

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Transfiguration -- August 6th

August 2, 2020: Ninth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: 1 Cor. 3: 9-17		Gospel: Mt. 14: 22-34
Mon., Aug. 3	9:00	+ Patty Telep Thanasides (Lauren Telep)
Tues., Aug. 4	9:00	+ Rich Golubowicz (Cousins)
Wed., Aug. 5	9:00	+ Andy Marcinko (Andrea Novak)
Thurs. Aug. 6	Transfiguration of Our Lord	
	9:00	+ Gene & Joan Turko (Marcella)
Fri., Aug. 7	9:00	+ Barbara Spryn (Mary Ann Spryn)
Sat., Aug. 8	1:00	Confessions.
	3:00	+ John Marushock (Sister, Ilona)
Sun., Aug. 9	10:00	For Our Parishioners

PRAYERS NEEDED!

We join all Christians of the Byzantine tradition in outrage over the “return” of the Great Church of Constantinople to public prayer as a mosque. We ask the intercession of the Theotokos to protect and defend her City, the Christians who remain there, and all Christians who suffer persecution for the faith around the world. Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) is the mother Church of all Christians of the Byzantine Tradition. From Constantinople, Ss. Cyril and Methodius evangelized the Slavs and emissaries brought the Faith to Prince Vladimir of ‘Rus’.

“And we went into the Greek lands,

and we were led into a place where they serve their God, and we did not know where we were, on heaven or on earth; and we do not know how to tell about this. All we know is that God lives there with people and their service is better than in any other country. We cannot forget that beauty since each person, if he eats something sweet, will not take something bitter afterwards; so we cannot remain any more in paganism.”

St. Vladimir was impressed by this account of his envoys and that is how Christianization of the Kiev Rus’ took place. Built in 537 by the Emperor Justinian, it was converted to Islamic worship after the fall of Constantinople

to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. After the foundation of the Turkish Republic, it was converted to museum status to make its magnificent Christian iconography, covered over for centuries, visible once again. The president of Turkey currently faces stiff opposition around the world for his imperialist policies abroad and his disregard for human rights at home. The “restoration” of Hagia Sophia to Islamic worship is a sop thrown to his Islamist supporters for purely political motives and a distraction from the

corruption of his government. With some 3,000 active mosques in Istanbul, Hagia Sophia was not needed as an additional worship space for Istanbul’s Muslims. In solidarity with the Patriarchate of Constantinople, Pope Francis called for a day of mourning on Friday, July 24. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops specifically recommended the praying of the Akathist Hymn, which expresses the Virgin’s special protection of Constantinople as “her” city.

KEEP YOUR FORK

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things “in order,” she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what Scriptures she would like read, and what outfit that she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible. Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. “There’s one more thing,” she said excitedly. “What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply. “This is very important,” the woman continued.

“I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.” The pastor stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say. “That surprises you, doesn’t it?” the woman asked.

“Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request,” said the pastor. The woman explained. “In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, ‘Keep your fork.’ It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming... like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork

in my hand and I want them to wonder ‘What’s with the fork?’ Then I want you to tell them:”

“Keep your fork... the best is yet to come.” The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral, people were walking by the woman’s casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and her favorite Bible and the fork placed in her right

hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled. During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably will not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you oh so gently, that the best is yet to come.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of our first venture into this fund raiser: to the committee, the volunteers and those of you who patronized the event. Special thanks to Harry Zinskie for the beautiful reusable signs, for making and distributing them. Special thanks to DJ Paul Mizarek, to

Paul Dudrich, and to the Pat Marcinko Trio for providing the wonderful entertainment. It was so much fun doing this that we plan to host another Food Truck Festival in September. A full accounting of our profits will appear in next week’s bulletin.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to our Food Truck Festival Raffle Winners. First prize 50% of ticket sales: \$580 was won by Lorie Schweinsburg; Second prize: Waterford

crystal bowl went to David Wiltz; Third prize: gift basket was won by Smolly (Cathy Curran).

SOME COVID 19 REMINDERS

We thank our Parishioners for complying with both our Governor's and Archbishop's request that we wear face masks. We remind our Parishioners, however, that for the face mask to be effective, it needs to cover BOTH your mouth and nose. We understand that while it may be uncomfortable, it is necessary in order for us to get through this plague.

We also ask our Parishioners not to block off the center of the pews. If there is room, please move in towards the center in order to make room for other Parishioners.

Finally, please remember to TAKE HOME both your Church Bulletin and Divine Liturgy book.

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation!

PIGGIE DINNER

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 N. Main St. Pittston, Pa. 18640 is having a DRIVE THRU TAKE OUT PIGGIE DINNER on Thursday, August 6, 2020 from 4pm to 6pm or until all Dinners

are sold. The menu will be Piggies, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Bread and a Dessert. The Cost is \$12.00 per dinner and it is payable at the Drive-Thru.

19TH ANNUAL LEBANESE-AMERICAN "MINI" FOOD FEST

Date: August 7-9, 2020. Time: Fri. Aug 7: 4 - 9 pm; Sat. Aug 8: 4 - 9 pm; Sun. Aug 9: 1 - 7 pm. Location: St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 N. St. Frances Cabrini Ave (off lower Jackson St), West Scranton, PA.

Brief Description: Take Out and Pickup Great Middle Eastern Food and pastries, Local picnic food favorites, variety baskets,

clams, beer. No games or book sale this year.

Please follow current mask & distance guidelines.

Prepaid orders after Aug 1. Call 570-343-6092. For menu or info - www.melkite.scranton.org or facebook.com/melkitescranton.

Contact: melkite.scranton@gmail.com

**ST. CYRIL'S FURNITURE SALE, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY,
AUGUST 7-8TH.**

This the weekend for St. Cyril's 3rd annual fundraiser furniture/home decor sale. Hope to see you in the back driveway of the Church/rectory as we have the 1st Furniture (etc...) Sale OUTSIDE!!!!

VOLUNTERS: Men are needed to help move the furniture outside this coming week. Yes, there are a few heavy items, but also kitchen chairs, nightstands, coffee tables, bed frames, lamps, mirrors, suitcases, a box of baskets, tables, walkers, wall decor that will be lighter, and very easy to move. We need manpower and even the ladies can help out too. We have dollies to help with the larger items.

SCHEDULE: Starting Monday, August 3rd at 10:00 A.M. will begin to move items out of the gym. All week at 9:30 a.m.- Noon, Tuesday, August 4th, Wednesday, August 5th, Thursday, August 6th. If you cannot be at the school gym at 9:30 a.m., just show up and help when you are available. The schedule may change if it is raining. Call Lauren on her cell phone at any time to verify we are open and working at 646-241-9443.

All size TARPS ARE NEEDED to cover items at night or in case of rain. Please let us borrow them, label them with your name, and they will be returned. Leave them in the back of the rectory/school on the picnic table ASAP.

ON FRIDAY AUGUST 7TH AND SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH:

With this pandemic, our lives have certainly changed. We all do what we are comfortable doing. We all understand everyone's concerns. Perhaps you can still volunteer, for a few hours. It would be appreciated so very much. Wear your Mask and try to keep a social distance. All fundraiser's for the Church helps pay the bills and keep our Church doors open.

Volunteers are needed throughout the day on Friday (7TH) and Saturday(8Th): helping at the checkout table, assisting customers with sales, general information, sell raffle tickets (sitting at the table) assist at the pizza stand, etc.... All help is appreciated and the end result is for the benefit of our church. Give Lauren a call for an idea time you can volunteer: staring at 9:00 in the morning, or afternoon, or later in the day. We need help throughout the 2 days, by showing up and lend a helping hand. Please call Lauren at her (NYC Cell #) 646-241-9443. Thank you so very much. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day. Wear your mask!!!

Customers can enter from 135 River Street (between the school and the rectory) or from W. Grant St. The kitchen will be closed for this outdoor sale. Ethnic food will be served by our neighbor, Russens Sports Bar. Come for good food and a 50/50 raffle. Stop and see all the items for the Furniture/decor Sale. WE have an assortment of chairs, desks, lamps, wall mirrors, kitchen tables, wall decor, entertainment units, L.R. Chairs, headboards/footboards for the bed, couches, coffee tables, shelving, dressers, glass top table with marble stands and

matching chairs, etc. A few other items available are luggage, baskets, and walkers.

The music entertainment will be provided by well-known parishioners.

The parking lot at 207 River St. (kindergarten building) should be more accessible for parking your cars, on Saturday afternoon for the Divine Liturgy at 3:00 p.m.

Special thanks to our fellow parishioners: Jeanne and Steve Cucura who have volunteered their time endlessly throughout the weeks. We appreciate Steve for the use of his Truck....especially in the logistics of moving the 550 lbs Glass tabletop table, marble support stands, and 12 chairs. It took 9 men to remove the glass top from the back of Steve's truck.

AFTER THE FURNITURE SALE:

Yes, any unsold items need to be removed from the BACK DRIVEWAY. Depending on the items, which may be donated or held for our future 10th annual RUMMAGE SALE. It seems like the work for the sales is "never-ending". We need to re-organize the school gym and return the garage back to Father Nestor for his car. Staring at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10th all able parishioners are asked to help out. If need be, Tuesday, August 11th at 11:00 a.m. Contact Lauren regarding the "after-sale" re-organization for our 10th Rummage Sale in the future.

CUSTOM-MADE SOLID GLASS TOP TABLE

FYI.....For yourself, family, friends, or business! Custom-made solid glass top rectangle table, 5 feet x 10 feet, 5/8 inch thick glass with 2 marble support stands and 12 matching black lacquer chairs and glass/black lacquer curio. All in excellent condition. Special thanks for the guys from Dunmore, our Church parishioners, and Church neighbors to get it safely to St.

Cyril's back yard. Weighs approximately 550-600 lbs. If you are interested in this one of a kind, custom-made glass tabletop contact Lauren! 645-241-9443 (Tables and chairs sold together, and the curio by itself) The sale price is \$1999.00 the original retail (Custom made glass tabletop with marble support stands) was \$5,000.00 Stop by and see it!

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of August 2020 is Team #4: Joe

Smagula & Ronald Barkofsky.

Sunday Collection for July 25 & 26, 2020: \$

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

It is good for us to be here

Upon Mount Tabor, Jesus revealed to his disciples a heavenly mystery. While living among them he had spoke of the kingdom and of his second coming in glory, but to banish from their hearts any possible doubt concerning the kingdom and to confirm their faith in what lay in the future by its prefiguration in the present, he gave them on Mount Tabor a wonderful vision of his glory, a foreshadowing of the kingdom of heaven.

These are the divine wonders we celebrate today; this is the saving revelation given us upon the mountain; this is the festival of Christ that has drawn us here.

Let us listen, then, to the sacred voice of

God so compellingly calling us from high, from the summit of the mountain, so that with the Lord's chosen disciples we may penetrate the deep meaning of these holy mysteries, so far beyond our capacity to express.

Jesus goes before us to show us the way, both up the mountain and into heaven, and – I speak boldly – it is for us now to follow him with all speed, yearning for the heavenly vision that will give us a share in his radiance, renew our spiritual nature and transform us into his own likeness, making us for ever sharers in his Godhead and raising us to heights as yet undreamed of.

Sermon of St. Anastasius of Sinai