

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Prophet Samuel -- August 20th

August 20, 2023: Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: 1 Cor. 15: 1-11		Gospel: Mt. 19: 16-26
Mon., Aug. 21	9:00	+ Daniel Novitsky (Shirley Romanovitch)
Tues., Aug. 22	9:00	+ Roman Kushner (Bill & Jane Granza)
Wed., Aug. 23	9:00	+ Ona C. Yankow (Gerald Yankow)
Thurs., Aug. 24	9:00	+ Andrew Chezick (Chezick Family)
Fri. Aug. 25	9:00	+ Jacob, Ann & Karen Jabonski (Gloria Jablonski)
Sat., Aug. 26	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners	
Sun., Aug. 27	10:30	+ Patrick Marcinko, Jr. (Wife Glenda & Family)

SEVEN REASONS WHY THE SAINTS ARE IMPORTANT

In these challenging times, it's wise to "get back to the basics" and reflect on what a great gift we as Christians have been given in the examples and the living intercession of the saints. Let's consider just seven of the many, many reasons why the saints are important in our lives.

1. The Saints are real. Seeing a photograph of Saint Therese of Lisieux resting in a chair near the end of her life, some American parochial students surprised their teacher with the question: "You mean she was real?" The reality of the saints is the place for us to start; these men and

women and their stories and words are not legends, or some kind of religious equivalent of super heroes, or even two-dimensional historical figures, however inspiring. They really lived, and still live in the heavenly world.

2. The Saints struggled with the very problems we do -- and much worse. When we're anxious about the pandemic and the shutdowns, we should remember Saint Catherine of Siena, who ministered lovingly to the sick when her townspeople were dying in the streets from the Black Plague. When we're dismayed by

the limitations placed on Christian worship and the aspersions cast on Christian faith that we see today, we should remember Saint Lawrence the Martyr who, while being roasted to death on a grill, told his pagan torturers, “I’m well done on this side. Turn me over!” When we’re troubled by harmful thoughts, we should remember Saint Mary of Egypt, who struggled heroically and alone in the Palestinian desert for decades, fighting the urge to return to the decadent life from which she had been called. The saints know what we are going through and will respond to our calls for their help.

3. The Saints are our heavenly helpers. Many of us have experienced for ourselves what millions of Christians have found during the long history of the church – that the saints are ready to respond to our prayers, to bless, protect, heal, and sanctify us. And during their own earthly sojourn the saints themselves discovered this for themselves. See how Saint John Vianney continually turned toward the martyr Saint Philomena for her miraculous intercession; how Saint Andre of Montreal found Saint Joseph to be a healer

and helper in all troubles and counseled all he met to “Go to Saint Joseph”; how the little-known contemporary Egyptian saint Pope Kyrillos VI made the third-century martyr Saint Mina his miraculous helpmate in his difficult task of leading the Coptic Christians.

4. The message of the Saints’ lives and teachings are timeless and timely. We may not face an emperor demanding we sacrifice to pagan gods, or a king requiring us to condone his adultery, but the supernatural courage and heroic examples of a Saint George or a Saint Thomas More are an inspiration for all times. And how pertinent they are to our own struggles, as the Christians of today face a new degree and manner of persecution.

5. The words and actions of the Saints are a sure guide and authority on how we should live. In an age when millions find celebrity more attractive than sanctity, and virtue-signaling takes the place of real virtue, we need to move our focus from the ways of the world and turn to the saints for a guiding light. And why not use the very tools of this age to do this? You can find excellent videos

of the lives of the saints on YouTube, and Amazon is a great source for biographies of the saints and books of their writings, many of which are out of print and only available from the many independent bookstores that list their inventory there.

6. The Saints are the best role models for sanctity. If we make the remembrance of the saints our constant companion and study, we will find their example becoming the measure for our own behavior. You become what you contemplate, as someone once wrote about his own

veneration of the saints and their icons.

7. Make friends with the Saints and they will be with us and help us. Christian tradition clearly shows us the way to open a window into heaven. If we place the icons and images of the saints in our home and church, honor and pray to them (especially on their feast days), and remember to always turn to them for guidance and help in every need, however great or small, we can experience for ourselves their blessed protection, healing, and intercession.

WHAT DOES THE CHANT “ETERNAL MEMORY” MEAN AT MEMORIAL SERVICES?

When we chant “eternal memory” (Вічна Память - Vichnaya Pamyat) at the end of Memorial Services and Funerals, it is often falsely assumed that this memory of the departed be preserved on earth not only in the minds of loved ones, but even for many generations after. In fact, however, this hymn is not addressed to the loved ones of the deceased, nor is it addressed to the deceased, nor does it have any mortal purpose, but it is addressed as a prayer to God, who is eternal, on behalf of the de-

parted.

One day the apostles came to Christ with joy saying: “Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.” Jesus replied: “Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in the heavens” (Lk. 10:17-20). In other words, Christ told His apostles to not rejoice over something here on earth that bears nothing on their salvation, but to rejoice over the fact that their names are eternally remembered in the kingdom of heaven. Their names

are written in what is commonly known in Holy Scripture as the “Book of Life”. This is best illustrated in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. Poor Lazarus after death is found in God’s kingdom, and his name has become eternally remembered, while the miserable rich man lingers in Hades, utterly nameless. The name of a person is their identity.

“Eternal Memory - Вічная

Память” is equivalent to saying “may you ever be in God’s memory.” The Church says this prayer so that the deceased “continue” in God’s memory. Because if God “forgets” us, if He says “I never knew you” (Matt. 7:23), we are led into spiritual extinction. But if He remembers us, then like the thief on the Cross who asked Christ to remember him, we also will live eternally with Him in Paradise.

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian Charity, please remember in yours prayer the soul of + **Joseph Klapatch** who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, August 13th.

+ Joseph was buried from St. Cyril’s on Friday, August 18th. May his memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

SCHEDULING DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

The Divine Liturgy Scheduling Book has arrived. If you wish to schedule any intentions, please do so as soon as possible. The schedule fills up very quickly.

Also, as weekends are very popular, and in order to try to accommo-

date everyone, we ask that you limit your requests for weekend Liturgy intentions to no more than 4 per year. If you would like to have more Divine Liturgies, please schedule them for a week day.

IT’S VACATION TIME... (BUT NOT FOR CHURCH BILLS)

It’s that time of year again... Vacation Time. We take time out of our normal routine for rest and relaxation. Sometimes we stay at

home; sometimes we take trips to visit friends, explore new places or go on adventures. We may even forget about our normal routines for

a little while.

Unfortunately, our bills and financial obligations never take a vacation. This includes our Church's bills, which always seem to INCREASE during summer time.

Please, when you prepare to go on vacation, don't forget about YOUR CHURCH! You can always mail in your Sunday Collection envelopes and then can enjoy your vacations.

HOSPICE OF THE SACRED HEART

The Hospice of the Sacred Heart is looking for volunteers. Opportunities range from companionship for patients in their homes, long-term care facilities, or in personal care homes to clerical projects in our offices. We also have volunteer activities in our inpatient unit located in Dunmore.

Opportunities range from visiting patients, providing a caring presence by quietly sitting at bedside, meal preparation, and clerical tasks.

If interested, please contact Ann Seechock, Volunteer Coordinator, at 800-657-6405, 570-706-2400 or aseechock@hospicesacredheart.org.

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE FOLK FESTIVAL

On Sun., Aug. 27, at 12:00 PM, the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub (County Line and Lower State Rds., Horsham, PA) invites you to the Ukrainian Independence Folk Festival 2023. Commencing at 1:30 PM, enjoy "A Celebration of Liberty, Bravery and Unity", a vibrant Outdoor Summer Concert of Ukrainian Dance, Music and Song, celebrating the 32nd anniversary of Ukraine's Independence, the Unity of her People and their Struggle for

Freedom, Prosperity and Dignity. The performers -- "Voloshky" and "Carpathia" Ukrainian Dance Ensembles, violinist "Innesa", "Ariana Lem Joy Trio", singer "Yuliya Stupen" and "Vox Ethnika Orchestra" -- have created a dynamic, integrated concert program for your delight. This Year's Special Guest Performers are Ukrainian Superstar singer-songwriter "Iryna Lonchyna", "Efsane" Crimean Tatar Ensemble

and the “Ferko Mummers String Band”. Live, vibrant music by the “Vox Ethnika Orchestra” will follow the concert and play on until 8:00 PM. Ukrainian ethnic foods and baked goods, a BBQ and cool refreshments for all ages will be plentiful. Visit

vendors’ mall and the Ukrainian Arts and Crafts market. Admission: \$15; Free for kids to age 14. Info: 267-664-3857; info@tryzub.org; www.tryzub.org. \$2 of each paid admission goes to Humanitarian Relief in Ukraine.

ANNUAL UKRAINIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, 240 Center St, Nanticoke will hold it’s Annual Ukrainian Food Festival on Saturday, September 2nd from 11am to 4 pm. Eat in or Take-Out. Featuring Home-made Foods:

Pyrohy, Haluski, Holubtsi, Potato Pancakes, Sausage & Peppers, Borscht, Clam Chowder and Baked Goods. There will be a Basket Raffle, & More! Try Our Delicious Food!

PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great, located at 710 Fox Chase Rd, in Fox Chase Manor, announce that their Annual Pilgrimage to the Mother of God will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

The theme of this year’s Pilgrimage is **“Our Lady, Our Protectress and Refuge.”** The

Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by His Grace, the Most Reverend Borys Gudziak and the homily will be delivered by Rev. Taras Lonchyna, Pastor of St. Josaphat’s Ukrainian Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ.

For further information, please call 215-379-3998 x17.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of August 2023 is Team

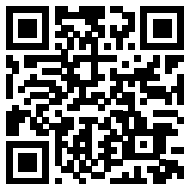
#4: Ron Barkofsky, Steve & Jeannie Cucura.

Sunday Collection for Aug. 12 & 13, 2023: \$2,012.00

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

Christ and the Law

When Christ says to him, "If you would enter life, keep the commandments," the man expects Him to add immediately, "my commandments." "Which ones?" he asks. He was quite deceived in his expectation. For Christ did not answer him as he expected but simply pointed him to the law.

This is not because the law is perfection, for "no one is justified by the law," as it is written, but because the life lived according to law is a kind of introduction to the eternal life, briefly acquainting trainees to the things above. "For the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ."

The law is the starting point for social justice.

Christ is the perfection. For the beginning of good is to act justly, He says. Just action then is shown by the law, but goodness is shown by Christ. The law taught us to repay those who wish to harm us, as in "eye for eye, tooth for tooth."

But Christ taught us to let go such balanced vengeance with a view to the greater good, teaching that "if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Visit www.ecpubs.com for more publications.