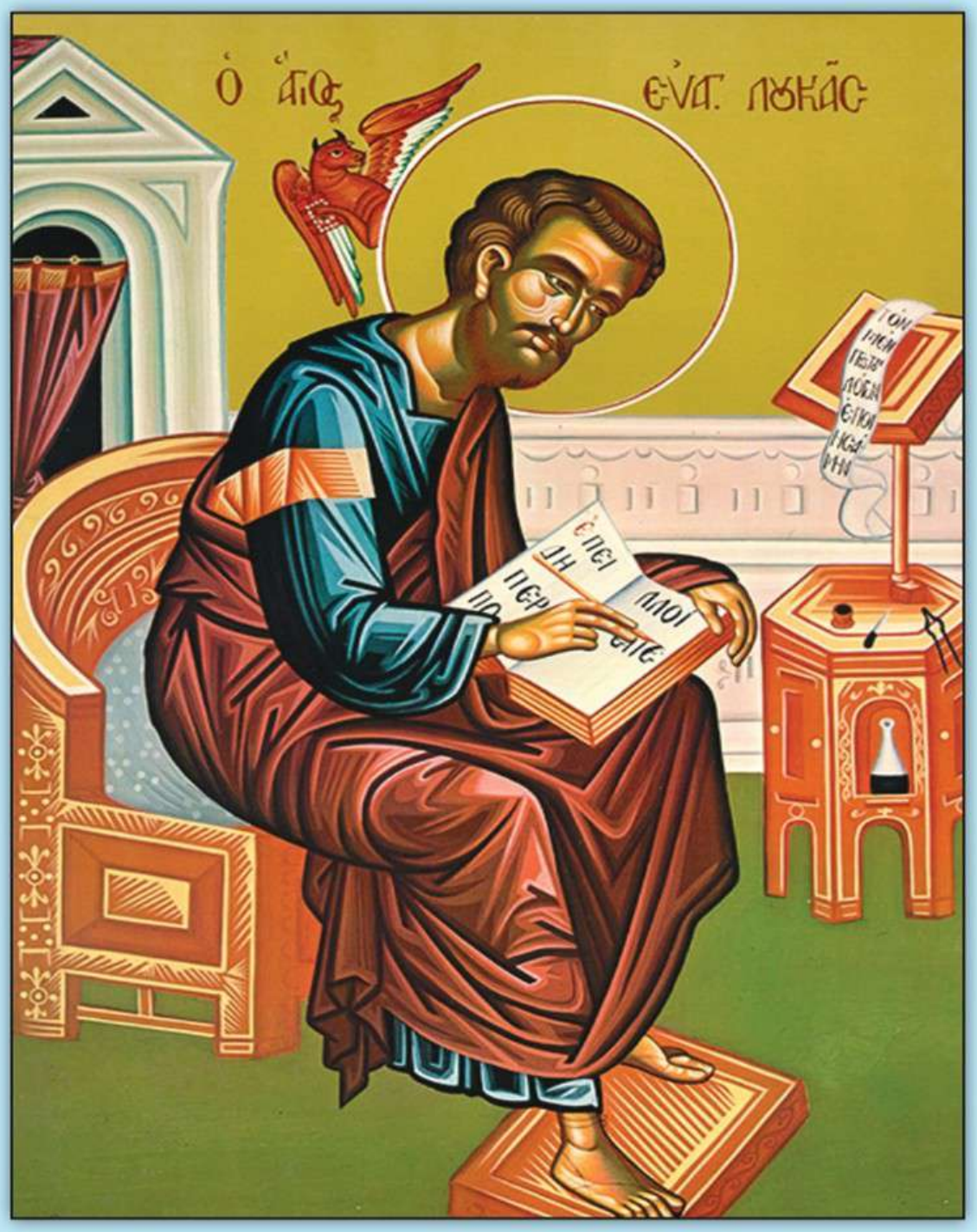
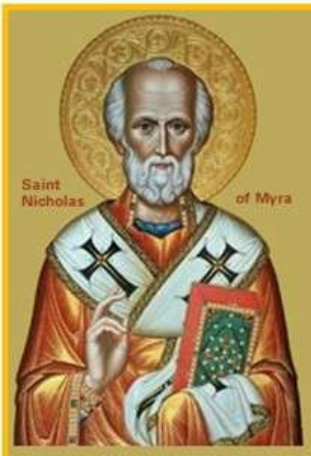
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



Icon of Saint Luke -- October 18th

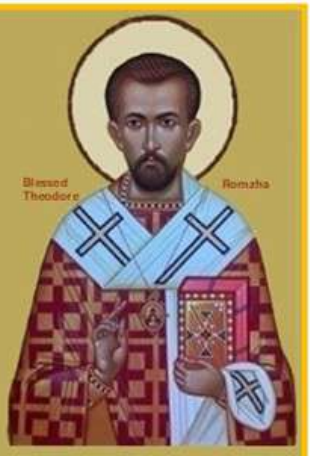


ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2200 Arctic Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503

BL. THEODORE ROMZHA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC MISSION

Sacred Heart Church 1201 E Bogard Rd,
Wasilla, AK 99654
2nd and 4th Sundays of the month



Administration
His Eminence, Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla DD
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Bishop Artur Bubnevych
Ruling Bishop of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Vasyl Mutka
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10am-4pm (Please Call before coming to the office)
Phone: (907) 277-6731
E-mail: pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com
Www.ak-byz-cath.org

WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY
Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you are looking for God, have a prayer request, looking for more information about the Eastern Catholic Church, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr. Vasyl, he will be happy to talk to you. Please join us for our coffee hour in the Parish hall following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you!
God bless you!

Schedule of Services
OCTOBER 18—OCTOBER 25 2026

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO HIM FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRYSTU! SLAVA NAVIKY BOGU!

Sunday, October 18—Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost; the Holy Apostle Luke

9:15-9:45 am **Confessions**
9:40 am **3rd Hour**
10:00 am **Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors, decorators of our St. Nicholas Parish & Wasilla Mission and for their relatives***

From Monday October 19 to Friday October 23, Fr. Vasyl will be in Phoenix, AZ for the 2026 Clergy Retreat.
There will be no daily services, and the parish office is closed during this week.

If there is a life-threatening emergency, please have the HOSPITAL call any Catholic Church to ask for a priest to come to the hospital. Please pray for our Fathers; they will be praying for all of you.

Saturday, October 24

4:15-4:45 pm **Confessions**
4:35 pm **Prayer Rule of the Theotokos (Byzantine Rosary)**
5:00 pm **Vespers/Divine Liturgy *For +Robin Armstrong by Anna Gage***

Sunday, October 25—Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

9:15-9:45 am **Confessions**
9:40 am **3rd Hour**
10:00 am **Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors, decorators of our St. Nicholas Parish & Wasilla Mission and for their relatives***

3:15-3:45 pm **Confessions**
4:00 pm **Divine Liturgy in Wasilla**

Please remember in your prayers:

For health and salvation: Fr. Chris Zugger, Fr. Joseph Wargacki, Fr. Robert, Veronica Frazier, David Bich, Max, Aniela, Ken Wake, Molly Buggy, Kim Bryan, Shawn, Anna Gage, Oceana Grabianowski, Anthony Heller, Solanche Stone, Basil, Dorothy Savok, Spruce Lynch, Truman Beer, Natalie, John Michalski, Phyllis Shepherd, Sherry, Bruce Heller, Gayle Veker

For repose of the departed: +Bishop Gerald N Dino, +Fr. Michael Artim, +Fr. Eric, +Christine Vincent, +Corine Hurst, +Ruth Langley Ayers, +Denise, +Ed, +Sandra, +William Florez

Please pray also for all our benefactors, friends, neighbors and anyone we may have forgotten. Please let Fr. Vasyl know if you would like to add new names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or hospitalized parishioners and family members.

Thanksgiving Day: On Thursday, November 26, 2026, St. Nicholas of Myra Parish will celebrate Thanksgiving Day.
We will begin our celebration with the Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Following the Liturgy, we will pray special prayers of thanksgiving.
After the prayers, we will gather for a potluck fellowship meal. A sign-up sheet will be available in the parish hall.
Come and participate in the Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy. Give thanks to the Giver of all good things, and join us as we share a meal and celebrate together as a parish family.

Christmas Holy Supper: This year, we will gather for a communal Holy Supper on Thursday, December 24, in our parish hall.
This beautiful custom of our Byzantine tradition offers a wonderful opportunity for those among us who are exploring and discovering the rich horizons of the Byzantine Catholic Church.
We need volunteers to help prepare the Holy Supper, as well as assistance with setup and cleanup. A sign-up sheet is available in the hall. Please sign up so that we can get an accurate headcount for the meal.

Eparchial Priest Pension Fund Collection—October 17–18
A special collection supporting retired priests of the Eparchy of Phoenix will be held **October 17–18, 2026**. The Eparchy's goal is **$75,000**, with a suggested gift of **$30 per parish family**. Gifts of any amount are welcome, and those able to give more are encouraged to do so.
Caring for clergy who retire after age 75 honors their years of ministry and helps provide financial stability in later life. Retired priests are responsible for their own housing, daily living costs, automobile expenses, and automobile insurance. Pension support helps them meet these essential needs.
Parish contributions do not fully cover pension payments for retired clergy. The Eparchy currently withdraws $18,000 quarterly from pension investments to meet these obligations. This collection is a first step toward strengthening the fund for the future.
This collection **replaces the Eparchial Healthcare Collection** previously held at this time of year. It is **separate from the National Retirement Fund for Religious collection in December** and specifically supports this Eparchy's priest pension program.
Please use the designated collection envelope. Thank you for supporting the priests who have served the Eparchy.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

It that time of year to begin planning for St. Nicholas' annual Christmas Bake Sale. It will be on Saturday, December 19. Last year we raised over $1,500. This year with your help we would like to exceed that amount by $1.00. To accomplish this, we need your help with freshly baked Christmas goodies and let your friends know about our bake sale.

Beginning October 4, we will begin taking orders for homemade Nut Rolls and Poppyseed Rolls. This will guarantee your order. The cost remains $15.00 each.

All Proceeds will go to purchasing new Altar Linens

Direct questions to Judy Bich (907) 748-4079

Volunteers are always welcome!!!

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL: "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Our Lord teaches us the truth of our hearts and his word in today's parable. Are we ready to have ears to hear his word with an honest and good heart, to retain it and bring forth fruit with endurance? This is the calling for all of us, and for some of us that includes a special dedication through the ordained, religious or monastic life. If this may be for you to discern, contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Prayer for Vocations

Master of All, You promised us, "I will be with you always, even until the very end of the age," and You have taught, "I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Mindful of this pledge, we beseech Your great goodness to inspire men to the Holy Priesthood, the service of Your Holy Church, so that they may properly be able to fulfill Your will for Your people in this age. There are children to baptize, the sick to heal, and the dying to care for. There is the Bread of Life to distribute, and the Word of God to teach. There are sins to forgive, and charity to be done in Your Name. Send Your Church in this hour and in every age, clergy to be instruments of Your presence. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy. Amen

Reflections on the present Scriptures: Galatians 2:16–20 invites us to reflect deeply on the meaning of faith, the gift of grace, and the transformation of human life in Christ. This passage reminds us that our relationship with God is not merely about following religious rules or proving our worth through good works. We can consider this text as an invitation to enter into communion with the living Christ, who loves us, gives Himself for us, and restores our humanity. St. Paul writes, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). These words express the heart of Christian life: we are called not simply to believe in Christ from a distance, but to allow His life to transform our hearts, our relationships, and the way we treat every human being. St. Paul teaches that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:16). This does not mean that good works are unimportant. In Byzantine Catholic understanding, faith and good works belong together, but good works are not a price we pay to earn God's love. They are the fruit of a heart that has received His grace. God does not love us because we are perfect, successful, or morally superior to others. He loves us because we are His creation, made in His image and called to grow into His likeness. When we recognize this truth, we begin to treat ourselves and others with greater patience, humility, and compassion. A humane Christian life begins when we stop measuring people solely by their mistakes, achievements, social status, or usefulness. We learn to see each person as someone whom Christ loves and for whom He gave Himself. The Church, therefore, is not meant to be a gathering of people who claim to be flawless. It is a spiritual hospital where sinners come to be healed, where the wounded find mercy, and where all are invited to grow in holiness through the grace of God. Our Church understands salvation as more than a legal declaration. It is also healing, restoration, and transformation—a journey of theosis, or participation in the life of God through His grace. When we understand how much we depend on God's mercy, we become less eager to condemn others. We remember that we, too, are continually in need of forgiveness and spiritual healing. This does not mean ignoring sin or pretending that wrongdoing does not matter. Genuine love speaks the truth, but it speaks with humility and the desire to restore rather than destroy. Correction without compassion can wound; compassion without truth can fail to heal. In Christ, truth and mercy meet. Eastern Christian spirituality asks us to examine our own hearts before judging another person. Instead of asking only, "Who is wrong?" we may also ask, "How can I help this person return to the goodness for which God created them?" Such an attitude reflects the compassion of Christ, who welcomed sinners, touched the suffering, fed the hungry, and restored dignity to those whom society had rejected. St. Paul's declaration that Christ lives in him is not an expression of self-importance. It is a confession of surrender. Paul no longer wishes to live according to pride, selfish ambition, hatred, or the desire to dominate others. His life is being reshaped by the love of Christ. For us this transformation takes place through prayer, repentance, participation in the Holy Mysteries, the reading of Scripture, fasting, and acts of mercy. These practices are not ends in themselves. They help open our hearts to God's grace so that we may become more like Christ.

Help Us Raise the Roof!

Dear Parishioners, Friends, and People of Goodwill,
With gratitude to God, we are preparing to replace the roof of our Parish Hall next year. The estimated cost is **$45,000**.
Our Parish Hall is a special place where we gather for fellowship, meals, celebrations, and many other parish events. By supporting this project, you are helping us care for a place that brings our parish family together.
Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. Please prayerfully consider supporting our Roof Fund, and share this appeal with family, friends, and former parishioners who may wish to help.
To donate:
Make checks payable to the parish and write "Roof Fund" in the memo.
For online giving, please use the QR code.

St. Luke the Evangelist: Physician of Souls, Apostle of the Gospel, and Iconographer of the Mother of God

Based on Synaxarion

On October 18, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, companion of the Apostle Paul, physician, evangelist, and, according to sacred tradition, the first iconographer of the Most Holy Theotokos. His life reminds us that the Gospel is not merely a message to be heard, but a saving truth to be lived, proclaimed, and shared with the whole world.

Saint Luke was a native of Syrian Antioch, a city that became an important center of early Christianity. Trained in the Greek medical arts, he possessed both a learned mind and a compassionate heart. When he encountered the preaching of Jesus Christ, he embraced the faith and became a zealous disciple of the Lord.

Tradition numbers Saint Luke among the Seventy Apostles sent by Christ to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God (Lk 10:1–3). After the Resurrection, he was among the disciples to whom the risen Lord appeared on the road to Emmaus, opening their eyes to recognize Him in the breaking of the bread (Lk 24:13–35). This encounter beautifully reveals the heart of Christian faith: Christ is risen, He walks with His people, and He makes Himself known in the life of the Church.

Saint Luke later became a close companion of the Apostle Paul, accompanying him on missionary journeys and assisting him in the proclamation of the Gospel. His faithfulness was especially evident during Paul's imprisonment, when others had abandoned the Apostle. As Paul writes near the end of his life, "Only Luke is with me" (2 Timothy 4:11).

According to tradition, after the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul, Luke continued his missionary work, preaching Christ in various regions, including Achaia, Libya, Egypt, and Thebes. There, tradition tells us, he completed his earthly life through martyrdom, bearing witness to the Lord.

Saint Luke is the author of two books of the New Testament: the Gospel according to St Luke and the Acts. Together, these writings form a magnificent account of the life of Christ and the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

In the opening of his Gospel, Luke explains that he carefully investigated the events surrounding Jesus and sought to present an orderly account so that his readers might know the certainty of the faith they had received (Luke 1:1–4). His Gospel gives particular attention to the mercy of God, the dignity of the poor and the forgotten, the importance of prayer, and the joy of repentance. It preserves some of the most beloved parables of our Lord, including those of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son.

Saint Luke also preserves the Church's treasured memories of the Annunciation, the Nativity of Christ, and the early life of our Savior. His account gives special attention to the Most Holy Theotokos, including her humble response to the Archangel Gabriel and her hymn of praise, the Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior" (Lk 1:46–47).

Church tradition holds that Luke received precious knowledge of these events from the Mother of God herself. Whether recounting her wonder at the message of the Archangel or her faithful pondering of God's works in her heart, the Evangelist presents Mary as the perfect example of a life wholly devoted to the will of God.

According to sacred tradition, St Luke was also the first to paint icons of the Mother of God, as well as icons of Saints Peter and Paul. The tradition of Saint Luke as iconographer holds a special place in the life of the Christian East, where holy icons are cherished as windows into the Kingdom of Heaven.

An icon is not simply a religious painting or a decoration for a church. It is a visual confession of the Incarnation: because the Son of God truly became man, He could be seen and depicted in His human nature. The icon invites us to lift our minds and hearts beyond the material image to the holy person represented, and ultimately to the worship of God, who alone is worthy of adoration.

The tradition of Saint Luke's icons of the Theotokos beautifully unites his two callings. Through his Gospel, he proclaimed the mystery of the Word made flesh; through iconography, he helped Christians contemplate that same mystery with the eyes of faith.

For Byzantine Catholics, whose churches and homes are adorned with sacred icons, Saint Luke's traditional role as iconographer reminds us that beauty can be a form of evangelization. A holy icon teaches us to pray, invites us into the communion of saints, and directs our attention to the saving love of Christ.

Saint Luke's second great work, the Acts of the Holy Apostles, continues the Gospel story beyond Christ's Resurrection and Ascension. It recounts the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the preaching of the Apostles, the growth of Christian communities, and the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to the wider world.

At the heart of Acts is the conviction that the Church does not carry out her mission by human strength alone. The Holy Spirit guides, strengthens, and sanctifies the faithful, enabling them to bear witness to Christ in every age. As the Lord promised His disciples, the Spirit would guide them "into all truth" (Jn 16:13).

This truth remains central to our Byzantine Catholic life. When we gather for the Divine Liturgy, celebrate the Holy Mysteries, sing the praises of God, and hear the Scriptures proclaimed, we participate in the living faith handed down through the Apostles. The same Holy Spirit who strengthened the first Christian communities continues to work in the Church today, calling us to holiness and sending us forth to proclaim the Gospel through our words and deeds.

Holy Protection of Mary

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

A special collection is taking place on October 17 & 18 for the retired priests of the Eparchy of Phoenix.

- Each family is asked to give $30
- The Eparchy's goal is to raise $75,000
- The pension helps retired priests in their daily expenses (housing, living, automobile, etc)
- Many continue to work on behalf of the Eparchy, including helping current priests
- If giving by check, please make a notation for the "Priest Pension Fund"
- Give online at hpmfoundation.org or via QR:

GIVE ONLINE:

Alaska State Council

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

2026 Pot O' Gold

Alaska Raffle

GRAND PRIZE:
$15,000

Seller of Grand Prize Ticket: $500

Council/Assembly Selling Grand Prize Ticket: $1,000

TEN PRIZES:
$1,000 EACH

Top 5 Sellers of Most Tickets:

1st	$500
2nd	$400
3rd	$300
4th	$200
5th	$100

★ Council/Assembly Selling Grand Prize Ticket: $1,000 ★

FINAL DRAWING

Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 2:00pm
at Holy Family Cathedral
811 West 6th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska

All tickets purchased prior to Monday, September 7, 2026 will also qualify for an

EARLY BIRD DRAWING OF FIVE PRIZES: $500 each
Early Bird Drawing: Monday, September 7, 2026 at 2:00pm (same location)

Winners announced on alaskakofcstate.com
Need not be present to win

LIMIT 5,500 TICKETS • $20 PER TICKET • PERMIT #168300

ST. NICHOLAS

MEMORIAL WALL

Place your loved ones on the memorial wall to be remembered throughout the year.

$150 for the placement of the name.

$30 annual fee.

Great news for those donating online
Now you can use our new online giving tool to tithe online using your credit card or bank account information. You can also do a one-time donation or set up weekly donations! You will receive a receipt and statement immediately after donating. The software takes a very small percentage of the donation, but its worth it for the ease of the system. You can donate at:
https://donorbox.org/support-st-nicholas-and-help-us-grow

Tithes & Attendance:
Thank you for your support and love for our Parish.

October 11
Tithes: TBD
Attendance: 32

Also, feel free to send in your regular tithe check by mail to:
2200 Arctic Blvd,
Anchorage, AK 99503.
It is very important that we continue to give a percentage of what Our Lord has given us, and continue to support the structure and ministry of the parish. ***Thank you!***

Fred Meyer Rewards: St. Nicholas of Myra participates in the community rewards program with Fred Meyer stores which gives a percentage of purchases by those signed up with the program to **St. Nicholas**. It does not cost anything for customers. Fred Meyer pays out each quarter and will send a check if it's above a certain amount.
It won't cost parishioners and friends of **St. Nicholas** anything to participate. The steps to participate are:
1)Set up a Fred Meyer Rewards account if you don't have one or sign up at one of the stores.
2)Set up an online account.
3)Log into the account and search for Community Rewards.
4)Search for **Saint Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church** or our account number **QD147** and select as the charity to receive the funds.
5)Shop at Fred Meyer as you normally would and the St. Nicholas account will automatically be credited. ***Thank you!***

PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SACRAMENTS:
SACRAMENT of CONFESSIONS: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min. before Divine Liturgy and other days, by appointment.
HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, anytime.
BAPTISMS - by appointment.
MARRIAGES - by appointment, at least 6 months in advance.
FUNERALS - by appointment.
ANOINTING of the sick, hospital visits - by appointment, anytime

Safe Environment:
The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a Safe Environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any concerns, please contact:
Subdeacon Paul Kilroy, Safe Environment Program Coordinator
Cell: (480) 745-0316 -- **Office:** (602) 861-9778 ext. 204 -- **Email:** sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org - or -
Victim Assistance Coordinator, Deacon Michael Hanafin
Cell: (480) 307-5182 -- **Email:** vac@ephx.org

GCU

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Beaver, PA 15009

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If something unexpected happens to you, GCU Life Insurance can help your loved ones stay safe and secure.

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Whole Life Insurance Policy Form Series GCU WL and GCU SPWL
Term Life Insurance Policy Form Series GCU TERM and GCUF TERM

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The Works of Jesus

Those who believe in one God the Father Almighty ought to believe in His only-begotten Son. Jesus says: "I am the door. No one can come to the Father but by me" (Jn 10: 9; 14: 6).

Anyone who does not accept the door cannot possibly reach the Father. Anyone who wishes to pray to the Father should adore the Son, or his prayer is not accepted.

The Son is called Christ, which means anointed, that is, consecrated. He was not anointed by human hands but consecrated by the Father to become a priest forever. He died, but He did not remain, as all human beings do, in the underworld. He is the only one free among the dead.

The Savior becomes all things to all, according to the need of each: to those who ask for joy, he becomes the vine; to those who wish to enter, he becomes the door; to those who are under the weight of sin, he becomes a lamb, a lamb slain for them. He becomes all things to all, but He remains nonetheless what He is.

He is called by a twofold name: Jesus because He gives us salvation, and Christ because He is priest. He is the healer of bodies and the doctor of souls. As He made whole those who were physically blind, so He gave light to their minds. As He gave the lame the chance to walk, so He urges the steps of sinners in the direction of the way of penitence.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem