

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



Icon of Saints Constantine and Helen -- May 21st

May 21, 2017: Sunday of the Man Born Blind		
Epistle: Acts. 16: 16-34		Gospel: Jn. 9: 1-38
Mon., May 22	8:00	+ Joan & Gene Turko (Lauren Telep)
Tues., May 23	8:00	Birthday of Kylie O'Halloran (Grandfather Howard)
Wed., May 24	8:00	+ Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck (Andrea Novak & Family)
	7:00 pm	For Our Parishioners (This is for the Ascension)
Thurs. May 25		Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)
	9:00	+ Jimmy Maslar & John & Olga Yuhnick (Family)
Fri. May 26	8:00	+ Deceased of the Stecco Family (Joan & Ed Stecco)
	6:30 pm	Moleben to the Mother of God
Sat., May 27		No Morning Divine Liturgy.
	10:30	Confessions
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ John Sedlak, Sr. (Family)
Sun., May 28	9:00	For Our Parishioners
	11:30	+ Raymond Dench (Parents)

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 lawgiver 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 25th. 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.

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 forebear discarded some customs/traditions in hope of recognition. We now are reclaiming 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.

ASK THE PASTOR: *What is the Holy Antimension?*

The Holy Antimension is one of the most important Liturgical objects that is not missing in any Catholic Church. It is given to the priest by the local Bishop and is the sign of his canoni-

cal status. The Holy Antimension is a rectangular piece of cloth made out of linen or silk approximately 15-20" wide. It is painted with scenes from the Passions of our Savior, the main theme



being the entombment of Jesus Christ. During the Liturgy the Holy Antimension represents the entombment of Jesus Christ and also the shroud in which He was wrapped. In one of the corners or in the middle of Holy Antimension generally we find Holy relics

of the saints. This is a continuation of the ancient Christian custom of building Churches on the tombs of the Martyrs. Priest cannot serve the Divine Liturgy without this liturgical object. In the Church it is kept on the Holy Table under the Gospel.

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 pm. Come to church, join

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

Mark Your Calendars...

On Sunday, June 4, 2017, 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.**

St. Mary's International Dinner Club

St. Mary's Parish Dinner Club, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. will feature a "Russian Menu" on Thursday, June 8, 2017. The menu will start with a St. Petersburg Mixed Green Salad with homemade Russian Dressing. The entree will be Czar's Beef Stroganoff served over delicate egg noodles and

Czarina's Tender Baby Carrots. The dessert will be St. Vladimir's Blueberry Shortcake. Coffee, Tea, Water and Soda Included and a cash bar is available. Seatings are at 5:50 or 6:30 and reservations may be made by June 5th by calling 570-343-5151. The price is only \$20.00 per person.

St. Cyril's at the Ball Park

Baseball tickets have been ordered for the Railriders game versus the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs on Saturday, July 8th at PNC

Field. This game is scheduled to start at 6:35 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 a person.

Request for League of Ukrainian Catholics Archives

The LUC is gathering items of old for its archives and is asking current members and former members to search their homes for newspaper articles, publications, Convention memorabilia, prayer cards, etc. Initially the LUC was known as the Ukrainian Catholic

Youth League in which a significant number of parishioners of Olyphant's SS. Cyril and Methodius parish held membership. If you have such items and are willing to donate them to the LUC, please contact Sandra Berta. Thank you all very much.

7th Annual Rummage Sale

Our 7th Annual (fund raiser) Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, September 22, Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24 in the School Gym. More info to follow at a later date. So start "gathering" and contact Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319 or Rev. Nestor Iwasiw 570-489-2271 to DROP OFF your items off in May, June, July, August. We will

accept them NOW. CALL FIRST. (Remember no clothes, no shoes, no TV's, no computers, no encyclopedias, no baby car seats, no mattresses). JUST CLEAN AND SELLABLE from estates, remodeling, moving, garage and yard sales etc. Let's make this 7th Annual Rummage Sale as good as the last one!

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of May 2017 is Team #1: William

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

Sunday Collection for May 13 & 14, 2017: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for May 27 & 28, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Samuel Sczesniak -- Nicholas Muchisky	John Sakson
9:00 am	Joseph Chylak -- Nicholas Chylak	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

Faith Now Touches Christ

The Lord's resurrection brought us joy; so should His Ascension, as we recall the event that exalted our lowly nature beyond the angels and highest created powers to the Father's side. These divine actions provide a sure foundation; through them God's grace works marvelously to keep our faith firm, our hope confident, and love ardent, even though the visible events as such are now part of history.

Even the blessed Apostles, despite the signs they saw and the sermons they heard, were fearful when the Lord suffered, and did not accept His Resurrection unhesitatingly. So much did His Ascension influence them, however, that all fear was turned to joy. Their minds contemplated the divine Christ at the

Father's side; no earthly trial could distract them from the fact that Christ had not left the Father when He descended nor left the disciples when He returned.

Therefore, beloved, the Son of Man who is Son of God has in an ineffable way become more present to us in his Godhead now that He has departed from us in His humanity. Faith now reaches to the Son, who is equal to the Father, and no longer needs the bodily presence of Jesus, in which He is less than the Father. For though His incarnate nature continues to exist, faith is summoned to touch the only-begotten Son, not with bodily sense but with spiritual understanding.

St. Leo the Great

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