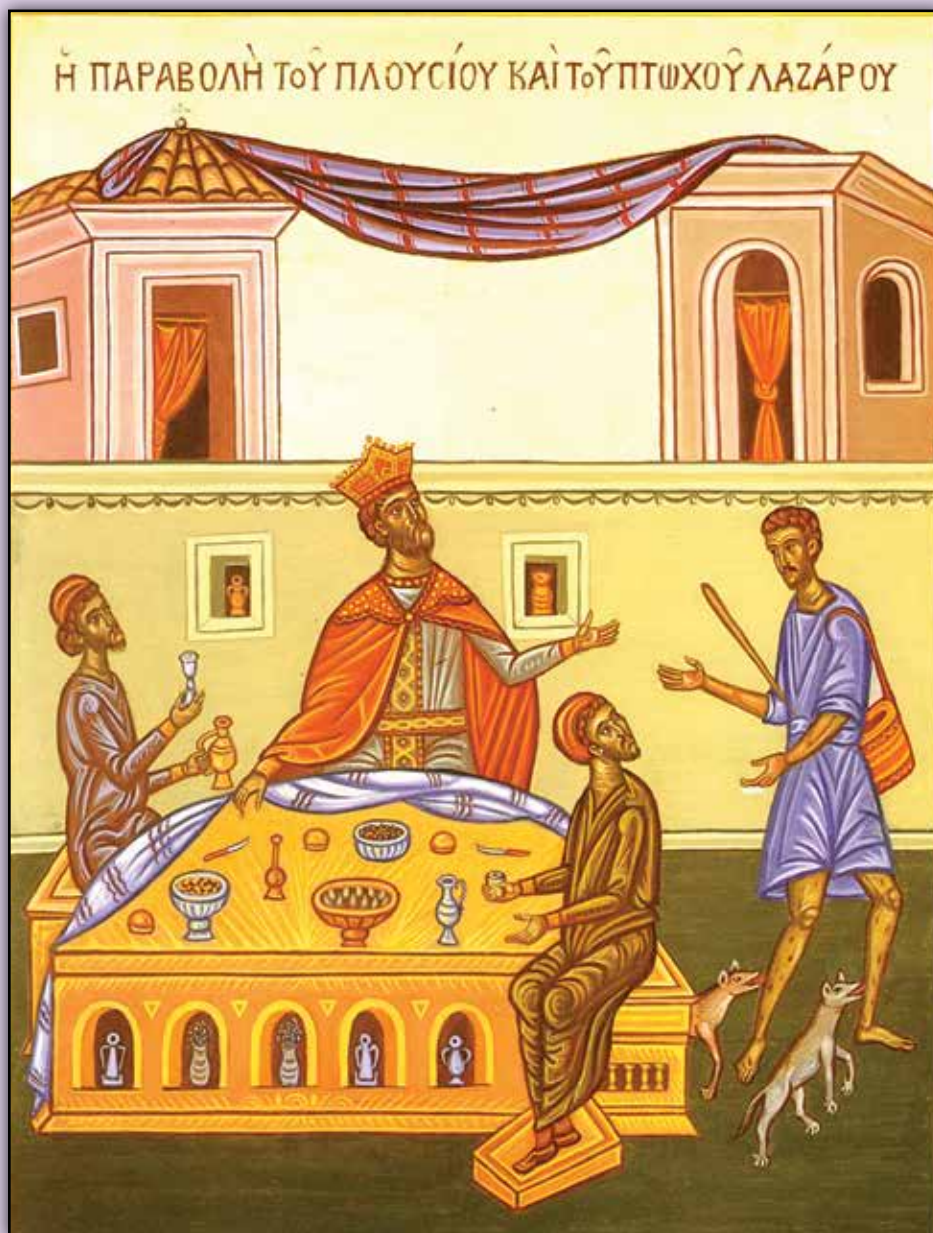


TWENTY-SECOND AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

October 24, 2021: 22nd Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Gal. 6: 11-18		Gospel: Lk. 16: 19-31
Mon., Oct. 25	9:00	+ Helen Shekitka (Elayne Eberhart)
Tues., Oct. 26	9:00	+ Fr. John Wysochansky (Demetria Sembrat Shala)
Wed., Oct. 27	9:00	+ Mildred Gongliewski (Shirley Romanovitch)
Thurs., Oct. 28	9:00	+ Roger Barren, Sr. (Joe & Carol Avaschieri)
Fri., Oct. 29	9:00	+ Myron Krenitsky (Jeanne Seklecki, Loree Howe & Daria Mellor)
Sat., Oct. 30	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners	
Sun., Oct. 31	10:00	+ Elaine Jablonski (Husband, Jim)

MY SINCEREST THANKS

My sincerest thanks and gratitude goes out to everyone who remembered me on my birthday this past week. I especially appreciated all the well wishes, the birthday cards, the “gourmet dinner,” and the gifts. It is greatly appreciated. I will continue to remember all of you in my prayers, and I ask for your continued prayers too. May God bless all of you!

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

How well we remember the instruction our Sunday School teachers gave us. After you receive Holy Communion, go back to your place. Stand, say prayers of thanks to Jesus for the great gift you have received. Times have changed and, unfortunately, so have the traditions. Now almost everyone in the church, prepared and unprepared, fasting and non-fasting, go up for communion almost every Sunday. Following the reception of the Holy Gifts

many go back to their places and plop down in the pew. Those who have not received are not standing as previously in the presence of the Eucharist – they are sitting relaxed or whispering with someone near them. What is indeed sinful is conversation with someone while in line to receive Communion. If you have fallen into this habit, break it now for St. Paul warns that you will be judged for this. A reminder – it is proper – the teaching has not

changed to stand with respect once the priest comes out of with the Holy Gifts and until he returns with them to the altar. Whether you commune or not, you should pray or meditate. Bring your prayer book to church, use the pew book provided. What can be said about those who leave the church immediately following the reception of the Very Body and Blood of Christ without giving a word of thanks?

JESUS IS ALL MERCY

When we take up our cross, we discover that it is freeing, that the yoke is easy and the burden light, just as Jesus promises. Isn't this what Jesus meant when, on the night of his passion, he offered his great Priestly Prayer to our heavenly Father: "...so they may share my joy completely." (John 17:13)

Pope Francis must have had this prayer in mind when he wrote his book, *The Joy of Discipleship*. Jesus is all mercy, all love, Francis writes. In his eyes, each of us is the little lost lamb, the mislaid coin, the child who squanders an inheritance on illusions of happiness.

The Pope writes that God does not forget us, never abandons us. He is a patient father, always waiting for us. He respects our freedom, but he remains faithful forever. When we come back to him, he welcomes us like children into his house, for he never ceases to wait for us with love. And his heart rejoices over every child who trusts in his divine mercy and returns to him and asks his forgiveness.

Our prayer today: *Jesus, I pray for the courage and faith to take up my cross daily and taste its freeing sweetness for myself.*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The churchgoer who never misses Sunday liturgy may spend as much as 78 hours per year in corporate prayer to God. Sound like a lot? An average American spends more than 2,900 hours per year in front of some kind of screen. So for every hour we spend praying with

God's people and getting to know Him better, we spend more than 37 communing with rectangles with moving pictures. It's no wonder that we know far more about politics, sports, fashion, soap operas and science fiction than we do about God.

MAKING YOURSELF AVAILABLE

A man was going up to bed, when his wife told him he'd left the light on in the garden shed – she could see it from the bedroom window. But he said that he hadn't been in the shed that day. He looked, and there were men in the shed, stealing things. He rang the police, but they told him that no one was in his area, so no one was available to catch the thieves. He said OK, hung up, counted to 30 and rang the police again. "Hello. I just rang you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed? Well, you don't have to worry about them now, I've just shot them all." Within five minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area, an

Armed Response unit, the works. Of course, they caught the burglars redhanded. One of the policemen said to this man: "I thought you said you'd shot them!" He replied, "I thought you said there was no one available!"

The same thing happens frequently in our life. Someone asks us to do something and we respond, "I don't have the time." Often, what we mean by that is, "I don't regard this as important enough."

The truth is, we find (or make) the time to do whatever we regard to be important. Someone has said you can tell a person's priorities by looking at his checkbook. There is a great deal of validity to that. We

are willing to spend money on the things we think are important. But perhaps a greater indicator of our priorities would be our planning books – a record of how our time is spent. For all of us, choices must be made. We don't have time to do everything, so we must choose those things which are of greatest importance to us. Just be careful that your choices are those things which are also most important to God.

The greatest men and women in

the Bible were not those with the greatest resources or talents, but they were men and women who made themselves available to be used by God whenever He called. May God never hear us say, "Sorry God, but I'm not available!" "Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5:15-17)

BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, remember the homeless family without beds to sleep in. Should you find yourself frustrated, stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for which driving is an unheard of privilege. Should you have a bad day at work, think of the man who has been out of work for years. Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it is like to love and be loved in return. Should you grieve the passing of another

weekend, think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day seven days a week to feed her children. Should your car break down, leaving you miles from any assistance, think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take a walk. Should you notice a few gray hairs in the mirror, think of the cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy who wishes she had hair to examine. Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what life is all about, asking "what is my purpose", be thankful. There

are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity. Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness,

ignorance, smallness or insecurities, remember, things could be worse. You could be them!

PIGS-IN-THE-BLANKET DINNER

Eureka Hose Company No. 4 will sponsor take-out only Pigs-in-the-Blanket Dinner on Saturday October 23rd, 3 to 7 pm at the Fire Station 717 East Grant St. Olyphant.

Limited \$10.00 tickets available from members. Dinner includes two piggies, potatoes, green beans and roll and butter.

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Valley Community Library will be holding its Annual Fall Book Sale this November at the Valley Community Library in Peckville. The dates of the sale are Friday, November 5th from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Saturday, November 6

from 10 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Patrons who bring their Friends of the Valley Community Library tote bag will receive \$2 off their purchase. The library is located at 739 River St. Peckville, PA 18452.

ANNUAL TURKEY-FEST DINNER

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, will host their annual Turkey Fest Dinner as a take-out only event on Saturday, November 6th in their school hall on the corner of West Chestnut and North River Streets in Wilkes-Barre. Pick-ups will be from 12:00 (noon) to 3pm. The event

will feature our traditional turkey dinner and basket raffle. Dinners will be \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children. Walk-in customers will be welcomed, but reservations are strongly encouraged. Tell your friends and family. Non-perishable food items will be collected for donation to a local food pantry.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHICKEN PARMESAN DINNER

St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 N. Main Street, Pittston will be holding a dinner drive thru on Sunday, November 7th – coinciding with the church's patron saint feast day. Featured is the very popular Chicken Parmesan Dinner, that includes homemade breaded chicken parmesan, a generous side of pasta, tossed salad and dessert.

Pre-ordering is suggested to secure your order at pickup. Phone Mike at 570-704-6520 or Linda at 570-905-7387. Orders will be taken to November 6. Cost per meal is \$12.00 adults, \$7.00 children. Pay by cash at time of pickup.

Pick up any time between 12 noon to 3:00 pm at the drive-thru tent. A limited number of extra

dinners may also be available.

St. Michael's is located a short distance north of the Pittston bridges. Turn right onto Lambert Street and into the parking lot.

St. Michael is honored on November 8 on the liturgical calendar of the Byzantine Catholic rite. The Archangel Michael is the guardian angel of the Church. He is also the patron saint of police officers, soldiers, doctors and emergency workers, firefighters, paramedics, and mariners. Prayers of protection for all first responders and more!

We thank all in advance who support these fundraising events and welcome you enjoy the food. For any additional questions, call the phone numbers listed.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of October 2021 is Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John

Turko, Jr., Leonard Mitchko and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for Oct. 16 & 17, 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

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Lazarus and the Rich Man

In the 1940's, France was known for its extensive collection of Egyptian artifacts. Many forgotten treasures were holed up in the basement of a Paris museum. One day, some workmen uncovered a forgotten burial case pushed into a dark corner of the basement. They decided that the box would be an excellent storage container for many of the smaller artifacts. So, without consulting any of the museum authorities, the workmen took it upon themselves to empty the contents of the box into the sewer. They then filled the empty box with odds and ends. Some time later, they made the unhappy discovery that they had mistakenly discarded the remains of Cleopatra, one of the most famous women of ancient Egypt!

In ignorance, people regularly discard things of great value. One of the more valuable

things that people discard are opportunities. We see this in today's Gospel reading of the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. The rich man had everything he needed in the world, while Lazarus was in constant need. Each day, the rich man had the opportunity to attend to the need of Lazarus who wanted nothing more than to eat the crumbs which fell from his table. The rich man, for his part, never abused Lazarus or mistreated him – he simply ignored him and for this he was condemned. The sin of the rich man was not his wealth, it was his blindness – blindness to the needs of others.

Let us not forget that "the truly rich man is not one who possesses much, but one who gives much." (Saint John Chrysostom)