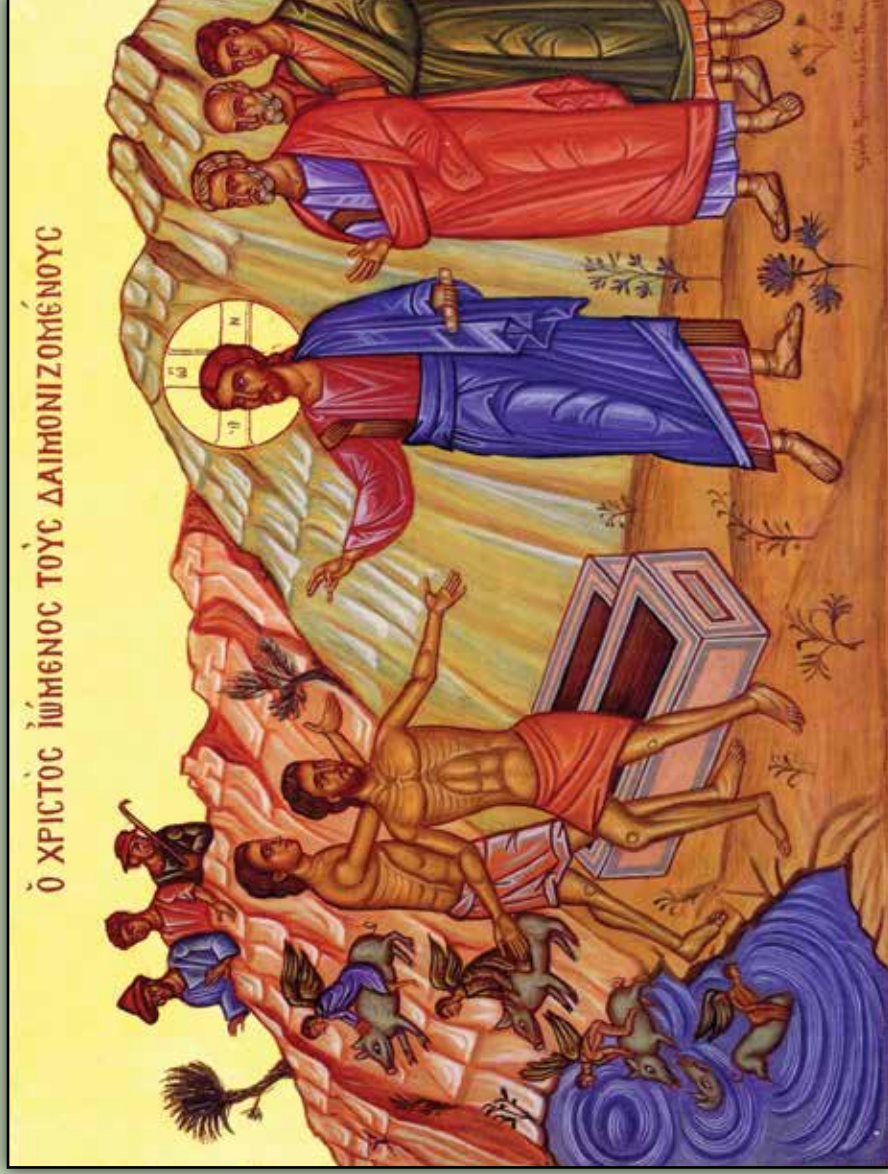


FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

July 5, 2020: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Rom. 10: 1-10		Gospel: Mt. 8:28 - 9:1
Mon., July 6	9:00	+ Chuck Fowler (Lauren Telep)
Tues., July 7	9:00	+ Evelyn & John Yeck Jr. (Bob & Joan Yeck)
Wed., July 8	9:00	+ John Sereditch (Muchisky Family)
Thurs. July 9	9:00	+ Ihor Raniwskyj (Michal Bak)
Fri., July 10	No Divine Liturgy Today	
Sat., July 11	1:00	Confessions.
	3:00	+ George & Mary Marushock (Daughter, Ilona)
Sun., July 12	10:00	For Our Parishioners

4TH OF JULY HISTORY & TRIVIA: DID YOU KNOW...

- The major objection to being ruled by Britain was taxation without representation. The colonists had no say in the decisions of English Parliament.
- In May, 1776, after nearly a year of trying to resolve their differences with England, the colonies sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. Finally, in June, admitting that their efforts were hopeless; a committee was formed to compose the formal Declaration of Independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee also included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. On June 28, 1776, Thomas Jefferson presented the first draft of the declaration to Congress.
- Betsy Ross, according to legend, sewed the first American flag in May or June 1776, as commissioned by the Congressional Committee.
- Independence Day was first celebrated in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.
- The Liberty Bell sounded from the tower of Independence Hall on July 8, 1776, summoning citizens to gather for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence by Colonel John Nixon.
- June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, looking to promote national pride and unity, adopted the national

flag. “Resolved: that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”



- The first public Fourth of July event at the White House occurred in 1804.
- Before cars ruled the roadway, the Fourth of July was traditionally the most miserable day of the year for horses, tormented by all the noise and by the boys and girls who threw firecrackers at them.
- The first Independence Day celebration west of the Mississippi occurred at Independence Creek and was celebrated by Lewis and Clark in 1805.
- On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote.

- Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on Independence Day, July 4, 1826.

- The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence did not sign at the same time, nor did they sign on July

4, 1776. The official event occurred on August 2, 1776, when 50 men signed it.

- The names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were withheld from the public for more than six months to protect the signers. If independence had not been achieved, the treasonable act of the signers would have, by law, resulted in their deaths.
- Thomas McKean was the last to sign in January, 1777.
- The origin of Uncle Sam probably began in 1812, when Samuel Wilson was a meat packer who provided meat to the US Army. The meat shipments were stamped with the initials, U.S. Someone joked that the initials stood for “Uncle Sam”. This joke eventually led to the idea

of Uncle Sam symbolizing the United States government.

- In 1941, Congress declared 4th of July a federal legal holiday. It is one

of the few federal holidays that have not been moved to the nearest Friday or Monday.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

EMBRACING THE TRUTH IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES A REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND

In one of the most significant trials in human history, the trial of Jesus before Pilate, Pilate asks Jesus, “What is Truth?”

In the Gospel of John, we read “Pilate said to Him, ‘Then You are a king? Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this, I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice. Pilate said to Him “What is truth?” (John 18:37-38)

What is truth? What a profound rhetorical question?

When one reflects on the meaning of truth, one realizes that truth is immutable, it does not change. It is an absolute. Think of a witness in the courtroom -- the witness places a hand on the Bible and swears to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

But what is the source of ultimate truth in this life?

It is Christ Himself — for Jesus tells us “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

In today’s Gospel, Jesus encounters two possessed men and drives the demons out of them into the swine and they meet their doom. The Truth, Jesus Christ, by encountering evil destroys evil. Truth overcomes evil.

The importance of truth for us as moral human beings is beautifully expressed in the encyclical of St. John Paul II entitled “*Veritatis splendor* — the Splendor of Truth.”

“The splendor of truth shines forth in all the works of the Creator and, in a special way, in man, created in the image and likeness of God. Truth enlightens man’s intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord.”

From the truth that we discern and

with which are consciences are formed, we increase our understanding of human existence and ultimately our relationship to our Creator, Almighty God.

The prophet Micah reminds us, “You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: “Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

To do justice and good, one must know the truth.

Sounds simple! Yet we human beings find such advice hard to follow.

One cannot do justice and love goodness without knowing the Truth -- the revealed truth of Jesus Christ and what God, the ultimate lawgiver, provides for us in Holy Scripture.

Think back again to the trial of Jesus before Pilate.

After His scourging, Jesus again came before Pilate, and Pilate asked him, “Where are You from? Jesus did not answer Him so Pilate said to Him: “Do you not know that I have power to release You and I have power to crucify You?” Jesus answered: “You would have no power over Me if it had not been given to You from above.” (John 19:9-11)

What is Jesus telling Pilate? Any power Pilate has comes from God. That Almighty God is the source of our human governance. St. Paul states this

principle in his Epistle to the Romans, “Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established from God.” (Romans 13:1)

The ultimate lawgiver is Almighty God.

Our Founding Fathers knew this principle and expressed this reality in these immortal words from the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

The brave men gathered in Philadelphia in 1776, who risked their lives and their sacred honor to establish this nation, a bold experiment in democracy, acknowledged that all rights are derived not from kings or presidents, or parliaments or congresses. Human beings are endowed with these rights by their Creator, Almighty God..

This Independence Day weekend, let us be grateful and thankful to Almighty God for inspiring our Founding Fathers with the truth and the courage and wisdom to establish for themselves, for us and our posterity this great nation, the United States of America.

And as we enjoy the blessings of liberty, let us walk the Way of Jesus Christ on our journey to eternal life,

as we come to know, understand and embrace Him, the Truth of the world.

A NOTE FROM FATHER NESTOR

It has been brought to my attention that a few parishioners have received a text (a scam) from me. It requested money via gift cards. They are requesting money for a sick women with cancer or need a kidney transplant. This is a scam! Be aware of the phone number and the name requesting the money. Never send money or gift cards to any

phone number, especially 570-397-7941. Please notify the police, if this happens. As one Parishioner texted back to the scam phone number... "The best number to reach me is 570-383-1820." If the scammer calls this phone number, it is the Olyphant Police Station.

UPDATE: FURNITURE SALE AND THE RUMMAGE SALE 2020

During this pandemic, we have updated our status on the furniture sale and the rummage sale 2020. The dates of Friday, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th, 2020 have been set for the furniture sale. This year, it will be held OUTSIDE. Yes, OUTSIDE behind the Church and Rectory in the driveway. WE HAVE TO SELL THE FURNITURE TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE TABLES FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE IN THE FALL. Now is the time to donate furniture: outdoor, living room, bedroom, kitchen, office etc... including lamps and wall hangings for the August sale, ASAP.

The Circle-Drive Flea Market, Dickson City, has been successful for the past few weeks because it is outside where people wear masks and shop to their heart content. Our FIRST OUTSIDE FURNITURE SALE will be in August with your help and donations. This is something new to do as we adjust to our current situation and keeping our fundraiser active.

We understand everyone's concern about this Health Crisis. We will follow all public health directives. Volunteers will be needed for the set-up Outside and working for the furniture sale. We need your support for the 4th annual furniture fundraiser for our church. Contact Lauren, regarding the donation of Furniture. Parishioners with pick up trucks will be needed to help out, contact Father Nestor.

Our 10th Annual Rummage Sale scheduled for September 18, 19, and 20, 2020 (our traditional 3rd week-end in September) has been POSTPONED and will be re-scheduled. This is due to the current status of Lackawanna County and for the safety of our parishioners and customers.

We understand everyone's concern about handling items and hopefully, by October/November 2020, things will be back to normal. More information to follow over the next few weeks. We will still be accepting donations for the furniture sale and the Rummage sale. Time will tell. We will do the best we can with fewer volunteers. Contact Lauren Telep 570-383-0319 or cell 646-241-9443.

Rummage sale 2020, ITEMS ACCEPTED: Clean, saleable and workable items: Furniture, new items, books, household items, kitchen items, bathroom, bedroom, living room, basement, outdoor, garden, craft items, office supplies, children books, toys, games, sporting goods, all holidays, ladies' jewelry and handbags, tools, music media-records, antiques, religious, Ukrainian items, ETC... *******(Please NO clothes, NO shoes, NO TV's, NO computers, NO baby car seat carriers, NO cribs, NO VHS Tapes, NO exercise equipment, NO TEXT books, NO Bowling Balls, NO Ski Equipment/Boots, NO encyclopedias, NO mattresses, NO NON-WORKING (electric) ITEMS!!!******* DONATIONS: Being accepted: JULY 5, 2020 from Estates, Moving Sales, Yard Sales, Garage Sales etc... CONTACT: REGARDING DONATIONS, ETC... Very Rev. Father Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor of St. Cyril's Church (570) 291-4451 Website: <http://stcyrils.weconnect.com> or LAUREN TELEP at (570)383-0319/ CELL (646)241-9443 Come and volunteer!!!

******Note, these items do not sell at our rummage sale, or legally we are not allowed to sell. Some items need to be taken to the recycle center and payment is due to throw them out. After all these years, we have to specify what we will accept and not accept at our rummage sale.***

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team Cheryl Matuszewski, and Dorothy for the month of July 2020 is Team Zinsky.
#3: Helen Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno,

**Sunday Collection for June 27 & 28, 2020:
\$2,619.00**



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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Warfare Within Us

The whole warfare of the demons against us is waged with the one purpose of alienating those who obey them from the glory of God and the grace of the Holy Spirit. But, as I see it, we have already deprived ourselves of such a gift before they even attack us, because we have forsaken the commandments of God and have not been eager to seek Him with all our soul. Had we sought Him we should not have lived so idly and carelessly! Had we been concerned for the things of heaven we should not have shown such great eagerness for the things of earth. Had our thoughts been on things incorruptible we should not have gaped greedily after the things that are transitory and corruptible.

Had we striven for things eternal we should not thus have pursued things temporal. Had we loved God we should not thus have turned away from those who guide us to Him. Had we sought to acquire virtues we would not have abhorred the teachers of virtues. Had we gladly embraced fasting we should not have complained of the lack of food and drink. Had we fought to gain control over our passions we should not have given ourselves unrestrainedly to pleasures. Had we a right and firm faith we should not have performed the works of faithlessness. Had we been found worthy to attain true love we should have known God.

St. Simeon the New Theologian