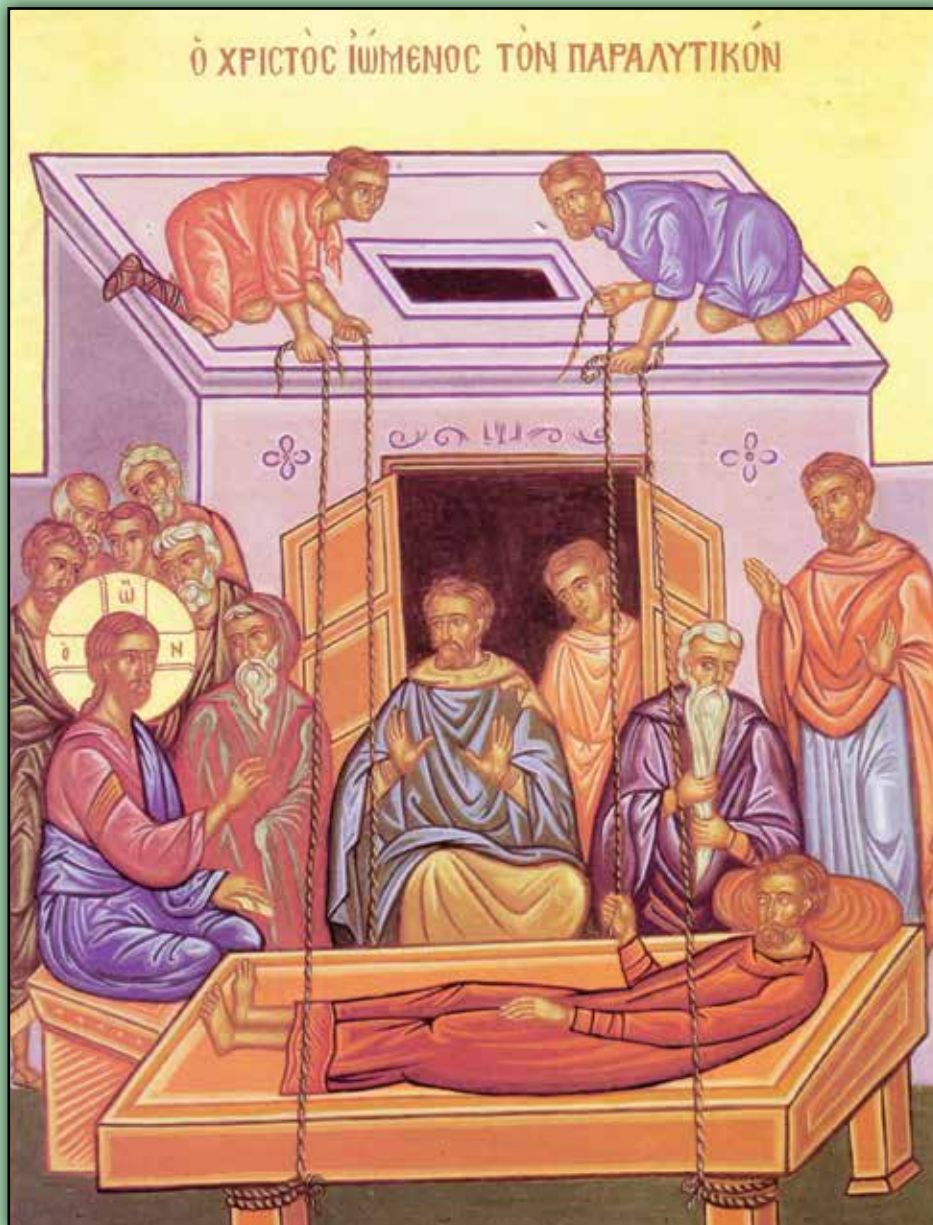


SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



Icon of Healing the Paralytic

February 28, 2021: Second Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 1:10 - 2:3		Gospel: Mk. 2: 1-12
Sat., Feb. 27	4:00 pm + Jimmy Maslar (Family)	
Sun., Feb. 28	10:00 For Our Parishioners	
Mon., March 1	9:00 + Christine Danylak (Leo Danylak)	
Tues., March 2	9:00 + Elizabeth & John Havrilchak (Family)	
Wed., March 3	9:00 + Michael Jordan (Lauren Telep)	
Thurs. March 4	9:00 + John Yeck, Sr. (Bob & Joan Yeck)	
Fri., March 5	9:00 + Victor & Ruth Covalsky (Nasevich Family)	
Sat., March 6	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck (Eileen & Roman Kushner)	
Sun., March 7	10:00 For Our Parishioners	

GREAT LENT PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A year ago, at the beginning of Great Lent the world was hit by an unprecedented pandemic. Unprecedented not so much in ferocity or scope but in global consciousness: we became aware that we are in this together. In a stroke, the world was humbled. Our sense of control, modern technological

hubris, and the frivolous pursuit of pleasure had to take a back seat to the reality and mystery of life and death. In our Metropolia we experienced considerable losses. Three weeks into the lockdown, during Holy Week, Metropolitan-emeritus Stephen Sulyk succumbed to COVID. As the year progressed, the virus took from us priests, religious and many parishioners—our grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, children,

relatives and friends. We have been humbled. We are subdued. Some of us still remain confused, lonely, and depressed. However, St. Paul encourages us, telling us to “not grieve as others do who have no hope.” (1 Th 4:13).

Indeed, many of us were able to recognize authentic blessings, we experienced a renewed awareness of family, a peace that comes with authentic humility, a peace that comes with a wakefulness to God’s presence and guidance in the face of hardship. This past year we have seen some of the best of humanity: heroic acts of authentic solidarity, examples of inspiring mutual service, medical care in dangerous circumstances, chaplaincy work in hospitals, the service of first responders. We adapted in order to make sure that community worship could be safe for the faithful and clergy. We found new ways to teach and educate, to visit the sick and housebound, to provide food and donations in kind for the poor, to support those with crisis pregnancies, and more. There is much to make us ponder and wonder, be thankful for and give praise.

In a certain sense, last year’s Lent had an old-time quality. It is said that

in pre-modern centuries in Ukraine and other Christian countries there was a “social hush” during Great Lent. Everything quieted down. Individuals and families focused inward, judging themselves in the light of the Gospel, rather than judging others. Towns and villages as communities, and nations as cultures entered together into a spirit of penance: a recognition of and remorse for transgressions, violence and greed, deceit and betrayal, individual and social sin. Indeed, last year we had a Great Lent without parties and galivanting. We stayed home. And while we were unable to receive each other into our homes, we were able to welcome the Lord into our lives, and remind ourselves that each and every household is called to be a domestic church, a place of growth in faith, prayer and caring for others.

In the end, our home is much more than a physical place. It is a spiritual and moral reality. Our home is with the Lord, who invites us to “come and see” and be with Him (see Jn 1:35-39). It is where we work and serve, where we become a blessing to others, where we are free to be ourselves, have a sense of being where we belong, are not full of ourselves. We are at home when we fulfill our calling, follow

God's will. We are at home when we are pure in thought, action and word, long-suffering, kind, and gentle, as God is with us.

This Great Lent let us build on the lessons learned this past year. Our journey home is well on its way. This precious, yet fragile gift of life we share, is one of pilgrimage, of repentance, of living up to the faith that God has in each one of us, in deep humility. Let us be guided by the ancient Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem:

O Lord and Master of my life, drive from me the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter.

Instead, bestow on me, Your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins, and not judge my brothers and sisters, for

You are blessed, now and forever and ever. Amen.

St. Ephraim's prayer encapsulates the striving of the season, one that leads us to the triumph of Pascha, the victory of the Savior over our shame, fear, and death itself. Let it be our personal and community prayer as we fall down before the Lord of mercy, confident of His love and hospitality. On our Lenten journey let us remember how the disciples followed Jesus. For them home was not a place, but a Person—the same One who calls out to us today: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 4:17).

We will be praying with you and for you!

Christ is in our midst!
He is and always will be!

+Borys Gudziak, (Author & Archbishop of Philadelphia)

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (Eparch of Stamford)

+Benedict Aleksiychuk (Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago)

+Bohdan J. Danylo (Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma)

+Andriy Rabiy (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

My Sincerest Thanks

Being sick and winding up in the Hospital is never easy. It was indeed very heart-warming to see all the Get Well Cards sent to me and all the prayers which were being offered up to God for my health.

I wish to thank all my Parish Family Members who prayed for me, who sent me Get Well Cards and offered their support. May God bless all of you for your kindness!

A special Thank You goes out to all the “Angels” who made sure I had enough to eat. Some picked up my groceries for me. Others brought over food on multiple occasions. I felt like I was eating in a gourmet restaurant!

Thank you to Patrick Marcinko who opened up and locked up the Church so that those who wanted to pray could do so.

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!

2021 PARISH DUES

We remind our Parish Family Members that at a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that beginning 2021 Parish Dues will increase to \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.

In 1993, St. Cyril's Church dues were: \$12.00/year/person (.23 cents per

week). In 2007 it was raised to \$20.00/year/person (39 cents per week). In 2011 it was \$25.00/year/person (48 cents per week). Now we need to raise it to \$50.00/year/person (96 cents per week) in 2021. This is the first increase in 10 years.

LENTEN FUNDRAISER

Just a reminder that we are now entering the third week of our Lenten Fundraiser. Choose from: Soups by Grumpy Crab, pierogy by Little Spuds, and pizza by Roseanna's. All parishioners should have received a

flier regarding this and the Flower Fundraiser. Please support our parish by participating. To order or for additional information, call: Jule (570) 357-6171, Michaelene (570)209-2026, or Mary Ann (570) 313-1989.

PANSKY CLASSES CANCELLED THIS YEAR

Due the pandemic, the Ukrainian Pysanky Classes for Easter 2021 at St. Cyril's church have been cancelled. When this is all over, we hope the Pysanky classes will resume. We thank

Tammy and all her family, friends, volunteers, and the media, who worked to make these classes so popular. The tradition of the Ukrainian pysanky will live on.

PIGS IN THE BLANKET DINNER AT THE VFW, PECKVILLE, PA

The Shopa-Davey VFW Post 6082, is sponsoring a fundraiser: "Pigs in the Blanket Dinner" at 123 Electric Street, Peckville, Pa. Sunday, February 28,

2021. Open to the Public and Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased at the Post Home, earlier during the week. "Take out Only"

Serving starts at 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. or until sold out. The price is \$11.00 per ticket. (get there early, before being sold out)

Please wear a mask and keep a social distance. Veterans are invited to join Post 6082, contact Commander Puhulla for information.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Eureka Hose Compant No. 4 will be held Saturday March 6th at the Fire Station 717 East Grant Street Olyphant. due to Covid-19 restrictions the Dinner will be take

out only from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be obtained from any member or at the door the day of the event. Proceeds help offset Compant building and firefighting equipment.

ST. JOSEPH DAY TAKE OUT BREAKFAST

The Women's Society of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church on North St. Frances Cabrini Avenue, West Scranton, is sponsoring its annual Takeout St. Joseph Day Breakfast, Sunday, March 21, 2021. Menu: Eggs, Pancakes, Home Fries, Olives, Breads. 9am-1pm. Adults are \$8.00

and children age 6-10 are \$4.00. Tickets at the door. St. Joseph bread in two loaf packages is \$5 until sold out. Call ahead/email to preorder 570-343-6092, melkite.scranton@gmail.com. See us on facebook or melkitescranton.org.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2021 is Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko,

Jr., Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for January 23 & 24, 2021: \$

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.

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

You are Forgiven and Healed

In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, "Child, your sins are forgiven," He is as much as saying, "It is God whom you approach." In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur "he is blaspheming" and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiver-healer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus' power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God's forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark's readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, "My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins."