

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Jesus Healing a Blind Beggar - Luke 18:35-43

January 19, 2020: Sunday After Theophany

Epistle: 1 Tim. 1: 15-17

Gospel: Lk. 18: 35-43

Mon., Jan. 20	8:00	+ Kimberly Jacobs Mellow (Family)
Tues., Jan. 21	8:00	+ Andrew & Anna Smagula (Joseph Smagula)
Wed., Jan. 22	8:00	+ Victims of Abortion
Thurs., Jan. 23	8:00	+ Marge Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene)
Fri., Jan. 24	12:00	Funeral: + Anna Mae Schurko
Sat., Jan. 25	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Robert Harris (Wife, Jule)	
Sun., Jan. 26	9:00	+ Howard Smith (Son, Howard)
	11:30	For Our Parishioners

TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY

One of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, had said: "The most important function of the Government is to Protect the Lives of its citizens." Wednesday, January 22, 2020, we sadly observe the 47th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision which legalized the murder of unborn children. On this day, please pray for all the victims of this massacre -- for all the children who have not been born. Pray for those who provide this evil -- that they may see the error of their ways and repent! Pray for those who suffer as a result of having had an abortion!

Thousands and thousands of people will be gathering in Washington, DC, on Thursday and Friday. The Solemn Vigil Mass for Life takes place Thursday evening at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. EWTN begins live coverage at 5:30 pm.

On Friday, the Pro-Life Rally and March for Life takes place. EWTN begins coverage at 9:00 am.

In the words of St. John Paul II: "A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope." Let us pray for an end to this modern day genocide!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

“As rain is necessary that plants may live and be refreshed, so prayer is necessary for the nourishment of the life of the soul.” -- St. John Chrysostom.

And yet, although prayer is so necessary, why do some people neglect it? A few reasons are: the weakness of human nature as a result of original sin; sloth; a personal attachment to the materialism of the world; failure to cooperate with the actual grace of God; etc.

Each day *adore* your Creator, the one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *thank* God for the countless graces received; *make reparation* to God for your offenses; *petition* God for benefits for yourself and for others -- living and departed.

The Divine Liturgy includes the above four purposes, and is the greatest form

of prayer that a creature can give to the Creator. Consistently participate in this Sublime Sacrifice!

Say all the traditional prayers with fixed number of words. But also use your own words to tell God of your anxieties, problems, sufferings, intentions, etc.

Parents and children should pray together at least once a day. *“A family that prays together stays together.”*

In the words of St. Paul: *“pray without ceasing.”* Pray especially in time of spiritual and temporal danger. Never be a prayer-quitter; always persevere. Continue with your efforts to ward off distractions. Finally, as St. Alphonsus Liguori reminds us: *“One who prays will be saved, but one who does not pray will be lost.”*

-- by Msgr. John Squiller

ASK THE PASTOR...

QUESTION: *What is the significance of receiving a 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 asked the blessing of priests as they walked down the street.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

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 and fingers?

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

Q: Our Eyes?

A: To gather food, to spot prey when hunting, to help us 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 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 choirs of angels our praises, our thanksgiving, our requests to the Lord.

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

KEEP GREETING ONE ANOTHER

A reminder to all: just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40 day preparation and fasting period, so now we celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beautiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional

***Christos Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho!
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

During the darkness of the Winter months, do all you can to keep the bright light of Christ burning brightly! Let Christ shine through you!

Note: according to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2nd.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS COMING TO AN END

Volunteers are needed! Again, special thanks to the Parishioners who decorated the Church for Christmas. We received

so many comments as to how beautifully the Church was decorated. (A little girl, age 4, told Father Nestor: "It is the most

beautiful place in the world.” Decorating for Christmas we only had 7 women, 1 man, and 4 teen-age Parishioners.

Taking down the decorations is much easier. Everything is double-checked to see that it is marked with a ribbon for its proper location for next Christmas. Lights are wound, everything is stored in bins, etc. and stored in the Church basement.

We need the men of the Parish to help with the manger itself, the larger trees, ladders, etc.

Lend us a hand next Saturday, January 25th IMMEDIATELY after the 4:00 Divine Liturgy. If not completed, we will finish IMMEDIATELY after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy.

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER

Please remember the entire Liturgy is an invitation to celebrate and encounter our God; by missing out on this special moment at any given week we deny ourselves the intimacy and knowledge of God that we essentially crave as human beings. Having said this we also need to understand that when we do attend the Liturgy our Goal is not just to receive the Eucharist and dash, but to connect and receive all the Graces God has to offer in the week following the

services. To leave the liturgy early after communion is to turn your back on the Holy Eucharist (Body and Blood of Jesus, His real presence). Please be considerate and wait a few minutes for the final Priest’s Blessing and join the congregation in praying the Vocation Prayer. Your attention and understanding of these concerns is appreciated and will help the community as a whole be a prayerful place.

JESUS AT THE WINDOW

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods but he could never hit the target. Discouraged, he headed back to dinner. As he was walking back he saw Grandma’s pet duck. Just on an impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head and killed it. He was

shocked and grieved. In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the woodpile only to see his sister watching.

Sally had seen it all but she said nothing. After lunch that day Grandma said, “Sally, let’s wash the dishes.” But Sally said, “Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen.” Then she whispered to him, “Remember the duck?”

So Johnny did the dishes. Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper." But Sally just smiled and said, "Well, that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?"

So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help. After several days of John-

ny doing both his chores and Sally's he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug and said, "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing. But, because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

HOLY NAME SOCIETY RAFFLE

Once again St. Cyril's Holy Name Society mailed raffle tickets to our Parishioners. Please support the work of St. Cyril's Holy Name Society by dropping your re-

turns into the Sunday Collection Basket as soon as possible. Additional tickets may be obtained from any Holy Name Society member.

DEADLINE FOR 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday, January 26, 2020 is the deadline for making donations which will be credited to 2019. Any contributions

received after this date will be credited for 2020.

DIVINE LITURGY ATTENDANCE ON SNOWY DAYS

It is very rare that the Divine Liturgy is canceled, especially on a Sunday. I want to encourage those of you who must walk further or more importantly, who drive to Church, to PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE, when making a determination about attending the Divine Liturgy on the

snowy, icy, inclement weekend or even more so, on the weekday. If attendance means putting yourself and others at risk, I am sure the Lord understands if you should decide to pray at home. Please use common sense and a well-informed conscience when making such a decision.

OUR NEXT SOBORCHYK (DEANERY GATHERING)

Our next Soborchyk (Deanery Gathering)

is scheduled for Wednesday, February

5, 2020, at Scranton's St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church. The snow date is Wednesday, February 12, 2020. All interested Parishioners are invited

to attend. If you would like to attend, please let Father Nestor know as soon as possible.

PARISH MEETING

There will be a Parish Meeting following the 11:30 Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 9, 2020. All Parish Council and Finance Council members are requested

to attend. Anyone else that is interested is invited to attend. We need to discuss several maintenance issues and plan our calendar for the upcoming year.

PRE-LENTEN PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Father Myron and his Parish Family of Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church cordially invite you to join them for their annual Pre-Lenten pork and sauerkraut/kapusta dinner on Sunday, February 16, 2020 beginning at 12:15 pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 N. Seventh Ave. - between West

Lackawanna Ave. and West Linden St.

Menu: slow roasted pork loin, gravy, Ukrainian kapusta (sweet and sour cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages.

Adults: \$13.00; Students: \$8.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of January 2020 is Team #1: Jerry

Sereditch, Michaelene Davis and Gloria Jablonski.

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for January 25 & 26, 2020

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Hunter Wegforth -- Nicholas Borowski	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Brennin Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Thomas Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

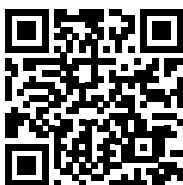
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

The Gospel today describes Jesus' arrival in Jericho. It is the last stop before Jesus goes to Jerusalem, where His "Exodus", according to what He announced in the Transfiguration scene will take place. He has also issued similar sentiments along the way to Jerusalem (Lk 9: 44; 18:31-33).

The blind man sitting on the side of the road. "Now it happened that as Jesus drew near to Jericho, there was a blind man sitting on the side of the road begging. When he heard the crowd going past he asked what it was all about. They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by". In the Gospel of Mark, the blind man is called Bartimaeus (Mk 10:46). Since he was blind, he could not participate in the procession which accompanied Jesus. At that time, there may have been many blind people in Palestine

possibly because of the strong sun and arid conditions.

The cry of the blind man and the reaction of the people. "Then he began to cry out: Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" He calls Jesus using the title "Son of David". The teaching of that time taught that the Messiah would descend from David, a "Son of David". Jesus did not like this title. In quoting the Messianic Psalm, he asks Himself: "How is it that the Messiah can be the son of David if even David calls him "My Lord?" The cry of the blind man bothers the people who accompany Jesus. Consequently, "The people in front scold him telling him to keep quiet." However, "he only shouted all the louder, Son of David have pity on me!" This occurs in our time when the cry of the poor bothers the established society.