

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

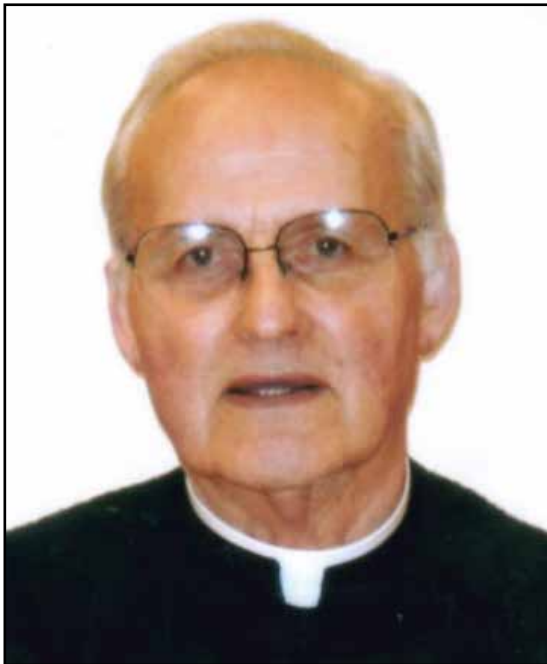


Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Cross

March 7, 2021: Third Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 4:14 - 5:6		Gospel: Mk. 8:34 - 9:1
Mon., March 8	11:00	Funeral: + Fr. John Wysochansky
Tues., March 9	9:00	+ Michael Spryn (Mary Ann Spryn)
Wed., March 10	9:00	+
Thurs. March 11	9:00	+ Barbara Spryn (Mary Ann Spryn)
Fri., March 12	9:00	+ Ann Murty (Daughter, Cecile Bordlemay)
Sat., March 13	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Nicole Yeck Cremard (Bob & Joan Yeck)	
Sun., March 14	10:00	For Our Parishioners

FATHER JOHN WYSOCHANSKY

1928 -2021



The Reverend John Wysochansky fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, February 26, 2021, at Abington Manor, Clarks Summit, PA., following an illness. Born in Peckville on July 10, 1928, son of the late Joseph and Anelia Wysochansky, he was a graduate of St. Basil's Prep and was a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Priest. After attending St. Basil's College for two years, he entered the Armed Forces and honorably served his country with the U.S. Army in Italy. After military service, he attended and graduated from the University of Scranton. He graduated from the Catholic University of America in

Washington, D.C., while attending the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington D.C. He was ordained a Priest on March 31, 1957, and served as Pastor in several Parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Prior to retirement, he served for sixteen years as Pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish, and Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish in St. Clair, PA., and more recently, assisted with weekly Divine Liturgies in Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant. He is survived by one brother, Reverend Walter J. Wysochansky; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by five brothers, Stanley, Frank, Nicholas, Reverend Constantine Wysochansky, OSBM, and Reverend Demetrius Wysochansky, OSBM; and five sisters, Rose Poklemba, Stephanie

Warner, Carol Baranik, Olga Sembrat, and Mary Bukowski. Friends may call Sunday evening from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church with a Parastas service at 7:00 p.m. A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, by His Grace Archbishop Metropolitan Borys Gudziak of Philadelphia, on Monday, March 8th, at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in St. Cyril's Cemetery, Peckville. Due to the Lenten season, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions, in Father John's name can be made to: Sisters of St. Basil's, c/o Sister Joanne, For the Orphans in Ukraine, 710 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA. 19046.

May his memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

Meditation for the Third Sunday of Great Lent

Daily we are bombarded with messages which reveal the steadfast rivalry between various political and social groups. Each contends that they are acting in the interests of all in society. Panels of media "experts" debate the merits of what people in power say and do. Yet, there is a reluctance to surrender to some common ground. Where is the gift of sacrifice in the interests of the other, the common good? St. Paul, in his Epistle to the Philippians, exhorts us to "do nothing out

of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:3-5).

The veneration of the Holy Cross on the third Sunday of Great Fast reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for you and for me. Jesus died voluntarily for our salvation. As you venerate the Holy Cross,

resolve to live with greater humility. Let go of rigid attitudes and perceptions. Resolve to show greater understanding for the benefit of the common good. Participate

in the special Lenten services, being a part of a community of faith. A Blessed Journey in Great Fast!

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstinence from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful.

THE REAL PEARL NECKLACE

Jenny was a bright-eyed, pretty five-year-old girl. One day when she and her mother were checking out at the grocery store, Jenny saw a plastic pearl necklace priced at \$2.50.

How she wanted that necklace, and when she asked her mother if she would buy it for her, her mother said, "Well, it is a pretty necklace, but it costs an awful lot of money. I'll tell you what. I'll buy you the necklace, and when we get home we can make up a list of chore that you can do to pay for the necklace. And don't forget that for your birthday Grandma just might

give you a whole dollar bill, too. Okay?"

Jenny agreed, and her mother bought the pearl necklace for her. Jenny worked on her chores very hard every day, and sure enough, her grandma gave her a brand new dollar bill for her birthday. Soon Jenny had paid off the pearls.

How Jenny loved those pearls. She wore them everywhere-to kindergarten, bed and when she went out with her mother to run errands. The only time she didn't wear them was in the shower; her mother had told her that they would turn her neck green.

Now Jenny had a very loving daddy. When Jenny went to bed, he would get up from his favorite chair every night and read Jenny her favorite story. One night when he finished the story, he said, "Jenny, do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, you know I love you," the little girl said.

"Well, then, give me your pearls."

"Oh! Daddy, not my pearls!" Jenny said. "But you can have Rosie, my favorite doll. Remember her? You gave her to me last year for my birthday. And you can have her tea party outfit, too. Okay?"

"Oh no, darling, that's okay." Her father brushed her cheek with a kiss. "Good night, little one." A week later, her father once again asked Jenny after her story, "Do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, you know I love you."

"Well, then, give me your pearls."

Oh, Daddy, not my pearls! But you can have Ribbons, my toy horse. Do you remember her? She's my favorite. Her hair is so soft, and you can play with it and braid it and everything. You can have Ribbons if you want her, Daddy," the little girl said to her father.

"No, that's okay," her father said and brushed her cheek again with a kiss. "God bless you, little one. Sweet dreams."

Several days later, when Jenny's father came in to read her a story, Jenny was sitting on her bed and her lip was trembling.

"Here, Daddy," she said, and held out her hand.

She opened it and her beloved pearl necklace was inside. She let it slip into her father's hand. With one hand her father held the plastic pearls and with the other he pulled out of his pocket a blue velvet box. Inside of the box were real, genuine, beautiful pearls. He had them all along. He was waiting for Jenny to give up the cheap stuff so he could give her the real thing.

The same with our Heavenly Father, He is waiting for us to give up the cheap/ fake things in our lives. Are you holding on to harmful relationships, habits, activities... which you have come so attached to that it seems impossible to let go? Sometimes it is so hard to see what is in the other hand but do believe one thing, God will never take away something without giving us something better.

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

As we remain open for in-person worship, it is very important that we continue to observe recommended safety measures.

In particular, we ask for your cooperation with the following:

- If you have ANY symptoms, even

low risk symptoms (e.g. runny nose, congestion, sore throat, nausea, headache, fatigue), PLEASE stay home.

- If you do attend services, please wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth at all times.
- After each person has received, the Communion spoon is sanitized in a vessel containing an alcohol product [75% alcohol] which is drinkable,

to encourage participation in the Eucharist.

- We are profoundly thankful to God that, despite challenges related to Covid-19, parish life continues: with Baptisms, and Liturgies, various services, in-person.

Thank you in advance for helping us maintain a safe environment for our attendees, especially the most vulnerable.

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.

PUSSY-WILLOWS

Flowery (Palm) Sunday is just three weeks away! Once again this year, we turn to our Parishioners for help in procuring our pussy-willows. If you have any bushes,

please share them with us. You can either bring them in or arrangements can be made to have them picked up. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

LENTEN FUNDRAISER

Just a reminder that we are now entering the fourth 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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Eureka Hose Company 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 Company 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 March 2021 is Team #3: Helen Pagnotti, Marlene

Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky and Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collections for January 30 - February 28, 2021: \$4,559.04

N.B. This is the total for donations which were made in Church over a period of one month. We thank everyone for their generosity!

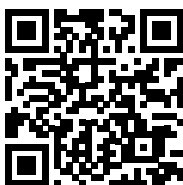
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Cross, Our Victory

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? ... Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory.

The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory.

Let us praise the Lord and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent.

The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.

St. John Chrysostom