

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Raising Lazarus from the Dead

March 21, 2021: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 9: 11-14		Gospel: Mk. 10: 32-45
Mon., March 22	9:00	+ Jennifer Wisniewski (Rosemarie Sember)
Tues., March 23	9:00	+ Anne Spryn (Mary Ann Spryn)
Wed., March 24	6:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thurs. March 25	Annunciation of the Mother of God	
	9:00	+ Jenny Mitchko (Lenny Mitchko)
Fri., March 26	6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat., March 27	8:00	+ Victims of Covid-19
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Elinor Chowanec (Family)
Sun., March 28	10:00	For Our Parishioners

EASTER PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

**Christ is Risen!
Indeed He is Risen!**

*“Let us rise at early dawn and bring
to our Master a hymn instead of
myrrh, and we shall see Christ the
Sun of righteousness Who enlightens
the life of all”* Ode 5, Paschal Matins

Christ is the fulfillment of Pascha. He performed the ultimate passage from death into life, and He opens and invites us to participate in

this journey into new life, life with the Risen Lord. The darkness of Great Friday, the day of Christ’s Passion is ultimately overshadowed by the great light and joy of Christ’s resurrection.

This Lenten season we all experienced darkness. We all have been living in the shadows of deep darkness of the Covid-19 pandemic. We all struggled with extended time of darkness that has impacted each of us - our families, our communities, our church, our nation and the world. This experience gives us a deeper

understanding of God's love in living through the darkness of the death of Christ that reveals to us the saving death for our salvation - the life-giving death. But Christ's death is the not the final event!

As we joyfully sing on Easter morning: "Christ is risen from the dead. By death He conquered death". Death is overcome by life; we live with the Risen Christ! From now on Paschal joy illuminates our lives. The Risen Christ enlightens the life of all. This meaning of Christ's Resurrection, this great joy, always was, and today is the central theme of Christianity. On Easter morning what we celebrate is that Christ has overcome sin and evil and death. There is forgiveness and hope and new life even from the very rock bottom of suffering and despair.

With the darkness of the pandemic upon us it is easy for us to understand why we are terrified, afraid and uncertain. We are afraid of getting hurt. We are afraid of losing control. We are afraid of what we do not understand. The women and disciples on this early morning of Pascha were afraid as well!

This joy of Resurrection starts from a personal encounter with the Risen Christ. What does it take for Mary Magdalene's tears to give way

to Easter joy? Nothing less than meeting the risen Christ. Meeting the risen Savior Himself! Even this is not so straightforward. Jesus appears to her, but Mary does not recognize Him. And then, Jesus calls her name - Mary. She turns, and now when she looks, her world is transformed. Before her there is no gardener, but the resurrected Christ, alive and free from death. Around her there is no tomb of lifeless rock, but the living Savior who calls her out of darkness into a marvelous light. After encountering the risen Jesus, Mary Magdalene obeys the Lord's command to tell the "Good News" of the resurrection to the disciples.

The risen Christ wants us to experience the joy of encountering Him and living for Christ and not for self—the joy of being liberated from the sins which trap us in self-centeredness and discover the blessing of Christ's self-giving love. No matter what may be happening in our lives, we can still experience spiritual joy through the love of God and living the way God made us to live, which is for self-giving love.

The Easter gospel is not just about new life, but new life that comes to us. Not just Christ raised from the dead, but the risen Christ meeting us and calling our names. Easter is an en-

counter, a call and a summons - Go and tell what you have seen and heard. Christ is alive, and more than that He has sought us out and called us by name. Whatever our doubts and our fears, whatever our failures and betrayals, whatever the wounds we try to protect – today is the new day. We are all to become witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus. We are called to bring that ray of the light of the Resurrection into the various human situations: into those happy ones, rendering them more beautiful, and into those sorrow-

ful situations, bringing serenity and hope. Let us experience this Easter morning joy and let us radiate this joy in our lives. Let the Mercy of Christ shine in our lives and deeds!

Our fervent prayer is that our Resurrected and Living Lord may bestow His peace and grace upon you and your loved ones, upon all our brothers and sisters scattered throughout the world!

**Christ is Risen!
Indeed He is Risen!**

+Borys Gudziak (Archbishop of Philadelphia)

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (Eparch of Stamford)

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

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

+Andriy Rabi (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

Meditation for the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

St. Mark tells us of the disciples walking on the road to Jerusalem with Jesus walking in the lead. He tells us that “their mood was one of wonderment, while that of those who followed was fear” (Mk 10:32). Then we hear of two disciples vying to sit, one at the right and other on the left, when Jesus comes into His glory.

This caused some anger among the other disciples. Jesus calms them by instructing them, “You know how among the Gentiles those who seem to exercise authority lord it over them; their great ones make their importance felt. It cannot be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever

wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all” (Mk 10:44). Fear, mutual distrust, envy, and pride rob you and me of the special gift of walking with Jesus with wonderment. We can be blinded to the needs and sufferings of others around us. We can forget the importance of being of service to others. Great Fast invites you and me to walk alongside Jesus Christ

with wonderment as to where He will lead us. We are reminded, “... the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve...” (Mk 10:45). Saint Teresa of Calcutta saw the face of Jesus in every person she ministered to, especially the sick and the dying. Through her inspiration, may we also cherish and search for opportunities to see Jesus Christ in the faces of those we serve!

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.

PUSSY-WILLOWS

Flowery (Palm) Sunday is just one week 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.

EASTER BASKET BLESSING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF ZHYROVYTSI

While maintaining social distancing, Parishioners will gather to either the right side or the left side of the Shrine. At the appropriate time, Helpers will direct each Parishioner to enter from the SIDE of the Shrine, carrying their food basket. Father Nestor will bless each food basket as it passes. Then, those who had their baskets blessed will continue down the center walkway and leave. In order to keep a smooth flow of baskets, we will

alternate from side to side.

There will be plenty of parking in either of our two parking lots AND there will be plenty of room to socially distance and stand in our driveway behind the Church. Once the blessing begins, we should be able to move at a good pace. Please wear your mask. All this will insure SAFETY and EFFICIENCY as we all rejoice together.

LENTEN FOOD FUNDRAISER

Just a reminder that we are now entering the final 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.

Also, for those of you who ordered Easter Flowers, pickup will be on Monday, March 29th from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. We thank you for your support.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ST. CYRIL'S RUMMAGE SALE/FURNITURE SALES 2020

The coronas epidemic of 2020/21 has affected our entire lives. In 2020, it would have been our 10th Annual Rummage Sale, the third week of September, at St. Cyrils. Due to circumstances, our “IF and When” 10th Rummage Sale was put on hold. But, with all the donations, especially furniture, we decided to hold a furniture Sale in August 2020. It was successful with the majority of merchandise selling in the back yard of the school/church. The NET PROFIT for Furniture Sale 2020 is \$ (August 30, 2020 bulletin) We thank everyone, parishioners, non-parishioners, family, and friends, for their dedication to making this fundraiser a success.

With limited help, (we continued to sell from the school gym via Scranton Market Place “Facebook” networking, and word of mouth.) Boxes and bins were opened. Merchandise was priced and displayed in anticipation the rummage sale would be held. Special thanks to Lauren, Steve, and Jeanne Cucura for their dedication in September -December working in the school gym. Our extended outside volunteers: Anne Elaine Gazella Sembro and Sonia Maslar, who ticketed jewelry, domestics, etc.... at their homes.

Furniture Sale August 2020:

Net Profit for 2020 St.
Cyrils Rummage Sale.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

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

Sunday Collections for March 13 -14, 2021:\$

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Conventional Wisdom and the Lord's

Listen, friend, it's a dog-eat-dog world out there.
You've got to do it to them before they do it to you.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Always remember the golden rule: those who have
the gold, make the rules.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Remember: Never get mad. Get even.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Take my advice, kid – Don't make waves. You've
got to go along to get along. Keep your eyes open
and your mouth shut.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Charity is fine, but business is business. Always,
always, always buy low and sell high.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

The drug users and the city scum – they deserve
what happens to them. We work hard for what
we've got – nobody is doing us any favors. Let
them do the same. It can be done. Hey, look: You
got to take care of your own.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Jesus' admonition is almost a pleading: If you really
understand Me and what I am about, if you really
want to be My disciple, if you really seek to be
worthy of My name, then you must see the world
differently and respond to its challenges with a
very different set of values. The world may try to
justify vengeance rather than forgiveness, to glorify
self-preservation over selflessness, to insist on pre-
serving the system and convention for the sake of
compassion and justice.

But it cannot be like that with you.