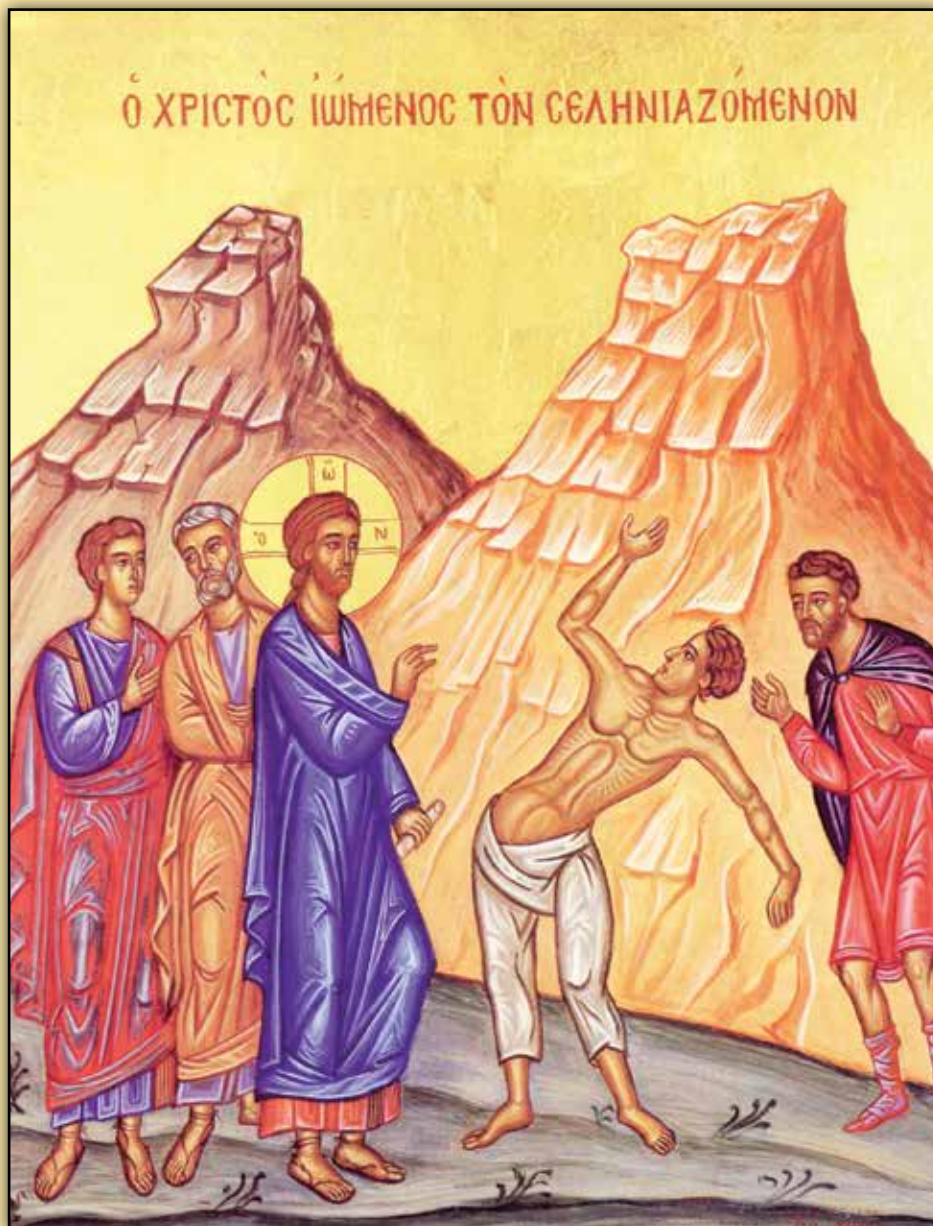


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Healing the Boy with a Demon

March 14, 2021: Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 6: 13-20		Gospel: Mk. 9: 17-31
Mon., March 15	9:00	+ Susan Horvath (Roman & Eileen Kushner)
Tues., March 16	9:00	+ Emmett & Zenia Hooper (Family)
Wed., March 17	6:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thurs. March 18	9:00	+ Fran Sember (Rosemarie Sember)
Fri., March 19	6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat., March 20	8:00	+ Victims of Covid-19
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Diann Yuhnick (Robert, Barbara & Hillary Spryn)
Sun., March 21	10:00	For Our Parishioners

REQUIEM PRAYER SERVICE
FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
AKATHIST SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

A year has passed and we continue to struggle with the coronavirus pandemic. Each and every one of us knows Covid-19 victims, their families, the sick, health care workers, volunteers and all those on the front line during this perilous time.

During the Great Fast, we ask all of our Ukrainian Catholic parish communities in the United States of America to gather in liturgical prayer

for the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic. We ask our priests to celebrate with the participation of our beloved faithful, the Requiem Divine Liturgy for the souls of the victims followed by the Panakhyda Service on Akathistos Saturday, March 20, 2021. Let us pray to the Lord our Savior that He may place the souls of the Coronavirus pandemic victims: "in a place of light, a place of verdure, and a place of tranquility, from which pain, sorrow and mourning have fled" (Panakhyda service).

Let us remember in our prayers, the bereaved families and all those who are still suffering from the virus. Let us continue to remember, pray and be thankful to all those who devote

themselves to those in need. We support them with our words, and above all, with our prayers.

May the memory of the Covid-19 victims be eternal!

+Borys Gudziak (Archbishop of Philadelphia)

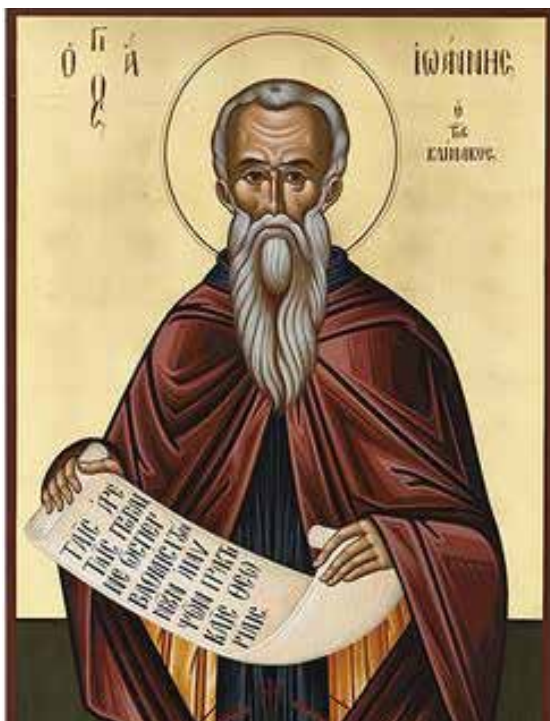
+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (Eparch of Stamford)

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

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

+Andriy Rabiy (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

THE SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Though details of the life of St. John Climacus are sketchy, it is known that he was born in the 6th century and entered the monastic life at an early age. After 40 years of living as a hermit, he was elected abbot of the monastery of St. Catherine at Mount Sinai. Because of his reputation for wisdom and piety, pilgrims traveled from all over the East to visit him. Many miracles were attributed to St. John during his lifetime. Yet it was above all in the gift of spiritual teaching that God manifested His grace in him. Basing his teaching on his personal experience, he generously instructed all those who came to him. This spiritual teaching, however, attracted the jealousy

of some who then spread evil rumors about his character. Although his conscience was clear, Abba John stopped teaching for a whole year, convinced that it was better to do some slight harm to his friends rather than to exacerbate the resentment of the wicked. All the inhabitants of the desert were edified at his silence and by this proof of humility, and it was only at the in-

sistence of his repentant detractors that he agreed to receive visitors again. He passed to the Lord on March 30, about 649. Throughout Lent, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, the spiritual classic authored by St. John is read in monasteries. The reading of this book is completed on this, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, and so we honor him on this day.

Meditation for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Jesus cures a sick boy telling his father, "Everything is possible to one who has faith" (Mk. 9:23). Jesus observed that this type of cure could only come about through prayer. The disciples were men of faith but could not cure the boy. Jesus seems to become impatient with them when he says, "How long will I endure you" (Mk. 9:19). Even Jesus' closest apostles needed to be reminded of the power of prayer, and the need to nurture it. The Great Fast invites you and me to nurture the power of faith with steadfast and honest prayer with Jesus. It involves our reflecting on our priorities in life as we stand before Jesus. Recall the parables

which speak of the Kingdom of God as a treasure found in a field, or as a pearl of great value. Those who find it sell all that they have in order to possess it. Are we zealous in nurturing the value of our precious faith? Do we do and give what we can to see that the faith is valued, taught and shared? The journey of Great Fast leads you and me to nurture our faith in steadfast prayer and with acts of charity with the hope that Jesus Christ will not ask "How long must I endure you", but rather rejoice in the powerfully living of our faith. Join with others in the parish to nurture your faith as a family of God.

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention 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.

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 two 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 FOOD FUNDRAISER

Just a reminder that we are now entering the fifth 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.

EASTER FLOWER FUNDRAISER

Just a reminder that orders for Easter flowers are due by MONDAY, MARCH 15th. Choose from hyacinth, tulip, daffodil, or lily. Each pot is only \$10. For your convenience, we are having

the flowers delivered to the parish hall at 207 River Street. You will be able to pick up the flowers on Monday, March 29th. Please consider donating flowers to help decorate the church for Easter.

To order, please call: Jule (570) 357- Mary Ann (570) 313-1989.
6171, Michaelene (570) 209-2026, or

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.

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. 9 am - 1 pm. 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 Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky and Cheryl Matuszewski.
Team #3: Helen Pagnotti, Marlene

Sunday Collections for March 6 - 7, 2021: \$



N.B. This total also includes all the donations which were mailed to the Rectory during the month of February, 2021. Thank you to everyone who helps to support our Parish!

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

Journeying to Pascha

Jesus continues today his work of healing and exorcism, and that is appropriate for this time of Lent, because Lent is a time for healing and exorcism. It is a time for us to heal the wounds of our souls – self-inflicted wounds due to our complacency and laziness and self-indulgence. It is time to get rid of those demons of our own sinful habits and anything that keeps us away from God and from living that abundant life that Christ came to give us.

We start to make our way toward Jerusalem. At the end of today's Gospel already there is the prediction of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, giving a little hint in the Gospel that the course of Lent is moving now towards Jerusalem. We have gone through several weeks now of spiritual preparations, Scripture texts, prayers and activities. Now our focus

is starting to turn towards Jerusalem. That will be made more explicit in next Sunday's Gospel, but we are already getting a hint of it now.

There are only three weeks now until Easter, two weeks until Palm Sunday, when we are really liturgically accompanying Christ into the mystery of His Passion.

So it is coming soon, and we have to start turning towards Jerusalem. We have to get focused, we have to get recollected, we have to really revive our Lenten prayer and fasting so that we can make the rest of this journey and be fruitful and overcome the demons and find healing for the wounds of our souls – and go with Christ to his Passion and, through the mystery of His Cross, come to that great, transfiguring, glorious celebration of His Resurrection.