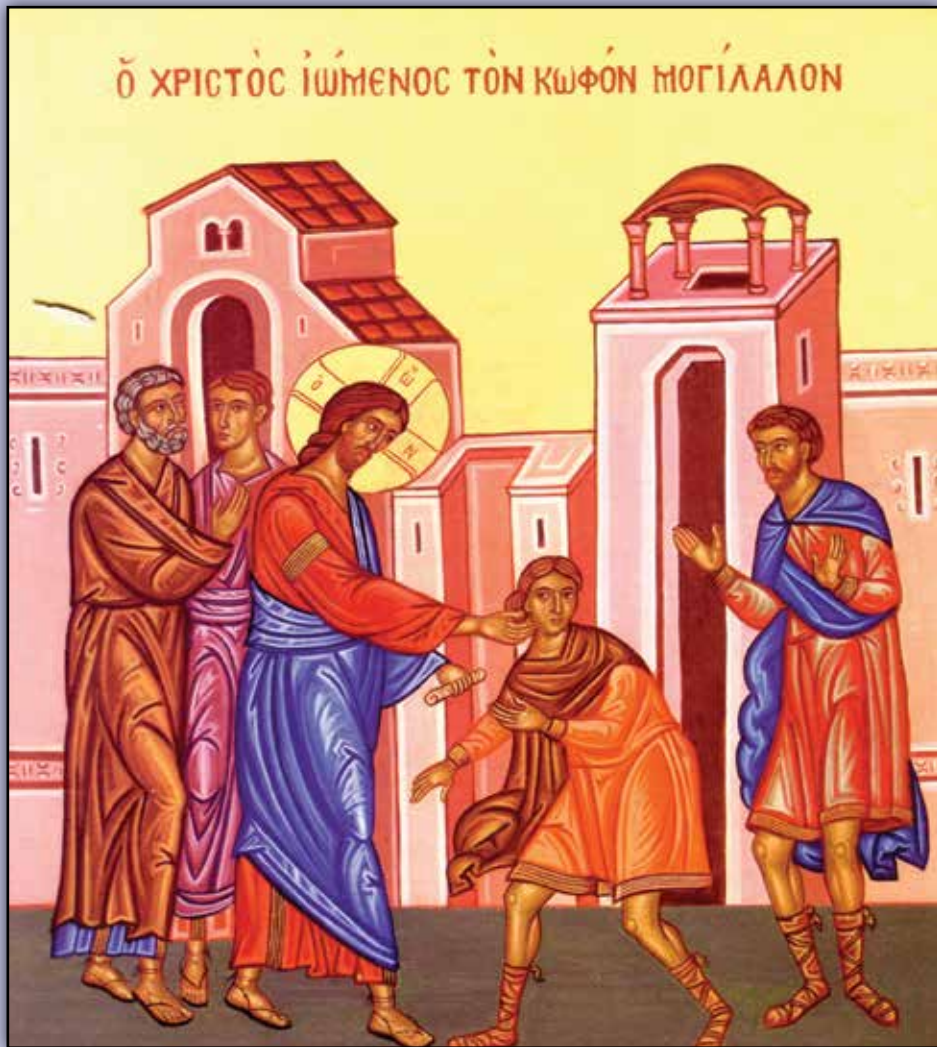


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of the Healing of the Deaf Mute -- Mark 9:17-31

| March 19, 2023: Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast | | |
|--|--|--|
| Epistle: Heb. 6: 13-20 | | Gospel: Mk. 9: 17-31 |
| Mon., March 20 | 9:00 | + Andrew & Anna Smagula (Son, Joseph) |
| Tues., March 21 | 9:00 | + Olga E. Telep (Daughter, Lauren) |
| Wed., March 22 | 6:00 | Stations |
| Thurs., March 23 | 9:00 | + Martha Myshrall (Father Nestor) |
| Fri. March 24 | 9:00 | Presanctified Liturgy <i>(Please note the temporary change in schedule)</i> |
| Sat., March 25 | Annunciation of the Mother of God | |
| | 9:00 | For Our Parishioners |
| | 2:00 | Confessions |
| | 4:00 | + Diann Yuhnck (Husband, John) |
| Sun., March 26 | 10:30 | For Our Parishioners; Sorokousty |

Meditation for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Jesus cures a sick boy telling his father, “Everything is possible to one who has faith” (Mk. 9:23). Jesus observed that this type of cure could only come about through prayer. The disciples were men of faith but could not cure the boy. Jesus seems to become impatient with them when he says, “How long will I endure you” (Mk. 9:19). Even Jesus’ closest apostles needed to be reminded of the power of prayer, and the need to nurture it. The Great Fast invites you and me to nurture the power of faith with steadfast and honest prayer with

Jesus. It involves our reflecting on our priorities in life as we stand before Jesus. Recall the parables which speak of the Kingdom of God as a treasure found in a field, or as a pearl of great value. Those who find it sell all that they have in order to possess it. Are we zealous in nurturing the value of our precious faith? Do we do and give what we can to see that the faith is valued, taught and shared? The journey of Great Fast leads you and me to nurture our faith in steadfast prayer and with acts of charity with the hope that Jesus Christ will not ask

“How long must I endure you”, but rather rejoice in the powerfully living of our faith. Join with others in the

parish to nurture your faith as a family of God.

The Sunday of St. John Climacus

Though details of the life of St. John Climacus are sketchy, it is known that he was born in the 6th century and entered the monastic life at an early age. After 40 years of living as a hermit, he was elected abbot of the monastery of St. Catherine at Mount Sinai. Because of his reputation for wisdom and piety, pilgrims traveled from all over the East to visit him. Many miracles were attributed to St. John during his lifetime. Yet it was above all in the gift of spiritual teaching that God manifested His grace in him. Basing his teaching on his personal experience, he generously instructed all those who came to him. This spiritual teaching, however, attracted the jealousy of some who then spread evil

rumors about his character. Although his conscience was clear, Abba John stopped teaching for a whole year, convinced that it was better to do some slight harm to his friends rather than to exacerbate the resentment of the wicked. All the inhabitants of the desert were edified at his silence and by this proof of humility, and it was only at the insistence of his repentant detractors that he agreed to receive visitors again. He passed to the Lord on March 30, about 649. Throughout Lent, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, the spiritual classic authored by St. John is read in monasteries. The reading of this book is completed on this, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, and so we honor him on this day.

Spiritual Regulations for the Great Fast

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional

to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe

the fasting and abstinence regulations.

All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sorokousty).

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful. This year, families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

Our Condolences

In your Christian Charity, please remember the soul of our Parishioners who recently fell asleep in the Lord.

- **Gladys Yanochick** was buried from St. Cyril's on Monday, March

13th.

- **Nancy Trygar** was buried from St. Cyril's on Thursday, March 16th
May their memory be eternal!
Vichnaya Pamyat!

Lenten Services

Four weeks of Great Lent are now over. Two more to go until Flowery (Palm) Sunday and Holy Week. Have you made the effort to come to church for our weekday Lenten services? This week offers several

golden opportunities for you to come to church. Make it your plan to attend more of these services before Easter. Take extra care about your spiritual well-being!

Sorokousty/Сорокоусты

During Great Lent we are called to renew and strengthen our relationships

with others (both living and dead) and with God. A special service during Great Lent is Sorokousty (Сорокоуст), when we remember those who have gone before us.

“Sorokousty” literally means “forty mouths,” referring to an ancient monastic practice of 40 monks or priests singing this commemoration of our departed brothers and sisters.

Sorokousty is a beautiful way to

remind us that our Christian family reaches beyond our present time and space to encompass generations past.

Families submit the names of their family members which are to be remembered during the Sorokousty.

The names mentioned during the Sorokousty are based on the submitted names and not on the Death Register of the Parish.

Easter Confessions

Fr. Paul Wolensky will be hearing Confessions before the Presanctified Liturgy on Friday March 31st beginning at 5:15. Also, Fr. Paul, along

with Fr. Nestor, will hear Confessions on Saturday, April 1st at 2 pm. Please avail yourself of this opportunity to make your Easter Confession.

Paying Hospital Bill

A man was brought to the Hospital, and taken quickly in for coronary surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy who was waiting by his bed. “Mr. Smith, you’re going to be just fine,” said the nun, gently patting his hand. “We do need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?” “No, sorry, I don’t have any

insurance,” the man whispered. “Can you pay in cash?” persisted the nun. “I’m afraid I cannot, Sister.” “Well, do you have any close relatives?” the nun insisted. “Just my sister in New Mexico,” he volunteered. “But she’s a humble spinster nun.” The Sister responded, “Oh no, I must correct you, Mr. Smith. Nuns are not spinsters; they are married to Jesus.” “Wonderful,” said Smith. “In that case, please send the bill to my brother-inlaw.”

Cemetery Grave Decorations

Our Cemetery Care-Takers are beginning to prepare our Cemetery in anticipation of the Spring season. They ask that all Christmas and artificial decorations be removed from

the graves. These decorations can get in the way of grass cutting, damage our equipment, or even result in an injury. Any left-over decorations can be retrieved by the Cemetery garage.

Pussy-Willows

Flowery (Palm) Sunday is just two weeks away! Once again this year, we turn to our Parishioners to help in procuring our pussy-willows. If you have any bushes, please share them

with us. You can either bring them in or arrangements can be made to have them picked up. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Flower Fundraiser

We are sponsoring an Easter Flower Sale and Hanging Basket Flower Sale, partnering with Jerry's For All Seasons. Flower Flyer with ordering information are available in the Church Vestibule. Please take some to

help out by distributing them to friends and neighbors. Call Jule (570) 357-6171, Michaelene (570) 209-2026, or Mary Ann (570) 489-4648 with any questions.

St. Joseph Day Breakfast

The Women's Society of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church on N. St. Frances Cabrini Avenue, West Scranton, is sponsoring its annual St. Joseph Day Breakfast, Sunday, March 19, 2023. Eat In or Take Out. Our abundant meal includes Eggs, scratch pancakes, Home Fries, Olives, HoneyBaked Ham, Breads, juice &

coffee. 9am-1pm. Adults \$12.00 and children age 6-10 \$6.00. Take Out \$10/\$6 with no beverages. Our fragrant St. Joseph Bread available in two loaf packages for \$5 until sold out. Tickets at the door. For more information, rectory 570-343-6092, melkite.scranton@gmail.com, facebook or melkitescranton.org.

Pre-Cana Workshop

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church is pleased to present a marriage preparation workshop, "Entering the Holy Mystery of Marriage", to take place on Saturday, April 22, 2023 with a follow-up session for each couple on May 6th via Zoom. The program focuses on various aspects of marriage, both spiritual and practical, and provides each person an opportunity for greater understanding of one's partner and a means to strengthen one's relationship.

In addition to various presentations and exercises, each couple will be given the opportunity to take the Catholic version of a premarital questionnaire called F.A.C.E.T. (Foundations Applied Conversation and Education Tool). The F.A.C.E.T. inventory provides participants with a computer-generated profile of unique couple issues, challenges,

strengths and realities to be discussed prior to marriage. The F.A.C.E.T. results for each couple involved will be presented to them by a Pastoral Counselor trained in the use of this tool in a subsequent 30 minute private session on May 6, 2023.

Each attending couple must commit to participating in all the sessions on April 22, 2023 as well as the 30 minute private meeting on May 6th, 2023 via Zoom.

The workshop will be held at: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1204 Valley Road, Melrose Park, PA 19027

The total cost per couple will be \$170 which includes materials, lunch and refreshments.

For more information call 215-635-1627 or email A.B.V.M@verizon.net.

Collection Processing Team...

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

Sunday Collection for March 11 & 12, 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

Healer of Infirmities

The deaf-mute, of whose marvelous cure by our Lord we have heard, represents those members of the human race who merit being freed by divine grace from the error brought on by the devil's deceit. Man became deaf, unable to hear the word of life after, puffed up as he was against God, he listened to the serpent's deadly words; he was made mute and unable to declare the praises of his Maker from the time when he presumed to have a conversation with his seducer. Rightly did God close man's ears from hearing the praises of his Creator along with the angels – those ears which the unsuspected enemy by his speech had opened to hearing denunciation of this same Creator. Rightly did God close man's mouth from proclaiming the praises of his Creator along with the angels – that mouth which the proud deceiver had filled with his lies about the forbidden food, in order, as the devil said, to improve upon the work of

this same Creator. And alas, the unfortunate rebellion of the human race, which sprouted in a corrupt manner at the root, began to spread in a much more corrupt way in shoots from the branches, so that when our Lord came in the flesh, with the exception of a few of the faithful from among the Jews, almost the entire world, now deaf and mute, was wandering away from recognition and confession of the truth. But where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more. Our Lord came to the Sea of Galilee, where He knew that there was a disabled person whom He would heal. He came by his benevolent grace to the proud, disordered, and inconsistent hearts of the nations, since He knew that among them were some who would be receptive to His grace.

St. Bede the Venerable

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**