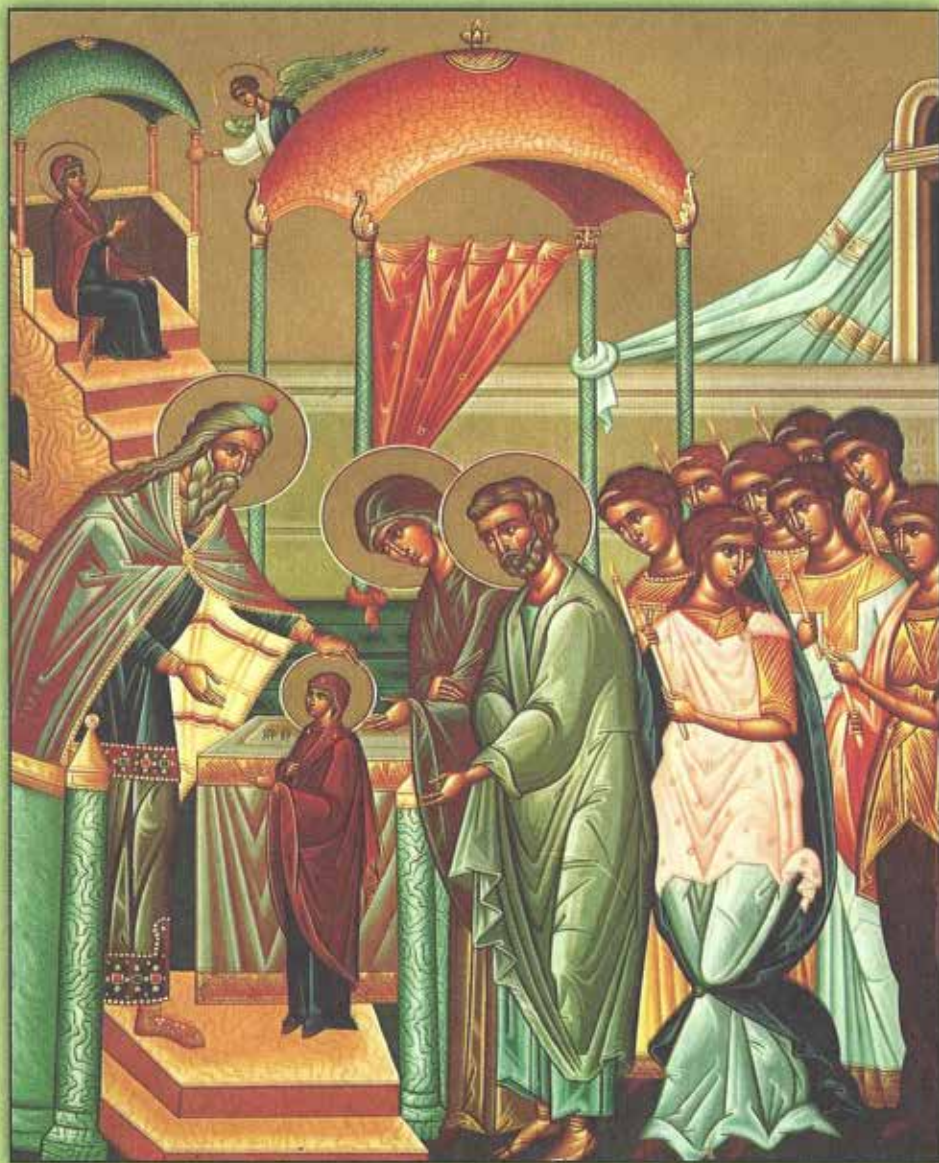


TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of the Mother of God into the Temple -- November 21st*

**November 20, 2016: 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Epistle: Eph. 6: 10-17

Gospel: Lk. 12: 16-21

<b>Mon., Nov. 21</b>		<b>Entrance of the Mother of God</b>
	9:00	+ Deceased of the Stecco Family (Ed & Joan Stecco)
<b>Tues., Nov. 22</b>	8:00	+ William & Cecil Granza (Family)
<b>Wed., Nov. 23</b>	8:00	Special Intention (Anonymous)
<b>Thurs. Nov. 24</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
	9:00	Thanksgiving to God for All Our Blessings
<b>Fri. Nov. 25</b>	8:00	+ Florence Chomo (Emil & Mary Ann Pieski)
<b>Sat., Nov. 26</b>		<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>
	10:30	Confessions
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
<b>Sun., Nov. 27</b>	9:00	+ Christine Danylak (Leo Danylak)
	11:30	For Our Parishioners

**Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos**

*Commemorated November 21<sup>st</sup>*

When Mary was three years of age, Joachim and Anne took their daughter, Mary, to the Temple so that she might be consecrated to the service of the Lord. According to legend, they invited the young girls of the town to walk before her with lighted torches. As soon as they had reached the temple, Mary, alone and unhesitatingly, went up the steps of the sanctuary where she was to remain, living in the contemplation of God and miraculously fed by the Archangel Ga-

riel, until the day she was espoused to Joseph, shortly before the Annunciation. The theme of this feast is that Mary the Immaculate One, the Temple of the living God, is offered to the Almighty in his holy house in Jerusalem. This day witnesses the bond between the Word and the Virgin predestined in eternity; this day is the fountainhead of all her privileges. This event is not recorded in the Bible but Tradition remembers the event because of its theological importance.

## Thanksgiving Greetings

This Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. Someone once said that he feels sorry for atheists on Thanksgiving Day because they have no one to thank. The pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620 knew they had SOMEONE to thank, since one of their motives in coming to the new world was their desire for religious freedom. Like the chosen people of the Bible, they came to a land full of promise and they soon recognized their debt to God by beginning our custom of Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day among us is traditionally a family day, a time for homecomings and the sharing of a sumptuous dinner. We will celebrate a Liturgy of Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 am this year so that as a Parish Family we can gather together to give thanks and then to return to our homes to enjoy the Thanksgiving meal. This year, let us begin this Thanksgiving Day properly by com-

ing together as God's children in His Home - our Church. We should gather there to express thanks to God for all His many favors. As Americans, we should express

our gratitude for the blessings of living as we do in a free and prosperous land. As Christians we should gather to express our gratitude for our faith, a faith that gives us the joy of knowing that God is our Loving Father.

This coming Thanksgiving day reminds us that we,

both as Catholic Christians and as Americans, have

indeed much to be thankful for. Above all, it reminds

us that we have SOMEONE to thank. As a "Parish

family" let us gather in our "Family House of Worship" at the beginning of this Thanksgiving Day to express our sincere gratitude to God, Our Father!

## Did You Know...

...that the first Thanksgiving took place in 1621, when the Pilgrims held a three day feast at Plymouth, Rock, MA to celebrate the bountiful harvest? During the first year, half of the

110 Pilgrims had left England in 1620 survived the cold winter. During their second year, however, failed Pilgrims flourished with plentiful food sources, thanks in large part to the friendship

and guidance of an Abnaki Indian named Squanto. Therefore, by proclamation of the Pilgrim Governor William Bradford, the first Thanksgiving celebration was held in the fall of 1621. He also invited the neighboring Native Americans to join with the colonists in the celebration.

...that Thanksgiving became a national holiday through the proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln in October of 1863? Because the nation was struggling in the midst of the Civil War, Lincoln felt that Americans needed to set aside time to call to mind and acknowledge all the many gifts with which our nation was endowed – land, freedom, food – were gifts given to us by God. A day was needed when we could forget our differences and remember our many blessings. In the act of calling to mind our blessings, a sense of gratitude to the Giver of all the good gifts is an obvious consequence.

...that it was common in many ancient civilizations to have celebrations of gratitude for good gifts received? In justice, they believed that they owed Divine Providence their thanks for all the good

gifts of creation.

...that our Jewish ancestors likewise celebrated an annual “Thanksgiving?” Actually it was two celebrations: Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. These were observed in the spring when the first crops were harvested and lambs were born. Gratitude extended beyond the gifts of creation to the recognition that God had delivered them from the slavery.

...that it was at the Passover celebration that Jesus “took the cup, and after giving thanks... And when He had taken some Bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

...that the word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word meaning “thanksgiving?” In the Eucharist we come together to give thanks and praise to God for all that Jesus did for us, His death and resurrection, and for all that God continues to do every day.

... that the Divine Liturgy is a supreme act of praise and thanksgiving to God?

## **A Manager’s Malpractice**

The proprietor of a large construction company had a dishonest manager who used fraudulent means to cheat the

customers and make money for himself. He used to manipulate the accounts, use raw materials of poor quality and ne-

glect the design, technical specifications and workmanship to make unauthorized personal profit. The proprietor had full confidence in the manager and gave him complete control in the concern.

One day, the proprietor told the manager that he was proceeding on a tour of many foreign countries and would return only after several months. He asked the manager to undertake the construction of a new house for the proprietor using the best materials and workmanship available.

The wicked manager decided to betray the proprietor and make a fortune. He used the cheapest construction materials of the lowest quality and completed the construction at a fast pace. He ignored the technical specifications and quality in every aspect of the construction - design, foundation, materials, masonry, plumbing, wiring, carpentry, plastering and painting but gave an attractive and appealing appearance to the final structure. He withdrew a very large sum of money from the proprietor's account giving false and exaggerated statements about the expenditure.

When the proprietor returned from

abroad, the manager was ready to meet him at the airport. He escorted the proprietor to the new house and ceremoniously handed over the keys to the proprietor. The proprietor thanked the manager for completing the construction in a short period and embraced him. The proprietor told him, "You may keep the keys with you. I am giving this house and the surrounding land to you as my special gift to you in recognition of your splendid services to me and our establishment."

The manager could not believe these words. He never expected to receive such a gift. He was afraid to occupy the new house as he was fully aware of the poor quality of its construction. He was in a real dilemma. He felt sorry for his fraudulent practices.

Honesty is the best policy. It is a good rule that we should be faithful and truthful in every action - both big and small.

Jesus taught the golden rule of Christianity, "Do for others just what you want them to do for you" (Luke 6: 31, Matthew 7:12).

## **Sincere Request**

On behalf of those who process our weekend collections, we sincerely ask

of each and every one of you who use our weekly donation envelopes to make

your offerings: PLEASE, DO NOT USE ANY TAPE, STICKERS, LABELS, OR ANY OTHER ADHESIVES TO SEAL YOUR ENVELOPES ON THE BACK, ESPECIALLY ON THE CENTER FLAP. There is already a small bit of safe, non-tox adhesive on the envelope flap - just moisten it and seal it. That's it.

Each donation envelope is designed not only for your convenience, but also for ease of use for those who have to

open it, that they can do so quickly and simply. When you add all the extra tape, stickers, labels, etc., on top of the center flap and other parts, you are slowing down the process and making it problematic for those who are volunteering their time to serve you, their fellow parishioners, by processing the church collections. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

## **Singing in Church**

There are many who would say "I don't have a good voice" or "I'm not a singer." To them I would say -- We are God's greatest creation -- and within each of us is the voice God gave us. It is the only musical instrument created by God

for all others are the invention of man. Who are we to judge, to decide that the voice inside each of us is good or bad? Remember, God also created the birds -- and each, including the crow, SINGS!

## **Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.**

When was the last time you attended the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy on Sunday to hear our Church Choir? Our choir, now under the direction of Patrick Marcinko III keeps the tradition of singing at the Divine Liturgy in Church Slavonic. Come and listen to our choir which is well known through out many regions of Pennsylvania and our Archeparchy. The 9:00 a.m. Liturgy is 70 minutes and you will be inspired spirituality by the sing-

ing. Come back to sing with the choir or join as a new member, because you love to sing and help keep the tradition of singing in our church.

The "Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols" CD song by our choir, brings back so many memories of songs that we all know from our childhood growing up at St. Cyril's and is still available from Glenda Marcinko. (570-876-2888)

## Mary The Helper Of Mothers Icon

We have been blessed to be able to host this very special and sacred icon: “Mary the Helper of Mothers” at St. Mary’s Byzantine Catholic Church, Mifflin and Linden, Scranton.

This icon is used for women who are having difficulty conceiving, or for help in a difficult pregnancy or problematic childbirth. More information on this Icon is

available at [www.stmcsScranton.com](http://www.stmcsScranton.com).

A special prayer service of “Request For Life” will be held on each Tuesday evening in November 2016 (8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th) at 7:30pm in the Church. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. PLEASE COME AND BRING OTHERS WITH YOU...

## St. Mary’s International Dinner Club

ST. MARY’S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH INTERNATIONAL DINNER, 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton is featuring “Christmas Cheer” for their menu on Thursday, December 8, 2016. The price is only \$20.00 per person and reservations for 5:30pm or 6:30pm can be made by Dec. 5th by calling 570-343-5151. The menu will start with Mrs. Claus Garden Veg-

etable Salad. The Entrée will be St. Nicholas Roast Prime Rib and Stuffed Chicken Breast Florentine Combo with Baked Potato Rudolf and Frosti’s Brussels Sprouts prepared with bacon and garlic. The Dessert will be a Sampler of Elfin Assorted Holiday Desserts. Coffee, Tea, Water or Soda is included and a Cash Bar is available.

## Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of November 2016 is Team #3:

Helen Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

## Sunday Collection for November 12 & 13, 2016: \$

### Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for November 26 & 27, 2016

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Joseph Chylak -- Nicholas Chylak	John Sakson
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Nicholas Muchisky -- David Slachtish	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Spiritual Reflection for Tomorrow's Feast*

Stretching out His hand over His disciples, the Lord Christ declared: Here are my mother and my brothers; anyone who does the will of my Father who sent me is my brother and sister and my mother. I would urge you to ponder these words. Did the Virgin Mary, who believed by faith and conceived by faith, who was the chosen one from whom our Savior was born among men, who was created by Christ before Christ was created in her — did she not do the will of the Father? Indeed the blessed Mary certainly did the Father's will, and so it was for her a greater thing to have been Christ's disciple than to have been His mother.

Now listen and see if the words of Scripture do not agree with what I have said. The Lord was passing by and crowds were following

him. His miracles gave proof of divine power, and a woman cried out: Happy is the womb that bore you, blessed is that womb! But the Lord, not wishing people to seek happiness in a purely physical relationship, replied: More blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it. Mary heard God's word and kept it, and so she is blessed. She kept God's truth in her mind, a nobler thing than carrying His body in her womb. The truth and the body were both Christ: He was kept in Mary's mind insofar as He is truth, He was carried in her womb insofar as He is man; but what is kept in the mind is of a higher order than what is carried in the womb.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)