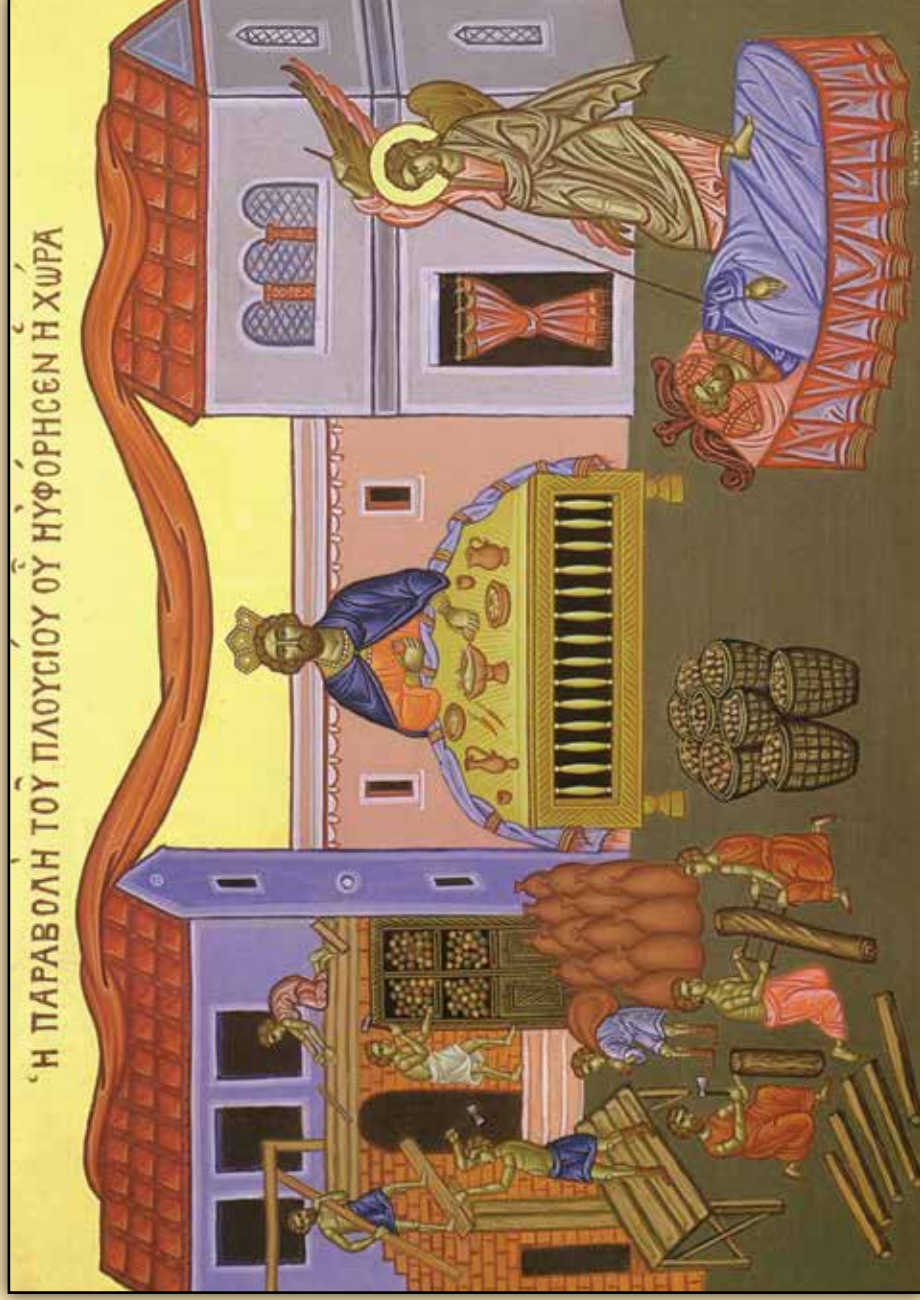


TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)

November 22, 2020: 25th Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Eph. 4: 1-6		Gospel: Lk. 12: 16-21
Mon., Nov. 23	10:00	Funeral: + George Mishko
Tues., Nov. 24	9:00	+ Andy Marcinko (Andrea Novak)
Wed., Nov. 25	9:00	+ Gloria & Eugene Hughes (Roman & Eileen Kushner)
Thurs. Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	
	9:00	Thanksgiving to God
Fri., Nov. 27	9:00	+ Joseph Fawcett (James Liparula)
Sat., Nov. 28	No Morning Divine Liturgy.	
	2:00	Confessions.
	4:00	+ John Capoccia (Nancy Trygar)
Sun., Nov. 29	10:00	For Our Parishioners

THANKSGIVING GREETINGS

This Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. Someone once said that he feels sorry for atheists on Thanksgiving Day because they have no one to thank. The pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620 knew they had SOMEONE to thank, since one of their motives in coming to the new world was their desire for religious freedom. Like the chosen people of the Bible, they came to a land full of promise and they soon recognized their debt to God by beginning our custom of Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day among us is traditionally a family day, a time for homecomings and the sharing of a sumptu-

ous dinner. We will celebrate a Liturgy of Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 am this year so that as a Parish Family we can gather together to give thanks and then to return to our homes to enjoy the Thanksgiving meal. This year, let us begin this Thanksgiving Day properly by coming together as God's children in His Home - our Church. We should gather there to express thanks to God for all His many favors. As Americans, we should express our gratitude for the blessings of living as we do in a free and prosperous land. As Christians we should gather to express our gratitude for our faith, a faith that gives us the joy of

knowing that God is our Loving Father.

This coming Thanksgiving day reminds us that we, both as Catholic Christians and as Americans, have indeed much to be thankful for. Above all, it reminds us that we have SOMEONE to

thank. As a “Parish family” let us gather in our “Family House of Worship” at the beginning of this Thanksgiving Day to express our sincere gratitude to God, Our Father!

Did You Know...

...that the first Thanksgiving took place in 1621, when the Pilgrims held a three day feast at Plymouth, Rock, MA to celebrate the bountiful harvest? During the first year, half of the 110 Pilgrims had left England in 1620 survived the cold winter. During their second year, however, failed Pilgrims flourished with plentiful food sources, thanks in large part to the friendship and guidance of an Abnaki Indian named Squanto. Therefore, by proclamation of the Pilgrim Governor William Bradford, the first Thanksgiving celebration was held in the fall of 1621. He also invited the neighboring Native Americans to join with the colonists in the celebration.

...that Thanksgiving became a national holiday through the proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln in October of 1863? Because the nation was struggling in the midst of the Civil War, Lincoln felt that Americans needed to set aside time to call to mind and acknowledge all the many gifts with which our nation was endowed – land, freedom, food – were gifts

given to us by God. A day was needed when we could forget our differences and remember our many blessings. In the act of calling to mind our blessings, a sense of gratitude to the Giver of all the good gifts is an obvious consequence.

...that it was common in many ancient civilizations to have celebrations of gratitude for good gifts received? In justice, they believed that they owed Divine Providence their thanks for all the good gifts of creation.

...that our Jewish ancestors likewise celebrated an annual “Thanksgiving?” Actually it was two celebrations: Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. These were observed in the spring when the first crops were harvested and lambs were born. Gratitude extended beyond the gifts of creation to the recognition that God had delivered them from the slavery.

...that it was at the Passover celebration that Jesus “took the cup, and after giving thanks... And when He had taken some Bread and given thanks, He broke

it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

...that the word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word meaning “thanksgiving?” In the Eucharist we come together to give thanks and praise to God

for all that Jesus did for us, His death and resurrection, and for all that God continues to do every day.

... that the Divine Liturgy is a supreme act of praise and thanksgiving to God?

GOD AND THE SPIDER

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades. Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed. As he waited, he prayed, “Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen.”

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, “Well, I guess the Lord isn’t going to help me out of this one.” Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave. As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him

all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave. “Hah, he thought. “What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor.”

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while. “Lord, forgive me,” prayed the young man. “I had forgotten that in you a spider’s web is stronger than a brick wall.

We all face times of great trouble. When we do, it is so easy to forget the victories that God would work in our lives, sometimes in the most surprising ways. As the great leader, Nehemiah reminded the people of Israel when they faced the

task of rebuilding Jerusalem, "In God we will have success!" [Nehemiah 2:20]

Remember: Whatever is happening in your life, with God, a mere spider's web can become a brick wall of protection. Believe He is with you always. Just speak His name through Jesus, His Son, and you will see His great power and love for you.

Keep believing in yourself. There may be days when you get up in the morning and things aren't the way you had hoped they would be. That's when you have to tell yourself that things will get better. There are times when people disappoint you and let you down, but those are the times when you must remind yourself to trust your own judgments and

opinions, to keep your life focused on believing in yourself and all that you are capable of.

There will be challenges to face and changes to make in your life, and it is up to you to accept them. Constantly keep yourself headed in the right direction for you. It may not be easy at times, but in those times of struggle you will find a stronger sense of who you are. So when the days come that are filled with frustration and unexpected responsibilities, remember to believe in yourself and all you want your life to be, because the challenges and changes will only help you to find the goals that you know are meant to come true for you.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ AND COOPERATE

We are becoming lax. It is necessary to cooperate with the mask wearing and distancing rule (including when coming up for Holy Communion). Do not wear your mask only on the tip of your nose, or leave your nose exposed. The Covid-19 Virus is spread via respiratory droplets, which can enter through the nose and mouth. To make sure the nose is properly

protected, the mask should cover your face up to the nose bridge. It may be a little bit stuffy with so much of your nose covered, but wearing the mask below the nose makes it less effective. We thank all who for love of neighbor continue to wear masks (required by the State) in church as well as in and around the the Church building. We want everyone to be SAFE.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

For those who ordered items from the fundraiser, Thanksgiving baked goods pick-up is Monday, November 23rd between 3:00 and 7:00 at the church hall

on 207 River Street. Please be certain to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

POINSETTIA SALE

The deadline for ordering poinsettias has been extended: The last date for receipt of orders is now **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd**. Consider purchasing a poinsettia and donating it to help decorate the

church, or, to a nursing home, etc. Should you wish to donate a poinsettia to the church, please put a note on the bottom of the order form, or call Michaelene at 570-209-2026.

THIRD SESSION OF THE ARCHIEPARCHIAL SOBOR

Archbishop Borys has announced the third session of the Archeparchial Sobor, which will take place virtually (via ZOOM) on assigned dates. The assigned date for our

Deanery is Saturday, December 5, 2020. Any interested in participating in this event is asked to contact Father Nestor.

COOKIE SALE

Saint Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church 320 Vine St. Old Forge is holding their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 19th from 10 am to 12 pm. All cookies will be sold on a preorder basis only. Cookie are homemade and include anise wedding, thumbprint, pepper cookies, chocolate chip, peanut butter kisses,

nut rugalach, linzer, fruitcakes and many many more. Cost is \$9 per pound. Preorders can be placed by calling Betty 570-457-9292 or Maria 570-457-8275. Preorders will be accepted until December 7th. Preorders will not be accepted after this date. All Covid 19 safety guidelines have been followed for this sale.

“IF AND WHEN” PRE-RUMMAGE SALE INFORMATION.

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS ITEMS!!

The 10th annual fundraiser Rummage Sale at St. Cyril's for 2020/2021 is still on hold. The boxes and bins are being empty. The weather this week is going to be in the '40-the '50s. The school gym is comfortable, even in the month of November but dress warmly. This week we will be gathering on Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24th, and Wednesday, November 25th, Closed on Thanksgiving Day. Starting at 9:00 a.m.- Noon, for 3 hours + per day. Come anytime to volunteer, and even have the opportunity to shop early!!! Wear a mask and keep a social distance. All parishioners (men and women) and friends are welcomed to volunteer for St. Cyril's pre-rummage sale, set up.

Need to get out of the house? Stop by and volunteer. You will sit at the table (socially distant, wearing a mask) and ticket items. We do understand, some parishioners are staying at home during this health crisis, and we want you to be safe and comfortable at all times.

You have to do what is right for you at this time. Hopefully, when this health crisis is all over, we will be together in church and supporting the rummage sale fundraiser.

We thank Sonia Maslar and Anne Elaine G. Srebro for donating their time by working at home. They have been helpful in organizing and ticketing jewelry. Steve and Jeanne Cucura, help out in the school gym and also ticketing bins of items at home (.25 cents Christmas decor, party items, etc...) Father Nestor is checking e-bay for "Sports Illustrated, the year 1992" Magazines for their value. You too can help by ticketing items out at home. The work speaks for itself and success follows.

Lauren has been listings on Facebook "Scranton Market Place" and has been very successful!!! (selling 2 couches, 2 tables, desk, sleigh bed set, hutch, etc...) Two (2) of the "Nintendo Power" magazines sold for \$ 0.00 If anyone is interested in "SEARCHING" e-bay for select items that have been donated (Christmas decorations, antiques, magazines, baseball cards, etc...) to find out their value, contact Lauren. We need your expertise!!!! More specifically, we need to know how valuable an item is and what price we should sell it. Your e-bay account will not be used to list items. The items would be listed on Facebook, (no charge) "Scranton Market Place". (Less than e-bay, with no shipping cost)

We have Thanksgiving decorations available and Christmas items, (mangers, trees, ceramic villages, wreaths, etc...) at great prices. Plus a variety of furniture, toaster ovens, afghans, tablecloths, DVDs, jewelry, a variety of glassware, and NEW items for sale, etc... Shop early for Christmas.

Donations of merchandise are always accepted. Donations of supplies are needed. Especially if you have items: plastic bags (inexpensive store label boxes: sandwich, quart or gallon bags, any size garbage bags) opened, partially filled or new boxes, elastic bands, marker pens, packing tape, and scotch tape. Please drop off (supplies only) at the back of the rectory. Items can be left off, on the table. Or stop in, when the school gym is opened.

By volunteering a few hours a week, for the "if and when" the Rummage Sale can be held, we will be ready for opening day, (hopefully before Easter, April 5, 2021) Contact Lauren Telep regarding DONATIONS, TO VOLUNTEER, OR SHOPPING, etc... call Lauren at 570-383-0319 or cell 646-241-9443. we appreciate all your help for this fundraiser for St. Cyril's Church.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

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

Sunday Collection for November 14 & 15, 2020:

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Parish financially in our weekly collections. If you are still staying at home due to the pandemic, and are able to send any amount, it would be a blessing.

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Surrounded by Wealth, Blind to Charity

What does the rich man do, surrounded by a great supply of many blessings beyond all numbering? In distress and anxiety, he speaks the words of poverty. He says, "What should I do?" ... He does not look to the future. He does not raise his eyes to God.

He does not count it worth his while to gain for the mind those treasures that are above in heaven. He does not cherish love for the poor or desire the esteem it gains. He does not sympathize with suffering.

It gives him no pain nor awakens his pity.
Still more irrational, he settles for himself

the length of his life, as if he would also reap this from the ground. He says, "I will say to myself, 'Self, you have goods laid up for many years. Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'" "O rich man," one may say, "You have storehouses for your fruits, but where will you receive your many years? By the decree of God, your life is shortened."

"God," it tells us, "said to him, 'You fool, this night they will require of you your soul. Whose will these things be that you have prepared?'"

Saint Cyril of Alexandria