C. +John VanSuch  
(15th ann. of passing 9.18) (26th ann. of passing 9.30)

requested by: David & Sandra VanSuch

 **SUN., SEPT 27**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Thanksgiving: 50th Golden Wedding  
Anniversary of: Marge & Andy Arendas (9.25)

requested by: Family

Health & God’s Blessings Upon:  
Aubrey Vokish (sweet 16th birthday today)

requested by: Family



September 20 – Mario Michael Moschella  
September 21 – Genevieve Hicks, George Hahn  
September 22 – Andria Shevetz  
September 24 – Dominic Anthony Cutrone

Pray for the Homebound, Sick, Hospitalized, & in Recovery updated: September 18, 2026

**RESIDING AT HOME** – Andy Arendas, Bonnie Cohn, Michael Drotar, Geraldine Dubos, Michael Katula,  
Kathi Klimis, Paul Kotch, Greta Marks, Patty Orenic, Frank Phillips, Martha Swantek.

**The Inn at Ironwood** (6699 Ironwood Blvd., Canfield, OH 44406) – Dorothy Leone.

**Windsor House at St. Mary’s** (1899 W. Garfield Rd., Columbiana, OH 44408) – Anne Thomas.

**Church offerings from Sept. 12 & 13, 2026**

Sunday Offering....\$1,895.00

Loose Currency....\$00.00

Candles....\$51.00

Holydays....\$65.00

**TOTAL: \$2,011.00**



**September 13th TOTAL:**  
**\$225.00**

| Weekly Requirement to Meet Yearly Expenses |            |           |            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Date                                       | Collection | Required  | (Shortage) |
| Sept. 13                                   | \$2,011    | \$2,950   | (\$939)    |
| YTD                                        | \$97,628   | \$109,150 | (\$11,522) |



"What do you mean, you forgot where you parked? You're shopping online."

**Quote of the Week**

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

— Dolly Parton



# AUTUMN

## WORD SEARCH



### WORD LIST

ACORN  
AUTUMN  
BONFIRE  
BRISK  
CIDER  
CORN  
CRISP  
EQUINOX  
FALL  
FESTIVAL  
FOLIAGE  
FOOTBALL  
GOURD  
HALLOWEEN  
HARVEST  
HAYSTACK  
JACKET  
LEAVES  
NOVEMBER  
OCTOBER  
PINE CONE  
PUMPKIN  
SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER  
SQUASH  
SWEATER  
THANKSGIVING  
TREES

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| I | C | K | K | S | W | E | A | T | E | R | T | D |
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| O | S | P | E | A | S | K | P | D | W | D | E | P |
| V | C | G | I | Y | S | T | I | W | Z | B | B | C |
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| G | R | J | G | P | D | Z | Z | I | M | E | V | E |
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| W | T | Q | D | Q | F | M | N | E | E | V | K | R |
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| R | Z | D | D | Q | C | J | S | K | U | A | U | H |
| O | X | X | D | K | H | K | A | I | I | T | G | I |
| C | F | O | O | T | B | A | L | L | R | N | U | M |
| A | K | L | X | O | N | I | U | Q | E | B | L | A |



## The Cross in our lives

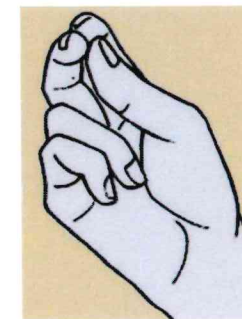
The first symbol of faith that we learn is typically the cross, whether a parent or grandparent points out to us the crosses that sit atop of our churches, or they teach us how to make the sign of the cross, we are exposed to crosses from a very early age. We make the sign of the cross multiple times a day, during morning prayer, before and after meals, during evening prayer, before we retire for the evening, throughout our Divine Services in church, amid so many other circumstances, but do we fully understand—or make the attempt to understand—the meaning and significance of this sign of our faith? Even when we are surrounded by crosses, what do we actually understand about crosses? How often do we see the cross—the symbol of our salvation—used and abused in modern society? For us, as Christians, the meaning of the cross is quite profound. As we see embodied in our Lord with His dual nature of the Human and Divine, there is a duality that the cross itself represents for us—that of death and that of victory. We hear about taking up a cross and carrying it in our daily lives—working a thankless job, dealing with a disease or illness where the odds aren’t good, assisting people that aren’t easy to work with, or having strings of misfortune that cause us stress or despair—and we blindly accept it as something that we simply should do, respond to, or go through.

As we continue to observe the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, let us remember the importance of the Cross in our lives and not take it for granted. Let us also remember the significance the Cross itself bears on our earthly existence. We honor the Cross in a special way to not only commemorate Christ’s crucifixion, but we also are called to acknowledge the saving power and grace bestowed upon us because of it. We should wear it proudly; when we make the sign of the cross, we should do so with great reverence and knowledge of the blessing we call upon ourselves. Our own martyrdom (or witness) to our Lord should be given readily, with full understanding that He is always there for us to tend to our needs. Our witness calls us to treat others lovingly and with unreserved dignity and understanding, to mimic the way of our Lord in following His two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-38).



## Byzantine Catholics Must make sign of the cross properly and correctly – right shoulder to left shoulder

As is customary in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we hold the thumb and first two figures together signifying our belief in the Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The remaining two fingers are indicative of our belief of who Jesus is: God and man. These two figures are pressed into the palm reminding us that God came to earth and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Thus, when we make the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we begin by touching the forehead with the thumb and two fingers together while saying either “In the Name of the Father or Glory to the Father.” Our action continues to move down below the heart (near the naval) signifying that the Son descended to earth to become man, to die and then resurrect from the dead. The movement then is directed to the right shoulder while saying “and to the Son” since He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of the Father. The gesture then goes across to the left shoulder while saying “and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.” Historians seem to agree that this is the way Christians began signing themselves around the 8th and 9th centuries. The entirely true believing Christian world used this sign as a gesture to confess their faith, hope and love in the One Who was nailed to the Precious Cross.





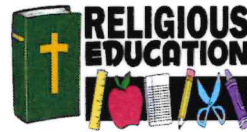
## ECF begins Tuesday

The Eastern Christian Formation program (ECF) for our children starts **THIS TUESDAY, September 22nd**. Classes are held every Tuesday from 6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m. at our St. Michael Hall. The theme this Catechetical year is *The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me: A Year of Favor, Healing, and Mission*. What does the word "catechetical" mean? The root word "catechesis" is from a Greek word meaning "to echo or resound." The role of every baptized person is to share and become witnesses of their faith. We thank, honor and bless all those who have responded to God's call to grow in a deeper understanding of their commitment to the Lord Jesus. May God grant them many happy and blessed years!

### 2026-2027 ECF Catechists

ECF coordinator:  
Pre-school/kindergarten/1st grade:  
3rd - 7th grades:  
3rd/4th grades: (second half)  
ByzanTEENS:

Keri Vokish  
Emily Vasilchek  
Sarah Circelli  
Geri Santana  
still need a catechist



### Still looking for a leader for ByzanTEENS

Our parish is looking for anyone who might be interested in working and assisting with our middle school through high school kiddos. Please let Father know if you would be interested in this important ministry ASAP.

### Holupki dinner TODAY

There is a Stuffed Cabbage Dinner **TODAY, September 20th from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.** at the Hall. You can either EAT IN or TAKE OUT. This \$15 Dinner includes: 2 Stuffed Cabbage (holupki), real mashed potatoes, a vegetable, bread/butter and dessert. Drinks will be available for eat in only.



### Civic Club meeting TODAY

The Civic Club will have its first meeting of the new season **TODAY, September 20th** at 12:15 p.m. in the Hall bar room. The Civic Club has initiated numerous exciting programs the past few years and has raised a generous amount of money for worthy causes. We hope to continue growing. The club is open to any parishioner who wants to make a positive difference in the church and in the community. If this sounds like you, please come to the meeting.

### Our pastor to give retreat next Saturday

On **Saturday, September 26th**, our pastor will be the main presenter at the Young Adult Pilgrimage sponsored by the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. The event takes place at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Jackson, OH. The day is open to ages 18-39, single or married. Extra fliers are in the narthex if you are interested. Deadline is September 22nd to register.

### Sympathy extended

+**WALTER JOSEPH VRABEL**, 72, of Columbiana, OH, formerly of Campbell, fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, September 12, 2026. He was a former parishioner and altar server for many years. He is the brother of parishioner Sharon Vrabel and brother-in-law of parishioner Diana Vrabel. He is also survived by his wife Rita whom he married at St. Michael's in 1976, son Jarrod (Kim) Vrabel and daughter Jenna (Chris) Reynolds and 5 grandchildren. May God grant to His departed servant, +Walter, blessed repose and eternal memory, vicnaja jemu pamjat.



**8 Tickets remaining to be sold as of the morning of September 19th:**  
96,135,138,160,165,169,184,188

### Wine still needed for R.R. card game

Winte bottles are still needed for the Reverse Raffle for one of the games. Consider donating a wine bottle of better quality. Place donations in the back of the church in the marked bag. For any questions or info, see Atty. Brian Macala. All bottle donations must be turned in by next weekend.

### Volunteers for set-up for Reverse Raffle event

Volunteers are asked to help out at the Hall with the Reverse Raffle set-up on **Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m.** Please let Father know your able to be there and help out.

### Want to be a priest?...check out seminary

Invited to the "Come and See" Weekend of discovery retreat are men, ages 18 to 35, single or married, who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. It is November 6-8, 2026 at the Seminary. To register, go to: [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu) Deadline is October 16th.

### Food drive in October

In conjunction with the GCU, our parish will participate in a food drive during the month of October for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Youngstown. The GCU will match donations up to \$500.00. Details on items or monetary donations will be forthcoming. For any questions, you may see Ed Stanko.

### Hermitage parish gets upgraded livestream

St. Michael's Church in Hermitage, PA just completed an upgrade livestream installation project with permanent cameras equipment. Liturgical services will no longer be on their facebook page, but on YouTube. The address is: [www.youtube.com/@StMichaelbyzhermitage](http://www.youtube.com/@StMichaelbyzhermitage) You can also go on YouTube and in the search bar type in: @StMichaelbyzhermitage

**Haven't Seen Someone in a While?** Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way. Invite them back to church!