



September 16, 2018

Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross

Liturgical Schedule

- Sept 15 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm  
*Pasternak & Spudic Families*
- Sept 16 (Sun) Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross  
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
- Sept 22 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
- Sept 23 (Sun) Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Divine Liturgy 10:30am



The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of September 16 thru September 22 for the health and welfare of Father John..

Our Tithe to our parish  
September 9, 2018 - NA



Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.



St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Blvd, Munhall, is holding a *three-day Food Fest*, on the Church grounds. **No Admission Fee!**

*Friday, September 21: 3:00—7:00pm*

*Saturday, September 22: 3:00—9:00pm*  
Entertainment: Tammy Petty (DJ) 5:00—7:00pm  
Treasure 7:00—9:00pm

*Sunday, September 23: 12:00—6:00pm*  
Entertainment: Frank Powaski Polka Show broadcast and Polka favorites  
12:00—5:00pm

Each day will feature a Hungarian specialty item.

**All Three Days:** Bake Sale, Basket Raffle and Cash Bar available.

## The Discipline of Discipleship

(Mark 9:38-43, 45,47-48)



In this Gospel passage, the disciples hear of an unknown man who healed in Jesus' name. In their jealousy, it seemed the disciples were more concerned about losing the spotlight than in healing. Jesus put things into perspective. The man had the same goal as the disciples ... to build up God's Kingdom. They gained a teammate, not an enemy.

Discipleship means making a change of heart and mind. Jesus was very clear; if we choose to follow him, we can't foster private sins, too. If, through those sins, we lead others into sin, our responsibility is doubled.

These are grim words, but the opposite is great news: "Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

God rewards us for the good we do to and for others. Our example is powerfully influential.

Being a faithful disciple isn't easy. Rooting out personal sin and setting a good example is difficult, but we're not alone or without grace to do the job. No matter what we sacrifice, the reward is infinitely better.

## SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

In the midst of all the tragedies that have surrounded our world, our nation and the churches throughout the world, we hear many calls for us to "wake up". We have been encouraged to use each day well ... to appreciate the beauty of life, as well as its fragility ... and to more deeply respect each other.

Certainly, these messages are basic for all of us ... yet, we often lose sight of them in the midst of so many other activities and involvements ... We do need to be reminded.



During this week, our Church also gives us a powerful reminder of our focus in life ... the *Holy Cross*. The Cross is placed in the center of our churches for veneration ... and also as a way of directing our attention.

Today's Gospel tells us that if we want to save our life ... we must be willing to lose it ... and that we must be ready to take up our crosses in life.

The Cross is such a powerful symbol ... for it reveals to us that out of suffering, comes purification ... and out of death, life emerges. But, this can only happen for those who are willing to *embrace* their pain and suffering ... and allow it to *transform* them.

If we continually seek to run away from all suffering, then we also miss the opportunities for growth and development. We do not go out looking for suffering ... but, we are called to espouse it when we encounter it. By living through it, we have the possibility of letting it transform us into persons of more depth and experience.

St. Paul says it well in today's Epistle reading;

*I have been crucified with Christ,  
and the life I live now is not my own;  
Christ is living in me ...*