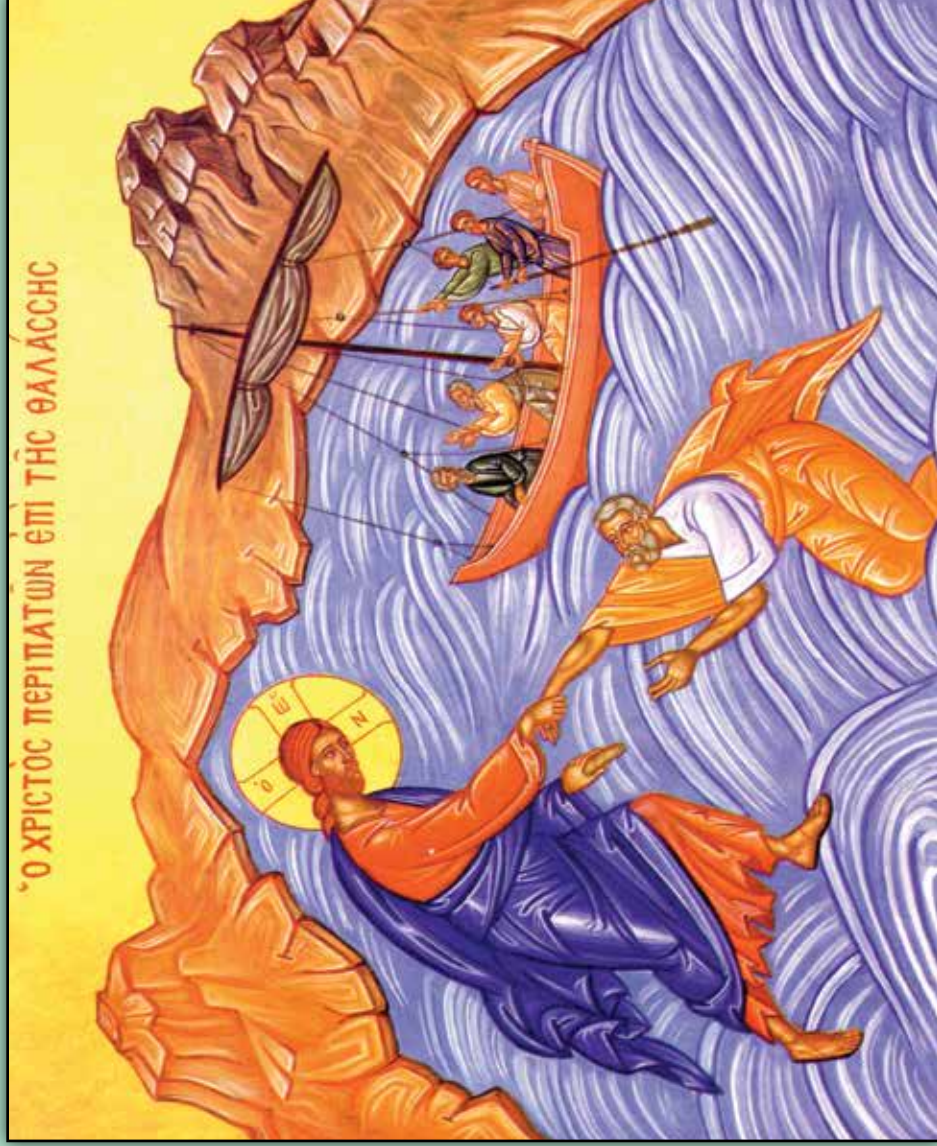


NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Christ Walking on Water

July 30, 2023: Ninth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: 1 Cor. 3: 9-17		Gospel: Mt. 14: 22-34
Mon., July 31	9:00	+ Anna Mae Krisanda (Dr. Tracey Galardi)
Tues., Aug. 1	9:00	+ Bob “Skipper” Hooper (John & Mary Ann Turko)
Wed., Aug. 2	9:00	+ John Mitchko (Father Walter)
Thurs., Aug. 3	9:00	+ John Sedlak (Howard Smith)
Fri. Aug. 4	9:00	+ George & Sophia Danylak (Leo Danylak)
Sat., Aug. 5	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	2:00 pm Confessions	
	4:00 pm + John Marushock (Sister, Ilona); Blessing of Fruit	
Sun., Aug. 6	Transfiguration of Our Lord	
	10:30 For Our Parishioners; Blessing of Fruit	

BLESSING OF FRUIT NEXT WEEKEND

Blessing is a very common practice in the Ukrainian Church. The faithful are familiar with many blessings – food, houses, various objects such as crosses and medals, and even a personal blessing.

What do these blessings mean? Is the blessing of a house or car and “extra insurance policy?” Is it in fact safer than an “unblessed” house or car? There seems to be a strong dose of superstition in all of this.

In a Christian view however, this distinction between sacred and

profane falls apart. For the whole world and all that is in it has been created by God; and He says that it was all “good.” To bless something in this way of thinking means to acknowledge that it is truly “good,” from God. It means that we see this blessed object as coming from God and as a sign of His Presence among us. To bless then means to see things as they really are, as all coming from God.

On August 6th, the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord is cel-

ebred. Because the feast falls during the harvest season (especially of fruit), fresh fruit is brought to the Church and blessed.

Blessings are without limits, done at anytime and anywhere, but most properly so on this Feast, for the Feast of the Transfiguration is a celebration of God's Presence in the

world and because of this, the changing of the world, its transformation, its transfiguration into God's world. The fruit is an example of the "good things" that "comes from God."

The fruit which was blessed, now is more than mere nourishment and refreshment, it is a sign of God's Presence.

WHAT TO DO WITH OLD SACRAMENTALS

When your rosary breaks or your crucifix falls apart, what do you do?

What should be done with these holy objects? Sacramentals are sacred signs and provide for us grace (spiritual help) through the intercession of the Church. They can be any number of religious items that have been blessed by a priest: a rosary, medal, scapular, crucifix, or even a candle. Catholics are instructed to dispose of old sacramentals in a way that shows due reverence. All sacramentals can be either burned

and buried or buried as they are in order to properly dispose of them. This type of disposal honors their sacred purpose and returns them to the earth in a dignified way. By treating sacramentals with respect, we recognize & honor the heavenly blessing that was placed on the object. Should you wish to dispose of pussy willows blessed on Flowery (Palm) Sunday, they should also be disposed of in the same way: you may bury them or burn them and spread the ashes outside.

THE TRAGEDY OF GOSSIP

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.

I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted the more

I am believed. My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments and wreck marriages. I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion. I make innocent people cry in their pillows.

Even my name hisses. I am called Gossip.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself:

Is it true? Is it harmless? Is it necessary? If it isn't, don't repeat it. People are indignant if they are denied the right of freedom of speech, but sometimes they overlook the duty to use this right responsibly. We need to be on our guard and practice restraint in our speech.

TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN

- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the back of others' heads.

- Quietly explain the actions of the Liturgy (what the priests, deacon, are doing).

- Sing the hymns and responses. Children learn how to worship in church by copying you.

- Incidental noise and movement are not reasons to take your child out of church. If a child's crying or movements become a distraction to

others, then it is time to leave until they are calm.

- If you have to leave the church with your child, do so but please come back. Our Lord said, "Let the children come to me and forbid them not, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and one another. Let them know that they are at home in our house of worship.

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 ac-

commodate everyone, we ask that you limit your requests for week-end 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.

DUNMORE CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL / BISHOP O'HARA HIGH SCHOOL PLANS 50TH CLASS REUNION

The Dunmore Central Catholic High School/Bishop O'Hara Class of 1973 (50th the class reunion) will have a meeting to update and discuss the reunion in the Fall 2023. Come on August 10, 2023 Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post #6082 at 123 Electric Street, Peckville. All classmates are invited to attend this meeting. We all look

forward to seeing you! We are still in need an update of 50+ classmates addresses. The original planning committee members are: Michele Gerrity, Florence sweeney, Kevin Mchugh, Collen Mangan, Dottie Egan, Sharon O'boyle. Family and friends of the Class of 1973 please help us in updating our class list information.

VFW CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER

The Shopa Davey VFW will hold a Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

on Sunday July 30, 2023, Serving 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. "Take

outs” only at the VFW Post at 123 Electric Street, Peckville. Cost per ticket/dinner, \$12.00. Tickets are available at the post, pre-dinner, and

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Veterans intersted in joining the VFW can contact Commander Puhulla Sr. at 570-383-0501.

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!

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 Mummies 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.

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;

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

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

Sunday Collection for July 22 & 23, 2023: \$

A TIME TO CELEBRATE...

Happy Birthday and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrate their birthday in July:

Ann Marie Borowski Allison Carey- Eugene Maslar
Joseph Budnovitch, Jr. Wehrenberg

Happy Anniversary and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrate their Wedding Anniversary during July:

Mark & Allison Wehrenberg

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

Trust in Prayer

A man sat in his luxurious hotel room and dialed room service. He marveled at the fact that at the other end of the telephone line was an individual waiting to respond to his every need. All he had to do was ask.

Many people believe that prayer is supposed to work the same way. For them, God is at the receiving end of their prayers and is expected to grant every prayer requested. "And why shouldn't it be?" they might ask. "Doesn't God want me to get this new job?" "Doesn't God want my marriage to work?" "Doesn't God want my surgery to be successful?" After all, don't we read in the Scriptures, "Ask and you shall receive?"

The answer is, yes – God always wants what is best for us, and every prayer is answered. But, not every prayer is answered as we expect it to be. In order to be able to accept God's answers

to our prayers, especially the unanticipated answers, we need to exercise patience, trust and openness to God's will and His wisdom.

We see Saint Peter exercise this kind of trust in God in today's Gospel lesson. While the disciples' boat was being storm-tossed on the sea, Jesus came walking on water toward them. Then, Jesus issued a most unexpected command to Peter. "Come," Jesus said and Peter actually began walking on water toward Him! It was only when Peter took his eyes away from Jesus and focused again on the perilous storm around him that he began to sink. The same is true for us. When we trust God, He will lead us to safety. When we take our eyes away from Him, we become overwhelmed by the storms of life.

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