

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



*Icon of the Paralytic Lowered through the Roof*

| <b>March 8, 2020: Second Sunday of the Great Fast</b> |                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Epistle: Heb. 1:10 - 2:3                              | Gospel: Mk. 2: 1-12                                                                                             |
| <b>Mon., March 9</b>                                  | 8:00 + Ann Murty (Cecile Bordlemay)                                                                             |
| <b>Tues., March 10</b>                                | 8:00 + Fred Jacobs (John & Diann Yuhnick)                                                                       |
| <b>Wed., March 11</b>                                 | 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy                                                                                   |
| <b>Thurs. March 12</b>                                | 8:00 + Mary & Harry Farnetti (Leo Danylak)                                                                      |
| <b>Fri., March 13</b>                                 | 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross                                                                                   |
| <b>Sat., March 14</b>                                 | <b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b><br>10:30 Confessions<br>2:00 pm Confessions<br>4:00 pm + Jimmy Maslar (Family) |
| <b>Sun., March 15</b>                                 | 9:00 + Nicole Yeck Cremard (Mom & Dad)<br>11:30 For Our Parishioners<br>3:00 pm Sorokousty                      |

## **Meditation for the Second Sunday of Great Lent**

A meaningful journey through Great Lent ought to unsettle our comfort zones. One of these comfort zones might be an attitude of living with an attitude of entitlement. Recall how some of the apostles were arguing among themselves as to who was the most important. Jesus sat them down and said, "If anyone wishes to rank first, he must remain the last one of all and the servant of all" (Mk. 9:36). How do we approach Jesus?

Recall how the Gospels tell of us people jeering, insulting and mocking Jesus on the cross. When we judge others, laugh or bully others for what we

perceive as different in the way they do things or present themselves, are we not like those unpleasant persons at the foot of the cross? Are we setting ourselves as more important than others just as the apostles did? The friends of the paralytic in today's Gospel reveal to us how we ought to witness to Jesus Christ. They were so motivated that they even made a hole in someone's roof to get their friend to Jesus for healing. Jesus tells them that the paralytic is healed because of the faith of these friends. They vividly reveal what being a servant to one another calls us to do. Others around us are thirsting

to hear the healing words of Jesus Christ, and not demeaning, critical or bullying words. Dare to be a servant of others, presenting them to Jesus Christ for healing in

our prayers, with our words of love and encouragement, and forgiveness. Take the challenge!

## **SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST**

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations

are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy, Akafist of the Passion and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sokrousty).

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful. This year, families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

## **REFLECTIONS ON “FASTING” (CONT.)**

**Question #2: Did Jesus really teach fasting?** Yes, He instructs us, “When the Bridegroom is taken away, My disciples will fast” (Matthew 9:15). And He presumes His followers will fast, in His Sermon on the Mount when He teaches, “When you fast ...” not if you fast. He goes on to say,

“Anoint your head and wash your face so that you do not appear to be fasting before men ... your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” (Matt. 6:16-18).

**Question #3: When did fasting on certain days originate?** As early as

the first century, in the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, we read: “He (Christ) commanded us to fast on Wednesday and Friday.” The Saints explain, we fast

“on Wednesday because on this day Our Lord was betrayed; and on Friday because on this day He suffered death for our salvation.”

## **PUPPIES FOR SALE (UNDERSTANDING)**

A shop owner placed a sign above his door that said: “Puppies For Sale.” Signs like this always have a way of attracting young children, and to no surprise, a boy saw the sign and approached the owner:

“How much are you going to sell the puppies for?” he asked.

The store owner replied, “Anywhere from \$30 to \$50.”

The little boy pulled out some change from his pocket. “I have \$2.37,” he said. “Can I please look at them?” The shop owner smiled and whistled. Out of the kennel came Lady, who ran down the aisle of his shop followed by five teeny, tiny balls of fur. One puppy was lagging considerably behind. Immediately the little boy singled out the lagging, limping puppy and said, “What’s wrong with that little dog?”

The shop owner explained that the veterinarian had examined the little puppy and had discovered it didn’t have a hip socket. It would always limp. It would

always be lame. The little boy became excited. “That is the puppy that I want to buy.” The shop owner said, “No, you don’t want to buy that little dog. If you really want him, I’ll just give him to you.” The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the store owner’s eyes, pointing his finger, and said; “I don’t want you to give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as all the other dogs and I’ll pay full price. In fact, I’ll give you \$2.37 now, and 50 cents a month until I have him paid for.”

The shop owner countered, “You really don’t want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies.”

To his surprise, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the shop owner and softly replied, “Well, I don’t run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!”

## **CEMETERY GRAVE DECORATIONS**

Our Cemetery Care-Takers are beginning to prepare our Cemetery in anticipation

of the Spring season. They ask that all Christmas and artificial decorations

be removed from the graves. These decorations can get in the way of grass-cutting, damage our equipment, or even

result an injury. Any left-over decorations can be retrieved by the Cemetery Garage.

## **UKRAINIAN EASTER EGG WORKSHOP**

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant will again be offering Pysanky Classes. At this time there will be three dates, March 1, 15, & 22, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The beginner class is approximately two hours

long. The cost will be \$20 and includes the supplies needed to make your egg. For more information or to sign up for the class, please call Sonia Maslar at 570-489-9608 or Tammy Budnovitch at 570-766-1919 (after 5 pm).

## **ST. CYRIL'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEETING**

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society will meet this Sunday (March 8<sup>th</sup>) following the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. All members are invited

and encouraged to attend this monthly meeting.

## **HOLY NAME SOCIETY RAFFLE**

On Sunday February 9, 2020, the Holy Name Society held its Annual Raffle Drawing in the school at 207 River Street. The drawing was witnessed by several parishioners present in the school and results recorded.

Results were as follows:

1st drawing – Sandra Berta

2nd drawing - R. Surkey

3rd drawing – M. Davis

Winners were contacted Sunday via information printed on the drawn stubs.

The Holy Name Society thanks all of those who so generously participated.

## **ADDITIONAL RAFFLE**

In addition to the “Holy Name Society” Raffle on February 9, 2020, there were additional items raffled off on Sunday. We had several Rummage Sale Raffle Items from September 2019, (5 months ago). The items were never picked up from the Rectory. Winners were called at least 3-4 times, and names were listed in the

bulletin. Additional tickets were picked at the Parish Hall (with witnesses) for the Rummage Sale Raffle items leftover.

Congratulations to the Winners: Daria Waering won the Parim kitchen bake items, Peter Krenitsky won the “Rail Riders” accessories basket and Lauren Telep, \$25.00 gift certificate to Alexander's

Restaurant, Patty Strugala \$25.00 Gift Certificate to MainLine Pizza and Deli, Dickson City, and Marie Chekansky Pierce a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Kobuki Restaurant and Planet Fitness Tote Bag/Accessories.

## **2019 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The 2019 Financial Report is available in the Vestibule of the Church, next to the Church Bulletins.

## **LENTEN SOUP SALE FUND-RAISER**

Orders are being taken for Manhattan Clam Chowder (red)--\$8 per quart. So that you can enjoy this Lenten meal on a fast day, the soup will be available for pick up at the school kitchen on Friday, March 13th from 3:30 to 4:30. In addition, it will be available after each liturgy Saturday, the 14th and Sunday, the 15th. Please place your order on the sign-up sheets located at the back of the church or by calling Jule at 570-489-2931 or Mary Ann at 570-489-4648.

## **FISH DINNER FUND-RAISER FOR ST. CYRIL'S**

St. Cyril's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "Baked Haddock Fish Dinner" will be on Friday, April 3, 2020, held at the Regal Room, 213 Lackawanna Ave. Olyphant. (Enter the Ballroom/side entrance) Time: 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. You can Sit Down (be served) or Take it Out.

Pre-sold tickets are \$13.00 each and

include baked haddock, vegetable, potato, roll, and dessert. The deadline for tickets is Monday, March 30, 2020. There will be a limited amount of tickets sold at the door at \$15.00 per ticket.

For reservations call Sandra at 570-383-9487. Tickets will also be sold in the Church vestibule in March.

## **PUSSY-WILLOWS**

Flowery (Palm) Sunday is just four weeks away! Once again this year, we turn to our Parishioners for help in procuring our pussy-willows. If you have any bushes, please share them with us. You can either bring them in or arrangements can be made to have them picked up. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## **HOLY THURSDAY SERVICES WITH THE ARCHBISHOP**

All Parishioners are invited to the Holy Thursday Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and Washing of the Feet, which will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday,

April 9, at 10:30 am. His Grace, Archbishop Borys Gudziak, will be the main celebrant and will celebrate the ritual of washing the feet.

## 2020 L.U.C. LENTEN RETREAT

The L.U.C. has sponsored and held their Annual Lenten Retreat at Sloatsburg's St. Mary's Villa Educational and Retreat Center for 42 years.

This year's Lenten Retreat might be the last retreat held at The Villa as the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate are selling this property.

For the past forty-two years we have been so fortunate to be able to come on Retreat to Sloatsburg's St. Mary's; have been fortunate to enjoy the quiet and comfort of St. Mary's.

For this year our Retreat Master will be Msgr. Martin Canavan. The theme for this year's retreat is "Standing at the Cross with

the Mother of God". As we come to the close of the Great Lent and the beginning of the Great and Holy Week, we pause, gathered together in Jesus' name to reflect on Mary's (the first disciple) place at the Cross. In the light of her "Let it be done to me according to your word" at the Annunciation for Jesus's word from the Cross, "It is accomplished!" we attempt to better understand our place in the Love and Mercy of God poured out on us each and every day.

The dates for year's retreat are March 27, 28 and 29th. The Lenten Retreat is scheduled for beginning Friday evening at 7:30 pm..

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2020 is Team #3: Helen

Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

## Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for March 14 & 15, 2020

|          | Altar Boys                          | Lectors         |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 4:00 pm  | Nathan Dennis -- Brett Lowe         | Bill Vervan     |
| 9:00 am  | Patrick Marcinko                    | Pat Marcinko    |
| 11:30 am | Nicholas Muchisky -- Tyler Muchisky | Frank Lesnefsky |

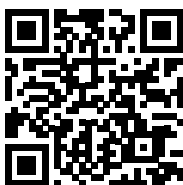
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Confidence in God*

A story is told of a very tired traveler who came upon the banks of a river. There was no bridge by which he could cross. It was winter, and the surface of the river was covered with ice. He wondered whether or not the ice would bear his weight. Finally, after much hesitation and fear, he got down on his knees and began, very cautiously, to creep across the surface of the ice, hoping that the ice would support him.

When he was about halfway across the river he heard the sound of bells behind him. From the other side of the river there came a sled filled with people and pulled by four horses. They whisked across the frozen river, passing right by the traveler who was still crawling

across the river on his hands and knees.

This story illustrates how some people go through life. Some stand on the banks of indecision, unable to make up their minds about the course to take. Others crawl along in constant fear, unable to find the courage to carry a cross or face a challenge. There are those, however, who allow their Faith to be their guide. They face challenges, problems, and uncertainties knowing that God directs every step.

When we face rivers of difficulties, we do not have to be indecisive, nor do we have to creep through life in fear. God has promised to help, and with God's help we can make our way to the other side, safely.