

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



*Icon of Our Lord with the Samaritan Woman*

<b>May 10, 2020: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b>		
Epistle: Acts 11: 19-26 & 29-30		Gospel: Jn. 4: 5-42
<b>Mon., May 11</b>	9:00	+ Dorothy A. Chezik (Children)
<b>Tues., May 12</b>	9:00	+ Ira Shotwell (Lauren Telep)
<b>Wed., May 13</b>	9:00+	John & Nellie Priblo; +Spurge Chadilo (Dolly Daniels)
<b>Thurs. May 14</b>	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today</b>	
<b>Fri., May 15</b>	9:00	+ Frank Evanitsky (Michaelene Davis)
<b>Sat., May 16</b>	<b>No Divine Liturgies Today</b>	
<b>Sun., May 17</b>	9:00	For Our Parishioners

## A REFLECTION ON MOTHERS' DAY

Today, we give thanks to our mothers for their gift of life and nurture by remembering them especially in our prayers, and with acts of affection and goodness. We fondly and gratefully recall their living as bearers of light in our earthly life. Mothers give special witness as active bearers of the light of faith to their children, to their spouse, and to the entire family.

Jesus said that a person does not light a candle and then put it under a basket for no one to see. The gift of our faith, the light of our faith is meant to shine brightly. It is meant to be a source of rekindling the faith in others around us who may



be struggling. Mothers seem to be blessed with a compelling grace to actively teach and model their life-giving faith to their children and to others. They plant the early seeds of faith in Jesus Christ and nurture it throughout their lifetime. They do not surrender to being passive in the

celebration of their faith for which all of us are so grateful. They are steadfast in their faith as witnessed by their steadfast participation in the Church.

The best testimony you and I can give to the gift of our mothers is to ourselves become bright bearers of the light of faith. Choose to nurture the seed of faith planted within you by your mother by learning more about your faith, your Church. Choose to actively share your faith with those whom you have been given to love and nurture in your life. Celebrate your faith energetically and enthusiastically, and without reservation, in imitation of your mother's gift to you. Choose to put aside your passivity! It only limits and constrains the gift so freely given to us by our mother.

The Blessed Mother of God gave her passionate and unconditional 'yes' to celebrate God's plan through her. It led to a gift for all of us beyond our comprehension – God's saving plan for all of us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. The love and unconditional commitment of our earthly mother has given you and me opportunity to celebrate life and all its wonders as recipients of God's love. In testimony to our loving mothers, let us live as bright bearers of light!

God bless all of our mothers in ways only He can for many blessed and happy years! May the souls of our loving departed mothers be granted eternal peace with Jesus Christ!

-- Archbishop-Emeritus Stefan Soroka

## *Happy Mother's Day!*

### **MANY NAMES, ONE MOTHER**

No matter what we call her, Mary always guides as a loving mother.

No human being has influenced the world the way that Mary, the Mother of God, has.

Of course, Jesus — who is both divine and human — is on another level entirely. But among human

beings, no king, no hero, no military leader, no scientist, no explorer, no celebrity, no philosopher, no religious leader or saint comes close to having the kind of the influence that Our Lady has had on human hearts and affairs.

Let's start with her "fiat," her "yes" to God. It was through her "yes" that

the redemption of the entire world took place. The single most important event in all of human history was worked through her.

She is the Mother of God, and the Immaculate Conception. She is Queen of Heaven and Earth and the Terror of Demons, which speak to her power.

Mary continues to be honored and invoked in prayerful confidence in every country of the world. She is honored by nations and whole continents as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady Queen of Poland and Our Lady of Africa, to name just a few.

Her apparitions have changed the world, bringing new faith and hope to whole peoples. Millions upon millions visit the shrines that mark these apparitions to show devotion and to invoke her help.

Images of Our Lady have helped shape the faith of entire peoples, such as Our Lady of Aparecida, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Charity in Cuba, Our Lady of the Cape in Canada and Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn in Lithuania.

And around the world, from Alaska to Argentina, Knights of Columbus turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe as their patroness. The miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, like so many other Marian images, is associated with

miracles — illustrating the power of her intercession.

Her special influence on the Knights of Columbus is profound. Our founder, Father Michael McGivney, loved her and is buried in a church dedicated to her, the same church in which our Order was founded. In more recent decades, the Knights played a role in making the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe widely known throughout North America and the entire world. In Poland, France, Ukraine, Korea, the Philippines and the entire world, Knights have pledged to serve our Lord and to honor his mother.

And now, as we begin this month of Mary during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps we can turn our minds and hearts to another dimension of her influence — her intimate and personal role as mother of each one of us. This Queen, the Mother of God, the New Eve, is also our Mother in a personal way. Jesus, in his words from the Cross, entrusted Mary to each one of us and each one of us to Mary (Jn 19:26-27). With these words Jesus did more than make sure his mother would be cared for after his death. He did more even than establish a special relationship between Mary and John. In fact, what he was doing was giving her to each one of us as our mother. There is no more intimate

bond in this life than that of mother and child. And this is the bond that we have with the very Mother of God.

She's more than a model for how to live life. She's more than a close spiritual friend — like many of the saints may be to us. She is more than a guardian, though her protection is powerful. She is our intimate, personal, loving mother.

And our response? It is the response of John who, “from that hour took her into his home.” To bring Mary into our homes means welcoming her as the mother of ourselves and our families. It also means bringing her into our inner most being.

“The Christian,” St. John Paull II wrote, “brings her into everything that makes up his inner life” (*Redemptoris Mater* 45).

When we pray the rosary or turn to the devotion of Our Lady of Sorrows, we are calling out to our mother. When we invoke Our Lady of Guadalupe, when we put a Miraculous Medal around our necks we are calling on our mother. When we light a candle before her image or pray to her under any one of her many titles, we are having an intimate meeting with our

mother.

These are all moments of deep intimacy and love. In these moments we encounter the overwhelming compassion and concern she has for us. This is especially true in times of trouble, of doubt and of extreme need. She cares even about the little things in our lives — such as having enough wine at a wedding banquet.

And as a loving mother she speaks to us. Her words provide comfort and bring consolation. She says to us what she said to St. Juan Diego: “Hear me and understand well, my little son, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your mother? Are you not under my protection?”

Her words also guide us. She says to us, as she said to the servants at the wedding feast in Cana, “Do whatever Jesus tells you.” May God grant us the grace in a special way during this month of Mary to hear and to obey.

-- Adapted from *Knightline*

## THE QUARANTINE CONTINUES

Please note, the suspension of public services in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia still continues. Once we

have the date to reopen our Church for public services again, an announcement with more details will be posted on



our Parish website <https://stcyrils.weconnect.com>. This date will be determined in consultation with and based on the recommendations of our Archbishop and of the Public Health authorities. Lackawanna County is still a red County with strict social

distancing requirements.

Thank you to all of our Parishioners who are making this great sacrifice and staying home for the benefit of one another. I look forward to praying with all of you soon!

## **MOLEBEN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD**

During the month of May our Church honors Mary the Mother of God in a special Moleben Service. On the Cross the crucified Lord gave John to His Mother and said: "This is Your Son!" At this moment we, along with the beloved disciple John, became spiritual children under the protection of His Mother Mary. Then turning to His disciple, Jesus said: "This is Your Mother!" At this moment not only John

but all of us had a Spiritual Mother Who loved and cared for and about us. Mary is our Intercessor always ready to help us, aid us in our times of need.

Every Wednesday during May, at 6:00 pm, we will celebrate the Moleben Service and pray for Our Lady's continued protection of all those who face the effects of the coronavirus plague.

## **LITRUGICAL SERVICES ONLINE**

Thank you for your prayerful presence to all Parishioners who are able to join us at our services online. The responses to our streaming services have been positive and continue to grow each week. I continue to pray and offer services for you every day. Please remember, that while we cannot be filling our beautiful Church together, we can still worship together, by you joining our live-streaming

services on Facebook or through a link on our website <https://stcyrils.weconnect.com> on YouTube.

To make your online worship experience an expression of our "Church of the Home," please consider the following:

- Watch the services in a special place, such as in your icon corner or the prayer space of your home.

- Prepare yourself as if you were going to Church, perhaps even dressing as you usually do for a service at the Church.
- Turn off distractions such as other media and your phone.
- Most importantly, tune in spiritually as participants, not just observers. This is still your Church!

## REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

These days are challenging for us all on many levels, including financially. A heartfelt “**THANK YOU**” goes out to all who have continued to make donations to our parish either by mail, or by dropping envelopes off over the past few weeks. Any small way you can contribute is very much

appreciated. With your sacrificial giving we will be able to pay our bills. If sending multiple donations, one check is fine, and a note indicating what the donation is for. If you prefer to drop them off, there is a mail box outside the Rectory office door. Thanks for your generosity!

## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one’s self in prayer with Christ’s sacrifice and worshipping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend the Divine Liturgy. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion

and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the following prayer:

*“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”*

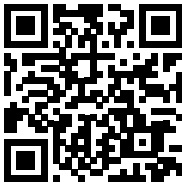
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *A Gift of Mercy*

A story is told about a little boy who was sent to the school principal for misbehaving. After the little boy told him what he had done wrong, the principal took out a piece of paper and wrote the boy's name upon it, as well as the date and the reason for which the boy had been sent to him.

Then, the principal told the boy, "Timmy, I know that you are a good boy and you've never before been sent to me for misbehaving. Therefore, if you are not sent to me again this year for misbehaving, I will tear up this piece of paper and no one will ever know anything about it." The little boy remembered this as the most powerful lesson in mercy that he had ever learned.

The most powerful example of mercy that

we, as Christians, have ever witnessed is our Lord's resurrection, which we still continue to gloriously celebrate. However, earlier this week, on Wednesday, we also celebrated the Feast of Mid-Pentecost. Mid-Pentecost begins to set our sights on the reception of another of God's great gifts of mercy - the Gift of the Holy Spirit, Who will descend upon us on Pentecost Sunday.

Through the Resurrection, we know of God's mercy in that He has given us the gift of eternal life. Through the Descent of the Holy Spirit, we know of God's mercy in that He has not abandoned us. Rather, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell among us, to dwell within us, and to nourish us, bless us and heal us - especially through the Holy Mysteries.