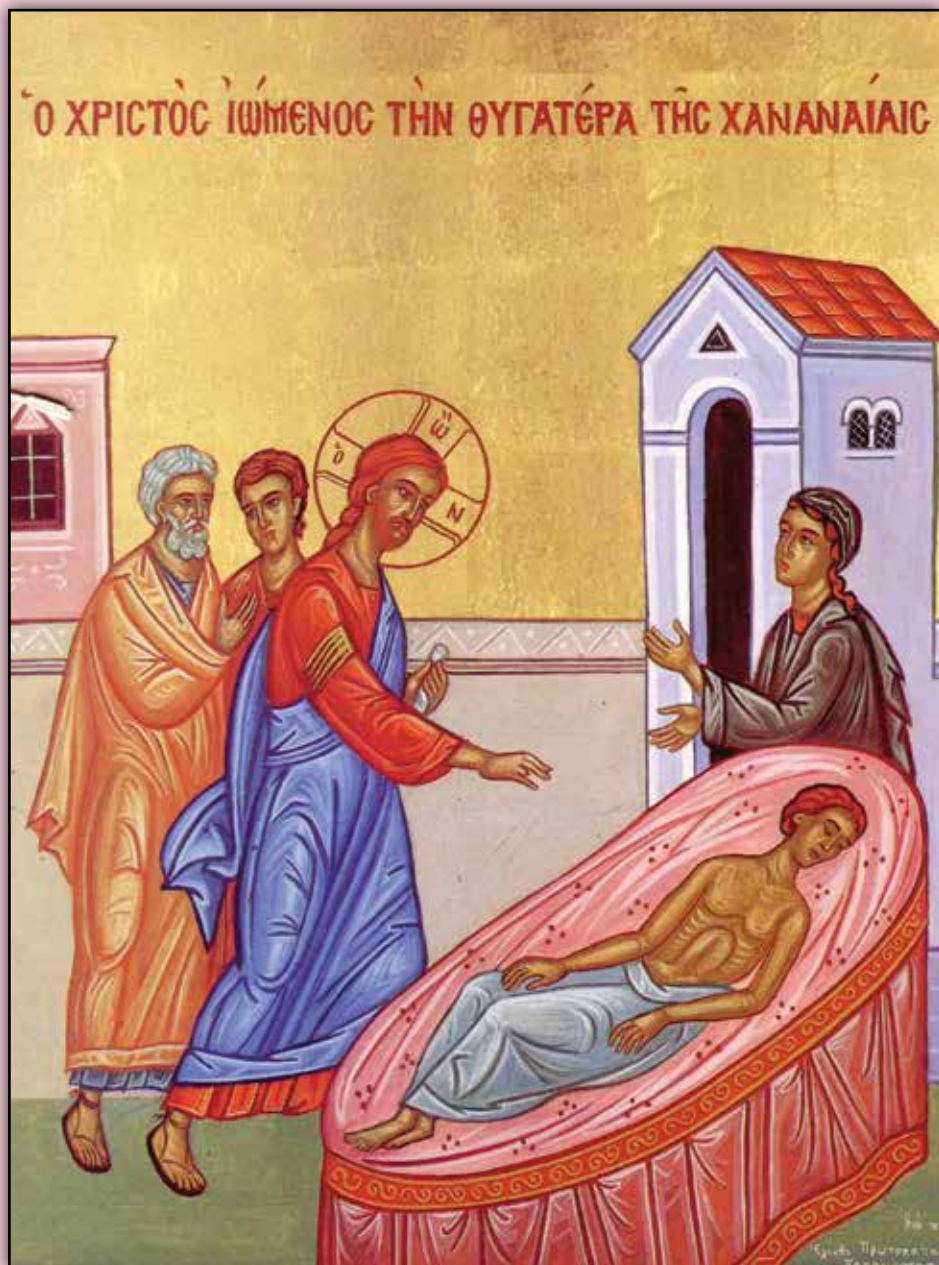


SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN



Icon of the Canaanite Woman (Matthew 15:21-28)

January 15, 2023: 32nd Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: 1 Tim 1: 15-17		Gospel: Mt. 15: 21-28
Mon., January 16	9:00	+ Joseph Smagula (Marlene & Bob Zelno)
Tues., January 17	10:00	Funeral: + Barbara Gadamski
Wed., January 18	9:00	+ Mildred Gongliewski (Daughter, Mary Beth Chludzinski)
Thurs., January 19	9:00	+ Deceased Members of the Moskel Family
Fri., January 20	9:00	+ Kimberly Mellow (Family)
Sat., January 21	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	2:00	Confessions
	4:00	+ Margaret Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene)
Sun., January 22	10:30	For Our Parishioners

WHEN SHOULD WE RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

Reception of the Holy Eucharist is for all baptized Catholics when they are in attendance at the Eucharistic Service (Divine Liturgy). In order to worthily receive the Divine, one must fast from foods and liquids (except water) for at least one hour prior to the reception of the Holy Mystery. This is the minimum requirement. A longer fast is not to be ruled out the question, and is commendable. In addition, in order for one to receive the Holy Eucharist worthily, one must not be conscious of any grave (mortal) sin. If one

is, the Holy Mystery of Penance (Confession) is necessary before a worthy reception of the Eucharist is permitted. In addition, spiritual preparation via suitable prayers should be said. This Is the Church's present ruling on the reception of the Holy Eucharist. It really has not changed save for the fact that since the Liturgical Directives issued by the Holy See on January 6, 1996, all baptized Catholics are now permitted to receive the Eucharist, with the exception of those with a canonical impediment, or in the state

of serious sin. Baptized infants and children below the “age of reason” are permitted to receive the Holy Eucharist in our Tradition provided they are brought to the cup by a parent or guardian. When the child reaches the first and second grade, they will be instructed in the understanding of sin, sorrow, contrition, and the proper way to approach the priest for the reception of Holy Confession. They will also be taught about the Eucharist. Parents should not keep any baptized child

away from our Lord by not bringing them up for communion. It is difficult not to judge others, but you must ask yourself are you prepared? Have you missed any holy days of obligation or Sunday Liturgies without a good reason? Do you hold any hatred toward anyone when you come to receive? Have you committed any grave sin? It betrays a spiritual laxness on the part of many today if you do not examine your conscience. We are not to judge someone else, but look at ourselves.

ASK THE PASTOR...

QUESTION: *What is the significance of receiving a 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 asked the blessing of priests as they walked down the street.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CLERGY

Please remember in your our sick clergy:

Our retired **Bishop John Bura** who has been in the hospital since December 9th.

Father Paul Wolensky who is

recovering from an infection and had five toes amputated.

Father Mark Fesniak, our Pastor at St. Nicholas Church, in Minersville, PA, who is still recovering from Covid-19.

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian Charity, please remember the soul of + **Barbara Gadowski** who recently fell asleep in the Lord. + Barbara will be buried

from St. Cyril's on Tuesday, January 17th. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

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.

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.

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.

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 doublechecked 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 29th IMMEDIATELY after the 10:30 Divine Liturgy. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

2023 PARISH DUES

We remind our Parish Family Members that at a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that

beginning 2021 Parish Dues will be \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

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.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

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

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

Sunday Collection for Jan, 7 & 8, 2023: \$

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Healing the Daughter of the Canaanite Woman

The evangelist speaks against the woman, that he may show forth her marvellous act, and celebrate her praise the more. For when you hear of a Canaanitish woman, you should call to mind those wicked nations, who overset from their foundations the very laws of nature. And being reminded of these, consider also the power of Christ's advent. For they who were cast out, that they might not pervert any Jews, these appeared so much better disposed than the Jews, as even to come out of their coasts, and approach Christ; while those were driving Him away, even on His coming unto them.

Having then come unto Him, she says nothing else, but Have mercy on me, and by

her cry brings about them many spectators. For indeed it was a pitiful spectacle to see a woman crying aloud in so great affliction, and that woman a mother, and entreating for a daughter, and for a daughter in such evil case: she not even venturing to bring into the Master's sight her that was possessed, but leaving her to lie at home, and herself making the entreaty.

But having described both her calamity, and the intensity of the disease, she pleads the Lord's mercy, and cries aloud; and she says not, Have mercy on my daughter, but, Have mercy on me.

St. John Chrysostom