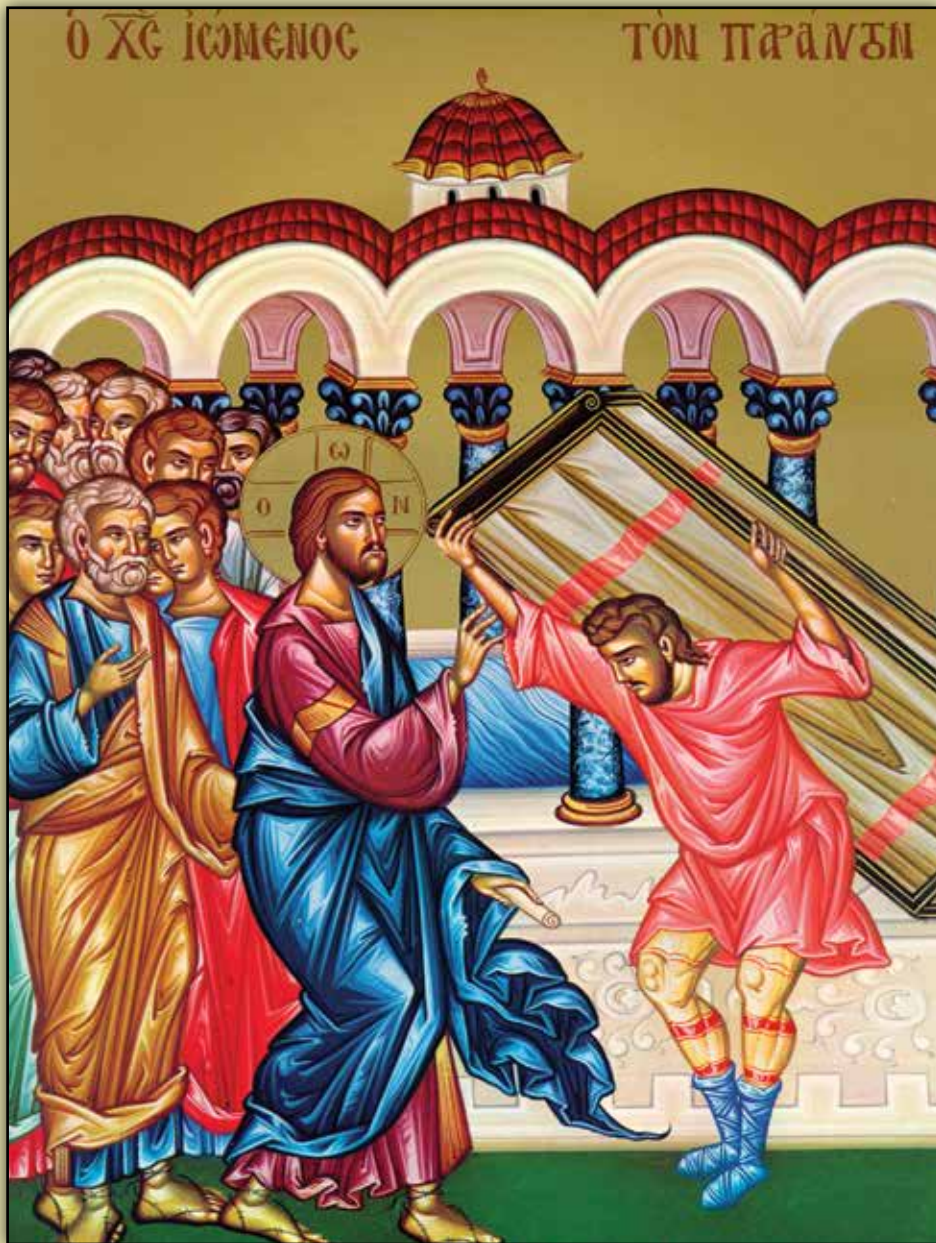


SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Christ Healing the Paralytic

July 9, 2023: Sixth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Rom. 12: 6-14		Gospel: Mt. 9: 1-8
Mon., July 10	9:00	+ Anna Mae Krisanda (Al Boris)
Tues., July 11	9:00	+ Joseph Rotundo (Duane Sprovach)
Wed., July 12	9:00	+ Michael & Maryja Bojko (Michael & Theresa Vacendak)
Thurs., July 13	9:00	+ Amanda Danylak (Leo Danylak)
Fri. July 14	9:00	+ Jerry & Romaine Strony (Howard Smith)
Sat., July 15	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Marlene Nestor (John Yuhnick)	
Sun., July 16	10:30	For Our Parishioners

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH BUILDING REPRESENT?

The church building represents the meeting of God and man. Essential elements of the church structure are: nave, narthex, and altar. The nave is the center of the church building. It represents creation as it was originally intended to be, that is, in communion with God. Therefore it is the place of the faithful, those who have shared in salvation through Baptism, and who are still seeking that salvation. The narthex, or vestibule remains outside the church proper. It represents the word which has not yet found its salvation. For instance, this is why to-

day the celebration of Baptism begins in the narthex, outside the area of the faithful. The candidate for the Baptism has not yet been baptized, he is not yet a part of the community of believers. The altar is separated from the nave as befitting God's place. It is on the raised platform, set back from the rest of the church and has an Icon Screen (Iconostas) in front of it. All this serves to remind us that we are not God, and God is not us. Out of His love for us God comes to us and becomes one of us, but He still remains forever beyond us. As He has willed to come down to us, so

His Word is read in the middle of the congregation, and the gifts are brought out to the people both at the Great En-

trance and for Communion, for God must come to us; we cannot go to Him without His help.

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

- 1) You should be a member of the Catholic Church to receive Holy Communion.
- 2) You have participated in the Sacrament of Confession at least during the Easter or Christmas seasons this past year if not more frequently.
- 3) You attend Divine Services regularly -- Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- 4) Your lifestyle is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- 5) You have kept the Liturgical fast – no food at least one hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (water and medicine does not break the fast).
- 6) You have been in church from the beginning of the service, or at least heard the Gospel.
- 7) To the best of your ability, you are in the state of Grace.

ASK THE PASTOR

QUESTION: *Did Mary the mother of Jesus Christ, have other children after Jesus?*

ANSWER: The short answer to this question is “No.” But let’s explore further. Most likely you are asking this question because some Scripture passages seem to suggest that Jesus had brothers and sisters. For example, here are two such passages: Mark 6:3 – Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are

not his sisters here with us?” Matthew 13:55-56 – Is he not the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us?

So should we conclude from these passages that Jesus had brothers and sisters in a literal way, meaning Mary and Joseph had other children in addition to Jesus? Certainly not. Scripture is quite clear that Mary conceived Jesus in a virginal way – by the Holy Spirit. Additionally, it is the

constant teaching of the Church that she always retained her virginity. She had no other children and never engaged in the marital act with Joseph. Sometimes this is confusing since there are references in the Scriptures to Jesus' brothers and sisters. But this language was commonly used in reference to cousins. So this shouldn't confuse us if we understand the language of the time. In fact this is still a common practice in other cultures of our day. For example, those from various African countries commonly refer to those within their own village as their brother or sister when they are with them outside of that village. It was God's plan that Mary only have one Son for various reasons. It was especially so because of the fact that we are all called to become brothers and sisters

of Christ through spiritual adoption. Therefore, if Jesus had blood brothers or sisters it would have undermined his spiritual brotherhood with them. It would have made their relationship with Jesus different. But God desires this deeper spiritual relationship with all people. Mary is the only blood relation to Jesus, thus, she shares a special bond with Him that no one else does. But it had to be that way if God was to become true man. Interestingly, though, even Mary's deepest bond with Jesus does not come as a result of her physical blood relationship. It comes, first and foremost, by her spiritual motherhood. She is united with her Son primarily by her perfect faith and obedience. It is this bond that surpasses the natural one.

BEWARE OF SCAM

It has come to my attention that someone is using my name to solicit Apple Cards for cancer patients. THIS IS A SCAM.

I am not collecting Apple Cards. If you should receive such a bogus text, please just delete it and do not respond to it.

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 IS SUMMER TIME!!!

Summer is here and I'm sure we're all thinking about vacations, relaxing, lots of sunshine, a slower lifestyle, ball games, visits to the zoo and amusement parks, short trips to places of interest, working around the house, gardening, summer sports leagues, and more...

It seems to me that regardless of the time of year, we all have much for which to thank God, and as His creations, therefore we need to worship our Creator. As you begin to fill the calendar with activities, try not to let Sunday Divine Worship fall by the wayside!

For all of us summer should be less stressful which should, in turn, enhance our participation in the Divine Liturgy. What we see happening in our parishes is that summer means for some "a vacation from God."

This is a strange concept for me, which you would probably expect me to say, given my priestly ministry in the Church. I like to think of my summer vacations as an adventure, and visiting different Ukrainian Catholic or Eastern

Catholic Churches can be part of this adventure. The different types of architecture, icons, music, vestments, etc. still point to a Church with the same beliefs. Our Divine Worship is timeless, regardless of the time zone, continent, or jurisdiction in which it is offered.

When you plan to travel remember to visit the following websites: **www.byzcath.org/index.php/find-aparish-mainmenu-111**, or **www.parishesonline.com**; to find lists of all parishes, regardless of jurisdiction.

Finally, here is a prayer that you can offer before you begin your travels:

Lord Jesus Christ my God, be my Companion, guide and protector during my journey. Keep me from all danger, misfortune and temptation. By Your divine power grant me a peaceful and successful journey and safe arrival. In You I place my hope and trust and You I praise, honor and glorify, together with Your Father and Holy Spirit now and forever and ever. Amen.

LOVE MATTERS MORE THAN MATERIAL ITEMS

Some time ago, a man punished his young daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was

tight and he became angry when the child tried to decorate a box with gold wrapping. Nevertheless, the girl

brought the gift to her father on his Birthday and said, 'This is for you, daddy.' The man became embarrassed by his overreaction a few days before, but his rage continued when he saw that the box was empty. He yelled at her, 'Don't you know, when you give someone a gift, there's supposed to be something inside?' The little girl looked up at her dad with tears in her eyes and cried; 'Oh, daddy, it's not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They're all

for you, daddy.'

The father was devastated. He put his arms around his daughter, and begged for her forgiveness.

A little while later, the girl died in an accident. Her father kept the gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was feeling down, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there."

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.

CHICKEN DINNER

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will hold a Chicken Dinner as their "Why Cook Wednesday

Dinner" for July. The dinner will be on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 in their school hall on the corner of North River and

West Chestnut Streets, near the General Hospital Parkade in Wilkes-Barre. This dinner will be Take-Out Only and Pre-Orders are strongly encouraged. Dinners will be \$15 and will include; a brined and roasted half-chicken, baked potato, corn, macaroni salad, roll and

dessert. Place your order by calling the School Hall Kitchen (570) 829-3051. Pick-Ups will be from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Tickets will also be sold for a Basket Raffle. Remember...When Baba Cooks, Everybody's Happy!

ANNUAL UKRAINIAN SEMINARY DAY

The Clergy and faithful of the South Anthracite Deanery of Pennsylvania will host the 89th 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!

22ND 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; Facebook.com/melkitescranton;
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 July 1 & 2, 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

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Rise and Walk

It is easier said than done. Whether the sins of the paralytic were forgiven, only He who forgave them knew for sure. "Arise and walk." Both he who arose and those who saw him arise were able to vouch for this. Hence there is a bodily sign in order to demonstrate a spiritual sign, though its impact is to curb the imperfections of body and soul. And we are given an understanding of sin and many bodily weaknesses to come. Perhaps, too, sins are forgiven first, so that with the causes of infirmity removed health may be restored.

St. Jerome

Furthermore, so it could be understood that He was in a body and that He could forgive sins and restore health to bodies, Jesus said, "That you may know that the Son of

Man has power on earth to forgive sins," then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your pallet." He could have simply said "Arise," but since the reason for doing every work had to be explained, He added, "Take up your pallet and go home." First He granted remission of sins; next He showed His ability to restore health. Then, with the taking up of the pallet, He made it clear that bodies would be free from infirmity and suffering; lastly, with the paralytic's return to his home, He showed that believers are being given back the way to paradise from which Adam, the parent of all, who became profligate from the stain of sin, had proceeded.

St. Hilary of Poitiers

For books on Eastern Christianity, visit www.ecpubs.com
To view over 300 videos, visit www.oltv.tv