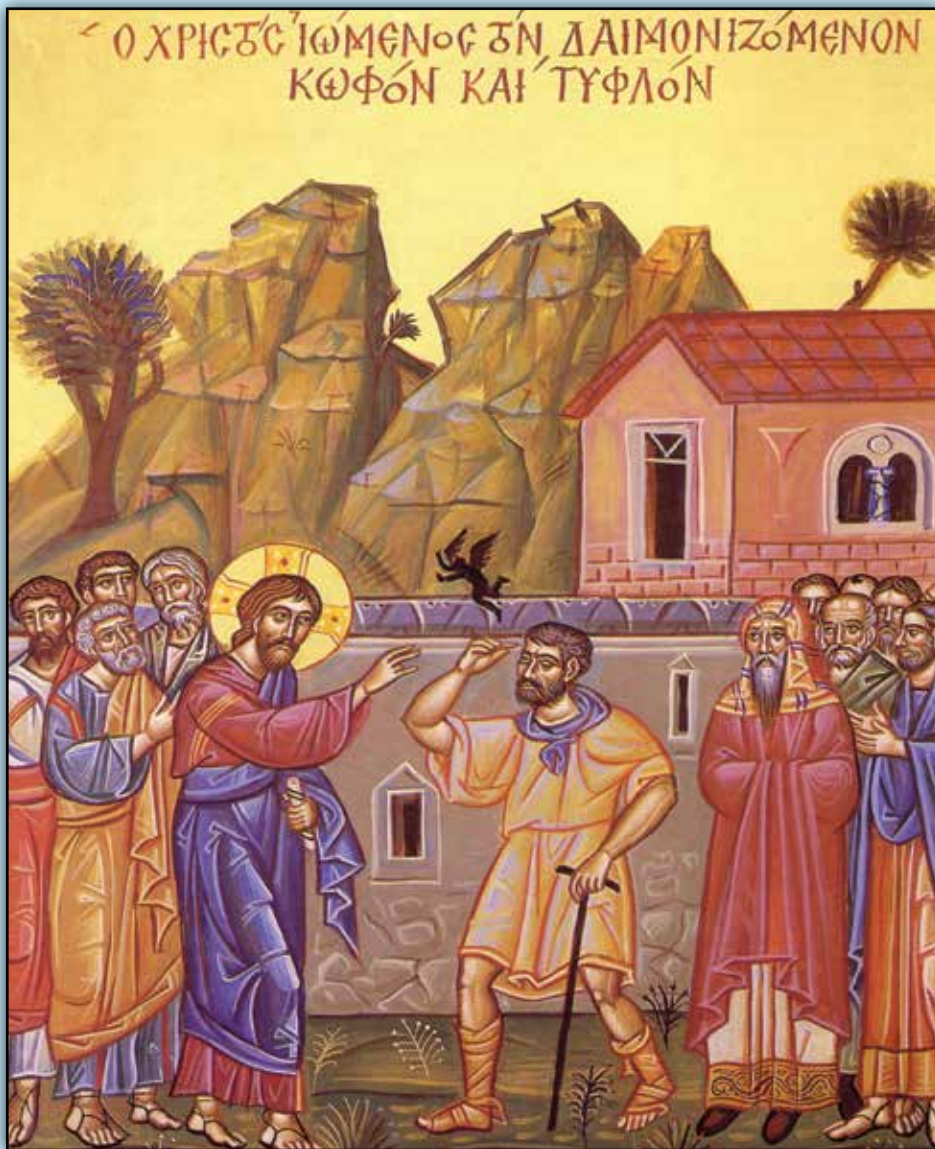


THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Healing the Blind Beggar -- (Luke 18:35-43)

January 16, 2022: 34th Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: 1 Tim. 15: 17		Gospel: Lk. 18: 35-43
Mon., Jan. 17	9:00	+ Bernadine Crago (Dr. Val Pilarek)
Tues., Jan. 18	9:00	+ Deceased of Moskel Family (Nieces & Nephews)
Wed., Jan. 19	9:00	+ Mildred Gongliewski (Daughter, Mary Beth, Peter, Nicholas & Zachary Chludzinski)
Thurs., Jan. 20	9:00	+ Joe Berta (Jule Harris)
Fri., Jan. 21	9:00	+ Susan Sestili (John & Mary Ann Turko & Family)
Sat., Jan. 22	No Morning Divine Liturgy.	
	2:00 pm Confessions	
	4:00 pm + Victims of Abortion	
Sun., Jan. 23	10:00	For Our Parishioners

TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY

One of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, had said: “The most important function of the Government is to Protect the Lives of its citizens.” On Saturday, January 22, 2022, we sadly observe the 49th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision which legalized the murder of unborn children. On this day, please pray for all the victims of this massacre -- for all the children who have not been born. Pray for those who provide this evil -- that they may see the error of their ways and repent! Pray for those who suffer as a result of having had an abortion!

Thousands and thousands of people will be gathering in Washington, DC, on Thursday and Friday. The Solemn Vigil Mass for Life takes place Thursday evening at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. EWTN begins live coverage at 5:30 pm.

On Friday, the Pro-Life Rally and March for Life takes place. EWTN begins coverage at 9:30 am.

In the words of St. John Paul II: “A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope.” Let us pray for an end to this modern day genocide!

A GLASS OF MILK

A poor student was walking along a road, carrying a bundle of books, to his school. He was from a very poor family and his parents could not provide him even regular food. As he was already late, he was almost running. He was hungry and very weak. Suddenly he felt exhausted and fell down, scattering his books on the roadside. Seeing his fall, a lady rushed to the spot from her house. She helped the boy to get up, collected his books and carried him to her house. The boy was very weak and hungry, but he did not ask for food. He asked for a little water to drink. The lady sensed his state and offered him a glass of milk. The boy accepted it with gratitude and continued his journey to the school. The incident remained fresh in his mind.

Several years rolled by. The lady became old, sick and weak. She was admitted to the local hospital. As her condition became worse, she was shifted to a large medical institute in a distant city. The senior doctor, who was also the director of the institute, examined her. He diagnosed her disorder and performed an immediate surgery. She was carried to the best room in the hospital and provided

expert medical care. The staff was always ready to offer all assistance and care. Within a month, she could regain her health fully. She was informed that she would be discharged the next day. She was worried about the bill as she was poor and could not afford to pay a large amount. She planned to sell her house to settle the bill. She enquired about the bill. The bill was presented to her. She examined it anxiously. On the top of the bill, there was a note signed by the director of the institute, "THE AMOUNT HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL BY A GLASS OF MILK."

Slowly she recollected the incident when she gave a glass of milk to a poor, weak and hungry boy who fell down on the road near her residence. By this time, the director himself came to her room and she could recognize his face. He was the same boy whom she had helped with a glass of milk a long time ago. He had recognized her earlier and gratefully made elaborate arrangements for her treatment and paid the expenses from his own pocket, all for a glass of milk and tender care received in a crucial moment of his life, during his hard times, long before he became a distinguished doctor by his hard work and earnest efforts.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho passes through our front. Let us behave like the Good Samaritan and be of help to any one in need.

“Give to the poor and you will never be in need” (Proverbs 28:27).

“Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it” (Proverbs 22: 9).

“Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!” (Matthew 5: 7).

“I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me” (Mt. 25:35, 36)

“I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of brothers of mine, you did it for me!” (Mt. 25:40)

JESUS AT THE WINDOW

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods but he could never hit the target. Discouraged, he headed back to dinner. As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just on an impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head and killed it. He was shocked and grieved. In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the woodpile only to see his sister watching.

Sally had seen it all but she said nothing. After lunch that day Grandma said, “Sally, let's wash the dishes.” But Sally said, “Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen.” Then she whispered to him, “Remember

the duck?” So Johnny did the dishes. Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, “I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper.” But Sally just smiled and said, “Well, that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help.” She whispered again, “Remember the duck?”

So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help. After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug and said, “Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing. But, because

I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let

Sally make a slave of you.”

BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH: WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. This means that corporately, not individually, we are Christ Himself still incarnate in the world doing His work. If a person desires with their whole heart one can unite to Christ and become a member of His Body. Ideally, this is motivated by a simple desire to know God and to be where He is. Out of this love for God comes the desire to follow his commands and to worship Him. However, this happens in a context which is not our own. Our Catholic Faith maintains the ancient Jewish belief that God is manifest in the temple. We believe that the same glorious presence of God, the Shekinah Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Church Temple. “God is with us, understand all ye nations.” Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from Great

Compline says. If we truly understood what this means -- that the God “who is a consuming fire” is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently.

Church attendance is not merely about obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness. By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary. Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matt 6:21

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER

Please remember the entire Liturgy is an invitation to celebrate and encounter our God; by missing out on this special moment at any given week

we deny ourselves the intimacy and knowledge of God that we essentially crave as human beings. Having said this we also need to understand that

when we do attend the Liturgy our Goal is not just to receive the Eucharist and dash, but to connect and receive all the Graces God has to offer in the week following the services. To leave the liturgy early after communion is to turn your back on the Holy Eucharist (Body and Blood of Jesus, His real

presence). Please be considerate and wait a few minutes for the final Priest's Blessing and join the congregation in praying the Vocation Prayer. Your attention and understanding of these concerns is appreciated and will help the community as a whole be a prayerful place.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS COMING TO AN END

Volunteers are needed! Again, special thanks to the Parishioners who decorated the Church for Christmas. We received so many comments as to how beautifully the Church was decorated.

Taking down the decorations is much easier. Everything is double-checked to see that it is marked with a ribbon for its proper location for

next Christmas. Lights are wound, everything is stored in bins, etc. and stored in the Church basement. We need the men of the Parish to help with the manger itself, the larger trees, ladders, etc.

Lend us a hand on Sunday, January 30th IMMEDIATELY after the 10:00 Divine Liturgy. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

KEEP GREETING ONE ANOTHER

A reminder to all: just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40-day preparation and fasting period, so now we celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beautiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional "Christos Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!" During the darkness of the Winter months, do all you can to keep the bright light of Christ burning brightly! Let Christ shine through you!

Note: according to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2nd.

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.

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS CANCELLED

Due to an increase of Covid cases in the USA in general and in the Philadelphia surrounding areas and Philadelphia Archeparchy in particular, there was a decision to cancel the Festival of Christmas Carols, scheduled for this Sunday, January 16, 2022. May the Almighty

God help us to overcome this pandemic, so that we could praise our Lord Jesus in good health for many years to come.

Thank you very much for your understanding, and I hope to see you all next year at our Festival.

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 January 2022 is Team

#1: Jerry Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

Sunday Collection for Jan. 8 & 9, 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

Healing the Blind

As Jesus is approaching Jericho with his followers, a blind beggar (named Bartimeus in St. Mark) calls out: 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' and persists even though the crowd tries to silence him. Jesus has them bring the man to him and asks what he wants; he asks to be able to see again. Jesus tells him that his faith has cured him; he immediately regains his sight and follows Jesus.

Apart from telling a miracle story that shows the power of Jesus, the author of the Gospel uses this story to advance a clearly theological purpose. It shows a character who understands who Jesus is and the proper way to respond to him - with faith. The use of the title, 'Son of David' serves to identify Jesus as the Messiah. It was also a reference to Jesus' kingly authority, which the Jews would have seen as placing him

at odds with Caesar. The emperor was the perceived proper referent of the call of *kyrie eleison*, as he would have been referred to as *kyrios* in Greek ('lord' in English).

The Gospel of Matthew has two unnamed blind men, sitting by the roadside; Jesus is 'moved by compassion' and touches their eyes. 20:29-34 A version of the same story is told earlier in the narrative, when Jesus is preaching in Galilee. On this occasion, he asks the blind men if they believe he can cure them, and when they assure them they do, he commends their faith and touches their eyes, restoring their sight. He warns them to tell nobody of this, but they go and spread the news throughout the district. (Matthew 9:27-31)