

Drawing All to Himself

O the marvelous power of the cross, the glory of the passion! No tongue can fully describe it. Here we see the judgment seat of the Lord, here sentence is passed upon the world, and here the sovereignty of the Crucified is revealed.

You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when You stretched out Your hands all the day long to a people that denied and opposed You, until at last the whole world was brought to proclaim Your majesty. You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when all the elements combined to pronounce judgment in denouncement of that crime; when the lights of heaven were darkened and the day was turned into night; when the land was shaken by unwonted earthquakes, and all creation refused to serve those wicked people. Yes, Lord, you drew all things to Yourself. The veil of the temple was torn in two and the Holy of Holies taken away from those unworthy high

priests. Figures gave way to reality, prophecy to manifestation, law to gospel. You drew all things to Yourself in order that the worship of the whole human race could be celebrated everywhere in a sacramental form which would openly fulfill what had been enacted by means of veiled symbols in that single Jewish temple.

Now that the multiplicity of animal sacrifices has ceased, the single offering of your body and blood takes the place of that diversity of victims, since you are the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and in Yourself you fulfill all the rites of the old law, so that as there is now a single sacrifice in place of all those victims, so there is a single kingdom formed of all the peoples of the earth.

St. Leo the Great

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

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Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

September 13, 2026

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Schedule of Services

Sunday	13	<u>Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Monday	14	<u>Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +George Gulas & +Charlie Brown by Maria Gulas
Thursday	17	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Ehon Adamowski by Xara Bogal
Saturday	19	<u>Saturday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Jim & +Michaelleen Forkal by Forkal & Hamelau families 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	20	<u>Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Gary Dorencz
Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes	Marilyn Lopez	
Bonnie Hughes-wc	Lea Popek - wc	Claire Resuta - wc	Abbie Sheedy - wc

Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.

Parish Membership is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

A Biblically based stewardship is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

Couples who are planning to be married at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages," as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound should contact the pastor or parish business office.

Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia parish members should contact the pastor.

No eulogies or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

Cremation is permitted but not encouraged. Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

Appropriate behavior and dress are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday. If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.

Renewed Eparchial Midwest Pilgrimage 2026

St. Mary, Whiting, Indiana

"For those who are burdened, come take rest beneath the veil of Our Lady of the Protection."

Friday, October 2, 2026

6 PM Candlelit Compline — Shrine of the Protection

7-9 PM Bonfire Chat — with Bishop Robert at the Byzantine Café

Snacks included | Come share your conversion story!

Saturday, October 3, 2026

9 AM Moleben to the Mother of God — Searcher for the Lost Prayer Garden

Bring names of fallen away Christians to pray for their return!

10 AM Adult Speaker & Children's Activity

12 PM Lunch

1-6:30 PM Confessions

2 PM Adult Speaker & Children's Activity

4-6:30 PM All-Night Vigil (Vespers & Matins)

6:30-8 PM Ethnic Dinner

8 PM Family Square Dancing

Sunday, October 4, 2026

9-10:30 AM Confessions

9:45 AM Akathist to the Mother of God

10:30 AM — Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Procession of the Four Gospels

12:30 PM Lunch



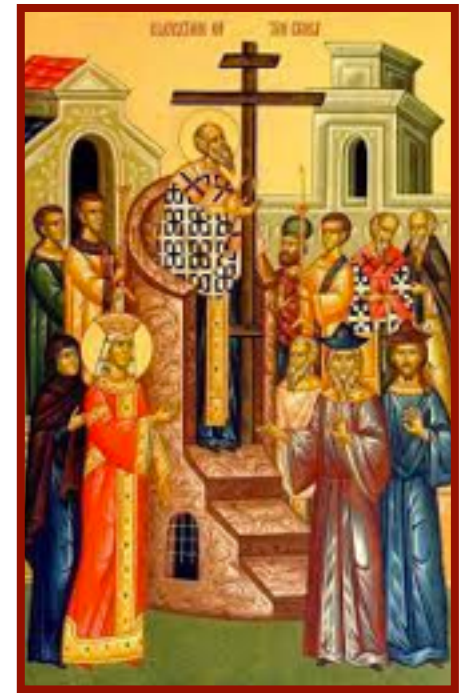
Additional Information

- Provisional schedule as of July 1
- Host families available for out-of-town guests
- Discounted hotel rates available
- stmarywhiting@parma.org

Exaltation of the Cross September 14th

The Exultation of the Cross, celebrated on September 14th, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

The day of the Exultation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official emblem of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of "Lord have mercy." This ritual is still done in the churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross at the end of the Vigil service of the holy day following the Great Doxology of Matins.



The troparion of the feast which was, one might say, the "national anthem" sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire "by the virtue of the Cross." Today the troparion, and all the hymns of the day, are "spiritualized" as the "adversaries" become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and "Church" replaces the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

The holy day of the Exultation of the Cross, although it has an obviously "political" origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by "victories" of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom "not of this world," and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the "city of God."

Thus, at the Exultation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to Him by the adoration of His holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.



Life Chain



LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY

Sunday, October 4
2:00pm - 3:30pm

Tinley / Orland Park
Our spot is on the North side of 159th St
by Home Depot, west of the stop light

LIFE CHAIN is an annual, nationwide, peaceful, prayerful hour of silence on public sidewalks supporting the dignity of and right to life. Many thousands of churches participate each year in this annual event of prayer and witness to the sanctity of unborn life.



Grand Raffle Update

1st Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, October 11th

2nd Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, November 15th

Grand Drawing - Sunday, December 13th

Countdown - 92 Days

Grand Prize - \$5,000

RAFFLE TICKET SALES UPDATE

Keep up the good efforts...

Dont' stop now!

	# of Tickets	Amount	%
Goal	350	\$35,000	100%
Sold	(140)	(14,000)	40.00%
Unsold	210	\$21,000	60.00%

NEED MORE TICKETS?...SEE ROBERT PALASZ

“TICKET WARRIORS” - Parishioners who have already SOLD tickets

Steve & Roberta Bieniek, Mary Cimbalista, Dennis & Gerry Davis, Dennis Dombrowski, Gary & Sharon Dorencz, Steven & Angelica Eichstaedt, Linda Gaydos, Anne Gazzolo, Bill Gulas, George & Kim Gulas, Maria Gulas, Bob & Sheila Horne, Mary Ann Horne, Bill & Susan Izquierdo, Laura Kizior, Jeremy & Michele Lewis, Constance Malinowski, Patrick & Teri Manaher, Thomas Mega, John Meseke, Maria Meseke, Dennis & Cynthia Mrowca, Cecelia Okonski, Richard Palasz, Robert & Jean Palasz, Sonny Pawchak, Betty Pawlowski, Georgia Peceniak, Frank & Kathy Reinhardt, Daniel Snidauf, Matthew & Abbie Sheedy, Michael Sheedy, Justin & Suzanne Stawychny, Mike Triggs, Bill & Nancy Withers, Daryl & Mary Jean Wuske

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT
co-sponsored by Catholic Citizens of Illinois
and Sag Bridge Mission Society

A Feast for the Soul

AN EVENING OF
Goodness, Truth,
and Beauty
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

5:00 PM
DINNER | Share a festive family-style meal with friends at Clara's Restaurant 6550 Route 53, Woodridge, Illinois

6:00 PM
SPEAKER | *His Duelling Among Us...*
Renowned sacred artist Sarah Crow will speak about the "language" of sacred architecture and the way in which Catholic theology is expressed sublimely in the transcendent beauty of late Romanesque and Gothic churches, abbeys and cathedrals

7:30 PM
MOVIE | Walk or drive to the nearby Seven Bridges Theatre for a special showing on the big screen of *Word on Fire* and Bishop Barron's new documentary *Heaven in Stone and Glass*

AMDG

DINNER \$35 PER PERSON | MOVIE TICKETS \$10.50 PER PERSON

Seating is limited - Register by Sept. 9th

Scan to register

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
Event Planner at (630) 862-9236

HEAVEN IN STONE AND GLASS
A FILM BY BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

THANK YOU



Total Sales:
\$1,473

Thank you for all of your support and donations!

A BIG thank you to everyone who help with the sale, from set-up to day of sales to take down. All of your help is much appreciated.

Join Mary's Helpers on their next outing:
The Shrine of Christ's Passion
Wednesday, Sept 16, 2026

All are welcome on this trip to visit the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St John, IN. We will leave church at 9AM, visit the shrine and then stop for lunch at Teibel's before returning to church. The cost of the tram at the shrine is \$10. Lunch cost is on your own.

