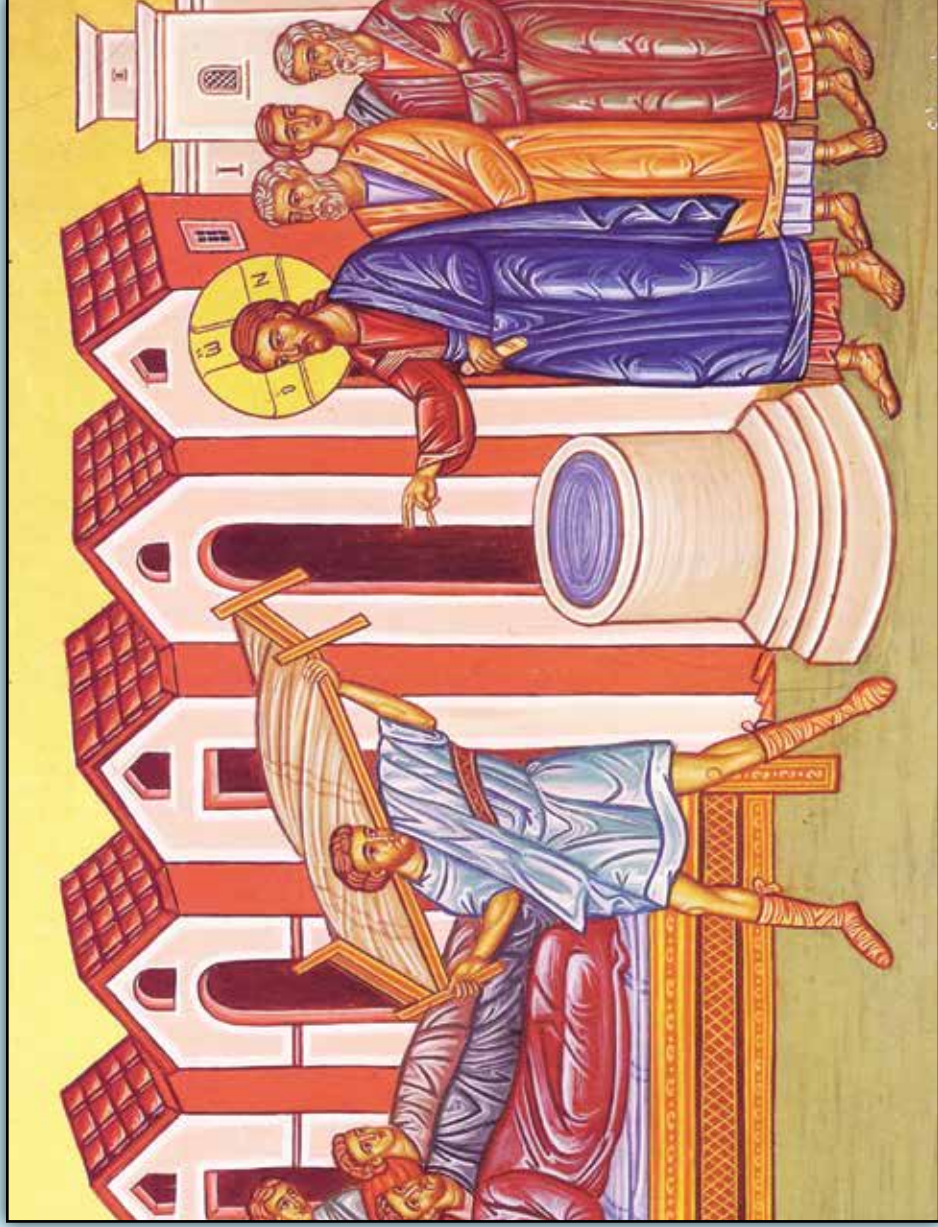


SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Healing the Paralytic

July 4, 2021: Sixth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Rom. 12: 6-14		Gospel: Mt. 9: 1-8
Mon., July 5	9:00	+ Johnathan Sawko (Marcella Gawron)
Tues., July 6	9:00	+ Carol Chaykosky (Mary Ann Spryn)
Wed., July 7	No Divine Liturgy Today	
Thurs. July 8	9:00	+ Patrick Marcinko, Jr. (Family)
Fri., July 9	9:00	+ Myroslaw Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
Sat., July 10	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + John & Nellie Priblo; + Spurge Chidillo (Dolly Daniels)	
Sun., July 11	10:00	For Our Parishioners

EMBRACING THE TRUTH IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES: A REFLECTION FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND

In one of the most significant trials in human history, the trial of Jesus before Pilate, Pilate asks Jesus, "What is Truth?"

In the Gospel of John, we read "Pilate said to Him, 'Then You are a king? Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this, I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice. Pilate said to Him "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38)

What is truth? What a profound

rhetorical question?

When one reflects on the meaning of truth, one realizes that truth is immutable, it does not change. It is an absolute. Think of a witness in the courtroom -- the witness places a hand on the Bible and swears to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

But what is the source of ultimate truth in this life?

It is Christ Himself — for Jesus tells us "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father

except through Me. (John 14:6)

The importance of truth for us as moral human beings is beautifully expressed in the encyclical of St. John Paul II entitled “*Veritatis spendor* — the Splendor of Truth.”

“The splendor of truth shines forth in all the works of the Creator and, in a special way, in man, created in the image and likeness of God. Truth enlightens man’s intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord.”

From the truth that we discern and with which our consciences are formed, we increase our understanding of human existence and ultimately our relationship to our Creator, Almighty God.

The prophet Micah reminds us, “You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: “Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

To do justice and good, one must know the truth.

Sounds simple! Yet we human beings find such advice hard to follow.

One cannot do justice and love goodness without knowing the Truth -- the revealed truth of Jesus Christ and what God, the ultimate lawgiver, provides for us in Holy Scripture.

Think back again to the trial of Jesus before Pilate.

After His scourging, Jesus again came before Pilate, and Pilate asked him, “Where are You from? Jesus did not answer Him so Pilate said to Him: “Do you not know that I have power to release You and I have power to crucify You?” Jesus answered: “You would have no power over Me if it had not been given to You from above.” (John 19:9-11)

What is Jesus telling Pilate? Any power Pilate has comes from God. That Almighty God is the source of our human governance. St. Paul states this principle in his Epistle to the Romans, “Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established from God.” (Romans 13:1)

The ultimate lawgiver is Almighty God.

Our Founding Fathers knew this principle and expressed this reality in these immortal words from the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

The brave men gathered in Philadelphia in 1776, who risked their lives and their sacred honor to establish this nation, a bold experiment in democracy, acknowledged that all rights are derived not from kings or presidents, or parliaments or congresses. Human beings are endowed with these rights by their Creator, Almighty God.

This Independence Day weekend, let us be grateful and thankful to Almighty

God for inspiring our Founding Fathers with the truth and the courage and wisdom to establish for themselves, for us and our posterity this great nation, the United States of America.

And as we enjoy the blessings of liberty, let us walk the Way of Jesus Christ on our journey to eternal life, as we come to know, understand and embrace Him, the Truth of the world.

4TH OF JULY HISTORY & TRIVIA: DID YOU KNOW...

- The major objection to being ruled by Britain was taxation without representation. The colonists had no say in the decisions of English Parliament.
- In May, 1776, after nearly a year of trying to resolve their differences with England, the colonies sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. Finally, in June, admitting that their efforts were hopeless; a committee was formed to compose the formal Declaration of Independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee also included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. On June 28, 1776, Thomas Jefferson presented the first draft of the declaration to Congress.
- Betsy Ross, according to legend, sewed the first American flag in May or June 1776, as commissioned by the Congressional Committee.
- Independence Day was first celebrated in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.
- The Liberty Bell sounded from the tower of Independence Hall on July 8, 1776, summoning citizens to gather for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence by Colonel John Nixon.
- June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, looking to promote national pride and unity, adopted the national flag. "Resolved: that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."
- The first public Fourth of July event at the White House occurred in 1804.

- Before cars ruled the roadway, the Fourth of July was traditionally the most miserable day of the year for horses, tormented by all the noise and by the boys and girls who threw firecrackers at them.
- The first Independence Day celebration west of the Mississippi occurred at Independence Creek and was celebrated by Lewis and Clark in 1805.
- On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote.
- Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on Independence Day, July 4, 1826.
- The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence did not sign at the same time, nor did they sign on July 4, 1776. The official event occurred on August 2, 1776, when 50 men signed it.
- The names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were withheld from the public for more than six months to protect the signers. If independence had not been achieved, the treasonable act of the signers would have, by law, resulted in their deaths.
- Thomas McKean was the last to sign in January, 1777.
- The origin of Uncle Sam probably began in 1812, when Samuel Wilson was a meat packer who provided meat to the US Army. The meat shipments were stamped with the initials, U.S. Someone joked that the initials stood for "Uncle Sam". This joke eventually led to the idea of Uncle Sam symbolizing the United States government.
- In 1941, Congress declared 4th of July a federal legal holiday. It is one of the few federal holidays that have not been moved to the nearest Friday or Monday.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

NEW COVID PROTOCOLS FOR DIVINE LITURGIES....

MASKS are no longer mandatory indoors for persons who have been fully vaccinated. Masks are recommended for those unvaccinated. We are still asking that people refrain from venerating

liturgical objects by touch/kiss, even if masked. The Sign of the Cross and a reverent bow in front of an icon is an acceptable form of veneration.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

St. Cyril's Church in Olyphant is hosting the second of three 2021 Food Truck Festivals on Saturday, July 17th and Sunday, July 18th from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm each day. The Festival will be held in the church parking lot at 207 River Street in Olyphant. Featured will be nine food trucks: Grumpy Grab, BellaRose, FonDippitty, Murts Diner Truck, 2 Wayz/One Passion, Roseanna's Pizza, Lou's Funnel Cakes, Murts Desserts, and Udder Delights. This is a modern twist on the church picnics of years gone by. In addition to the food trucks, two wineries will be featured: Capra Col-

lina and Case Quattro Wineries. There will be indoor BINGO. For the children, there will be games with prizes and free balloons. Several craft vendors will offer various hand-made items: Krysta's Crafts, Wreaths by Cheryl, Rose Glass by Mary Glen, Lady Jane Jewelry and Friends with Paws. Raffle tickets will be available for a 50:50 1st prize, crystal vase 2nd prize, and gift basket 3rd prize. DJ entertainment on both days, with live music on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00. Social distancing is suggested. All are welcome. Please come and enjoy!!!

CHICKEN DINNER

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will hold a Chicken Dinner as their Why Cook Wednesday Dinner for July. The dinner will be on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 in their school hall on the corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, near the General Hospital Parkade in Wilkes-Barre. This dinner will be Take-Out Only and Pre-Orders are strongly encouraged.

Dinners will be \$15 and will include; a brined and roasted half-chicken, baked potato, corn, macaroni salad, roll and dessert. Place your order by calling the School Hall Kitchen (570) 829-3051. Pick-Ups will be from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Tickets will also be sold for a Basket Raffle. Remember...When Baba Cooks, Everybody's Happy!"

87TH ANNUAL SEMINARY DAY

This event will be held Sunday, July 25, 2021 at St. Nicholas Church picnic grounds in Primrose (just outside Minersville) PA. This annual event is spon-

sored by the 12 parishes and faithful of the South Anthracite Deanery under the leadership of their pastors. Plans for the day already include a Hierarchical Di-

vine Liturgy with the clergy of the deanery at 11 A.M. and Drive-Thru Food Sale will start at 1 P.M. with delicious

ethnic and regional foods prepared by the parishes of the deanery.

IT'S VACATION TIME... (BUT NOT FOR CHURCH BILLS)

It's that time of year again...Vacation Time. We take time out of our normal routine for rest and relaxation. Sometimes we stay at home; sometimes we take trips to visit friends, explore new places or go on adventures. We may even forget about our normal routines for a little while.

Unfortunately, our bills and finan-

cial obligations never take a vacation. This includes our Church's bills, which always seem to INCREASE during summer time. Please, when you prepare to go on vacation, don't forget about YOUR CHURCH! You can always mail in your Sunday Collection envelopes and then can enjoy your vacations.

ST. CYRIL'S RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP FOR JULY 2021

The next Rummage Sale Set-up, at the school gym. Closed on Monday, July 5th, and open on July 6th, Tuesday, and July 7th, Wednesday, and July 8th Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m (new dates and time)

Summer Time!!! Can you spare some time to help out for the benefit of your church, St. Cyril's? (even though you may volunteer for other organizations!!!) When you are sitting at home on Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday, perhaps you can come down to the School gym? You can be sitting at the table, putting stickers on items, or help in other areas. All are welcome to volunteer, all parishioners, and friends. (Teenagers and adults) after 10 years, you know what is involved. Every hour you volunteer helps in the final outcome, the financial help to St. Cyrils. Come and socialize with your fellow parishioners and friends and do some shopping too!!! There are a variety of areas, where you can lend a helping hand. We need some help with the empty boxes, cardboard, etc..

The dates have been set for Friday, September 24th, and Saturday, September 25, for St. Cyril's Rummage Sale/Furniture Sale for the 11th year. Any questions, call Lauren at cell 646-241-9443 or 570-383-0319 or Father Nestor 570-291-41. During this time, your donations will be accepted.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of July 2021 is Team #3: Helen Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collection for June 26 & 27, 2021: \$

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

They Marveled and Glorified God

Do you see how He is shown to be Creator of both souls and bodies? He heals the paralysis in both soul and body. The healing of the soul is made evident through the healing of the body, even while the body still remains a creature crawling on the ground. The crowds were slow to recognize who He was: "When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to humans." ... He proceeded by His daily actions to arouse them and lift up their thinking. It would have been no small thing for Him to be thought greater than all others, as having come from God. If they had established this adequately in their own minds, they would have known in due order that He was indeed the Son of God.

But they did not grasp these things clearly. Because of this they did not come close to recognizing who He was. For again they were saying, "This man is not from God! How can this man be from God?" Their minds churned over these statements continuously. Which thing many now also do; and thinking to avenge God, fulfill their own passions, when they ought to go about all with moderation. For even the God of all, having power to launch His thunderbolt against them that blaspheme Him, makes the sun to rise, and sends forth the showers, and affords them all other things in abundance; whom we ought to imitate, and so to entreat, advise, admonish, with meekness, not angry, not making ourselves wild beasts.

St. John Chrysostom