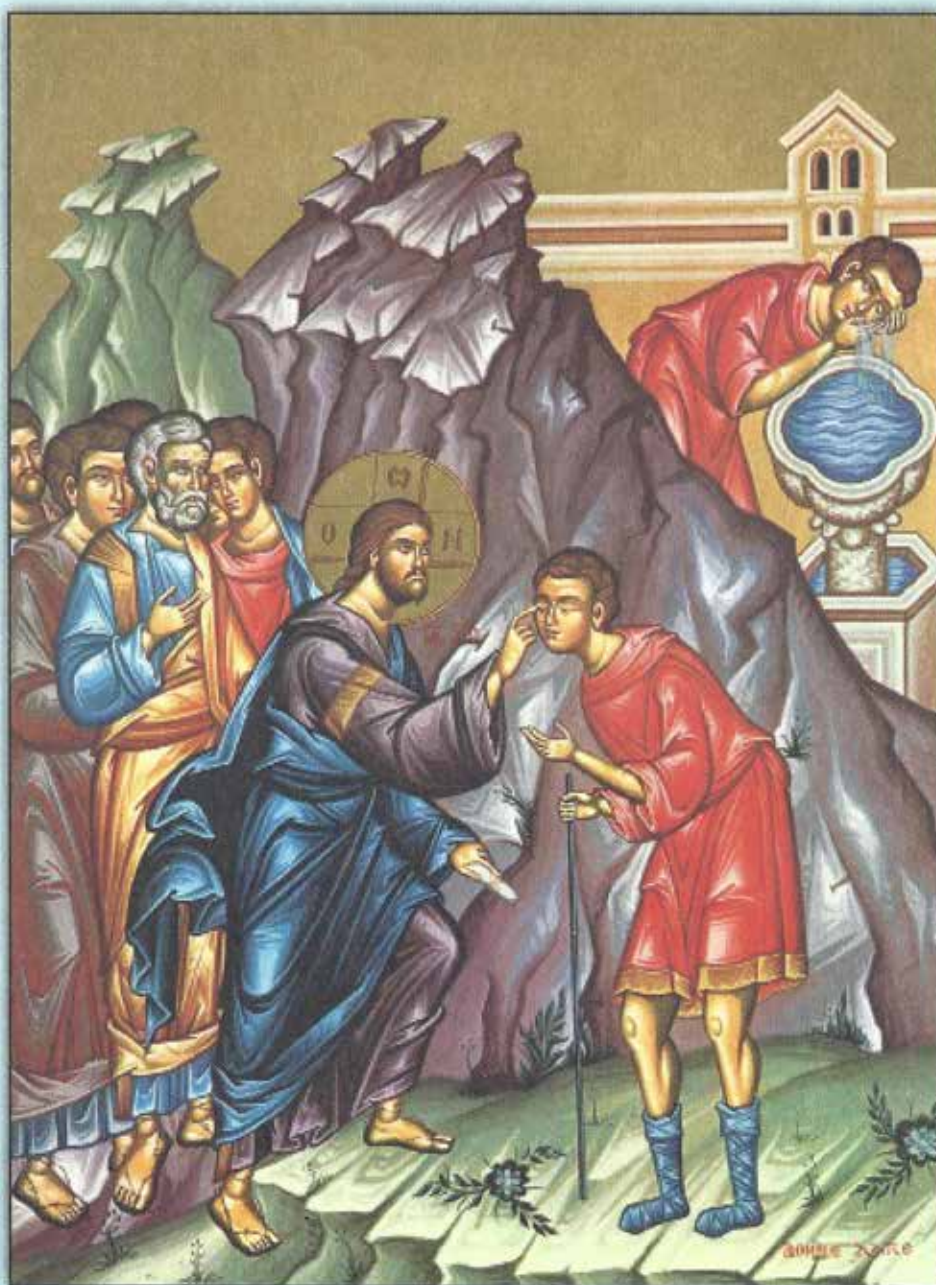


SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



Icon of the Gospel of the Man Born Blind

May 6, 2018: Sunday of the Man Born Blind		
	E pistle: Acts 16: 16-34	Gospel: Jn. 9: 1-38
Mon., May 7	8:00	+ Debra Altier (Hunt Family)
Tues., May 8	8:00	+ Evelyn Augustinsky (Rosemarie Sember)
Wed., May 9	8:00	+ Ann Marie Chelak (Nancy Kohut & Family)
		<u>For the Holy Day:</u>
	7:00 pm	+ Jill King (Stephanie Hallihan)
Thurs., May 10		Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)
	9:00	For Our Parishioners
Fri., May 11	8:00	+ Florence Chomo (Dorothy & Marlene)
	6:30	Moleben to the Mother of God
Sat., May 12		No Morning Divine Liturgy
	10:30	Confessions
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Joseph Muchisky (Wife Pauline & Sons)
Sun., May 13	9:00	+ Daniel Glucksnis (St. Cyril's Choir)
	11:30	For Our Mothers

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord falls on this Thursday, May 10th. 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.

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 famil-

iar, 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.

From the Chancery

On Sunday, June 10, at 3 pm, in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, clergy, religious and faithful will gather together for a Moleben service in praise, gratitude and thanksgiving to God for blessing the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

with The Most Reverend Stefan Soroka, Archbishop-emeritus and his dedicated years of service in the vineyard of the Lord. After the prayer service, everyone is invited to enjoy a social and reception in honor of Archbishop Stefan in the Cathedral Social Hall.

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 Lit-

urgy 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 fore bearers discarded some customs/traditions in hope of recognition. We now are re-claiming 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 Lit-

urgy and our posture of prayer is our expression of that belief. It is the forgiven that stand before God.

Community Project 2018

We wish to thank everyone for the generous donation of clothes and food for the our 2018 Community Service project, "Paying it forward" On March 27, 2018, 2 cars made deliveries of food to the "Bread Basket of Lackawanna" Jessup, PA. Additional grocery bags of food were donated to the "Rescue and Restore" Church, Olyphant.

Clothes were dropped off and donated to "United Neighborhood Center of Scran-

ton" and "Rescue and Restore" Church, in Olyphant, PA. 3 SUV's loaded with clothes were were dropped off at the United Neighborhood Center, (UNC) Scranton, on March 25, 2018 by the parishioners of St. Cyrils, Olyphant, PA as they "Pay it forward" . Special thanks to Bob "Hammer-man" Kletsko, Michealene Davis, Paul Mohila, and Lauren Telep who helped in transportation of the food and clothes to the designated donation centers.

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.

St. Mary's International Dinner Club

ST. MARY'S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. is having a Italian Dinner on May 10, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The menu will start with an Antipasto Salad and the Entree will be Cheese Stuffed Shells with Homemade Marinara Sauce and Pork

Tenderloin and Tuscan Style vegetables. The dessert will be Tiramisu. Non Alcoholic Beverages Included and a Cash Bar is available. Call 570-343-5151 by end of day Monday May 7th with your reservation. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

Mark Your Calendars...

On Sunday, May 20, 2018, we celebrate

the Feast of Pentecost. As is the tradition

in our Parish, we will celebrate a Divine Liturgy in the Cemetery Chapel (weather conditions permitting). 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.**

L.U.C. Meeting

Father Walter Pasicznyk, pastor of Plymouth's SS. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, extends a warm invitation to the beautiful Prayer Service - Moleben to Christ, Lover of Mankind (Чоловіколюбець) - on Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm to be followed by a church sponsored meeting of our North Anthracite

Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC). Plans for fund raising, the annual summer picnic and the October National Convention in Buffalo/Amherst, New York will be the primary agenda items. This is a public event of SS. Peter and Paul parish to which all parishioners and friends are welcome.

St. Cyril's at the Ball Park

Baseball tickets have been ordered for the Railriders game versus the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs on Thursday, June 21st at PNC Field. This game is scheduled

to start at 7:05 pm. Tickets are \$11.00. Please see Father Nestor if you are interested in going to this game.

“Barvinok” Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic parish is sponsoring a performance by the Ukrainian Folkdance group “Barvinok” [Periwinkle in Ukrainian] on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 4:00 pm at its parish center 428 North Seventh Avenue. The highly acclaimed dance group which hails from the Metropolitan New Jersey/New York City area has appeared in numerous venues on the East Coast and in Ukraine where they took first place in an international folk

dance competition. Under the direction of Mr. Gregory Momot, the troupe performs traditional dances from various regions of Ukraine while attired in colorful embroidered costumes. Mr. Momot was trained at the Kyiv Cultural University and danced with the world renowned Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company. His energetic and intricate choreography along with beautiful regional costumes bring alive the electrifying spirit of Ukrainian dance. Tickets

are \$10.00 in advance - \$12.00 at the door and can be purchased by contacting Kris-

ten Waznak at 570 241-1223.

Rummage Sale 2018

With the success of our Rummage Sale 2017, we do plan on having a Rummage Sale on September 21, 22 and 23, 2018. At this time, we still own the school building. We have stored our racks, tables and books etc.... in the gym for 2018. It is early, but if anyone (friends, neighbors, family) are planning on redecorating, having an estate sale or downsizing, we will accept furniture NOW, and through out the next 5 months. All other merchandise will be accepted in the summer/fall of 2018. Contact Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319 concerning any furniture/merchandise donations. If the status of the school

changes, we will have the rummage sale earlier than planned.

As always, volunteers will be needed through out the upcoming months. We always need parishioner to help in picking up donations from the community with their cars, trucks and SUV's. Please let us know that you can help us out in this area because if we don't pick up the donations, they can be thrown out to the garbage or donated to other organizations. Usually, we need the TRUCK, and have other people to load and unload the contents. We receive about 85% of our donations from the Mid-valley community.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of May 2018 is Team #1: Wil-

liam Vervan, Sr., Roger Barren, and Jerry Sereditch.

Sunday Collection for April 28 & 29, 2018: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for May 12 & 13, 2018

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nicholas Muchisky -- Nicholas Chylak	John Sakson
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

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

A Link to Baptism

The cure of the blind man also symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is called holy enlightenment. Those who have been recently baptized are called the newly enlightened. This gospel from Saint John was read in the ancient Church on Holy Saturday when Catechumens were baptized. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores His creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam.

We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man

but something has significantly changed about him. He is no longer blind. So when we are illuminated we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must, however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world, "I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened." Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.