

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

March 19, 2017: Third Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 4:14 - 5:60		Gospel: Mk. 2: 1-12
Mon., March 20	8:00	+ Nicole Yeck Crimard (Parents)
Tues., March 21	8:00	+ Michael Romanovich (Wife Shirley & Childrdren)
Wed., March 22	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thurs. March 23	8:00	+ Martha Myshrall (Father Nestor)
Fri. March 24	<u>For the Feast of the Annunciation:</u>	
	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Sat., March 25	Annunciation of the Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)	
	9:00	For Our Parishioners
	10:30	Confessions
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Elinor Chowanec (Family)
Sun., March 26	9:00	+ Olga E. Telep (Daughter Lauren Telep)
	11:30	For Our Parishioners
	3:00 pm	Sorokousty

Metropolitan Stefan's Great Fast Meditation For the Second Sunday of Lent

The mid-point of our Great Fast journey calls us to venerate the Holy Cross in a special way as it lays adorned on the tetrapod or small altar in our Churches. We bow and kiss the cross with deep reverence. It is a profound act of humility. Meditating on the significance of the cross, the instrument of Christ's death and resurrection, confronts any feelings of superiority or attitudes of entitlement. Jesus

Christ's supreme gift, freely given, offers freedom from the bondage of sin. We hear the striking words of Jesus, "Whoever wishes to follow me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me" (Mt: 16:24).

We are continually refreshed with this challenge to deny our own preferences in favor of that which is pleasing to God and to God's creation. When you and I bless ourselves with

the sign of the cross, we affirm our faith in the deepest mysteries of our faith, namely the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the saving work of Christ on the cross. Blessing ourselves with the sign of the cross is a very intimate affirmation of our faith. Tradition says that when we Eastern Catholics touch the right shoulder first, we are reminded of the two thieves who were crucified alongside Jesus. The thief

on the right was the “good thief” who professed faith in Christ and whom Christ promised “This day you will be with me in paradise” (Lk 23:43). Next time you cross yourself, ensure that it reflects your profound humility before God, and your expectant faith in your salvation in Jesus Christ. St. John of Damascus teaches: “For wherever the sign shall be there also be He”.

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:

- Abstention from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.
- Abstention 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 Abstinance regu-

lations 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.

Great Fast Liturgical Guidelines

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. There is no Divine Liturgy celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On Holy Thursday evening, Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great should be celebrated. On Holy Saturday evening, Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated.

Humor... The Wisdom Of Children

You can't fool the kids in Sunday school; they are way too smart...

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" a teacher asked the children in Sunday school class.

"NO!" all the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?"

Again the answer was, "NO!"

"Well," continued the teacher, "then how can I get to heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted, "You gotta be dead!"

Church Community Project for 2017

Now is the time for our parishioners to get involved in our Community Project for 2017. The Community supports our church for the Dinners, Bake Sales and the Rummage Sale. Now is the time "to pay it forward." We will be accepting non-perishable food and clothes for all season's and accessories (shoes, hats, gloves, socks) of all sizes for men's, ladies, kids, and babies. Clean and wearable!!! You can leave the clothes on hangers or bring the items in bags. If everyone in the parish gave 2-3 items of non-perishable food, it will be greatly appreciated by the Jessup food

pantry. Money donations for food will be accepted and we will then purchase food.

The collection will take place on Saturday, March 25 from 3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., before and after the Divine Liturgy. On Sunday, March 26th, the collection will start at 10:15 a.m -1:15 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 2016. 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 can be accepted in Jessup, every Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. all year round at the Jessup Food Pantry. In 2016 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, (off of N. Washington Ave., one block after Mesko Glass) 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 2016, we delivered 3 carloads and one truck of clothes.

VOLUNTEERS are needed during the collection on Saturday and Sunday and then for the deliveries. The clothes will be delivered on Monday, March 27th to Scranton, and the food will be delivered on Wednesday, March 29th to Jessup. Volunteers and cars/truck will start loading the vehicles at noon from the **BACK** of the School gym on Monday and Wednesday. 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. Also, if you are associated with any other organization that may need the donated items, please contact Lauren.

Easter Pirohi Project

ST. JOHN'S AUXILIARY , 310 Broadway, Scranton, Pa. 18505 will have an Easter Pirohi Project. Orders will be taken until March 24th. Price

is \$8.25 per dozen. Pick up will be on Thursday, April 6th at the Church Hall from 10am till 2pm. Please call 570-343-8820 or 570-587-2738.

LUC Meeting

North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics will meet on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 5:00pm at Grotto Pizza, 36 Gateway Shopping Center, Edwardsville, PA. Discussion

will focus on hosting Convention 2017 which will be held the weekend of October 6, 7 and 8 in Wilkes-Barre. For additional information contact Dorothy Jamula, President at 570 822-5354

or any LUC member of the parish.

Special Deanery Lenten Service

The annual penitential Lenten service called “The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete” will take place on Thursday, March 30, 2017, 11 a.m., at our Saints

Peter & Paul Parish, 20 Nottingham Street, Plymouth. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

Ham Bingo

ST. NICHOLAS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAM BINGO, 140 Church St., Old Forge, Pa. will be on April 2, 2017 in the Church Hall. The

kitchen will open at 11:00am, with games starting at 1:00pm. Many Door prizes will be awarded. Donation is \$3.00. All proceeds benefit the Church.

St. Mary’s International Dinner Club

ST. MARY’S DINNER CLUB, 310 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18505 presents “DINNER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS” on Thursday, April 6, 2017. Seatings will be at 5:30 or 6:30pm and the cost is only \$20.00 per person. You may make your reservation by Monday, April 3rd by calling 570-343-5151. The menu will start with an Asian Salad of tender spinach, cabbage and carrots,

Mandarin oranges w/rice vinaigrette dressing. The Appetizer will be Chinese Orange Glazed Meatballs and the Entrée will be Sweet & Sour Roast Pork Tenderloin w/ fresh, stir-fry vegetables served over oriental noodles. The Dessert will be Mr. Foo’s Homemade Rice Pudding. Coffee, Tea. Soda and Water are included and a Cash Bar is available.

Baked Fish Dinner

Our Parish will once again be sponsoring a “BAKED HADDOCK” FISH DINNER on FRIDAY APRIL 7, 2017 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. *LIMITED amount of Dinners will be available a the Door \$15.00.

Marriage Preparation Workshop

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church is pleased to present a marriage preparation workshop, “*Entering the Holy Mystery of Marriage*”, to take place on **Saturday, April 29, 2017** with a follow up session on **Saturday, May 6, 2017**. The program focuses on various aspects of marriage, both spiritual and practical, and provides each person an opportunity for greater understanding of one’s partner and a means to strengthen one’s relationship.

In addition to various presentations and exercises, each couple will be given the opportunity to take the Catholic version of a premarital questionnaire called F.A.C.E.T. (Foundations Applied Conversation and Education Tool). The F.A.C.E.T. inventory provides participants with a computer-generated profile of unique cou-

ple issues, challenges, strengths and realities to be discussed prior to marriage. The F.A.C.E.T. results for each couple involved will be presented to them by a Pastoral Counselor trained in the use of this tool in a subsequent 40 minute private session on May 6, 2017.

Each attending couple must commit to participating in all the sessions on April 29, 2017 as well as the 40 minute private meeting on May 6, 2017.

The workshop will be held at: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1204 Valley Road, Melrose Park, PA 19027

The total cost per couple will be \$160 which includes materials, lunch and refreshments. April 22, 2017 - Registration and payment due Date!!! No registration will be accepted after 4/22/ 2017.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2017 is Team #3: Helen

Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky and Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collection for March 11 & 12, 2017: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for March 25 & 26, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Joseph Chylak -- Nicholas Chylak	Michael Shumek
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Jordan Radle	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

The Power of Christ's Blood

If we wish to understand the power of Christ's blood, we should go back to the ancient account of its prefiguration in Egypt. Sacrifice a lamb without blemish, commanded Moses, and sprinkle its blood on your doors. If we were to ask him what he meant, and how the blood of an irrational beast could possibly save men endowed with reason, his answer would be that the saving power lies not in the blood itself, but in the fact that it is a sign of the Lord's blood. In those days, when the destroying angel saw the blood on the doors he did not dare to enter, so how much less will the devil approach now when he sees, not that figurative blood on the doors, but the true blood on the lips of believers, the doors of the temple of Christ.

If you desire further proof of the power of this blood, remember where it came from, how it ran down from the cross, flowing from the Master's side. The gospel records that when Christ was dead, but still hung on the cross, a soldier came and pierced His side with a lance and immediately there poured

out water and blood. Now the water was a symbol of Baptism and the blood, of the Holy Eucharist. The soldier pierced the Lord's side, he breached the wall of the sacred temple, and I have found the treasure and made it my own. So also with the lamb: the Jews sacrificed the victim and I have been saved by it.

There flowed from His side water and blood. Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought; it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. From these two sacraments the Church is born: from Baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the Holy Eucharist. Since the symbols of Baptism and the Eucharist flowed from His side, it was from His side that Christ fashioned the Church, as He had fashioned Eve from the side of Adam.

St. John Chrysostom

Visit www.ecpubs.com for more publications.