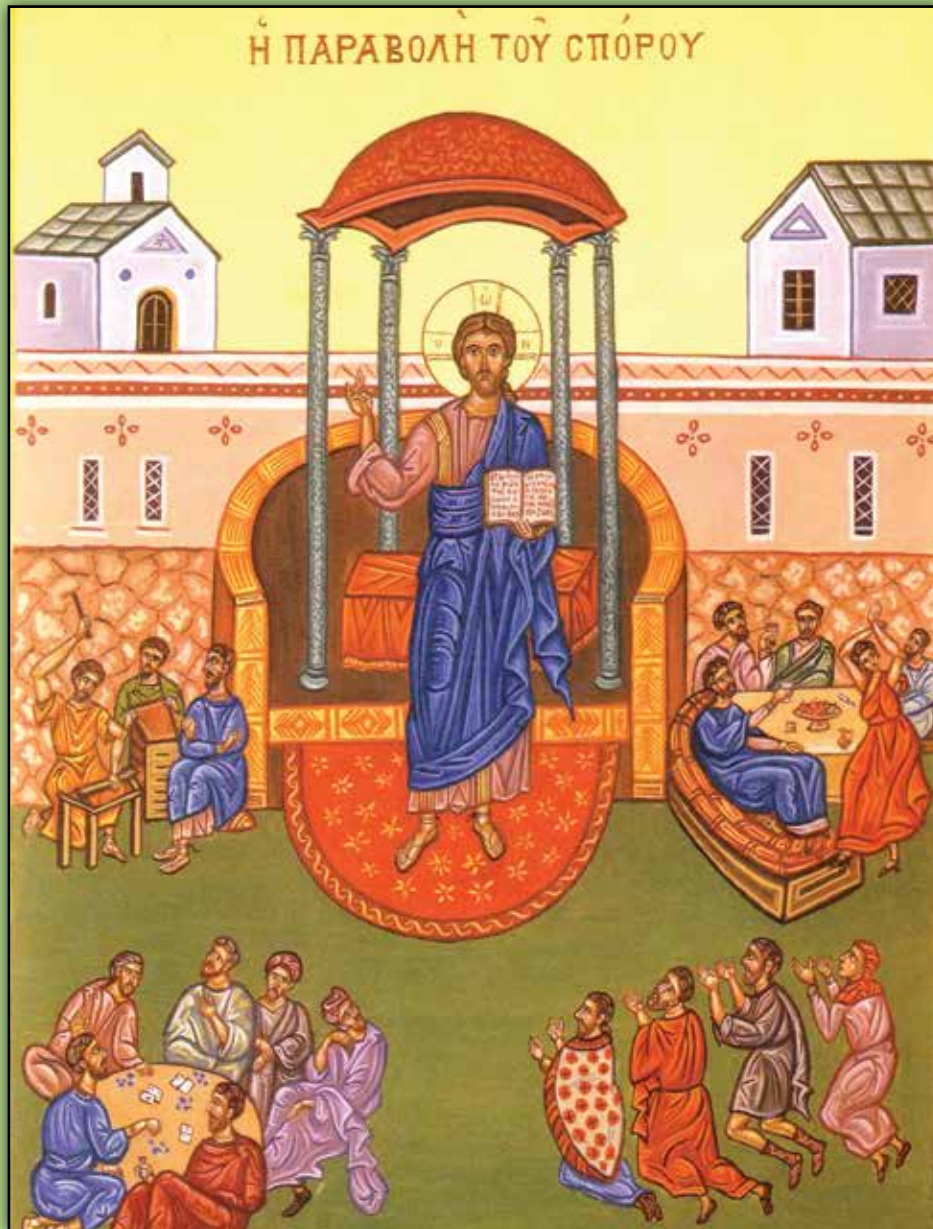


TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Christ as the Sower

October 18, 2020: Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Gal. 1: 11-19		Gospel: Lk. 8: 5-15
Mon., Oct. 19	9:00	+ Nicholas Zinsky (Dorothy Zinsky)
Tues., Oct. 20	9:00	+ Johnathan Sawka (George & Rosemary Martynuk)
Wed., Oct. 21	No Divine Liturgy Today	
Thurs. Oct. 22	9:00	+ Dorothy A. Chezick (Daughters & Sons)
Fri., Oct. 23	9:00	+ Evelyn Yeck (Son Bob & Wife Joan)
Sat., Oct. 24	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	2:00	Confessions.
	4:00	For Our Parishioners
Sun., Oct. 25	10:00	+ Elaine Jablonski (Husband, Jim)

WHAT IS THE JESUS PRAYER?

The Jesus Prayer is a short mental prayer or chant used repetitively to help one “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), to focus one’s thoughts on Jesus, to tap into divine power, or (in Hesychasm) to attain union with God. The Jesus Prayer - ***“O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner,”*** is particularly popular in Eastern Orthodoxy, although Catholics use it, too. It is believed that this prayer was first used by the ascetic or hermit monks of the Egyptian desert in the fifth century A.D. Saint Paul urges us to “pray without ceasing,” and this prayer is

one of the best ways to start doing so. It takes only a few minutes to memorize, after which you can recite it whenever you remember to do so. According to Christian belief, if you fill the empty moments of your day with the holy name of Jesus, you will keep your thoughts focused on God and grow in His grace. The “Jesus Prayer” is mirrored in a prayer offered by a tax collector in the temple in a parable that Jesus tells about the Publican (tax collector) and the Pharisee (religious scholar) in Luke 18:9-14: The tax collector said, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” This sounds re-

soundingly close to the “Jesus Prayer.”

FROM OUR CATECHISM... ANGELS

In Holy Scripture, angels manifest the presence of God in the world, announcing to human beings the will of God. Holy Scripture refers to some of them by name: Michael (see Rev. 12:7; Jude 1:9), Raphael (see Tob. 12:15), Gabriel (see Lk. 1: 19, 26). Angels assist human beings in their spiritual growth (see Heb. 1:14). The Tradition of the Church teaches that God grants every human being a guardian angel: “You appointed angels as guardians.” The unity of visible and invisible creation -- human beings

and angels -- becomes manifest in the Divine Liturgy, where the earthly expresses the heavenly, and humans serve together with angels: “Let us who mystically represent the cherubim and sing the Thrice-holy Hymn to the live giving Trinity...” and “Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Christ Our Pascha, #117.

THE PRACTICE OF THE HOLY NAME

During a prayerful vigil one night in fourteenth-century England, the hermit Blessed Richard Rolle was disturbed by the sudden apparition of a demon. The frightened monk began to call out the Name of Jesus, and the demon immediately disappeared. Shaken by this apparition and dreading its reappearance, Blessed Richard spent the rest of the night repeating the Holy Name over and over until dawn. Thus was born his lifelong devotion to the Holy Name: “I appeal to you to

love this name JESUS and meditate on it in your heart so that you never forget it wherever you are. And, assuredly, I promise you that you will find great joy and strength in it; and because of the love with which you love Jesus so tenderly and as such an intimate friend, you will be filled with grace on this earth...This is because nothing pleases God so much as true devotion to the name of Jesus.”

Our time has its own share of “demonic apparitions” — just read

the headlines. So now is the perfect time to benefit from Blessed Richard's example of taking refuge in the Holy Name of Jesus.

From apostolic times to the present day, Christians throughout the world have experienced for themselves the blessing, protection, and presence of Christ that can be found through repeated invocation of the Holy Name of Jesus. It has been the center of the spiritual lives of countless saints, and

"is suitable for all people of God, without exception, whether monks or lay people. It is a safe way for beginners, that is open to all." - Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov

"The Name of Jesus is the shortest, the easiest, and the most powerful of prayers. Everyone can say it, even in the midst of their daily work. God cannot refuse to hear it."

- by Fr. Edward Sullivan

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR

There was once a man who was ship-wrecked and stranded on an island. Every day he prayed asking God to send someone to rescue him, but to his disappointment, no one ever came.

Months passed and this man learned how to survive on the island. During this time, he accumulated things from the island and stored them in a hut that he constructed. One day after hunting for food and returning back to his hut, much to his dismay he saw that his hut was on fire along with everything else he owned!

All of his possessions were going up in smoke! The only thing he had left were the clothes on his back. Initially he was in shock, and then he was

consumed with anger and rage!

In his fury he threw a fist into the air and began cursing God and yelling, "God, how could you let this happen to me? I've been praying everyday for months about being rescued and no one has come, and now everything that I have is on fire! How could you do to this to me! Why did you let this happen?"

Later the man was on his hands and knees weeping heavily when he happened to look up and catch sight of a ship coming in his direction. The man was rescued and as they were heading back to civilization the man asked the captain, "How were you able to find me?"

The captain responded, "We were

voyaging across the ocean when we noticed on the horizon a column of smoke going up. We decided to go check it out and when we did, that's when we found you!"

In life we are going to be confronted with challenges, problems, and disasters. But keep in mind that what the devil has meant for bad, God can transform into your good! What

is a catastrophe can sometimes be a blessing in disguise. "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." Psalms 34:17-19

THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST

During this year of the coronavirus pandemic, for many months, clergy, religious and faithful gathered together on the Lord's Day virtually, participating in the Divine Liturgy through the modern technology of livestreaming. While during these liturgical services, the faithful gave praise, glory and thanksgiving to God and were nourished on the Word through the Gospel and the homily, there was something lacking. Suddenly, except for the limited celebrants at the altar, the parish family was not able to partake of the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the Last Supper account in the Gospel of Matthew, "Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup,

gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Mt. 26:28)

During every Divine Liturgy, the humble gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the Anaphora, the Eucharistic Prayer.

"Just as Jesus Christ our Savior was made flesh through the Word of God, and took on flesh and blood for our salvation, so too (we have been taught that) through the word of prayer that comes from him, the food over which the thanksgiving has been spoken becomes the Flesh and Blood of the incarnate Jesus in order to nourish and transform our flesh and blood." (St. Justin Martyr)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus clearly teaches us: *“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.”* (Jn. 6:53-55).

In several of our Eastern Catholic churches, we are reminded of this belief as the priest prays as he

distributes the Holy Mysteries to the faithful, *“The servant of God receives the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and live everlasting. Amen.”*

As our churches are now open and our parish families once again gather together on the Lord’s Day, let us with fear of God and with faith receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ; let us taste of the Source of Immortality.

by Rev. Archpriest John Fields

PRAYERS REQUESTED

We ask that you please remember in your prayers, our brother in Christ, the Very Reverend Archpriest David Clooney, who is receiving hospice

care. Father David served our Parish as an Assistant Pastor from May 1968 to May 1969.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to **Anna Sophia Brzozowski**, along with her parents Richard and Jessica, on the occasion her initiation into the flock of Jesus Christ during the Divine Liturgy

this Sunday, October 18th. Anna, we welcome you into our Parish family. May God grant you many happy and blessed years! Mnohaya i Blahaya Leeta!

PIG IN THE BLANKET DINNER

Eureka Hose Company No.4 will sponsor its 2nd Annual Pig In The Blanket Dinner, next Saturday October 24th from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at the fire station 717 East Grant Street Olyphant.

Limited \$10.00 tickets available from members or by stopping at the station on Monday, 6:30 to 8:00 pm all proceeds will be used to maintain the station and apparatus.

ROAST BEEF DINNER

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 N. Main St. Pittston, Pa. is having a drive-thru Roast Beef Dinner on October 25, 2020. The Dinner will have roast beef, mashed

potatoes and gravy, vegetable and dessert. The cost is \$12.00 per dinner. Everyone is welcome and please wear your mask. Thank you.

“IF AND WHEN” RUMMAGE SALE INFORMATION

The 10th annual fundraiser Rummage Sale at St. Cyril's for 2020/2021 is still on hold. We have collected a large amount of merchandise in the school gym. Before things get “out of control” we like to keep the gym organized in Pre-rummage sale mode. In the past years, we worked 6-8 hours/day in the months of August and September for the opening, the 3rd week in September. Now, we just work 4-6 hours per week. The pink flyer “Rummage SALE” in the back of the church gives information about the items we accept and items we do not sell, regarding your donations.

On Thursday, October 22, and Friday, October 23, 2020, the school gym will be open at 10:00 a.m. for 2 to 3 hours. This is a good time for parishioners to drop off their donations. Some parishioners have asked, “Do we have some furniture still available for sale?” Yes, we have furniture items, some Halloween decorations, lamps, baskets, etc... for you to come and purchase, at this time. Volunteers are welcomed to come and help out, as we continue to work forward to our annual fundraiser sale. Working a few hours a week, for “if and when” the Rummage Sale can be held, we will be ready for opening day. Contact LaurenTelep at 570-383-0319 or cell 646-242-9443.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of October 2020 is Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., Leonard Mitchko and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for Oct. 10 & 11, 2020: \$

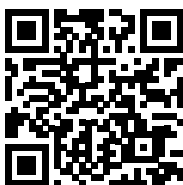
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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

Not the Seed at Fault, but Ourselves

The parable of the sower and the seed could also be called the parable of the fate of the word of God in human hearts. It is very simple, clear and easy to understand. There is no mistaking its meaning.

There is also no mistaking Jesus' love and concern for His people. It must have been very frustrating and disappointing for Him to go from village to village and bring them grace and salvation only to find that His words were falling on deaf ears and cold hearts.

It is with this pain and concern for souls that He tells this beautiful parable. This is also why He cried out many times at the end of His parables, "He who has ears to hear, let

him hear." Yet He continued on, patiently teaching, sowing the seed of truth and praying that it will take root and bring forth fruit.

When hearing this parable, do not these thoughts strike us: "How has the seed, the word of God, taken root in our souls? What is the fate of Christ's teaching in our hearts? What type of soil have we cultivated for God's word? Are our hearts cold, stony, filled with weeds and thorns?"

We cannot blame anyone but ourselves if the teachings of Jesus are not reflected in our lives. It is not the seed which is at fault, only ourselves.