

## SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



*Icon of the Gospel of the Man Born Blind*

<b>May 9, 2021: Sunday of the Man Born Blind</b>		
Epistle: Acts 16: 16-34		Gospel: Jn. 9: 1-38
<b>Mon., May 10</b>	9:00	+ Joseph Muchisky (Wife, Pauline)
<b>Tues., May 11</b>	9:00	+ Mildred Gongliewski (Dorothy Zinsky)
<b>Wed., May 12</b>	9:00	+ Mimi Mansoura (Lauren Telep)
<b>Thurs. May 13</b>	<b>Ascension of Our Lord</b>	
	9:00	+ Dorothy & Andrew Chezik (Children)
	6:00 pm	Moleben to the Mother of God
<b>Fri., May 14</b>	9:00	+ Daniel & Olga E. Telep (Daughter, Lauren)
<b>Sat., May 15</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>	
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
<b>Sun., May 16</b>	10:00	+ Gertrude Sanko (John & Mary Ann Turko)

## A REFLECTION ON MOTHERS' DAY

Today, we give thanks to our mothers for their gift of life and nurture by remembering them especially in our prayers, and with acts of affection and goodness. We fondly and gratefully recall their living as bearers of light in our earthly life. Mothers give special witness as active bearers of the light of faith to their children, to their spouse, and to the entire family.

Jesus said that a person does not light a candle and then put it under a basket for no one to see. The gift of our faith, the light of our faith is meant to shine brightly. It is meant to be a source of rekindling the faith in others around us

who may be struggling. Mothers seem to be blessed with a compelling grace to actively teach and model their lifegiving faith to their children and to others. They plant the early seeds of faith in Jesus Christ and nurture it throughout their lifetime. They do not surrender to being passive in the celebration of their faith for which all of us are so grateful. They are steadfast in their faith as witnessed by their steadfast participation in the Church.

The best testimony you and I can give to the gift of our mothers is to ourselves become bright bearers of the light of faith. Choose to nurture the

seed of faith planted within you by your mother by learning more about your faith, your Church. Choose to actively share your faith with those whom you have been given to love and nurture in your life. Celebrate your faith energetically and enthusiastically, and without reservation, in imitation of your mother's gift to you. Choose to put aside your passivity! It only limits and constrains the gift so freely given to us by our mother.

The Blessed Mother of God gave her passionate and unconditional 'yes' to celebrate God's plan through her. It led to a gift for all of us beyond our

comprehension – God's saving plan for all of us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. The love and unconditional commitment of our earthly mother has given you and me opportunity to celebrate life and all its wonders as recipients of God's love. In testimony to our loving mothers, let us live as bright bearers of light!

God bless all of our mothers in ways only He can for many blessed and happy years! May the souls of our loving departed mothers be granted eternal peace with Jesus Christ!

-- *Archbishop-Emeritus Stefan Soroka*

## **SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**

Today the Church celebrates the Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man. This man, who had been "born blind," encountered Jesus when the Lord was leaving the Temple in Jerusalem. The man was, apparently, begging for money or food at the gate of the Temple and when Jesus spoke to him he listened and was obedient to the Lord's command. Unlike the other figures in the Gospel account, this man alone had never seen the miraculous works of Christ, and yet, trusted in his word. We too, who have "not seen and yet believe" trust in the word of the Lord and follow in his ways. In this way, we, who were formerly blinded by sin, have begun to see through faith.

But, how do we trust in the Lord and

follow in his ways? In the Epistle today, we are reminded on the conversion of Saul who, blinded by anger and his persecution of the Church, discovers that he is persecuting Christ himself and is called to join in the healing ministry of the Lord. We too, those who have been baptized into Christ and have received the vision of faith, are called to do "work[s] befitting [our] repentance."

And what are those works which we are called to do if not to follow in the ways of Christ and Saint Paul, to bring healing to those who are spiritually blind through ignorance of Christ? To help those to whom God has called us to minister "to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion

of Satan to God; that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance

among those sanctified by faith in me.”

## **HOW THE VIRGIN MARY PROTECTS HER FAITHFUL CHILDREN FROM ALL EVIL**

The Virgin Mary is first of all a mother, and a very powerful spiritual mother! She is fully united with her Son in Heaven and seeks to use all of her power to protect her children, who are invited to turn to her in their time of need. St. Louis de Montfort, an 18th century priest who dedicated his whole life to leading souls to Jesus through Mary, wrote about the protection she offers in his book entitled True Devotion to Mary. He compares her to a hen who gathers her brood under her wings, saving them from outside enemies.

Mary, the beloved Mother of chosen souls, shelters them under her protecting wings as a hen does her chicks. She speaks to them, coming down to their level and accommodating herself to all their weaknesses. To ensure their safety from the hawk and vulture, she becomes their escort, surrounding them as an army in

battle array. This she does out of the pure love she has for us, especially those who are daily devoted to her. This simple truth has been confirmed by many throughout the years, especially exorcists.

Famed exorcist Fr. Gabriele Amorth discovered this reality in his dialogues with the devil, where the devil said to him, “I am more afraid when you say the Madonna’s name, because I am more humiliated by being beaten by a simple creature, than by Him.”

Pope Francis related similar words in a homily at St. Mary Major, “Where the Madonna is at home the devil does not enter; where there is the Mother, disturbance does not prevail, fear does not win.”

Let us stay underneath the wings of the Blessed Mother and let her safely guide us to eternal life!

## **REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AND 23<sup>RD</sup>**

Because this year’s Food Truck Festival has expanded in size, additional volunteers are needed. Anyone interested, please attend a meeting on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00

in the Parish Hall at 207 River Street. This is an opportunity to help your Parish and have fun at the same time.

## **FOOD TRUCK FESTIVALS ARE BACK**

This year, we will be hosting three Food Truck Festivals, the first of which is Saturday, May 22nd and Sunday, May 23rd from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. (Then July 17/18 and Sept.11/12.) The Festivals will be bigger and better than last year's. The first one will have nine food trucks: Grumpy Crab (featuring seafood and Father's favorite cheesesteaks), R&R Potato Pancakes, 2Wayz/OnePassion (tex-mex), Roseanna's Pizza, FonDippity (specialty topped French fries), BellaRose (pieroghi, halupky, halushky, wimpies, pulled pork) Murts Diner Truck (old fashioned diner food), Murts Desserts (homemade cupcakes), and Lou's Funnel Cakes. We will,

also, have BINGO, several craft vendors, a raffle, and games of chance for kids (duck pond, knock cans down, bean bag into clown's mouth, and wind-up mouse race.) Free balloons for kids. Masks and social distancing will be required. Please join us for this fun fundraiser for our Parish, and, please pass the word around to friends and neighbors.

**SPECIAL REQUEST:** We are in need of pop-up tents for the Food Truck Festivals. Anyone able to loan one for the two-day event, please call: Jule @ (570) 357-6171, Michaelene @ (570) 209-2026, or, MaryAnn @ (570) 313-1989. We promise to take good care of them.

## **FLEA MARKET & HOMEMADE FOOD SALE**

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, North River & West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-Barre will hold a Flea Market & Homemade Food Sale, Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sunday, May 23, 2021 from 10:00am to 2:00 pm. Tables for the sale are \$10. Call (570) 829-3051

to reserve your table by Thursday, May 20th. Come out and sell your Spring Cleaning Treasures, or Browse our vendors' selection of theirs. Find a bargain and enjoy some good food from Baba's Kitchen. Chances will be sold for our Variety Basket Raffle.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, last year we were forced to cancel the Memorial Services at our Cemetery. As conditions are improving, we will resume having the Memorial Services at our Cemetery.

**THE MEMORIAL SERVICES AT OUR CEMETERY WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR ON SUNDAY, MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>. BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM. THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE DIVINE LITURGY ON THAT SUN-**

**DAY.** Following the Divine Liturgy, a Panachyda Service will be held to pray for all those buried at our Cemetery, after which, individual graves will be blessed.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SPRING 2021 FURNITURE/ RUMMAGE SALE**

Due to the Pandemic of 2020 and 2021, our lives have changed. We did the best we could do!!!

The 11th annual fundraiser furniture/rummage sale held on April 23, and 24th, 2021 for two days only ( with no raffle \$, no food \$, and no special sales \$)

Sales Income from January 2021 - April 22, 2021:.....\$

Sales Income from April 23 and April 24, 2021: ..... \$

## **THANKING THE VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY FOR THE SPRING 2021 RUMMAGE/FURNITURE SALE AT ST. CYRIL'S CHURCH**

The pandemic 2020 continues into 2021. Conversations with Father Nestor, we knew a sale had to be held in Spring 2021, and not wait until September 2021. ( The garage, school kitchen, and gym were packed with the merchandise donated from 2020) Starting Easter Week, April 6th, we worked in the morning and then added evening hours as the opening date came closer. We opened as many boxes as possible and knew we would have another rummage sale fundraiser in September 2021.

The donations from the parishioners and the community really helped our Rummage Sale thrive. But it is the community of volunteers from our church, family, friends, and non parishioners who made it such an outstanding event. Lauren Telep for the 11th year is our chairman, Even with a broken right index finger at the joint, (finger got caught in swivel chair apparatus, furniture sale) endured the Pre-rummage setup and 2 day sale. Lauren continued working forward with the volunteers to make this event successful.

With limited volunteers, the dedication, support, and commonality among everyone were outstanding!!!!

Special thanks to all 35+ volunteers who helped in so many special ways, hours of dedication, and love for St. Cyril's Parish. Special thanks to Steve and Jeanne Cucurra for all their support. Sonia Maslar and Anne Elaine Gazella Srebro worked at home pricing jewelry, holiday etc..., Victor and Deno, for local pickups from the Midvalley area The volunteers all helped as they enjoyed working in their specific areas: especially the outside Furniture guys... Steve Cucur , Tony Zedar\*, Mike Shumek, Ron Barkofsk , Ken Kosakevitch, Bob "Hammerman" Kletsko, John Sedlak, Mike Sepinsky, Father Nestor, John Uhnick, Jud



Villano\* Armon Cassetori\*, Paul Lucas, and Patrick Marcinko. Thanks to Steve, Tony\*, Paul, and Armon\* for being the handymen by fixing up, picking up, and delivering furniture, and setting up the street sign in Throop. \*non-parishioners, family, and friends as volunteers.

The Ladies included: Jeanne Cucura, Marie Martin, Ann Elaine Gazella Srebro, Janice Krisanda Eboli\*, Nancy Vrabel\*, Karen Carrera, Jan Straka Granza, Barbara Holleran\*, Judy Sepinsky, Rose Sember, Carol Zadaroani, Lisa Torch\*, Jackie Hunt, Marlene Zelno, Paula Bartkosky. Glenda Marcinko, Sonia Maslar, Dorothy Zinsky, Cheryl Matuszewski, Anne Nasevich, and Lauren Telep. Thanks to Sandra Berta and Rose Sember for taking care of the finances, Anne Elaine Srebro, and Jan Eboli\* as main cashiers. Thank you to everyone who supported this event in any way!!! \*non-parishioners, family, and friends as volunteers.

We thank everyone in the community for all their donations and help: Publicity/Photos in the Scranton Times-Tribune Newspaper, including The Valley Advantage, "Pocono Signs" updates at no charge, Duplicraft Printing of Scranton donated the printing of the flyers, Rosalie's Pizza of Dickson City fed the volunteers (pizza) on Friday, Refreshment donated from Arby's Beverages of Scranton, VFW of Peckville for the sign set up in Throop, Plastic Bags from Quinns, WNEP -TV Community Board announcements, local church bulletins and the Business who allowed us to post flyers, the Olyphant Boro, and the Olyphant Police Department, and the networking of everyone involved.

We look forward to a FALL Furniture-Rummage Sale fundraiser in September 2021 for the benefit of St. Cyrils. Come and lend a helping hand, Contact Father Nestor 570-291-4451 and Lauren Telep 570-383-0319 Thank you, for all you have done over the years, and looking forward to your help in the future.

## **PRE-RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP FOR SEPTEMBER 2021, BEGINING MAY 10TH AND MAY 11TH,**

The 11th annual furniture Rummage sale held April 23, and 24th, 2021 for two days only (no raffle, no food, no special sales), was successful. (Net profit \$12, 267.31) We still have boxes and bins to unpack and price for the September Sale.

On Monday, May 10, and Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 we will again start a PRE-rummage (9/2021) set up. Both days, starting at 9:00 a.m. to Noon the processing begins all over again. All are welcome to volunteer, after 10 years, you know what is involved. It is the beginning of another Rummage Sale for the church, Any questions, call Lauren at cell 646-241-9443 or 570-383-0319. During this time, your donations will be accepted. Evening hours will be available in a few weeks.

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

The Collection Processing Team for the month of May 2021 is Team #1: Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

**Sunday Collection for May 1 & 2, 2021: \$**

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***A Link to Baptism***

The cure of the blind man also symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is called holy enlightenment. Those who have been recently baptized are called the newly enlightened. This gospel from Saint John was read in the ancient Church on Holy Saturday when Catechumens were baptized. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores His creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam.

We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man

but something has significantly changed about him. He is no longer blind. So when we are illuminated we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must, however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world, "I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened." Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.