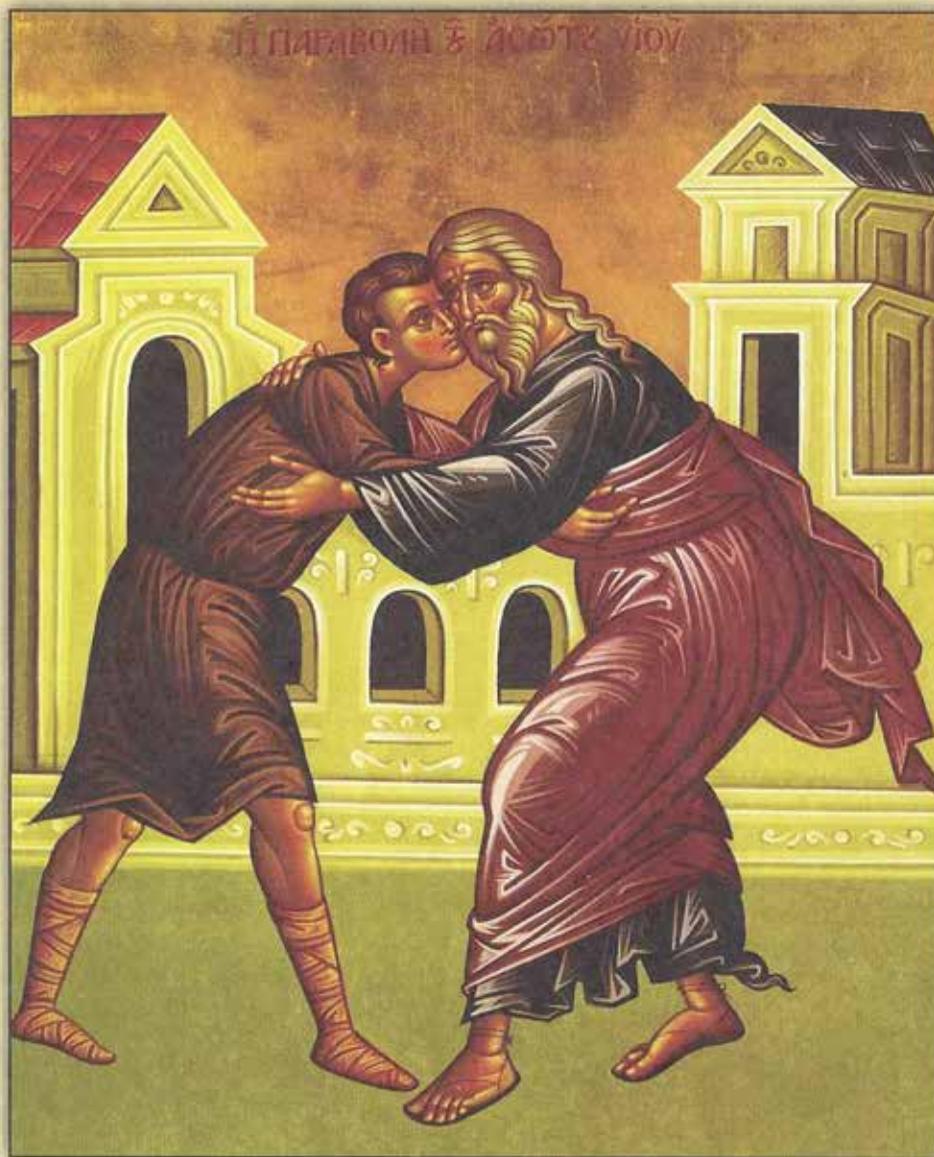


SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



Icon of the Prodigal Son

January 24, 2016: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle: 1 Cor. 6: 12-20

Gospel: Lk. 15: 11-32

Mon., Jan. 25	8:00	+ Halyna Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
Tues., Jan. 26	8:00	+ Anna Chykosky (Mike & Barbara Russen)
Wed., Jan. 27	8:00	+ Maria, Stefan & Anna Bak (Michael & Jadwiga Bak)
Thurs., Jan. 28	8:00	+ George Kohut (Family)
Fri., Jan. 29		Three Holy Hierarchs (Simple Holy Day)
	8:00	+ Evelyn Augustinsky (Romayne & Lynell Wilcha)
Sat., Jan. 30		No Morning Divine Liturgy.
	10:30	Confessions
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ George & Helen Sereditch (Sons)
Sun., Jan. 31	9:00	+ Cyril Augustinsky (St. Cyril's Choir)
	11:30	For Our Parishioners

St. Gregory the Great

St. Gregory was born in Cappadocia (today called Turkey) in about 320 to Christian parents. He went to school in Caesarea and there met St. Basil.

St. Gregory studied law in Alexandria and then went to school in Athens, Greece, where he met up with St. Basil again. They studied together and became great friends. When St. Basil started a monastery, St. Gregory also became a monk. He was ordained a priest and went to help his father, the Bishop of Constantinople.

Through his gifts of writing and preaching, especially about the Holy Trinity, St. Gregory helped many people to convert to Christianity.

St. Gregory became the Bishop of Constantinople. The people believed many wrong things about God and St. Gregory trying to teach them. He was treated badly by many of these people, sometimes he was even beaten, but many people eventually converted.

44 of St. Gregory's speeches, 243 letters, and many of his poems were

published and are still read today. St. Gregory died in 390. He is buried in

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

St. Basil the Great

St. Basil was born in about 330 in Caesarea in Asia Minor, called Turkey today. He came from a rich and noble family.

St. Basil had an excellent education in Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens. He became close friends with St. Gregory (Nanzianzen).

When Basil completed his education, he became the head of a school of public speaking and law in Caesarea and became a well-known teacher.

His sister, St. Macrina, suggested that he become a monk. St. Basil sold everything he had, gave away all his money and he spent the next five years studying with monks in Egypt, Palestine and Syria before returning to Cappadocia and beginning his life as a monk in the wilderness.

Many men joined him, including his friend St. Gregory. They built their own huts, farmed, prayed and tried to lead holy lives. St. Basil wrote down rules for the lives of the monks which are still used to this day.

St. Basil was a generous person who founded orphanages, hospitals and schools. He was especially kind to the poor and urged others to help those who were worse off than they were. He often could be seen feeding the hungry.

St. Basil became a priest and later a bishop. He wrote about religious themes and even wrote a Divine Liturgy that is used today, 10 times every year. St. Basil died on January 1, 379 at the age of 49.

St. John Chrysostom

St. John Chrysostom was born in Antioch in Greece. His father died when he was a baby and his mother decided not to marry again. She gave all her attention to bringing up her son and daughter.

He was very intelligent and could have become a great lawyer. When

he gave speeches everyone loved to listen to him and gave him the name Chrysostom, which means "Golden mouthed."

St. John wanted to give himself to God, and when his mother died, he sold all he had, gave the money to the poor and became a monk. He became

a priest and later the Archbishop of Constantinople. St. John was a wonderful Bishop. He preached once or twice every day, fed the poor and took care of orphans. He also studied long hours and wrote the Divine Liturgy we use to this day.

Because he preached against sin, St. John had many enemies – even the Empress herself, who had him exiled from Constantinople. On the trip he suffered greatly from fever, sleeplessness and other physical problems. St. John died on September 14, 407.

Why Mercy?

The Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis began December 8. What is it that makes mercy such an important part of our relationship with God and in our treatment of other people? Why is Pope Francis dedicating an entire year for us to be so mindful of mercy?

Simply this: if you hope to receive mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. Do not ask for yourself what you deny to others.

These thoughts come from Saint Peter Chrysologus, a fifth-century Italian bishop. Peter said that when you open your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself.

This idea of treating others with

mercy is something well known to us as Catholics. We don't show mercy to win heaven, but because Jesus asks us to — in the prayer he taught us: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is intended to help us remember these words of Jesus and try to love others in the same way God loves us.

We tend to love someone because they're attractive or fun or because we want them to love us. That's not why God loves us. He loves us not because we're good, but because he is.

Our prayer today: God of love, you pour out your mercy to overflowing. Help us to show mercy to others with the same generosity.

Don't Stay Away From Church

- Because it rains. You go to work in the rain.
- Because it is hot. So is the golf course.
- Because it is cold. It's warm and friendly inside.
- Because you are poor. There is no admission charge.

- Because you are rich. That can be cured.
- Because no one invited you. People go to the movies without being asked.
- Because you have children. God loves them.
- Because there are hypocrites. You associate with them daily.
- Because you have company. They will admire your loyalty if you bring them along, or ask them to wait till you get back.
- Because your clothes are not expensive. Churches are not supposed to be fashion shows.
- Because the church always wants money. So does your grocer.
- Because you have plenty of time to go later... Are you Sure?

Our Condolence

Please remember in your prayers **Veronica Bious**, who recently fell asleep in the Lord. Veronica was buried from

St. Cyril's this past Friday. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

2015 Tax Reports

Parishioners who want a 2015 end of year financial report for tax purposes

are asked to contact the Parish Office at 570-489-2271.

Holy Name Society Raffle

The Holy Name Society is having its annual raffle and tickets were mailed to parishioners. Please support this raffle

with a \$10.00 Donation. The proceeds of the raffle are used for expenses related to our parish.

Know a Marriage that Needs Help?

Throw them a lifeline and tell them about **Retrouvaille**, an international program that helps couples who are experiencing marital difficulties. This program is for all couples, at any stage of marriage that needs help to communicate with each other in a more

attentive and loving manner. The next program in the Scranton Diocese begins Feb. 26 - Feb. 28, 2016, at The Ramada Inn in Clarks Summit. For more information or to register, please call 800-470-2230 or visit www.helpour-marriage.org

Fresh Pyrohy for Great Lent

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is sponsoring a Lenten potato and cheese pyrohy sale on Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 2:00 to 6:00pm in the Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton. These are freshly

made that day and are not frozen. Cost is \$7.00 per dozen. Orders should be placed no later than Monday, February 1 and are being taken by Leslie Izak at 570 342-3749.

Piggie Dinner

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre, will hold a take-out Piggie / Holubtsi Dinner on Sunday, February 7, 2016. Dinners may be picked up between 11:30 am and 2:00 pm at the Parish School Hall, corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-Barre. Din-

ner includes Piggies (meat stuffed cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter and dessert. Dinners will be \$11.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (12 and under). Walk-Ins Welcome but Reservations are encouraged, call (570)829-3051.

L.U.C. Annual Lenten Retreat - March 11 to 13, 2016

St. Mary's Villa Retreat Center, Sloatsburg, NY

This year's theme is "Merciful, like the Father".

This is the motto of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy. It is a time of exploring the meaning of mercy and our allowing God's unconditional love and limitless mercy to transform our lives. We will explore prayer and forgiveness and our own ability to reconcile and forgive as well as expand our capacity to trust. This spiritual event will be our "door to mercy" through which we choose to pass, trusting in

the power and love and mercy of God to transform our lives.

Retreat Director is Archpriest Father Daniel Troyan who is pastor of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in West Easton, Pennsylvania. He has served in many Ukrainian Catholic parishes from Ohio through Pennsylvania in his 34 years of priesthood. He has served as Director of Evangelization and Coordinator for the Shroud of Turin exhibit for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. He

has been a member of the League of Ukrainian Catholics since his youth and is presently National Spiritual Director of the LUC. He presently resides in West Easton with his little dog

“Brother Timmy”, who is Youth Director for the children of the parish.

Additional details along with registration information will be made available shortly.

Bus Trip

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival in New York City’s Lower East Side of Manhattan and to Brighton Beach [Little Odessa], Brooklyn. Participants are also welcome to do their own thing for part of the day if they so wish.

The 55 passenger bus will depart from Edwardsville’s St. Vladimir Church, 70 Zerby Avenue at 8:30am

and from Scranton’s St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 9:15am. Departure for home directly from Brighton Beach will be at 9:00pm. Cost is \$40.00 per person.

Full nonrefundable advance payment reserves a seat. For reservations contact either Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275 or Andrew Jamula at 570 822-5354. Check to be made out to North Anthracite Council of LUC. Early reservations are recommended as the bus is expected to fill quickly.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2016 is Team #1:

William Vervan, Roger Barren, and Jerry Sereditch.

Sunday Collection for January 16 & 17, 2016: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for January 30 & 31, 2016

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Michael Roberts -- Samuel Sczesniak	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Nicholas Chylak -- Joseph Skirpan	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Thomas Radle -- Nicholas Muchisky	Frank Lesnefsky

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-489-2271 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Imitating the Prodigal

Do not lose heart, O soul, do not grieve; pronounce not over yourself a final judgment for the multitude of your sins; do not commit yourself to fire; do not say: The Lord has cast me from his face. Such words are not pleasing to God. Can it be that he who has fallen cannot get up? Can it be that he who has turned away cannot turn back again? Do you not hear how kind the Father is to a prodigal?

Do not be ashamed to turn back and say boldly: I will arise and go to my Father. Arise and go! He will accept you and will not reproach you, but rather rejoice at your return. He awaits you; just do not be ashamed and do not hide from the face of God as did Adam.

It was for your sake that Christ was crucified; so will he cast you aside? He knows

who oppresses us. He knows that we have no other help but him alone. Christ knows that man is miserable. Do not give yourself up to despair and apathy, assuming that you have been prepared for the fire. Christ derives no consolation from thrusting us into the fire; He gains nothing if He sends us into the abyss to be tormented.

Imitate the prodigal son: leave the city that starves you. Come and beseech him and you shall behold the glory of God. Your face shall be enlightened and you will rejoice in the sweetness of paradise. Glory to the Lord and Lover of mankind who saves us!

St. Ephrem the Syrian

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com