

## HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

### July 26, 2026

## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sun July 26:** 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

7:45 am Rosary, 8 am Divine Liturgy

**IHO Joseph Bacasa for his birthday by Theresa Carr**

6 pm Divine Liturgy

**IMO Msgr. Russell Duker by his friend Subdcn. Raffaele Ruggiero**

**Mon July 27:** FAITH AND FUN DAY: NO SERVICES

**Fri July 31:** 6 pm Confessions, 7 pm Divine Liturgy

**IHO David and Juliana Littles on their 12<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary by Mary Dzurichko**

**Sat Aug. 1:** 5 pm Confessions, 6 pm Akathist to the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

**Sun Aug 2:** 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

7:45 am Rosary, 8 am Divine Liturgy

**IMO Juliana Dzurichko by her daughter Mary Dzurichko**

6 pm Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

**ON-LINE GIVING:** If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



**PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS:** Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

**PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS:** **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, whose priests they aspire to be. Amen.

**St. Michael the Archangel**, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS/LITURGY ATTENDANCE FOR JULY 19:**

**Offering: \$965.00    Attendance: 8:00 AM: 17    6:00 PM: 7    Total: 23**

**JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:**

**May God grant you many happy and blessed years!**

Sophia Kunitz 7/9

Judith Ann Mackin 7/25

Joseph Bacasa 7/27

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

**RUMMAGE SALE AUGUST 22:** The annual Rummage Sale on Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please bring donated items to the hall. We do not accept clothing or electronics. Items may be gently used but not broken. **Set up is going on NOW – please lend a hand!**

**MORNING LITURGY COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS:** It is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

**EVENING LITURGY SOCIAL:** The first Sunday Evening Social will be July 26, 2026. We look forward to seeing you!

**AKATHIST TO THE LIFEGIVING CROSS:** Saturday Evening Vespers this week will be replaced by the Akathist to the Precious and Lifegiving Cross with a procession around the church (weather permitting) as a prayer for peace across the world.

**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD:** Interested in receiving the Archeparchy's monthly newspaper? Speak with Mary Dzurichko about getting signed up with Archeparchial events.

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES (ECF):** Our ECF program meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 5 pm in the hall. For more info, please see Eugene Yeo

**SAVE THE DATE: SAT. NOV 7<sup>TH</sup> FOR OUR SECOND SONGS & STORIES FROM THE MOUNTAINS:** If you're interested in volunteering for the event, please speak with Fr. Michael. Please keep an eye open for more updates.

**SAINT OF THE DAY:** 7/26 **The holy priest-martyr Hermolaus** and his companions. He was a priest in Nicomedia in the time of the Emperor Maximian and was with the 20,000 martyrs condemned to be burned inside their church (Dec 28). These three priests escaped. They were all caught, tortured and martyred. (304)

7/26 **The holy venerable martyr Paraskevia.** Born in Rome to Christian parents, she preached Christ even as a small child. When her parents died, she gave away all her goods to the poor and received the monastic habit. She was denounced to the emperor Anoninus Pius, and beheaded. (2nd century)

7/26 **Our venerable father, Moses the Carpathian of the Monastery of the Caves.** He was at the court of Prince Boris of Russia. When Svyatopolk murdered Boris and Gleb, Moses escaped and fled to Kiev. He was enslaved and sold to King Boleslav of Poland, where he suffered much on account of his monastic commitment. He eventually returned to the Monastery of the Caves and lived for ten years in silence. (1043)

7/27 **The holy great martyr Panteleimon** (or Pantaleon) at Nicomedia in Bithynia, martyr, who is venerated in the East as a physician who exercised his craft without a fee. (304)

7/27 **Memory of our holy father Clement the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Ohrid in Illyricum (modern Bulgaria).** He was notable for his learning and his knowledge of the sacred scriptures and carried the light of faith to the Bulgarian people. With him are commemorated the holy bishops Gorazd, Nahum, Sabas, and Angelarius, who continued the work of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Bulgaria. (916)

7/31 **The holy and righteous Eudocimus,** who lived in the time of the emperor Theophilus, the iconoclast. He was the military governor of Cappadocia and lived a virtuous life before God and man. He died at the age of thirty-three. (9th century)

7/31 **The holy Joseph of Arimathea.** A rich member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, was a secret follower of Christ (Matt.27:57; Jn. 19:38). He took Christ's body down from the tomb with Nicodemus and laid it in his own new tomb. The risen Lord appeared to him and brought him to faith in the Resurrection. He traveled far, preaching the Gospel, and took it to England, where he died. (1st century)

8/1 **The procession of the Wood of the venerable and life-creating Cross.** This feast was established in the reign of the Greek Emperor Manuel, as a memorial of Greek victory over the Saracens. The procession with the relic of the Precious Cross was made from the imperial palace to the church of Hagia Sophia; there the relic remained for fourteen days and was then carried back in procession to the church in the palace grounds.

8/1 **The holy seven Maccabees, their mother Solomonias, and the elder Eleazar** at Antioch in Syria, under Antiochus Epiphanes the king. For the sake of keeping the law of the Lord with unconquered faith, they were cruelly handed over to death with their mother. She suffered with her sons as they were martyred, one by one, and was crowned with them, as it is written in the second book of the Maccabees [2 Mac. 7]. St. Eleazar, one of the first scribes, a man of advanced age. In that same persecution, refusing to eat forbidden meat on account of his love for the Torah of the Lord, he achieved a most glorious death rather than a shameful life; he voluntarily went to his punishment, leaving an excellent example of virtue.

### **EPISTLE: Corinthian 3: 9-17:**

For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire [itself] will test the quality of each one's work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. But if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 14: 22-34:**

Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening, he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once [Jesus] spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God." After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret.

**A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL:** Thick and heavy snowfalls and cold temperatures are commonplace all over Michigan in the wintertime, especially in the Western and Northern portions of the State. The blunt and brutal beauty of winter in the Great Lakes State is a tough but greatly cherished experience. I recall once in Scouts we did a winter camp out just next to the sand dunes off Lake Michigan. We ran up the top of a snow-covered dune one morning to be met with the awe-inspiring sight of a bright white snow laden beach beneath a bright grey sky. As we watched the large speckles of snow descend, you could see from the shore, from one horizon to the next, an expansive field of frozen waves extending outward into the lake.

Young and impetuous as we were, we ran down the dune and began to see how far out over the frozen waves we could climb. Some rose 15 to 20 feet high in sharply curved caps before sloping back down to the water. Wiser heads prevailed amongst the adults, and they called us back to terra firma before anyone fell through, but that feeling of bravery and mastery over the winter water by walking atop the great waves of the Great Lakes is certainly something to be remembered and cherished.

As incredible as that all sounds, it is still easy to imagine walking on something frozen when compared to the experience of the Apostles when they beheld the Lord walking upon the unfrozen water. More than just walking upon a liquid, itself an incredible feat, Christ showed that He tramples beneath His feat the very primordial chaos which we as human beings have always feared. Looking into the abys of the sea often awakens the innate pull into a state of thalassophobia (fear of deep bodies of water), as it is the most common fear amongst humans. Undoubtedly it was this fear which caused the adults to pull us back to the shore that winter. Since it is impossible to truly fathom the depths of the sea and all that is contained in her, and since also the might of her wrath is unpredictable, humans have almost always universally recognized that the chaotic nature of the seas and oceans is something to be feared.

We can certainly forgive the Apostles mistake when they thought that Jesus was a ghost as they watched Him walk upon the sea without fear. Though His voice, calling out to Peter, did something in the preeminent apostle to dampen his fears and to join in the denunciation and humiliation of one of humanity's oldest and most treacherous foes. Peter's faith and confidence in the presence of Christ to guide him safely over the water pushed him into a place of such paralyzing uncertainty that he was bewildered to see that he did not sink. It was only at the faltering of his faith at the hands of the mighty waves that he began to doubt and to fear, causing him to begin to sink into the abys, only being rescued by the hand of our Lord.

Deep rooted fears in the natural world are not necessarily irrational. While our spirits may be willing, we know all too well that our flesh is weak. We do not tend to live our lives with flagrant disregard for our safety, and we wisely aim to actively keep ourselves out of the way of danger. This is a good and sober thing to do, but we must also not fall into the trap of becoming so cautious that we become comfortably caged. Christ calls us as He did Peter to walk out to Him on the tumultuous waters of this life. We are forced to navigate a world which is constantly trying to drown us in earthly cares, vain pursuits, and paralyzing fears. When we lose our focus on Christ and begin to treat as most immediate those things which should remain in our periphery, it will not be long before we begin to sink into them as did Peter into the water. The Church is the boat on which we rely to take us to our home which is in Christ, for it is on Her decks that we look out and see the Lord beckoning to us from across the cares of this life, calling us to Him in the life to come. When we find ourselves sinking, we can and must turn back to Christ and His Church to raise us out of the waters and back into the boat as He with Peter.