

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Nativity of the Mother of God -- September 8th

Sept. 3, 2023: Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: 2 Cor. 1:21 - 2:4		Gospel: Mt. 22: 1-14
Mon., Sept. 4	9:00	+ Bill Davis (Wife, Michaelene)
Tues., Sept. 5	9:00	+ Howard & Olga Smith (Son, Howard)
Wed., Sept. 6	No Divine Liturgy Today.	
Thurs., Sept. 7	No Divine Liturgy Today.	
Fri., Sept. 8	Nativity of the Mother of God (Solemn Holy Day)	
	9:00	+ Fred Jacobs (Family)
Sat., Sept. 9	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	2:00 pm Confessions	
	4:00 pm + Matthew V. Garofalo (Family)	
Sun., Sept. 10	10:30	For Our Parishioners

THIS WEEKEND'S INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 2nd: + Gabriel Drakes by Rose Marie & Tom Drakes
Sunday, September 3rd: For Our Parishioners

MY SINCEREST THANKS

I was unexpectedly admitted to the hospital on Thursday, September 24th for an infection. I wish to thank everyone for your many prayers. They indeed work! I wish to thank everyone for all your "Get Well Wishes" and cards. They are truly appreciated. I thank everyone who brought over food and other various goodies. It gave me the strength to

recover. I also thank those "Angels" who helped me in any way. Please continue to pray for me as I continue to recover and await my Total Knee Replacement. I pray that Our Lord bless you and reward you for your kindness and generosity!

Father Nestor

THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY



this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna

promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

Background

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos presents to us the central figures of Saints Joachim and Anna, Mary's

parents. Anna is surrounded by attendants who have assisted with the birth.

The icon directs attention to Mary as the central figure in this feast. It also acknowledges the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna as new parents with a child received through a promise from God. The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge this joy and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother

of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world.

The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.

THE MIRACLE OF THE FLYING FRIAR: HOW PADRE PIO SAVED AN ITALIAN TOWN FROM A BOMB

Did you know that Padre Pio appeared in the sky and stopped a bombing? This amazing story clearly shows how God works through those who seek holiness.

According to Padre Pio's official website, during World War II, the Allied troops were in the Gargano area, near San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy, carrying out military missions.

Father Damaso de Sant'Elia, who was superior of the convent in Pianisi, Italy, recounted that, after Sept. 8, 1943, the military initiated attacks on the entire province of Foggia, but San Giovanni Rotondo did not fall victim to a single bomb.

The soldiers who tried attacking indicated that "they saw a friar in the sky who forbade them to drop bombs

there."

The general of the Italian air force and part of the "Air Unit Command" together with the allied forces, Bernardo Rosini, incredulous in facing this fact, decided to take command of the bomber squadron to "destroy a German ammunition depot" that he had met in the same city.

Rosini returned from the flight shocked.

"As soon as they approached the target, he and his pilots saw the figure of a friar in the sky with his hands raised. The bombs dropped themselves, falling in the forests, and the planes turned around without any intervention from the pilots," the general said.

Everyone who heard the story

wondered who this “ghost” was that mysteriously managed to control the planes.

Rosini heard that a friar with the stigmata lived in San Giovanni Rotondo. The friar was considered a saint and might be responsible for this amazing miracle.

After the end of the war, the general, together with some of the pilots, visited the convent where Padre Pio lived, and as soon as he crossed the threshold of the sacristy, he could see among the friars the priest who

stopped his planes.

The saint approached Rosini. Taking him by the shoulder he said, “So, are you the one who wanted to eliminate us all?”

The general knelt in front of Padre Pio, and he heard the priest’s words in English.

Because of these amazing experiences, Rosini, who was a Protestant, became friends with Padre Pio and converted to Catholicism.

-- churchpop.com

THE LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches!

The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us! My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, really friendly. So I asked, “Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!” This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, “The Law of the Garbage Truck.”

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage (frustration, anger, and disappointment, etc.). As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they’ll dump it on you. Don’t take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don’t take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life’s too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so... love the people who treat you right & pray for the ones who don’t. Life is ten

percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

OUR CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Jesse Michael McDermott**, along with his parents Jesse and Mary, on the occasion of his initiation into the flock of Jesus Christ during the 10:30 Divine Liturgy this

Sunday. Jesse, we welcome you into our Parish Family and pray that God grant you many happy and blessed years! Mnohaya Leeta!

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 accommo-

date everyone, we ask that you limit your requests for weekend 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.

HOSPICE OF THE SACRED HEART

The Hospice of the Sacred Heart is looking for volunteers. Opportunities range from companionship for patients in their homes, long-term care facilities, or in personal care homes to clerical projects in our offices. We also have volunteer activities in our inpatient unit located in Dunmore.

Opportunities range from visiting patients, providing a caring presence by quietly sitting at bedside, meal preparation, and clerical tasks.

If interested, please contact Ann Seechock, Volunteer Coordinator, at 800-657-6405, 570-706-2400 or aseechock@hospicesacredheart.org.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

This year's 92nd annual Pilgrimage honoring the Mother of God will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2023 on the grounds of the Motherhouse

of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase Manor. The theme of this year's Pilgrimage is "Our Lady, Our Protectress and Refuge" with

emphasis on calling upon the Mother of God to protect Ukraine during this time.

The day will begin with the Mystery of Reconciliation starting at 9:00 am. The Hierarchal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 11:00 am preceded by a procession. Metropolitan Borys Gudziak will be the main celebrant with other hierarchy and clergy concelebrating. Lunch,

featuring traditional Ukrainian food, will be available afterwards. There will be Spiritual programs, Rosary and Stations of the Cross for Ukraine. The day will conclude with a prayer service (Moleben) at 4:00 pm in the Grotto and blessing of vehicles followed by departure.

For further information, please call 215-379-3998 ext. 17 or visit the Sisters' website at www.stbasils.com

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team Jr., Leonard Mitchko, and Michael Shumek.
Team #1: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko,

Sunday Collection for Aug. 19 & 20, 2023: \$

Sunday Collection for Aug. 26 & 27, 2023: \$

A TIME TO CELEBRATE...

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

Sandra Berta

Edmund Borowski

Paul Chiricos, Sr.

Cindy Creavey

Joseph Nasevich

Debbie Turko

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

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Chiricos, Sr.

James & Cheryl Matuszewski

Tim & Sandy Sczesniak

Nick & Joyce Spryn

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Old Has Passed Away: All Things Are Made New

The fulfillment of the law is Christ himself, who does not so much lead us away from the letter as lift us up to its spirit. For the law's consummation was this, that the very lawgiver accomplished His work and changed letter into spirit, summing everything up in Himself and, though subject to the law, living by grace. He subordinated the law, yet harmoniously united grace with it, not confusing the distinctive characteristics of the one with the other, but effecting the transition in a way most fitting for God. He changed whatever was burdensome, servile and oppressive to what is light and liberating, so that we should be enslaved no longer under the elemental spirits of the world, as the Apostle says, nor held fast as bondservants under the letter of the law.

Justly, then, do we celebrate this mystery since it signifies for us a double grace. We are led toward the truth, and we are led away from

our condition of slavery to the letter of the law. How can this be? Darkness yields before the coming of the light, and grace exchanges legalism for freedom. But midway between the two stands today's mystery, at the frontier where types and symbols give way to reality, and the old is replaced by the new. Therefore, let all creation sing and dance and unite to make worthy contribution to the celebration of this day. Let there be one common festival for saints in heaven and men on earth. Let everything, mundane things and those above, join in festive celebration. Today this created world is raised to the dignity of a holy place for Him who made all things. The creature is newly prepared to be a divine dwelling place for the Creator

St. Andrew of Crete

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