

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



Icon of the Prodigal Son

January 28, 2018: Sunday of the Prodigal Son		
	Epistle: 1 Cor. 6: 12-20	Gospel: Lk. 15: 11-32
Mon., Jan. 29	8:00	God's Blessings on Mariah Addis (Grandfather Howard)
Tues., Jan. 30	8:00	+ Michael & Dorothy Koval (Marlene Nestrick)
Wed., Jan 31	8:00	+ Joanna Beckage (Sandy Dubas)
Thurs., Feb. 1	8:00	+ Nicole Crimard (Al Sarti) <i>For the Holy Day:</i> 7:00 pm + Michael Augustine (Pauline Muchisky)
Fri., Feb. 2		Encounter of Our Lord (Solemn Holy Day) 9:00 + Joseph Muchisky (Matt Beckage & Family)
Sat., Feb. 3		No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Richard & Mary Sue Harrigan (Mildred Harrigan)
Sun., Feb. 4	9:00	+ Gene & Joan Turko (St. Cyril's Choir) 11:30 For Our Parishioners

From the Archbishop's Chancery...

National Catholic Schools Week

Archbishop Stefan Soroka
Auxiliary Bishop John Bura
Auxiliary Bishop Andriy Rabiy
National Catholic Schools Week will be observed from January 28 to February 3, 2018 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Minersville, PA, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic, NJ, Assumption of

Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ and St. Basil Academy in Fox Chase, PA.

This year's theme "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed" celebrates who every person involved in a Catholic School is called to be. Our Schools celebrate with liturgies, open houses and other activi-

ties for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value that Catholic Education provides to our young people and its contributions to the Church, local communities and the nation.

Our heartfelt gratitude is offered to all who are part of the family of our four schools. We acknowledge and thank the clergy, religious Sisters, the administrators, teachers, and all of the support staff for their sharing of this giftedness in their skills through their person. This enables each school to reflect abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Special thanks to the parents who seek the best for their children and offer their love and support for the school staff and students. We admire your tremendous personal and financial sacrifices to ensure a high standard of education and religious formation for your children.

Uppermost are our admiration and best wishes for every student in each school family. The highest ideals of a Catholic school can only encourage each student to strive to be their best as they grow in their learning, seek to apply their learning in the service of others and provide examples of leadership. We pray for each student

as each grows in the skills and understanding of achieving the best in your Catholic School family. May all grow in closeness with Jesus as we strive to be fully who we are called to be as a faithful student of a valued Ukrainian Catholic School.

We are particularly grateful for the meaningful example of excellence each school provides for the Church and for the community of which they are a part of. The striving for high standards in Catholic education positively encourages others to excel in who they are and in how they live within the community. A Catholic School is fulfilling its mission of inspiring others to excellence, and thereby living the abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Especially helpful are the individual organizations and businesses who offer financial help to our Ukrainian Catholic schools. Donations by persons and groups who desire to support catholic education and religious formation in our schools are enablers. Such valued donors truly breathe Jesus Christ's call to abundant life. Can there be a better way to share one's wealth and blessings than with children growing in knowledge and faith? Choose to financially help our Ukrainian Catholic schools to fulfill their sacred mis-

sion to teach and prepare our children to “Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

All involved in our Ukrainian Catholic schools will be especially remembered in prayers offered throughout National Catholic Schools Week.

May your hearts be filled with gratitude and may we all continue to grow in our communities through our faith, knowledge and service of God.

God bless you richly in ways only He can!

Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord

Friday of this week is the remembrance of the Meeting of the Lord with Simeon and Anna. There will be two Divine Liturgies for this Holy Day. The first will be on Thursday evening

at 7 pm; the second Divine Liturgy will be on Friday at 9 am. As is our custom, candles will be blessed during these Divine Liturgies.

Christmas Season Coming to a Conclusion

When it was time to decorate the church, we had a wonderful turnout of volunteers. Now it is time to take down the decorations. We have sched-

uled this for today, January 28 following the 11:30 Divine Liturgy. Come and give us a hand with this project. Thank you for your help!

Our Condolences

In your Christian Charity, please remember the souls of our Parishioners who recently fell asleep in the Lord.

- + **Steven Krisler** was buried from St. Cyril’s Church on Wednesday, January 24, 2018.

- + **Theodore Slachtish** was buried from St. Cyril’s Church on Saturday, January 27, 2018.

May their memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

Have You Ever Wondered...

Have you ever wondered why did God create us as we are?

Q: Our legs and feet?

A: They transport us from place

to place, enabling us to gather food, to hunt, to run from danger.

Q: Our arms/wrists/hands & fingers?

A: They help us to gather food, to hunt, to build/carry, to protect ones self, to communicate.

Q: Our Eyes?

A: To gather food, to spot prey when hunting, to help us to communicate, to see danger, to see safety.

Q: Our ears?

A: An aid for hunting, helps us to communicate, to hear danger.

Q: Our voice.

A: It helps us to hunt, to communicate.

BUT why do we have the ability to sing? Does it help us to find food, to hunt, to be safe from danger, to build a home or to carry things? Perhaps we have a voice so that we may sing along with the choirs of angels, our praises, our thanksgivings our requests to the Lord.

Ask yourself one more question: what other of Gods creations can sing? (I don't think birds count in this case cause I've never heard a bird recite).

Ask The Pastor

QUESTION: *What is the significance of receiving the blessing of a priest or a bishop? And when should you get such a blessing?*

ANSWER: In Holy Scripture, we find stories of blessings given to the entire people of God by the High Priest and blessings given to individuals by Prophets and by parents. So we see that there are two types of blessings – sacramental or liturgical and personal. We must remember that the

liturgical and personal blessings are not the blessings by human beings, but are the blessings of the Lord. In our Church today we see the same sorts of blessings as can be found in Scripture. Blessings are commonly sought at the beginning of any arduous task, going to war, having surgery, after confession. In 'the old country' people frequently ask the blessing of priests or bishops or monks as they walk down the street.

Humor... The Children Of Israel

The boy listened closely as the rabbi read the Bible. "May I ask a question" he asked. "Sure. Go ahead. Ask your question," replied the rabbi. "Well, the Bible says that the children of Israel

crossed the Red Sea, the children of Israel built the temple, the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?"

Myasopusna 2018

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church is pleased to announce that dinner tickets are now available for our Annual Myasopusna Festival, held at the church's banquet hall at 240 Center Street, Nanticoke, on Sunday, February 4, from noon to 4 pm. The Myasopusna (Meatfare) Festival is the parish's pre-lenten celebration, preceding the Great Fast. Dinner (a platter of holuptsi, kobasi, pyrohy, borscht, black

bread and butter, and a homemade dessert) will be served from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, followed by live Ukrainian dance performances by Saint Mary's Ukrainian Dancers. A variety of Ukrainian crafts will be on display and for sale. Dinner tickets are \$13 if purchased by January 29 (\$15 at the door). Tickets can be purchased by calling Helen (735-4654) or Geri (824-3880).

Pre-Lenten Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Father Myron Myronyuk and his parish family of Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church cordially invite you to join us for our annual Pre-Lenten PORK & SAUERKRAUT/KAPUSTA DINNER on Sunday, February 4, 2018, beginning at 12:15 pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue - between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street.

Menu: slow roasted pork loin, gravy, Ukrainian kapusta (sweet and sour cab-

bage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages. Adults \$13.00; Students \$8.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free. Advance reservations for both sit-down and take-out are required and can be made with Maria at 570 503-1514 no later than Tuesday, January 30th. Take-outs available between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon only. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing.

Piggie Dinner

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre will hold a take-out Piggie / Holubtsi Dinner on Sunday, February 11, 2018. Dinners may be picked up between 11:30 am and 2:00 pm at the Parish School Hall, corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets,

Wilkes-Barre. Dinner includes Piggies (meat stuffed cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter and dessert. Dinners will be \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children (12 and under). Walk-Ins Welcome but Reservations are encouraged, call (570)829-3051."

Bus Trip

Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is sponsoring a springtime bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 19, 2018. There will be two stops in Manhattan: the 911 Memorial Museum at Ground Zero and the 42nd annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival on the Lower East Side. Adults \$70.00; Seniors 65+ \$64.00; Youth 7 to 17 yrs. \$62.00. Participants can follow the above two-stop itinerary or are free to do their own thing for part or all of the day. For those not visiting the Museum, the cost is \$44.00. Departure from

St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue will be at 8:00 am and departure from New York City for home will be at 8:30 pm. For additional details and to make reservations contact Dave Pietryka at 570 954-8517 or Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275. Due to the large number of visitors, Museum staff strongly recommends early confirmation of number of tickets to be ordered, therefore we ask that reservations and nonrefundable payment be made preferably before April 1. Check should be made out to St. Vladimir Church.

2018 Ukrainian Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

You are cordially invited to join St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ, on a once-in-a-lifetime journey following in the footsteps of Jesus with an opportunity to celebrate our Divine Liturgy at sacred places along the way. Trip

dates: October 14 – 23, 2018. For a brochure or further information contact Annette@select-intl.com, by phone 1-800-842-4842, 973-471-9727 or on Facebook, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Passaic.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2018 is Team #1:

Roger Barren, and Jerry Sereditch.

Sunday Collection for January 20 & 21, 2018: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for February 3 & 4, 2018

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nicholas Chylak -- Joseph Chylak	Michael Shumek
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	David Slachtish -- Samuel Sczesniak	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

What the Prodigal Son Really Wanted

The prodigal son is as impatient as the father was kind. He is weary of his father's being alive. Since he cannot shorten his father's life, he strives to get possession of his property. He was not content to possess his father's wealth in company with his father; and he deserved to lose the privileges of a son.

But let us make some inquiries. What reason brought the son to such attempts? What bold prospect raised his spirits to make so startling a request? What reason? Clearly, the fact that the Father in heaven cannot be bounded by any limit, or shut in by any time, or destroyed by any power of death. The son could not await his father's death to get his wealth. So he conceived the desire to get his pleasure from the generosity of his father still alive. That was the insult which lay in his request, as the father's

very bounty proved.

"And he divided his means between them," the text states. At the request of the one son he soon divided all his means between the two. He wanted both sons to know the fact that up till then he had been holding on to his property because of love, not miserliness; that foresight, not jealousy, was the reason he had not given it away. He retained control of his property to preserve it for his sons; not to refuse it to them. He did not want his fortune to perish, but to remain intact for his sons.

Oh, happy are the sons whose entire property rests in the love of their father! Happy are the sons whose whole wealth consists in showing allegiance and honor to a father!

St. Peter Chrysologus

Visit www.ecpubs.com for more publications.