

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE



Icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent

February 20, 2022: Sunday of Meatfare		
Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8 - 9:2		Gospel: Mt. 25: 31-46
Mon., Feb. 21	9:00	+ Bernadine Crago (Mary Ann Spryn)
Tues., Feb. 22	9:00	+ Nicholas Marcinko, Sr. (Andrea Novak & Family)
Wed., Feb. 23	9:00	+ Howard Smith (Son, Howard)
Thurs., Feb. 24	9:00	+ Amanda Danylak (Shirley Romanovitch)
Fri., Feb. 25	9:00	+ Jill King (Jacqueline, Rob & Julianne Hunt)
Sat., Feb. 26	No Morning Divine Liturgy. 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners	
Sun., Feb. 27	10:00	+ Mary Immaculat Barkofsky (John Turko Family)

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. Because He is a good and loving God who does not desire the death of a sinner, He calls us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). The time for repentance and forgiveness is now.

As Father +Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4) that sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We

show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt. 25:40).

Today is also known as the Sunday of Meat-Fare... That means that Great Lent begins next Sunday afternoon. In this final week of preparation for the Great Lent, the traditional discipline suggests that we bid farewell to meat in our diet after today until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of

Great Lent. The way we decide to adapt this discipline to our own situation is a matter of individual choice. Of greater

importance is the need to formulate a spiritual plan for the coming Holy Season.

IDENTITY - PART 2

How do we become a Prophet? A Prophet was a chosen person inspired to proclaim the teachings and the will of God. In doing so, he was not so much a person who foretells the future, but first and foremost a person who was called to give an incredible witness to God to the point of death. That is why most Prophets in the Old Testament were martyred.

Since you and I are anointed in Baptism, our identity, therefore, is not only that of being an adoptive son or daughter of God the Father, or a Jesus person, but also a Prophet, a witness to the teachings and person of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the rite of anointing, the Priest anoints our forehead so that our mind may be opened to understand and accept the mysteries of the Faith of Christ, and to recognize His truth. He then anoints our breast so that we may love the Lord, Our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind; and to love our fellowman as our self. The Priest then anoints the shoulders so that we may willingly take upon our self the easy yoke of Christ, and with glad heart carry His light burden; and that we shun all cravings of sensuality.

*by Fr. Walter J. Wysochansky
Part 2 of 5*

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR FAITH

Q: Do priests remember what we say in confession?

A: So often, people will ask if I remember people's sins from Confession. As a priest, I rarely remember sins from the confessional. That might seem impossible, but the truth is, sins aren't all that impressive. They aren't like memorable sunsets or meteor showers or super-intriguing

movies... they are more like the garbage.

Q: In the cherubic hymn sung at every liturgy we sing "Let us who mystically represent the cherubim." What does it mean for us to mystically represent the cherubim? Does "us" refer to all of us assembled together at the liturgy? or those ministering at the altar only?

A: To mystically represent the

Cherubim refers to our “putting aside all earthly cares so we may receive the King of all...” Representing the Cherubim points to those who concelebrate the Divine Liturgy (i.e. all the faithful) and who are to maintain vigilance while awaiting the Second Coming of the Lord. Thus, every celebration of the

Liturgy is a celebration of the Kingdom which is to come. In the Chrysostom anaphora we give thanks to our heavenly Father “who has endowed us with [his] kingdom which is to come.” Being like the Cherubim ranks us with those who now anticipate and participate in the new creation.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Heavenly Father, your Son taught us “*Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God.*” In this time of great worry, we fervently pray that your Holy Spirit sustain all the people of Ukraine to be vigilant and dedicated to peace and justice. Grant their leaders wisdom and prudence. Yet, may they also have the strength and perseverance to defend their land from all adversity and foreign attacks. Help

us all to live according to your Divine Will.

O God, our Father, in the days to come, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded, and accept the souls of the faithful departed into Your Heavenly Kingdom. We ask also that the Most Holy Mother of God extend her blessed mantle of protection over our Ukraine. Amen.

CHURCH TRADITIONS & ETIQUETTE

Modern culture is rather casual in its approach to worship and sacred space. In our Ukrainian Catholic Church we adhere to long-standing traditions that express the reverence which is due to God, to each other, and to ourselves. Respect for God and His house translates to respect for all of His creation. The following guidelines are customs and traditions of etiquette that we need

to be aware of as Catholic faithful. Please read the following information prayerfully and with an understanding for the Church’s obligation to shepherd with love and compassion for all the faithful.

Entering the Church. Arrive on Time - The time to arrive at church is before the service starts. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy has begun,

try to enter the church quietly and at the appropriate moment. We must not be walking in or around the church when the Gospel is being read, when a procession is taking place, or at any time that the priest is facing the congregation.

Fast before the Liturgy. It is a Church law that one fasts for at least 1 hour before receiving Holy Communion. Water and medicine can be consumed, of

course. The purpose is to help us prepare to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Please be quiet while in church. Once you enter the church – it is not the time or place to visit with those around you. If you must talk - do so as quietly and briefly as possible. Remember that your conversation might be disturbing someone who is in prayer, which is much more important. Sssshhhh.

THE WOODEN BOWL

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled onto the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl.

When the family glanced in

Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy he responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. The tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently lead him back to the family table. For the remainder of his

days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth spoiled.

Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process

the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives. The wise parent realizes that every day the building blocks are being laid for the child's future. Let us be wise builders.

CHANGE IN TIME FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS

As of March 1, 2022, I will be assigned a second Parish: Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Simpson, PA. In order for me to be able to accomidate both Parishes, it is necessary to adjust the time of the Divine Liturgy in Olyphant. **AS OF SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2020 THE**

DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE AT 10:30 INSTEAD OF 10:00 AM. This change is necessary to ensure coverage of all Parishes due to the current clergy shortage. Please continue to pray for vocations.

LENTEN FOOD SALE

This year's menu has some additional delicious options: pizza from Roseanna's and pierogy from Little Spuds. Soups prepared by the chef of Bistro on the Hudson restaurant. BellaRose Food Truck will be offering several menu items. The flyer is attached to the bulletin. Due to the prohibitive

cost of postage, we will not be mailing the flyers, but are asking everyone to help distribute them. Please take some flyers to give to neighbors, take some to your workplace, your beautician's shop, dentist's/doctor's office, etc. With everyone's help, we can make this a very successful fundraiser.

UKRAINIAN PYSANKY CLASSES

Ss. Cyril's and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA will be continuing with the tradition of

making Ukrainian Pysanky in time for Easter 2022. Classes will be held at St. Cyril's Parish Hall at 207 River

Street, Olyphant with free parking. The beginner's classes will be taught by Tammy Budnovitch (for over 10 years at St. Cyril's) on Sunday, March 6th, and Sunday, March 27th starting from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All supplies and eggs will be included at the cost of \$25.00 per person per class. Classes are limited in size! Mask are optional. Contact Tammy Budnovitch at 570-766-1919. Please, leave a message.

DIVINE LITURGY ATTENDANCE ON SNOWY DAYS

It is very rare that the Divine Liturgy is canceled, especially on a Sunday. I want to encourage those of you who must walk further or more importantly, who drive to church, to PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE, when making a determination about attending the Divine Liturgy on the snowy, icy,

inclement weekend or even more so on the weekday. If attendance means putting yourself and others at risk, I am sure the Lord understands if you should decide to pray at home. Please use common sense and a well-informed conscience when making such a decision.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Eureka Hose Company No. 4 will be held Saturday March 5th at the Fire Station, 717 East Grant St., Olyphant. The Dinner will consist of pasta, meatballs, salad, dessert, bread and butter. As of now the Dinner will be

take out only due to Covid-19. Dinner will be served from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be obtained from any member or at the door the day of the Event. Proceeds will help offset expenses and firefighting equipment.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of February 2022 is Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko,

Jr., Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for Feb. 12 & 13, 2022: \$

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

Pushing or Pulling?

A couple, vacationing in Maine, visited the harbor to watch the boats return from fishing and trapping lobsters. One lobster boat docked near where they sat and unloaded buckets of fresh lobsters. The wife became intrigued as she watched the lobsters scurry about in a bucket. She noticed that as soon as one lobster began to climb its way out of the pail, the other lobsters would pull it back down. It seemed to her that it would have been fairly easy for each lobster to escape from the bucket, except that they always were being pulled back down by the others.

Lobsters certainly can teach us about human nature as well. Doesn't it seem that as soon as one person decides to climb out of the "bucket," there are so many others trying to

pull him or her back down? Rather, shouldn't we try to support and push the other person farther along?

Let us look at the icon on the cover of the bulletin. The icon depicts people traveling from earth to heaven on a ladder. Can we see ourselves on the ladder? Let us ask ourselves: Do we push our neighbor further up the ladder to Heaven, or do we pull them down?

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus speaks of our obligation to assist other people in every need. Moreover, Our Lord tells us that whatever we do to others we do to Him. Conversely, if we neglect others, we neglect Our Lord. "Whatever you do to the least of My brothers, you do to me." (Matthew 25:40)