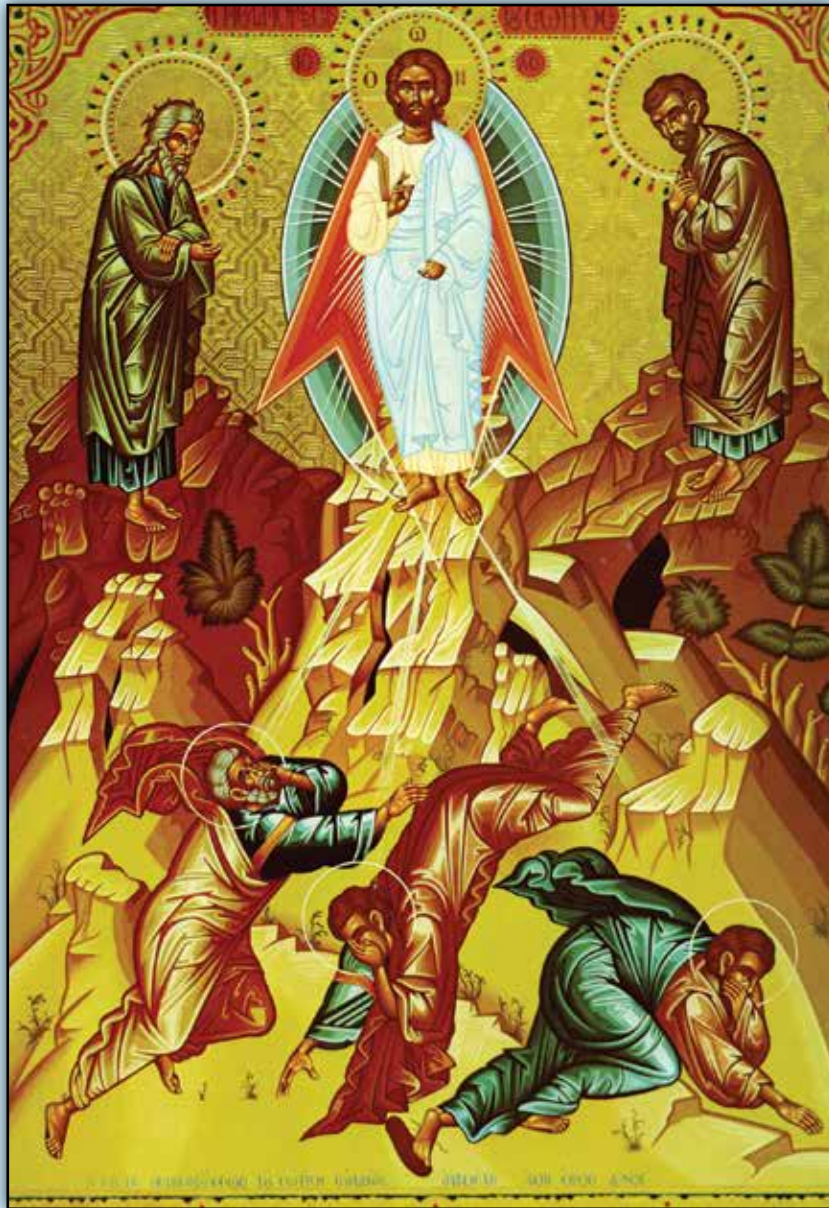


EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Holy Transfiguration -- August 6th

August 3, 2025: Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 1: 10-18

Gospel: Mt. 14: 14-22

This Weekend	4:00 pm + John T. Novak (Andrea Novak) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
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Mon., Aug. 4	9:00 + Margret Heyl (Marie & Jack Martin)
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Tues., Aug. 5	9:00 + Robert “Bob” Zelno (Carol Zadarosni)
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Wed., Aug. 6	Transfiguration of Our Lord (Solemn Holy Day) 9:00 + Mary Patricia Brown (Mary Ann Spryn)
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Thurs. Aug. 7	9:00 + Brian Eric Thomas Mayer (Mother, Rita)
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Fri., Aug. 8	9:00 + Gene Maslar (Irene & Max Stepien)
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Sat., Aug. 9	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Diann Yuhnicks (Husband, John)
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Sun., Aug. 10	10:30 For Our Parishioners
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FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD: BLESSING OF FRUIT

In our Holy Church the offering of first fruits takes the form of a thanksgiving and blessing. The produce is then consumed by the faithful and their loved ones. The Liturgical concept behind the blessing is the faithful offering back to God a token of that which He in His loving-kindness has provided, God blessing these first fruits and returning them to the faithful for their benefit and blessing.

The blessing of first fruits

traditionally begins on the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord with the blessing of grapes. In localities where grapes are not grown, other early ripening fruits such as apples, plums, pears, etc. may be offered. At the end of the Divine Liturgy the priest blesses the first fruits, asking “...that the Lord may bless them, that they may be to us unto rejoicing, and that He may accept a gift of these fruits unto the cleansing of our sins...” The blessing of grapes, as well

as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate

flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in God's Paradise where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

It has also been a venerable

tradition (especially amongst farmers) that as the harvest season progresses, the first fruits of each species be brought to the Church to be blessed, using a similar format, but a different prayer: "...that the Lord may receive our gift unto His eternal treasury and grant us an abundance of earthly goods..."

THREE PARTS OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

1. THE PROSKOMEDIA. It is the first part of the Liturgy, and the faithful do not participate in this rite. It is performed by the Priest before the faithful come to Church. Its name came from the custom which prevailed among the first Christians of bringing the bread and wine for the Mystery of Holy Communion, and for that reason, the bread itself is given the Greek name of "Prosphora" which means "bringing." The PROSKOMEDIA consists of preparing the bread and wine for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and is done at the side Altar which is called the Table of Oblation. The PROSKOMEDIA symbolizes the Nativity of Jesus in Bethlehem and reminds us that Jesus spent part

of His life secretly, away from the busy world.

2. LITURGY OF THE CATECHUMENS (TEACHING).

This is the part of the Liturgy we first see and hear which illustrates the public life of Jesus and is primarily instructive in its content.

In the early Church, the Catechumens were those being instructed in the teaching of the Christian Faith and preparing for Baptism and they could stay for this part of the service only.

There are no Catechumen now - but it serves to remind us of the honor we have to take part in the entire Divine Liturgy and to unite us with Christ the Lord.

3. LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL.

It is so called for during this part of the Liturgy only the faithful may participate in it. In this part of the Divine Liturgy, the Holy Eucharist takes place, the bloodless Sacrifice is offered and the faithful receive Holy Communion.

In this part of the service, with its rites, the Sufferings, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus are illustrated. **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE DIVINE LITURGY.**

A REMINDER FOR VACATION SEASON

It's that wonderful time of year once again — Vacation Time! A season for rest and relaxation, when we temporarily step away from our daily routines to recharge. Whether we stay at home or venture out to visit friends, explore new destinations, or embark on exciting adventures, vacations offer a much-needed break for the soul. During these moments, it's easy to let our usual obligations slip from our minds.

However, there is one reality we cannot escape: bills and financial responsibilities never seem to take a vacation. This includes the operational costs of our Church, which, paradoxically, often increase during the summer months. Whether it's the upkeep of church facilities or

utility bills, these vital needs continue to require support, even as we are away enjoying time with loved ones.

So, as you pack your bags, finalize travel plans, or settle into your summer routine, please keep your Church in mind. Ensuring that your Sunday Collection envelopes are mailed in while you're away is an easy and thoughtful way to maintain your contributions to the Church's mission. This simple act allows you to fully enjoy your vacation, knowing you have supported the work that continues to uplift our community.

Thank you for remembering your Church during this busy season, and may your summer be filled with joy, relaxation, and renewal!

IMPORTANT REMINDER OF CEMETERY REGULATIONS

The following regulations must be adhered to in an effort to keep our Cemetery in a decent condition and be able to keep it maintained.

- **FLOWERS** may be planted in the ground in front of monuments. **Flower beds** may NOT extend out from the monument more than one foot and may not extend beyond the width of the monument. Urns or other containers used for planting must be placed close to the monuments in order to allow for grass cutting.
- **FLOWER BEDS MUST BE MAINTAINED** in a reasonable manner. They should not become unsightly.
- **NEW SHRUBS AND TREES ARE NOT PERMITTED.** Existing shrubs **MUST BE**

TRIMMED OR THEY WILL BE REMOVED.

- **VIGIL LIGHTS** must be in an enclosed container and must be placed close to the monument.
- **MARBLE CHIPS, GRAVEL OR METAL as a border for monuments are prohibited.** They may cause injury to our caretakers or damage grass cutters. Artificial flowers may not be placed in the ground because they may cause injury to caretakers or damage grass cutters. If any one does place them in the ground, they will be removed.
- **ANY AND ALL OBSTACLES to the cutting of the grass will be removed.**
- **TRASH** should be placed in the cans that are provided.

24TH ANNUAL LEBANESE-AMERICAN FOOD FEST

Event Overview

Join us for the 24th Annual Lebanese-American Food Fest, where the vibrant flavors of Lebanon meet the warmth of Scranton's community spirit. Savor authentic Lebanese dishes, delightful pastries, and your favorite picnic classics, all while

enjoying fellowship and festivities in a welcoming setting.

Dates:

- Friday, August 8, 2025 — 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Saturday, August 9, 2025 — 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Sunday, August 10, 2025 —

1:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Location

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

What to Expect

- Great Lebanese Food and Pastries: Indulge in homemade specialties from savory shawarma and kibbeh to sweet baklava.
- Local Picnic Favorites: Enjoy

familiar classics that everyone in the family will love.

More Information

- Website: melkitescranton.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/melkitescranton
- Menu: Check back in August for the full menu announcement!
- Contact: Email melkite.scranton@gmail.com or call the rectory at 570-343-6092 for more information.

WHY COOK WEDNESDAY DINNER

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will hold the 3rd and last of their “Why Cook Wednesday Dinners” for the Summer with an a La Carte, Ukrainian Festival Food, Take-Out Dinner on Wednesday, August 13th. Order from a menu of festival foods including; holubtsi (piggies)...\$3/each, pyrohy (pierogies)...3 for \$3.00, kovbasa with kapusta (kielbasa with sauerkraut)... \$6.00, halushki (cabbage & noodles)...\$4.00/pint

and Pagash (potato pizza)...\$2.00/cut. Pick-Ups from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in their school hall on the corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, near the General Hospital Parkade in Wilkes-Barre. Take-Out Only and Pre-Orders are strongly encouraged. Place your order by calling the School Hall Kitchen (570) 829-3051. Bake Sale items available and tickets will also be sold for a Basket Raffle. Remember... When Baba Cooks, Eveybody’s Happy!

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE FOLK FESTIVAL

On Sun., Aug. 24, 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 2025. Commencing at 1:30 PM, enjoy “A Celebration of Liberty, Valor and Unity”, a vibrant Outdoor Summer Concert of Ukrainian Dance, Music and Song, celebrating the 34th anniversary of Ukraine’s Independence, the Unity of her People and their Struggle for Freedom, Prosperity and Dignity. The performers -- “Voloshky” (Phila.) and Spirit of the Dance (Balt. – DC) Ukrainian Dance Ensembles, singer-songwriter “Iryna Lonchyna” (UA), violinist “Innesa” (UA), “Soloveyko” (Phila.) (Nightingale)

Quartet; and “Vox Ethnika” (NYC) Orchestra -- have created a dynamic, integrated concert program for your delight. Live, vibrant music by the “Vox Ethnika” 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’ grove and the Ukrainian Arts and Crafts market. Admission: \$20; 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.

SIMPSON FUNDRAISER CASH PRIZE BINGO

A fundraiser Cash Prize Bingo is planned for October 12, 2025 at Trinity Hall, Prospect St., Simpson. The Bingo will include 14 games, 3

Specials, and a Jackpot prize. Snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. Tickets will be \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of August 2025 is

Team #4: Ron Barkofsky, Steve & Jeannie Cucura.

Sunday Collection for July 26 & 27, 2025: \$

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.

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: olyphant@ukrcatholic.org

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

From the Acts of the Apostles

Then the apostles and presbyters, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them: "The apostles and the presbyters, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number [who went out] without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth: 'It is

the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.'"

And so they were sent on their journey. Upon their arrival in Antioch they called the assembly together and delivered the letter. When the people read it, they were delighted with the exhortation. Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, exhorted and strengthened the brothers with many words. After they had spent some time there, they were sent off with greetings of peace from the brothers to those who had commissioned them. (Acts 15:22-33)

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