

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Christ Healing the Gadarenes*

## July 2, 2023: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Rom. 10: 1-10

Gospel: Mt. 8:28 - 9:1

**Mon., July 3** 9:00 + Sally Lesnefsky (Frank & Susan Lesnefsky)

**Tues., July 4** 9:00 For Our Country

**Wed., July 5** **No Divine Liturgy Today**

**Thurs., July 6** 9:00 + Dolores Kuzmick (Bob & Marlene Zelno)

**Fri. July 7** 9:00 + Mary & Harry Farneti (Leo Danylak)

**Sat., July 8** **No Morning Divine Liturgy**

2:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm For Our Parishioners

**Sun., July 9** 10:30 + Patrick Marcinko, Jr. (Wife, Glenda & Sons)

## 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY HISTORY & TRIVIA: DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ The major objection to being ruled by Britain was taxation without representation. The colonists had no say in the decisions of English Parliament.
- ★ In May, 1776, after nearly a year of trying to resolve their differences with England, the colonies sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. Finally, in June, admitting that their efforts were hopeless; a committee was formed to compose the formal Declaration of Independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee also included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. On June 28, 1776, Thomas Jefferson presented the first draft of the declaration to Congress.
- ★ Betsy Ross, according to legend, sewed the first American flag in May or June 1776, as commissioned by the Congressional Committee.
- ★ Independence Day was first celebrated in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.
- ★ The Liberty Bell sounded from the tower of Independence Hall on July 8, 1776, summoning citizens to gather for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence by Colonel John Nixon.
- ★ June 14, 1777, the Continental

Congress, looking to promote national pride and unity, adopted the national flag. “Resolved: that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red



and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”

- ★ The first public Fourth of July event at the White House occurred in 1804.
- ★ Before cars ruled the roadway, the Fourth of July was traditionally the most miserable day of the year for horses, tormented by all the noise and by the boys and girls who threw firecrackers at them.
- ★ The first Independence Day celebration west of the Mississippi occurred at Independence Creek and was celebrated by Lewis and Clark in 1805.
- ★ On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weight-

man, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote.

- ★ Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on Independence Day, July 4, 1826.
- ★ The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence did not sign at the same time, nor did they sign on July 4, 1776. The official event occurred on August 2, 1776, when 50 men signed it.
- ★ The names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were withheld from the public for more than six months to protect the signers. If independence had not been achieved, the treasonable act of the signers would have, by law, resulted in their deaths.
- ★ Thomas McKean was the last to sign in January, 1777.

- ★ The origin of Uncle Sam probably began in 1812, when Samuel Wilson was a meat packer who provided meat to the US Army. The meat shipments were stamped with the initials, U.S. Someone joked that the initials stood for “Uncle Sam”. This joke eventually led to the idea of Uncle Sam symbolizing the United States government.
- ★ In 1941, Congress declared 4<sup>th</sup> of July a federal legal holiday. It is one of the few federal holidays that have not been moved to the nearest Friday or Monday.

## **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!**

### **How Much Is A Miracle?**

Tess was a precocious eight year old when she heard her Mom and Dad talking about her little brother, Andrew. All she knew was that he was very sick and they were completely out of money. They were moving to an apartment complex next month because Daddy didn't have the money for the doctor bills and their house. Only a very costly surgery could save Andrew now and it was looking like there was no one to loan them the money. She heard Daddy say to her tearful Mother with whispered desperation, “Only a miracle can save him now.”

Tess went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all of the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No

chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

“And what do you want?” the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. “I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages,” he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

“Well, I want to talk to you about MY brother,” Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. “He’s really, really sick... and I want to buy a miracle.”

“I beg your pardon?” asked the pharmacist.

“His name is Andrew, and he has something bad growing inside of his head, and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?”

“We don’t sell miracles here, little girl. I’m sorry but I can’t help you,” the pharmacist said, softening a little.

“Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn’t enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs.”

The pharmacist’s brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, “What kind of a miracle does your brother need?”

“I don’t know,” Tess replied with her eyes welling up. “I just know he’s really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But, my Daddy can’t pay for it, so I want to use my money.”

“How much do you have?” asked the man from Chicago.

“One dollar and eleven cents,” Tess

answered barely audibly. “And it’s all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to.

“Well, what a coincidence,” smiled the man. “A dollar and eleven cents is the exact price of a miracle for little brothers.” He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said “Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let’s see if I have the kind of miracle you need.”

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed without charge. And it wasn’t long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. “That surgery,” her Mom whispered, “was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?” Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost... one dollar and eleven cents... plus the faith of a little child.

A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.

## A SPECIAL REQUEST

At the conclusion of our Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy books

and/or hymn books/brochures and return them to their proper place.

Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or other reading material in the pews. Why not pass them on to someone you know? Also, don't forget to take your water bottles with

you. Let us all do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the pews clean and neat. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

## **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 fi-

nancial 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.

## **OLYPHANT RESIDENTS (AGE 65+) SAVINGS**

Olyphant Residents are paying \$12.00 per month fee for removal of their garbage and this fee is reflected on their Olyphant Electric Bill, a total of \$144.00 per year. The Olyphant Borough Council authorized a savings for Olyphant's Senior Citizens age 65 +.years old. You must meet the requirements to get the credit of \$72.00 on your RESIDENT/Home electric bill per year. You must register for this savings.

You need to show your Photo I.D./Pennsylvania Driver's license,

age 65+ years old, your name is on the Olyphant Electric Bill for the past 12 months and paid up to date, etc. (it is NOT BASED on your income for the credit of \$72.00 per year) You will be notified as your information is approved for this savings.

For additional information please contact the Olyphant Borough Building, Electric Department at 570-489-2135 and 570-489-3001 or stop by Olyphant Borough Building, 113 Willow Street, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



## ANNUAL UKRAINIAN SEMINARY DAY

The Clergy and faithful of the South Anthracite Deanery of Pennsylvania will host the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Ukrainian Seminary Day on Sunday, July 30, 2023 at St. Nick's Picnic Grove in Minersville, PA. All funds

raised will go to support St. Josaphat Seminary in Washington, D.C. We encourage all our faithful to go and observe 89 years of celebrating our Ukrainian Catholic Faith, culture and heritage. You will have a good time!

## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL LEBANESE-AMERICAN FOOD FEST

**Dates:** August 11,12,13, 2023

**Time:** Fri. Aug 11 4 - 9pm; Sat. Aug 12 4 - 9 pm; Sun. Aug 13 1 - 7pm

**Location:** St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church  
130 N. St. Frances Cabrini Ave (off lower Jackson St)  
West Scranton, PA

**Brief Description:** Great Lebanese Food and pastries, Local picnic food favorites, variety baskets.

**For more info:** Web: [melkitescranton.org](http://melkitescranton.org); Facebook.com/melkitescranton; [melkite.scranton@gmail.com](mailto:melkite.scranton@gmail.com) or rectory 570-343-6092 and check back in August for menu

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of July 2023 is Team #3: Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

**Sunday Collection for  
June 24 & 25, 2023: \$**



## 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](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)

E-Mail: [sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net](mailto:sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net)

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Conquering Demons*

The divine nature of the only begotten Son was already scorching the demons in unspeakable flames. Christ was shutting up the fiercest demons in blocked roads. He was undoing the devil's tyranny. "You have come before the time," they cried out. They knew from the Scriptures that Christ was going to come and would judge them. Treating the incarnation as if it had happened at the wrong time, they pleaded that he had come in an untimely way. This misrepresentation is not surprising. In their deceptiveness, they did not hesitate to say even this. Yet, although they know that vengeance is to fall upon them, they still say haughtily, "What have you to do with us?" They know that the final Judge in fact has a

score to settle with them, inasmuch as they had broken his commandments.

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

Make an effort, then, to meet more frequently to celebrate God's Eucharist and to offer praise. For, when you meet frequently in the same place, the forces of Satan are overthrown, and his baneful influence is neutralized by the unanimity of your faith. Peace is a precious thing: it puts an end to every war waged by heavenly or earthly enemies.

*St. Ignatius of Antioch*

For books on Eastern Christianity, visit [www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)  
To view over 300 videos, visit [www.oltv.tv](http://www.oltv.tv)