

## SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE



*Icon of the Canaanite Woman (Matthew 15:21-29)*

<b>January 23, 2022: 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b>		
Epistle: 2 Cor. 6:16 - 7:1		Gospel: Mt. 15: 21-28
<b>Mon., Jan. 24</b>	9:00	+ Halyna Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
<b>Tues., Jan. 25</b>	9:00	+ Robert Harris (Wife, Jule)
<b>Wed., Jan. 26</b>	9:00	+ Margaret Evanitsky (Michaelene Davis)
<b>Thurs., Jan. 27</b>	9:00	+ Joseph Berta (John & Mary Ann Turko)
<b>Fri., Jan. 28</b>	9:00	+ Jacob, Ann & Karen Jablonski (Gloria Jablonski)
<b>Sat., Jan. 29</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy.</b> 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Brian Westington (Mom, Ilona)	
<b>Sun., Jan. 30</b>	10:00	For Our Parishioners

## **VIRUS PREVENTION**

We would like to remind everyone that those who are ill, have significant health risk factors, or care for someone who is immune-compromised, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety about contracting the virus

in a large group of people, are not obliged to attend the Divine Liturgy. If you are not feeling well, please stay home. Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe and healthy.

## **THE PARABLE OF THE SPOONS**

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in.

In the middle of the room was a

large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles and

each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one.

There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water.

The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand."

It is simple" said the Lord, "it requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other.

## LITURGICAL Q & A

**QUESTION:** *What is the significance of receiving the blessing of a priest or a bishop? And when should you get such a blessing?*

**ANSWER:** In Holy Scripture, we find stories of blessings given to the entire people of God by the High Priest and blessings given to individuals by Prophets and by parents. So we see that there are two types of blessings – sacramental or liturgical and personal. We must remember that the liturgical

and personal blessings are not the blessings by human beings, but are the blessings of the Lord. In our Church today we see the same sorts of blessings as can be found in Scripture. Blessings are commonly sought at the beginning of any arduous task, going to war, having surgery, after confession. In 'the old country' people frequently ask the blessing of priests or bishops or monks as they walk down the street.

## MORE Q & A

**QUESTION:** *Can priests give or take confessions over the phone, FaceTime, Skype or Zoom?*

**ANSWER:** No, nor can they do so over the Internet using chat, or

other similar means. The church long ago recognized something that most of the world just recently recognized - that electronic communications are never truly private. Privacy is

of key importance to the Mystery of Reconciliation. Priests are strictly admonished to keep all confessions as private as possible. They can be excommunicated if they don't.

But more importantly, it is the personal encounter that matters the most. The priest, when offering the Mystery of Reconciliation, is acting in *persona Christi* - that is, in the person of Christ. The Church believes that the personal encounter with Christ when partaking of the Holy Mysteries is vital.

Although our encounters with others on the Internet and via social

media can be considered "real" in one sense, in the Holy Mysteries we encounter Christ in a personal and ecclesial way. It is never just a private experience, but is always grounded in the life of the church and this means that it must truly be personal, including the contact between the confessor and the penitent.

While the convenience or ease of online celebrations might be appealing for many reasons, at heart, we always want to keep in the mind the fulness of the Church's tradition and meaning of the Holy Mysteries.

## **HUMOR... THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL**

The boy listened closely as the rabbi read the Bible. "May I ask a question" he asked. "Sure. Go ahead. Ask your question," replied the rabbi. "Well, the Bible says that the children of Israel

crossed the Red Sea, the children of Israel built the temple, the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?

## **DON'T STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH**

- Because it rains. You go to work in the rain.
- Because it is hot. So is the golf course.
- Because it is cold. It's warm and friendly inside.
- Because you are poor. There is no admission charge.
- Because you are rich. That can be cured.
- Because no one invited you. People go to the movies without being asked.
- Because you have children. God

loves them.

- Because there are hypocrites. You associate with them daily.
- Because you have company. They will admire your loyalty if you bring them along, or ask them to wait till you get back.

- Because your clothes are not expensive. Churches are not supposed to be fashion shows.
- Because the church always wants money. So does your grocer.
- Because you have plenty of time to go later... Are you Sure?

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **OUR CONDOLENCES**

In your Christian Charity, please remember in yours prayers the soul

of + **John Melnick** who recently fell asleep in the Lord. + John was buried from St. Cyril's this past Friday,

January 21<sup>st</sup>. May his memory be eternal. Vichnaya Pamyat!

## **OUR SINCEREST THANKS**

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our November/December Bake Sale and Poinsettia Fund Raiser. We were able to earn \$ for our Parish through these

recent events. It may not seem like a lot; but, as the saying goes, "Every little bit helps", especially with the ever-rising costs of operating our Parish. Thank you, again.

## **2021 TAX REPORTS**

Parishioners who want a 2021 end of year donation report for tax

purposes are asked to contact the Parish Office at 570-291-4451.

## **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 today, 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.

### **PIGGIE/HOLUBTSI DINNER**

“Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre will hold a take-out Piggie / Holubtsi Dinner on Sunday, January 30th, 2022. Dinners may be picked up between 12:00 (noon) and 3:00 pm in school hall, corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-Barre. Dinner includes; Piggies (meat & rice

stuffed cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter and dessert. Dinners will be \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children (12 and under). Drive-up customers will be welcomed, but reservations are Strongly Encouraged, (570) 829-3051.”

### **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. 15 & 16, 2022: \$**

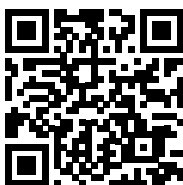
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***The Gentiles Cry Out for Jesus***

To grasp the inner motive of the Canaanite woman for obtaining what came to pass, we must reflect on the impact of her words. There is a firm belief that there was and still is in Israel a community of converts who passed over from the Gentiles into the works of the law. They had left behind their previous life and were bonded by the religion of a foreign land and dominating law as though from home. The Canaanites were inhabiting the lands of present-day Judea. Whether absorbed by war or dispersed to neighboring places or brought into servitude as a vanquished people, they carried about their name but lacked a native land. Intermingled with the Jews, therefore, these people came from the Gentiles. And since a portion of those among the crowds

who believed were converts, the Canaanite woman most likely had left her territory, preferring the status of a proselyte – that is, coming out from the Gentiles to the community of a neighboring people. She was appealing on behalf of her daughter, who was a type for all the Gentile people. And since she knew the Lord from the law, she addressed him as Son of David. For in the law, the king of the eternal and heavenly kingdom is referred to as the “rod out of the stem of Jesse and the son of David.” This woman, who professed Christ as both Lord and Son of David, did not need healing. Rather, she was begging for help for her daughter – that is, the Gentile people in the grips of unclean spirits.

*St. Hilary of Poitiers*