

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

February 28, 2016: Third Sunday of Great Lent

Epistle: Heb. 4:14 - 5:6

Gospel: Mk. 8:34 - 9:1

Mon., Feb. 29 8:00 + Fran Sember & Jennifer Wisniewski (Rosemarie Sember)

Tues., March 1 8:00 + Christine Danylak (Leo Danylak)

Wed., March 2 8:00 Akathist to the Passion of Christ
6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thurs., March 3 8:00 + Agnes Uhrin (Rosemarie Sember)

Fri., March 4 8:00 Akathist to the Passion of Christ
6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Sat., March 5 **No Morning Divine Liturgy.**
10:30 Confessions
2:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm + Anna Chaykosky (Joe & Marlene Toczykowski)

Sun., March 6 9:00 For Our Parishioners
11:30 + Michael Hermanovich Sr. (Family)
3:00 pm Sorokousty

The Third Sunday of Great Lent

The Third Sunday of Great Lent is the Sunday of the Holy Cross. The Cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind us of Christ's redemption and to keep before us the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which we must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of

Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24). It is meant to be a source of power and inspiration, the support of the just and the hope of the sinner. The Cross is planted in the midst of Great Lent like the Tree of Life in the midst of Paradise, so that anyone looking upon it may find health, strength, and the courage to pursue the course of the Lent.

From the Archbishop's Chancery... Spiritual Regulations for the Great Fast

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

Reception of the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified

Liturgy and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sorokousty).

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful.

On Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast, **the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated.** Typika may be used the other days. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated for Sunday Liturgies during this time.

During Holy Week, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Holy Thursday evening, Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great should be celebrated. On Good Friday, March 25, which is also the Feast of the Annunciation, special services which include the Divine Liturgy are to be celebrated. (Liturgical instructions and text will be provided.) On Holy Saturday evening, Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Jubilee of Mercy

- **What is a jubilee year?** The practice of a jubilee year has ancient roots in the Jewish tradition and evidence for it can be found in the Old Testament (for example, see Leviticus 25). The jubilee year was called every fifty years and was a time for forgiveness. It stood as a reminder of God's providence and mercy. The dedication of a year for this emphasis provided the community with

a time to come back into right relationship with one another and with God. As the practice of the jubilee year was adopted into the Catholic Church, these themes of mercy, forgiveness, and solidarity continued. All priests are allowed to grant absolution to women who have had abortions during the Year of Mercy.

- **How is this Jubilee different from other Jubilee years?** The Jubilee of Mercy that Pope Francis has called, from December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016, is an Extraordinary Jubilee. This designation as an “Extraordinary Jubilee” sets it apart from the ordinary cycle of jubilees, or holy years, which are called every 25 years in the Catholic Church. By calling for a holy year outside of the normal cycle, a particular event or theme is emphasized. For example, Pope Francis called this particular Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to direct our attention and actions “on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s actions in our lives ... a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.”
- **Why a Jubilee of Mercy now?** Pope Francis himself addressed this question in his homily . . . for First Vespers for Divine Mercy Sunday. “Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands

the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called; and may she obtain for us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ.”

- **What is the Jubilee of Mercy?** In the Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae vultus*. . . Pope Francis declared that the Jubilee of Mercy will begin on December 8, 2015 and conclude on November 20, 2016. The Holy Father strongly desires this Jubilee celebration of mercy to be lived out in the daily lives of the faithful, and all who turn to God for compassionate love and mercy.
- **How do we live out the Jubilee of Mercy in our daily lives?** In *Misericordiae vultus*, Pope Francis emphasizes the need for the Church and all her members to live out the loving mercy that God has for us. Our response to God’s loving mercy towards us is to act in that same way to all those we meet. The Holy Father reminds us that “Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love” (MV, 10. . .).

As members of the Body and Christ, our lives should reflect this witness of mercy to those we meet on a daily basis.

- **What are the Holy Doors?** One of the central components of the Jubilee of Mercy is that the Holy Doors throughout the world will be opened during this Jubilee year. Pope Francis says, “On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.” Doors are very symbolic. They represent passage: sin to redemption, life to death, disbelief to faith, and so on. Jesus describes himself as The Door. People have to enter through Christ to get to the Father. The door is the path to salvation. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the

door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

- **What do I get if I make a pilgrimage to Rome and walk the door of St. Peter’s Basilica or just walk through the Door of Mercy at St. Cyril’s Church?** A plenary indulgence! The remission of temporal punishment for sins forgiven in confession is offered to those who walk through the doors, receive Eucharist and Reconciliation, pray for the intention of the pope, and perform an act of mercy. Yes, our sins are forgiven when we confess our sins with a contrite heart to a priest in Confession and do our penance. But there is still Purgatory that we have to deal with before we can enter heaven. Indulgences either decrease our time in purgatory or eliminate it.

T-Shirts PRINTED with SS. Cyril’s logo.

We have not met the minimum order for St. Cyril T-shirts. The T-shirts, PRINTED with Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, and 3-bar Cross. (same logo as the Embroidery Polo Shirts) It will be in adult sizes, 50 Poly/50 Cotton, short sleeves, in any color (suggestion: turquoise, black, navy, pink, yellow etc If additional orders are placed by February 18 you can have the T-shirts to wear for Easter. Make checks out to Saint Cyril and memo “t-shirt order.” If you placed an or-

der, we are holding them to meet the minimum requirement of 12 pcs. Adult size: S-M-L-XL @\$7.00 each. XXL @\$9.00 each. XXXL@\$10.00 each. XXXXL @ \$11.00 each. XXXXXL@\$12.00 each.

A great idea to order them for your friends and family (out-of-town) of St. Cyril’s and give as a gift. Be proud to wear the T-shirt with SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church/cross printed on the front. Order Today, call Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319.

Church Community Project for 2016

Now is the time for our parishioners to get involved in our Community Project for 2016. We will be accepting non-perishable food and clothes for all seasons and accessories (shoes, hats, gloves, socks) of all sizes for men, ladies, kids, and babies. Clean and wearable!!! The collection will take place on Saturday, March 5th starting at 3:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Before and after the Divine Liturgy. On Sunday, March 6th the collection will start at 10:15 a.m -1:30 p.m. Before and after each Divine Liturgy. Items can be dropped off at the School Gym, 133 River Street, Olyphant.

The Food and Clothes Collection for the Church Community Project was very successful when we did this in March 2015. The food will be delivered to the Jessup Food Pantry at St. Michael's Church, 316 First Ave., Jessup, the old Convent building. (570-489-9963). The Jessup Bread Basket of NEPA for the Mid-Valley area and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Food is accepted in Jessup every Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. all year round at the Jessup Food

Pantry. In 2015 one truck load of food was delivered to Jessup from our Church.

Clothes will be delivered to the United Neighborhood Centers (UNC) of Northeastern Penna. 410 Olive Street, Scranton, Pa. 570-343-8835 They accept clothes, household items every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. throughout the year at the UNC. In March 2015, we dropped off 50 bags of clothing.

Volunteers are needed during the collection on Saturday and Sunday and then the deliveries. The clothes will be delivered on Monday, March 7th to Scranton, and the Food will be delivered on Wednesday, March 9th to Jessup. Volunteers and cars/truck will start loading the vehicles at noon. We need your help for the Church's Community Project.

Contact Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319 or Father Nestor at 570-489-2271 for any further information about donating or volunteering at the School Gym. If anyone in the parish needs help regarding clothes or food, in private please contact Father Nestor, only.

Fresh Pyrohy for Mid-Lent

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Scranton is sponsoring a homemade pyrohy/pierogi sale on Saturday, March 5 from 2:00 to 6:00pm in the Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue. These

are not frozen but are freshly made that day - \$7.00 per dozen. Orders must be placed no later than Tuesday, March 1 and are being taken by Leslie Izak at 570 342-3749.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Annual ALL YOU CAN EAT Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Eureka Hose Company

No.4 will be held on Saturday March 5th at the fire station 717 East Grant St. Olyphant.

Dinner includes pasta, salad, bread and butter, dessert and beverage. Take outs will be from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and serving sit down

dinners from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Donation is \$10.00. Tickets can be obtained from any member or at the door.

Ham Bingo

The parishioners of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church are sponsoring their annual Ham Bingo on March 13, 2016 at 1 p.m. The event will be held in the church hall at 320 Vine St, Old Forge PA. Theme baskets, door prizes, and various bingo spe-

cial will be available throughout the afternoon. The kitchen opens at 11am. A variety of food items and refreshments will be available. The church will also sponsor a bake sale during the bingo. Admission is \$3.00

Baked Fish Dinner

Our Parish will once again be sponsoring a "BAKED HADDOCK" FISH DINNER on FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the REGAL ROOM (Ballroom/side entrance), 216 Lackawanna Avenue. Sit Down or Take Out!! Tickets are: \$13.00 per ticket/dinner: Baked

haddock, potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll and dessert. Call 570-383-9487 for Reservations. *Deadline for pre-sold Tickets is Monday, March 14, 2016. *LIMITED amount of Dinners will be available a the Door \$15.00

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2016 is Team #2: Eu-

gene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for February 20 & 21, 2016: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for March 5 & 6, 2016

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	David Slachtish -- Michael Roberts	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Joseph Chylak -- Nicholas Chylak	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Jordan Radle -- Brian Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Cross

The Cross abolished idolatrous worship, enlightened the whole universe, gathered all the nations into one Church and united them with love. The Cross is the resurrection of the dead. The Cross is the hope of Christians. The Cross is the staff for the lame. The Cross is comfort for the poor. The Cross is the deposing of the proud. The Cross is the hope of those who despair. The Cross is food for sailors. The Cross is haven for the storm-tossed. The Cross is the father for orphans. The Cross is comfort for those who mourn. The Cross is the protector of children. The Cross is the glory of men. The Cross is the crown of elders. The Cross is light for those sitting in darkness. The Cross is freedom for slaves, wisdom for the ignorant. The Cross is the preaching of prophets, the fellow-traveler of apostles. The Cross is the chastity

of maidens, the joy of priests. The Cross is the foundation of the Church, the establishment of the universe. The Cross is the destruction of idolatrous temples, temptation for Jews. The Cross is the cleansing of the lepers, the rehabilitation of the weak. The Cross is bread for the hungry, a fountain for the thirsty. The Cross is the good hope of monks, clothing for the naked.

If, O Christian, you will always take up the Cross of Christ on yourself as a help, then evil shall not come towards you, nor any scourge come near your habitation: for the opposition power seeing it trembles and leaves.

St. Ephrem the Syrian

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
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