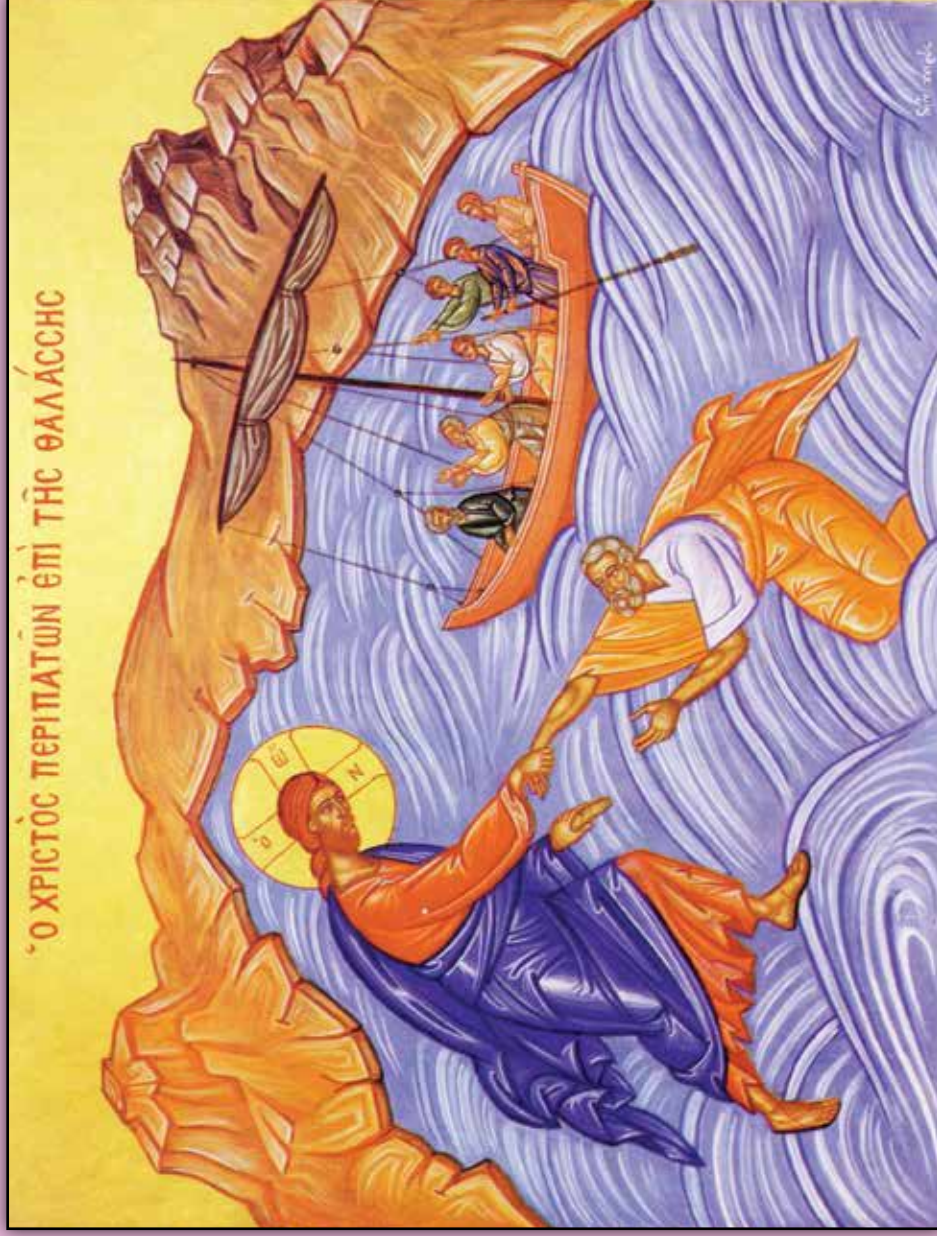


## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Christ Walking on the Water*

<b>July 25 2021: Ninth Sunday After Pentecost</b>		
Epistle: 1 Cor. 3: 9-17		Gospel: Mt. 14: 22-34
<b>Mon., July 26</b>	9:00	+ John Sereditch (Joseph Smagula)
<b>Tues., July 27</b>	9:00	+ Andy Marcinko (Thomas & Dawn Littman)
<b>Wed., July 28</b>	9:00	+ Zenia & Emmett Hooper (Dolly Daniels)
<b>Thurs. July 29</b>	9:00	+ Mary Ann (Frank)
<b>Fri., July 30</b>	9:00	+ Andrew & Dorothy Chezik (Sons & Daughters)
<b>Sat., July 31</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>	
	2:00 pm Confessions	
	4:00 pm + Martha Sedlak (Family)	
<b>Sun., Aug. 1</b>	10:00	For Our Parishioners

## **FIVE TIPS ON HOW TO ACT IN CHURCH**

### **1. Remember Whose house you're in!**

You are in Heaven on earth! Here, we stand with faith, reverence and joy, just like we would – and hopefully will – in the eternal Heaven. Church hymns instruct us to do this also when they say: “When you stand in the temple, think that you are standing in Heaven!”

### **2. Look ahead... or above... not around!**

When you stand in Church, don't look to the left or right; don't look at how others are standing and praying, so that you will be blessed like the Publican and not cursed like the Pharisee who spent all

his time in the Temple comparing himself to other people! You only need to watch yourself before God. Look **up**, at the icons! Look **ahead**, at the Altar, where God, who will eventually judge each of us, is present – and repeat within yourself like the publican, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!”

### **3. Focus!**

Focus your mind – and your mouth – on **God**. Pray along with the prayers. Sing along with the hymns. If you are tempted to talk to others, then open your prayer book and follow the prayers. If someone else talks to you, keep your answer

brief and go back to your prayer book. Remind yourself that you can talk with other people – get your business done, and so on – after the Divine Liturgy.

- 4. Remember the dead, your own death, and the living who need prayers.** While in Church, remember the dead and think of the day when you will join them – your body will go into the earth, but your soul – very much alive and aware – will go before God. Pray for the dead, ask God to have mercy on them, offer Divine Liturgies for their intention, and light candles for their souls. Thinking of your death will help you pray more sincerely and to lead your life in a more Christ-like way. Remember also, when you

are in Church, your loved ones who are alive – your parents, children, relative, friends, the poor, and the sick; light candles for their health and salvation.

- 5. Don't just HEAR the Gospel... LIVE the Gospel!** When hearing the Word of God being read, sung, or preached in Church, strive to fulfill it, and always look for ways to do so in your everyday life. Otherwise, you will be condemned for knowing what to do but not doing it. "Blessed are those who hear God's word and keep it" (Lk. 11:28). Remember, God has invested His whole Life in you by dying on the Cross... and one day, He will ask you for the return on His investment.

## RELIGIOUS Q & A

**QUESTION:** *Did Mary the mother of Jesus Christ, have other children after Jesus?*

**ANSWER:** The short answer to this question is "No." But let's explore further. Most likely you are asking this question because some Scripture passages seem to suggest that Jesus had brothers and sisters. For example, here are two such passages: Mark 6:3 – Is he not the carpenter, the son of

Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" Matthew 13:55-56 – Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us?

So should we conclude from these passages that Jesus had brothers and sisters in a literal way, meaning Mary and Joseph had other children

in addition to Jesus? Certainly not. Scripture is quite clear that Mary conceived Jesus in a virginal way – by the Holy Spirit. Additionally, it is the constant teaching of the Church that she always retained her virginity. She had no other children and never engaged in the marital act with Joseph. Sometimes this is confusing since there are references in the Scriptures to Jesus' brothers and sisters. But this language was commonly used in reference to cousins. So this shouldn't confuse us if we understand the language of the time. In fact this is still a common practice in other cultures of our day. For example, those from various African countries commonly refer to those within their own village as their brother or sister when they are with them outside of that village. It was God's plan that Mary only have one Son for various reasons. It was

especially so because of the fact that we are all called to become brothers and sisters of Christ through spiritual adoption. Therefore, if Jesus had blood brothers or sisters it would have undermined his spiritual brotherhood with them. It would have made their relationship with Jesus different. But God desires this deeper spiritual relationship with all people. Mary is the only blood relation to Jesus, thus, she shares a special bond with Him that no one else does. But it had to be that way if God was to become true man. Interestingly, though, even Mary's deepest bond with Jesus does not come as a result of her physical blood relationship. It comes, first and foremost, by her spiritual motherhood. She is united with her Son primarily by her perfect faith and obedience. It is this bond that surpasses the natural one.

## **LOVE MATTERS MORE THAN MATERIAL ITEMS**

Some time ago, a man punished his young daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became angry when the child tried to decorate a box with gold wrapping. Nevertheless, the girl brought the gift to her father on his

Birthday and said, 'This is for you, daddy.' The man became embarrassed by his overreaction a few days before, but his rage continued when he saw that the box was empty. He yelled at her, 'Don't you know, when you give someone a gift, there's supposed to

be something inside?’ The little girl looked up at her dad with tears in her eyes and cried; ‘Oh, daddy, it’s not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They’re all for you, daddy.’

The father was devastated. He put his arms around his daughter, and begged for her forgiveness.

A little while later, the girl died in an accident. Her father kept the gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was feeling down, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.”

## **87<sup>TH</sup> 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 sponsored by the 12 parishes and faithful of the South Anthracite Deanery under the leadership of their pas-

tors. Plans for the day already include a Hierarchical Divine 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.

## **VFW CHICKEN BBQ**

Shopa-Davey (Veterans of Foreign War) VFW Pos 6082 Peckville, PA is sponsoring a TAKE OUT ONLY! Chicken BBQ on Sunday, July 25, 2021, Serving 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (or until sold out!!!) Tickets

are available at VFW 6082 at 123 Electric Street, Peckville, PA. for this fundraiser, \$11.00 per dinner. Open to the public!!! Get there early! Over 400 BBQ dinners will be available for “TAKE OUT ONLY”

## **YOU ARE INVITED**

Walter Camier of the TFP will be the guest lecturer at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Luncheon on August 1st, 2021 A. D. at 12:30 pm, the first talk is scheduled to begin at 1 pm. He

will give two presentations. 1) “The Catholic History of America” and 2) “Revolution and Counter-Revolution” at Transfiguration of Our Lord parish hall on the corner of Bliss Street and

Center Street, Nanticoke. Entrance to the parking lot is from Center Street. A light lunch will be served. You are welcome to bring guests. If you are not a parishioner of Transfiguration of Our

Lord parish please RSVP to the rectory (570) 735-2262 to allow us to plan for the gathering size. May God bless you with many happy years, peace, health and salvation.

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## **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 fi-

nancial 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.

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## **PLAN AND SET TIME ASIDE TO VOLUNTEER FOR ST. CYRILS RUMMAGE SALE AUGUST 13-14, 2021**

Plan and set time aside to volunteer for St. Cyrils Rummage Sale. Lauren will be at the school gym for the scheduled time listed (minimum of 20+ hours per week) Come for a few hours, (opening boxes and marking items) stay as long as you could! Parishioner's donations can be dropped off during this time and can do some early shopping!

During the actual Furniture/Rummage Sale, (August 13-14, Friday and Saturday) volunteers are needed: men, women, teenagers, friends, and families to help. You can be INSIDE St. Cyrils's school gym or OUTSIDE behind the rectory and garage. Volunteers can greet customers, sell water/soda, show "present" of volunteers on the selling floor to prevent "thou shall not steal", "bagging" items at the checkout tables, pass on information on the restrooms, where items are located, be at the entrance to the School gym, hand out



“boxes” etc. Come and support our Church fundraiser. Contact Father Nestor 570-291-4451 or Lauren 570-383-0319 or cell 646-241-9443. We could use “Newspaper” (no “sale” insects, example: retail sale flyers...) also needed are trash bags, sandwiches and quart-size etc... storage bags can be dropped off at the school gym.

July and August 2021 (2 weeks) at 133 River Street, St. Cyril’s School Gym.

Help is needed daily with the empty boxes, bins, recyclable items, and setting up/merchandising for the sale. Special thanks to all the volunteers who have been at the school gym for the last few months. They are keeping the Rummage sale active and ongoing for August, and you can join us too!!

July 26th Monday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (19 more days to the Furniture/  
Rummage Sale)

July 27th, Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

July 28th, Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

July 29th, Thursday 9:30 a.m. to Noon

July 30th, Friday 9:30 a.m. to Noon

On August 2, Monday through August 6th, starting at 9:30 a.m. we decided to close up for the day. (9:30 to at least 1:30 p.m. or longer if necessary, depending on the number of volunteers) Call Lauren on her cell: 646-241-9443

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...**

The Collection Processing Team Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl for the month of July 2021 is Matuszewski.

Team #3: Helen Pagnotti, Marlene

**Sunday Collection for July 17 & 18, 2021: \$**

## 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](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Christ and Fear*

For what purpose does He go up into the mountain? To teach us, that loneliness and retirement is good, when we are to pray to God. With this view, you see, He is continually withdrawing into the wilderness, and there often spends the whole night in prayer, teaching us earnestly to seek such quietness in our prayers, as the time and place may confer. For the wilderness is the mother of quiet; it is a calm and a harbor, delivering us from all turmoils.

He Himself then went up there with this object, but the disciples are tossed with the waves again, and undergo a storm, equal even to the former. But whereas before they had Him in the ship when this befell them, now they were alone by themselves. Thus gently and by degrees He excites and urges them on for the better, even to the bearing all no-

bly. Accordingly we see, that when they were first near that danger, He was present, though asleep, so as readily to give them relief; but now leading them to a greater degree of endurance, He does not even this, but departs, and in mid sea permits the storm to arise, so that they might not so much as look for a hope of preservation from any quarter; and He lets them be tempest-tossed all the night, thoroughly to awaken, as I suppose, their hardened heart.

For such is the nature of the fear, which the time concurs with the rough weather in producing. And together with the compunction, He cast them also into a greater longing for Himself, and a continual remembrance of Him.

*Saint John Chrysostom*