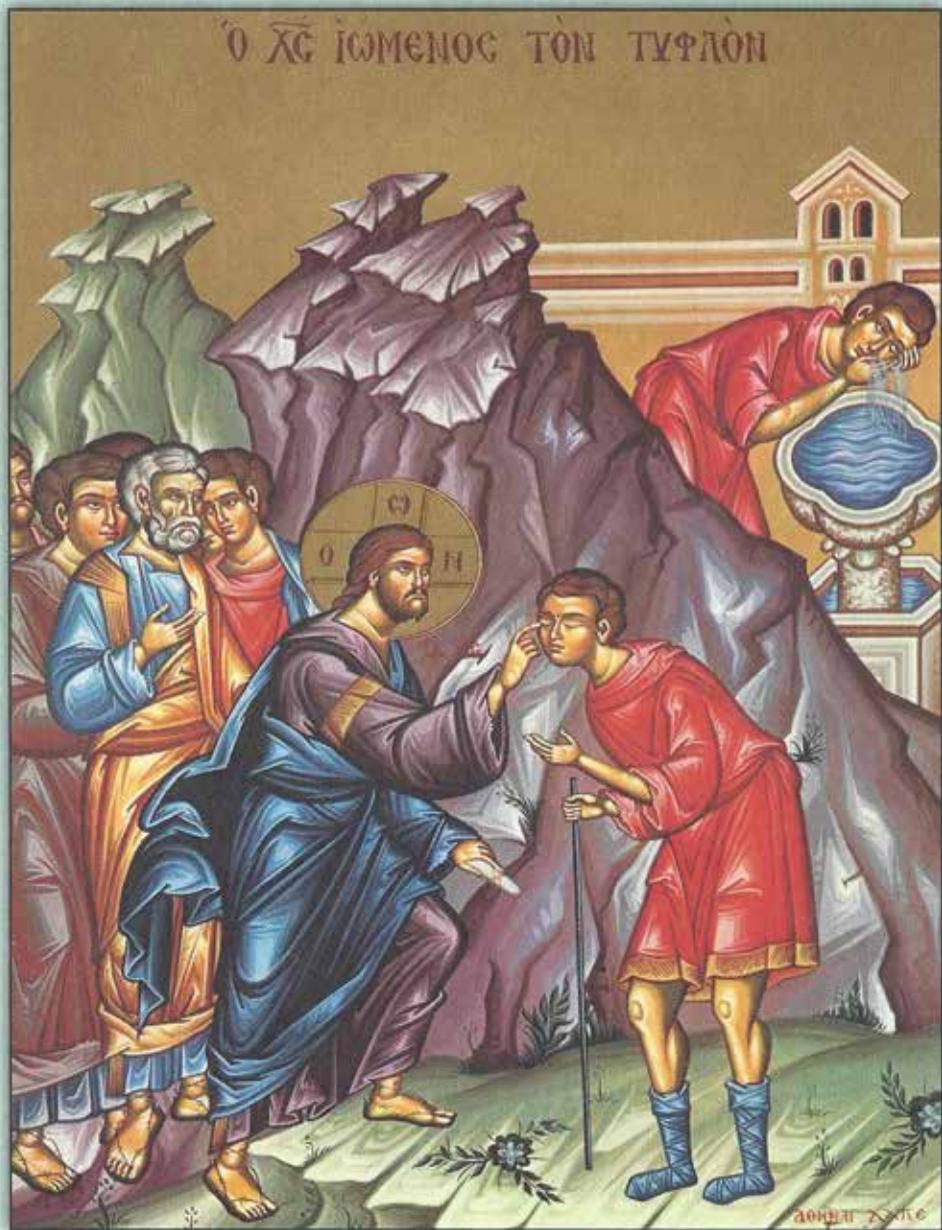


SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



Icon of Christ and the Man Born Blind

May 1, 2016: Sunday of the Man Born Blind		
Epistle: Acts 16: 16-34		Gospel: Jn. 9: 1-38
Mon., May 2	8:00	+ John & Helen Pagnotti (Daughters Annette, Helen, Jean & Angela)
Tues., May 3	8:00	Health & God's Blessings on Dolly Daniels (Family)
Wed., May 4	8:00	+ Ann Slaboda (M/M Larry Pegula)
	7:00	For Our Parishioners (For Ascension)
Thurs., May 5	Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)	
	9:00	+ John & Anna Vadella (Rosalie Namiak)
Fri., May 6	8:00	Health & God's Blessings on Matt Beckage (St. Cyril's Holy Name Society)
	6:30	Moleben to the Mother of God
Sat., May 7	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	10:30	Confessions.
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Anthony & Ann Konapotski (Grandsons)
Sun., May 8	9:00	+ Theresa Voroschak (Leo Danylak)
	11:30	For Our Mothers; Baptism: Charleston Krenitsky

Have We Lost A Sense Of the Sacred?

Horizons (Eparchy of Parma)

Have we lost a sense of the sacred? Have we made God too familiar, too "nice," too wimpy? There was a time in our Catholic history, not so long ago that God was portrayed as an angry law-giver keen on punishing his wayward children if they stepped out of line at all. Those that stayed on the line hoped that he might see fit to give them some kind

of reward. God was stingy, aloof and unsympathetic.

A great correction to this unbiblical understanding of the God came about. God actually was Emmanuel, God-with-us. He was merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in richness of mercy. However, it seems that the pendulum has swung too far in this direction. Jesus

is now portrayed solely as a gentle and nice “buddy,” who blesses everything, approves of everything and just wants all people to be happy in whatever way they like to be made happy especially if it makes them feel comfortable and affirmed. This so-called Jesus makes no demands. We have lost the sense of his divinity, his sacredness and Jesus’ desire (expressive of His Father’s) to purify us through the fire of his love in order that we can experience the depths of his love and the peace that surpasses all understanding.

God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:24). He is King of kings and Lord of lords! (Revelation 19:16). “It is proper and just to sing to You, to bless You, to thank You, to worship You in every place of Your dominion. For You are God ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, ever existing, yet ever the same...” (Anaphora of John Chrysostom). God is worthy “to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things and by Your will they existed and were created” (Revelation 4:11). There stand before Him the

multitude of the heavenly host “singing, shouting, crying aloud, and saying the triumphal hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy ...!”

Everything about our prayer and our worship – the way we participate in Liturgy, the way we dress, our reverence, our attentiveness, the way we make the sign of the cross and our posture should declare and proclaim the glory and splendor of God. We must not forget that we come into the presence of the living God! Church is not a place for conversation with others except in extreme circumstances.

God is love and approaches us as friend, spouse and father, but He does so as the Holy Other. We for our part, manifest our love in the care with which we approach Him. A sloppy, inattentive and indifferent approach to God is offensive and sinful.

People long to encounter the living holy God. Our regaining of the sense of the sacred in our own lives and parish will transform both and make our homes and parishes into places where people experience the holiness and otherness of God. Let us be attentive.

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord falls on this Thursday, May 14th. This is a holy day of obligation in our Ukrainian Catholic Church. There will be two

Divine Liturgies for this holy day. The first Liturgy will be on Wednesday evening at 7 pm and the second one will be on Thursday morning at 9 am.

Our Condolences

In your Christian charity, please remember the soul of + **Anna Stracka** who recently fell asleep in the Lord. + Anna

was buried from St. Cyril's this past Monday. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

Kneeling in Our Church... A Clarification

During the Paschal Season the posture of prayer in the Ukrainian Catholic Church is to stand for the entire Liturgy except for the infirm. It is, however, acceptable to sit when the book so instructs, but to stand instead of kneeling. This is the practice until the Prayers of Kneeling are recited at Vespers on Pentecost or after the Sunday Divine Liturgy that day. Contrary to past custom we stand for the singing of "Heavenly King Comforter" at the beginning of the Liturgy on Pentecost Sunday.

Outside the Paschal Season it is the custom of the Ukrainian Catholic Church again to stand on Sunday through out the year because **every Sunday** commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord. It is a custom however, that has fallen into disuse. The practice of kneeling at the prescribed times at weekday Divine Liturgy is of relatively recent development; of Western theological influence. And, outside of the Paschal Season, again under Western influence, kneeling became the

normal posture for prayer.

The Instruction of the Holy See in 1996 requests a return to the authentic traditions of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Pope seems to recognize the value of our Tradition better, at times, than we ourselves. Our forebearer discarded some customs/traditions in hope of recognition. We now are re-claiming those customs/traditions because we understand their legitimacy. It is not a repudiation of belief; it is a refining of practice. Standing expresses the belief that through the Resurrection of Christ we have been released from the bonds and slavery of sin. No longer need we cower in shame but, stand, elated that we have been justified through His suffering and death. If we truly believe the things we pray, then truly we are in the Kingdom of Heaven and the Divine Liturgy and our posture of prayer is our expression of that belief. It is the forgiven that stand before God.

A Thought for the Summer on Church Attendance

Do we apply the same standards of faithfulness to our Church activities that we expect in other areas of life? If your car starts one out of three times, do you think it's faithful? If the paper boy skips the Monday and Thursday editions, aren't they missed? If you fail to come to work four or five times a month — does your employer call you faithful? If your refrigerator quits for a day now and then, do you excuse it by saying, "Oh,

it works most of the time." If you miss two out of twelve mortgage payments a year, does the bank say, "Well, ten out of twelve isn't bad?" PUNCH LINE: If you fail to worship God in Church, one, two or more Sundays a month, can you be called faithful? If we expect faithfulness from other people and things...does not God expect the same — and more — from us, His people?

May Devotions

The month of May is devoted to our heavenly Mother, Mary. A Moleben service will be offered on Fridays in May, at 6:30 p.m. Come to church, join us in

honoring her, who God first honored, by choosing her to be the Mother of His Son.

Remembering Ss. Cyril and Methodius

Our Parish has been serving Ukrainian Greek Catholics and so many others for over one hundred years now. By including Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Olyphant as one of the beneficiaries in your Last Will and Testament, you will help our parish continue its sacred duty of serving the needs of present and future generations of its parishioners. There is no amount that is too small - it all helps! And remember, whatever your own fi-

nancial situation may be, you should prepare a Last Will and Testament, to be sure that your estate and possessions will be handled according to your wishes. When making a bequest to our parish, please make sure you use the full name and address: Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, 135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435. Thank you, and may God bless and repay you!

Collection for Catholic Home Missions Appeal Financially Benefits Our Archeparchy; Please Be Generous in Your Offerings During Our Parish Collection for Catholic Home Missions

The annual collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up in all parishes of our Philadelphia Archeparchy either the weekend of April 23-24 or April 30-May 1. The resources from this collection provide grants for projects to strengthen the faith of the people in the United States. Forty-two percent of all dioceses in the United States, over 80 dioceses, receive Catholic Home Missions financial support. Our Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia will receive funding from this collection in the sum of \$130,000

for the year 2016-17, far in excess of the amount collected from our parishes which averages between \$8,000 and \$9,000. You can see that we receive in return much more than we collect and how beneficial this collection is to our archeparchy. Your generous support of this collection will continue to provide to our archeparchy much needed resources for evangelization, catechesis, ministry formation, and other areas of faith development. Thank you for your financial support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Angelic Music

The children of our Religious Education Program, under the direction of Pat and Cathy Marcinko, will be singing the responses to the 11:30 Liturgy on Mother's Day, May 8th. Our children hope you will

join them in the singing throughout the Liturgy. What a beautiful way to honor our Blessed Mother and our own mothers on this special day.

Mark Your Calendars...

On Sunday of the Memorial Day Weekend is May 15, 2016, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. As is the tradition in our Parish, we will celebrate a Divine Liturgy in the Cemetery Chapel. Following the Divine Liturgy, a Panakhyda will be celebrated

followed by the Blessing of the Graves.

On Pentecost only, **THE 9:00 DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE IN ENGLISH; THE 11:30 DIVINE LITURGY WILL AT AT THE CEMETERY CHAPEL AND SUNG BY THE CHOIR.**

Bus Trip Reservations Are Closed

Please note that all 55 seats are filled for the upcoming May 21st bus trip to New York City sponsored by the North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics.

Thanks to all who are making the trip to St. George Ukrainian Street Festival and Brooklyn's "Little Odessa" at Brighton Beach. A delightful day awaits the group.

Queen City Days

The Annual "Queen City Days" Carnival, sponsored by the Eureka Hose Co. No. 4, 717 E. Grant St. in Olyphant, will be held June 2 - 4 at the Fern Hill Park. Several adult and children's rides will be featured. Local vendors will offer food

and refreshments. Music will be provided each evening. Firemen's Parade on Friday and giant Fireworks Display on Saturday. Any questions or to secure a spot on the midway, contact Mayor John Sedlak, Jr. at 570-383-1406.

Bingo At Queen City Days!

Once again, St. Cyril's is an active participant in the Olyphant Queen City Days Picnic with "Bingo." All parishioner are welcomed to volunteer. Please plan to come and play a few Bingo games at the Fernhill Picnic. The Church raffle tickets WILL BE

SHORTLY AVAILABLE in the Church Vestibule and the winners will be drawn at the Olyphant Queen City Nights in July 2016. Please help to keep our Church open with these fund-raisers!

Collection Processing Team...

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

Vervan, Sr., Roger Barren, and Jerry Sereditch.

Sunday Collection for April 23 & 24, 2016:

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for May 7 & 8, 2016

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nicholas Chludzinski -- Daniel Chylak	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Joseph Skirpan -- Michael Roberts	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Nicholas Muchisky -- David Slachtish	Frank Lesnefsky

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Jesus Completes Creation

He healed others by a word. ... But the Lord bestowed sight on the one who was blind from birth – not by a word, but by an outward action. He did this neither casually nor simply because this was how it happened. He did it this way in order to show it was the same hand of God here that had also formed man at the beginning. And therefore when His disciples asked Him why he had been born blind, whether by his own fault or his parents', Jesus said, "Neither this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God might be manifested in him." The work of God is, after all, the forming of man. He did this by an outward action, as Scripture says, "And the Lord took clay from earth, and formed man." Notice here too how the Lord spit on the earth, and made clay and smeared it on his eyes, showing how the ancient creation was made. He was making clear

to those who can understand, that this was the hand of God through which man was formed from clay. For what the creating Word had neglected to form in the womb, this He supplied openly. He did this so that the works of God might be evident in Him, and so that we would now seek for no other hand than that through which humanity was formed. Nor should we seek another Father, knowing that the hand of God which formed us in the beginning, and forms in the womb, has in the last times sought us lost ones out. He is gaining his own lost sheep and putting it on his shoulders and joyfully restoring it to the fold of life.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

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