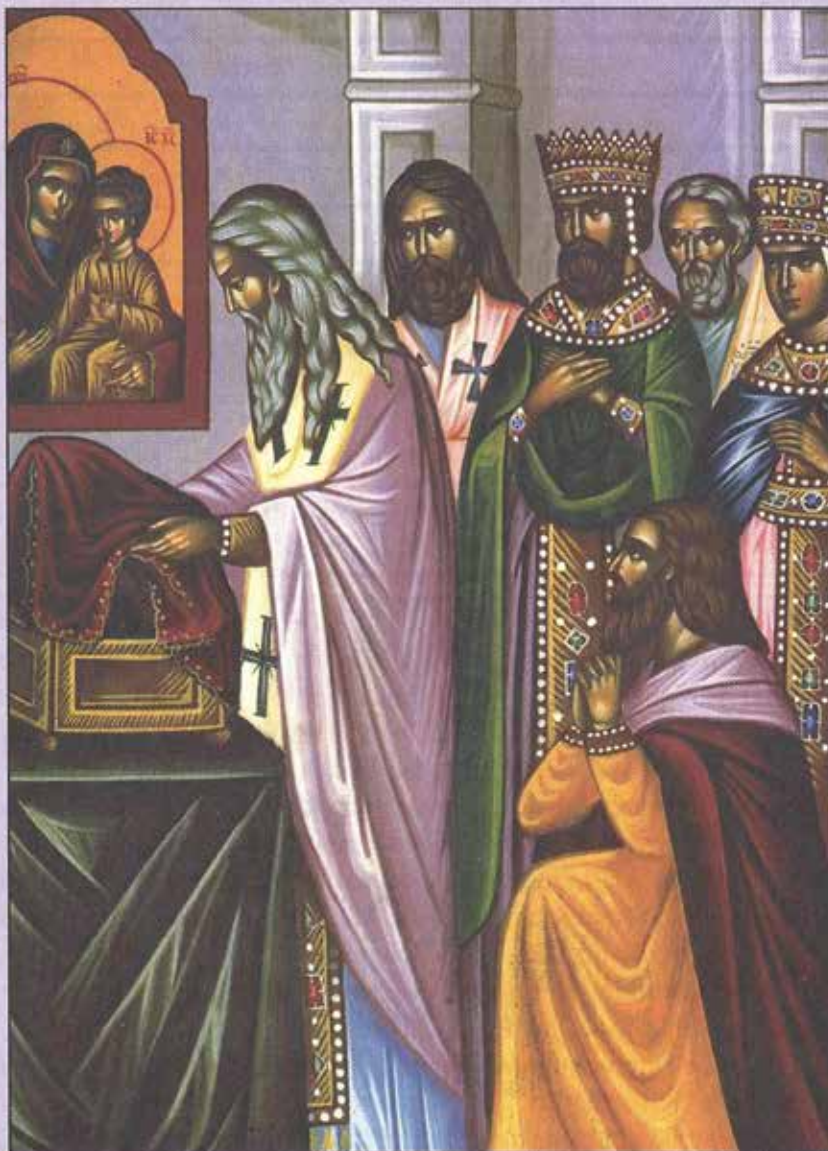


FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FOURTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Robe of the Theotokos

July 2, 2017: Fourth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Roms. 6: 18-23		Gospel: Mt. 8: 5-13
Mon., July 3	10:00	Funeral of + Mary Zenzel
Tues., July 4	9:00	For Our Country
Wed., July 5	8:00	+ Irene Stafford (Cousin Shirley Romanovitch)
Thurs. July 6	8:00	+ Jean Fawcett (Fawcett Family)
Fri. July 7	8:00	Special Intention
Sat., July 8	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	10:30	Confessions
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
Sun., July 9	9:00	+ Patrick Marcinko, Jr. (George Martynuk & Family)
	11:30	+ Joan Turko (Frank & Susan Lesnefsky)

4th of July History & Trivia -Did You Know...

- The major objection to being ruled by Britain was taxation without representation. The colonists had no say in the decisions of English Parliament.
- In May, 1776, after nearly a year of trying to resolve their differences with England, the colonies sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. Finally, in June, admitting that their efforts were hopeless; a committee was formed to compose the formal Declaration of Independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee also included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. On June 28, 1776, Thomas Jefferson presented the first draft of the declaration to Congress.
- Betsy Ross, according to legend, sewed the first American flag in May or June 1776, as commissioned by the Congressional Committee.
- Independence Day was first celebrated in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.
- The Liberty Bell sounded from the tower of Independence Hall on July 8, 1776, summoning citizens to gather for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence by Colonel John Nixon.

- June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, looking to promote national pride and unity, adopted the national flag. “Resolved: that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”
- The first public Fourth of July event at the White House occurred in 1804.
- Before cars ruled the roadway, the Fourth of July was traditionally the most miserable day of the year for horses, tormented by all the noise and by the boys and girls who threw firecrackers at them.
- The first Independence Day celebration west of the Mississippi occurred at Independence Creek and was celebrated by Lewis and Clark in 1805.
- On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote.
- Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on Independence Day, July 4, 1826.
- The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence did not sign at the same time, nor did they sign on July 4, 1776. The official event occurred on August 2, 1776, when 50 men signed it.
- The names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were withheld from the public for more than six months to protect the signers. If independence had not been achieved, the treasonable act of the signers would have, by law, resulted in their deaths.
- Thomas McKean was the last to sign in January, 1777.
- The origin of Uncle Sam probably began in 1812, when Samuel Wilson was a meat packer who provided meat to the US Army. The meat shipments were stamped with the initials, U.S. Someone joked that the initials stood for “Uncle Sam”. This joke eventually led to the idea of Uncle Sam symbolizing the United States government.
- In 1941, Congress declared 4th of July a federal legal holiday. It is one of the few federal holidays that have not been moved to the nearest Friday or Monday.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

How Much Is A Miracle?

Tess was a precocious eight year old when she heard her Mom and Dad talking about her little brother, Andrew. All she knew was that he was very sick and they were completely out of money. They were moving to an apartment complex next month because Daddy didn't have the money for the doctor bills and their house. Only a very costly surgery could save Andrew now and it was looking like there was no one to loan them the money. She heard Daddy say to her tearful Mother with whispered desperation, "Only a miracle can save him now."

Tess went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all of the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat

with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about MY brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick... and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" asked the pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew, and he has something bad growing inside of his head, and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with

her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But, my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago.

"One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to.

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents is the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of miracle you

need."

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed without charge. And it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. "That surgery," her Mom whispered, "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?" Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost... one dollar and eleven cents... plus the faith of a little child.

A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.

L.U.C. Traveling Icon

The North Antracite Council of the L.U.C. will be hosting the Annual L.U.C. Convention in October. In preparation for this Convention, the L.U.C. has a Traveling Icon which visits the

various Parishes which belong to the Council. Currently, the Traveling Icon is visiting our Parish. All are invited to spend some time in prayer before this Icon and to venerate it.

St. Cyril's at the Ball Park

All of our tickets to the Railriders vs. the Iron Pigs Baseball game at PNC Field have been sold. If anyone would still like to attend this game, please contact Fr. Nestor as soon as possible. We may be able to get more tickets.

For those of you who have tickets, plan on wearing your St. Cyrils logo t-shirt/polo shirt. We can "car pool" for parishioners to get to the game, otherwise everyone will drive there on their own.

Annual Ukrainian Seminary Day

The Clergy and faithful of the South Anthracite Deanery of Pennsylvania will host the 83rd Annual Ukrainian Seminary Day on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at St. Nick's Picnic Grove in Minersville, PA. All funds raised will go to support St. Jo-

saphat Seminary in Washington, D.C. We encourage all our faithful to go and observe 83 years of celebrating our Ukrainian Catholic Faith, culture and heritage. You will have a good time!

Calendar Update For The Rummage Sale 2017

JULY-SEPTEMBER 15, 2017: * Donations accepted for the Rummage Sale. Check previous bulletins or contact Lauren Telep or Father Nestor for information. Call to drop items off at the school gym. Deadline is September 15, 2017.

* **RAFFLE DONATIONS:** Parishioners help in getting certificates/items for Raffle Donations. (Flyers in the back of the Church) All you have to do "JUST ASK" your favorite restaurant, retail store, pizza place, hardware store, employer, chiropractor etc. Info has been given to Sam's Club, Best Buys, Loew's, Staples, Giant, Price Chopper, Alexander's Restaurant, Amenti's Pizza. You might be surprised who will donate gift certificates or merchandise. Hand them a "Pre-Rummage Sale" flyer and the Raffle information is listed on the bottom and follow up 2-3 weeks later for the donation. Now is the time to ask, because they have limited donation money and if is first come first ones to get the certificates.

* Parishioner who have a Truck/SUV to help with donations that need to be picked up, call Father Nestor with your name and phone number.

* Donations for the Basket of Cheer. (non-open bottles)

* Give a "Pre-Rummage Sale" flyer to your neighbors, friends and family before they throw items to the curb or if they have a yard sale, etc.

* We could use hangers (no wire hangers) to hang drapes, tablecloths, etc.

* **LADIES COSTUME JEWELRY** was a big seller last year. Now is the time to donate the jewelry you have not worn in years.

* Borrow 8 ft - 10 ft tables. Many of the tables are over 35-40 years old and literally on their last leg.

* **FURNITURE** does sell very well at the sale. Let us know if you need a "pick-up" for the furniture.

* We need your help at various times through out the weeks, when we get car and truck loads of merchandise to unload or pick up. Please call Lauren that we can add your name to the list and see if your available to help out at that particular time. (Paul M.,

Ken K., Bob K. are are the list to volunteer when they are available. Sometimes they go fishing, golfing, working etc... but can help other times).

Monday, August 21st: We will begin the pre-rummage pricing! Volunteers, both men and women, are needed for the setting up, marking and putting the items on the tables for the Rummage Sale. You can sit at a table, items will be assorted by price, and you just have to mark the sticker with the price.

We need your help and are always thankful to our parishioners and non-parishioners. It is a pleasant atmosphere to re-connect with your parishioners who you may have worked with as a PTA Member, Holy Name Society member, altar boys, or graduates of our grade school. Schedule of times will be in future bulletins. Get to know your fellow parishioners.

September 22nd, 23rd, 24th 2017: Volunteers needed for the actual Rummage Sale: Staff for the kitchen, monitoring the doors, helping the customer with their purchases, on the floor and helping customers, the check-out desk, raffle desk, jewelry table, the Hold table, etc. All Ages are welcome and no experience is needed. Just show up and help your Church Community. Purchase Rummage Sale Raffle Basket Tickets which are in lieu of the Summer Raffle which was cancelled along with the Bingo tent this year. This is the financial life-line of our Church. If you need any additional information please contact Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319 (H) or 646-241-9443 (C) or Father Nestor at 570-489-2271.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for Helen Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno, Dorothy the month of July 2017 is Team #3: thy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collection for June 24 & 25, 2017:

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for July 8 & 9, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nicholas Borowski -- Nicholas Muchisky	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Joseph Skirpan	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	David Slachtish -- Samuel Sczesniak	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Holy Robe of the Theotokos

During the late fifth century, two brothers who were associates of Emperor Leo the Great, left Constantinople for Palestine to venerate the holy places. In Nazareth, they stayed in the home of an old Jewish woman. They noticed in the house a room where many lamps were lit, incense burned, and sick people were gathered. When they asked her what the room contained, the pious woman did not want to give an answer for a long time. After persistent requests, she said that she had a very precious sacred item: the robe of the Theotokos, through which many miracles and healings had occurred. It seems that before her Dormition the Theotokos had given one of her garments to a pious Jewish girl, an ancestor of the old woman, instructing her to leave it to another virgin after her death. And so, the robe of the Mother of God was preserved in this family from generation to generation.

The jeweled chest, containing the sacred robe, was brought to Constantinople. Saint Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople, and Leo the Emperor, hav-

ing learned of this sacred treasure, were convinced of the incorrupt state of the holy robe, and they certified its authenticity. On June 2, 458, Patriarch Gennadius transferred the sacred robe into the church at Blachernae, near the city gates at the seacoast, placing the relic within a new reliquary.

In the years following, the great veil or outer robe of the Theotokos, and part of her belt were also put into the reliquary with her robe. This event also influenced the iconography of the feast, in connecting the two events: the Placing of the Robe, the feast day of July 2nd, and the Placing of the Belt of the Mother of God, the feast day August 31st in Blachernae.

"O Pure One, full of the grace of God, you have given your sacred robe as a garment of incorruption to all the faithful, with it you covered your holy body, O divine protection of all mankind. We celebrate its enshrinement in Blachernae with love and we cry aloud with awe: 'Rejoice, O Virgin, boast of Christians.'" (Kontakion)

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