

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the 40 Women of Macedonia and Ammon -- September 1st

August 31, 2025: Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 15: 1-11

Gospel: Mt. 19: 16-26

This Weekend	4:00 pm + Gene Maslar (Romanovitch Family) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
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Mon., Sept. 1	9:00 + Mary Patricia Brown (Howard Smith)
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Tues., Sept. 2	9:00 + Margret Marcinko Heyl (Lauren Telep)
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Wed., Sept. 3	9:00 + John Sereditch (Howard Smith)
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Thurs. Sept. 4	9:00 + Helen & Andrew Kollar (Daughter)
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Fri., Sept. 5	9:00 + Howard & Olga Smith (Son, Howard)
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Sat., Sept. 6	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners)
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Sun., Sept. 7	10:30 + Margret Marcinko Heyl (St. Cyril's Choir)
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‘THE VERY NECESSARY MINIMUM’: THE FORGOTTEN ‘PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH’

What are the basic requirements of being a practicing Catholic?

An important part of the answer lies in what are known as the Precepts of the Church. Unfortunately, many Catholics are unaware of them, let alone conscientiously trying to follow them.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five precepts (CCC 2041–2043), which are explained below.

Some older catechisms included a sixth, requiring Catholics to follow the Church's laws on marriage. That remains

a requirement today, but this article will focus only on the five listed in the Catechism. It is important to note that these precepts do not encompass the whole of the Christian life.

So why does the Church have these precepts at all? According to the Catechism, they are “meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor.”

Here are the five precepts of the

Catholic Church:

1) “You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.”

This “requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.” (CCC 2042)

Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is not a suggestion — it is a requirement. Unless there is a serious reason, all Catholics **must** attend. Notice also the phrase “rest from servile labor.” These are meant to be days of worship and rest.

2) “You shall confess your sins at least once a year.”

This “ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism’s work of conversion and forgiveness.” (CCC 2042)

Catholics are not to receive the Eucharist in a state of mortal sin. Confession is the sacrament by which a person is cleansed of mortal sin.

Because Catholics are required to receive the Eucharist at least once a year (see Precept 3), the Church requires confession at least once a year as well.

Of course, **this is only the bare minimum**. To receive the Eucharist more frequently, and for the sake of their own souls, most Catholics should go to confession regularly throughout the year.

3) “You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.”

This “guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.” (CCC 2042)

The Christian faith centers on Jesus Christ, his sacrifice on the cross, and our union with him in grace. The Eucharist is one of the primary ways God gives us that grace. Receiving it once a year is the minimum requirement, but a practicing Catholic should receive the Eucharist much more frequently. The point is, though, if a person is not receiving the Eucharist even once a year, there is a problem.

4) “You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.”

This “ensures the times of penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts

and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.” (CCC 2043)

Fasting has always been part of the Christian life. Jesus himself speaks about it in the Gospels (see Matthew 6). The Church prescribes certain minimal days of fasting and abstinence during the liturgical year. These obligations are not difficult, but they set a basic standard. Many Christians choose to fast more often or more intensely as a personal devotion.

5) “You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.”

This “means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his

own ability.” (CCC 2043)

The Catholic Church has the most important mission in the world: preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and bringing souls to salvation. Carrying out this mission requires earthly resources. Those who, by God’s grace, have received faith in Christ should naturally desire to support this work.

The Church does not prescribe a set amount or percentage, but asks that each person give “according to his own ability.”

Every Catholic should prayerfully discern what they are able to contribute. Failing to provide any support at all — when one is able — is not an option.

-- ChurchPOP.com

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH: A CALL TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING

Fundraising is an essential lifeblood for any active parish community. As we embark upon a new season filled with opportunities to come together and celebrate, our Parish is preparing to host several distinct fundraising events: our 2nd Annual Car Show, the Kris Kringle Celebration, and our most recent addition, Bingo. Each event is designed not only to raise necessary funds but also to foster fellowship, joy, and a sense of shared purpose among parishioners.

In this spirit, we want to extend

our heartfelt gratitude to all who work tirelessly at these fundraisers, donate their time, and offer support in any capacity. Your commitment and enthusiasm are indispensable; without you, these events could not flourish as they do.

Yet, amid our appreciation, we find it necessary to address a concern that has surfaced among some members of our community. There exists a belief—one that is misguided and ultimately detrimental—that by participating

in parish fundraisers, Parishioners are simply increasing the amount of money sent to the Archbishop or the Archeparchy. Some have gone so far as to boycott these events, feeling that their generosity would be misdirected and their efforts wasted.

It is important to clarify the true nature of parish fundraising, the purpose behind these events, and the real impact of your contributions. Our aim is to dispel myths, and renew a spirit of unity within our parish.

How Parish Assessments Work?

Every parish within the diocese is assessed a certain amount each month. This assessment is a fixed obligation, designed to support the wider mission of the Church, including administration, and charitable works. Importantly, **this assessment does not fluctuate based on how many fundraisers a parish holds**, nor does it increase as a direct result of fundraising activities.

It bears repeating: **hosting fundraisers does not cause our parish's monthly assessment to rise**. The funds raised through our local efforts serve an entirely different purpose—they are reinvested into our own parish community to support projects, maintenance, and improvements that directly benefit all who worship here.

The proceeds from our fundraisers

are not siphoned off to the Archbishop or the Archeparchy; rather, they remain right here, in our parish. For instance, we are currently working to replace our failing air conditioning system, a project necessitated by the comfort and well-being of everyone who attends services. Additionally, we are undertaking repairs to Our Lady's Shrine behind the Church, which is showing signs of age and decay. These are just two examples of how fundraising dollars are put to vital use.

Every year, our parish faces new challenges—whether it's maintaining aging infrastructure, upgrading technology, or beautifying sacred spaces. These projects often require financial resources beyond what is covered by regular offerings. Fundraisers allow us to address these needs.

Now a little about our upcoming Fundraisers. **The 2nd Annual Car Show**. A beloved tradition returning for its second year, the Car Show brings together parishioners and the greater community in a celebration of craftsmanship, nostalgia, and camaraderie.

Kris Kringle Celebration. Our Kris Kringle Celebration is as much about sharing holiday joy as it is about fundraising. The event features food, music, games, and fellowship, and all proceeds are dedicated to parish

needs—making sure our celebrations are comfortable, and our ministries are well-supported.

Bingo: Our Latest Fundraiser. Introducing Bingo to our lineup marks a new chapter in parish fundraising—one that is accessible, fun, and inclusive. Like our other fundraisers, the money raised will be used to support essential repairs, and upgrades.

Why Your Support Matters? Refusing to support parish fundraisers, whether from misunderstanding or misplaced dissent, only serves to hurt our parish. When events are boycotted or ignored, we lose not only potential funds for needed projects, but also opportunities to nurture friendship, build bridges between generations, and strengthen the bonds of faith that

unite us.

The True Meaning of Generosity. Generosity is not merely measured in dollars and cents. It is reflected in the time you volunteer, the skills you offer, and the goodwill you share. Supporting parish fundraisers is an act of stewardship—it is a way to express gratitude for the gifts we have received and to ensure those blessings endure for future generations.

Let us come together as a community to support these upcoming fundraisers. Whether you volunteer, attend, donate, or simply spread the word, your contribution matters. Each act of generosity is a step toward building a stronger, more vibrant parish—a place where all are welcome.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Ryan T. Wilkes, the son of Thomas and Laurene Zelno Wilkes, will contract marriage with **Jessica L. Sanderson**, the daughter of Kenneth and Laura Krenitsky Sanderson on

Saturday, September 14, 2025. If anyone is aware of any impediments as to why this marriage should not take place, contact Father Nestor as soon as possible.

PRAISE4LIFE

Pennsylvanians for Human Life - Scranton Chapter invited you to attend Praise4Life, a family event at

Lackawanna State Park on September 7 from 1–3 PM.

The event will feature live praise

music, food, kids' activities, and a request to bring a dish to share.
speaker, with free admission and a

SIMPSON FUNDRAISER CASH PRIZE BINGO

A fundraiser Cash Prize Bingo and refreshments will be available is planned for October 12, 2025 at for purchase. Tickets will be \$20 in Trinity Hall, Prospect St., Simpson. advance and \$25 at the door.
The Bingo will include 14 games, 3 For tickets or more information, Specials, and a Jackpot prize. Snacks call 570-282-5680 or 570-282-0796.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team #4: Ron Barkofsky, Steve & Jeannie for the month of August 2025 is Team Cucura.

Sunday Collection for Aug. 23 & 24, 2025: \$

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

A TIME TO CELEBRATE...

Happy Birthday and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrated their birthdays in August:

Sandra Berta	Cindy Creavey	Debbie Turko
Edmund Borowski	George Homick	Allison Carey-Wehren-
Paul Chiricos, Sr.	Joseph Nasevich	berg

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

M/M Paul Chiricos, Sr.	Nick & Joyce Spryn
Cheryl & James Matuszewski	
Sandy & Tim Sczesniak	

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

Christ and the Law

When Christ says to him, "If you would enter life, keep the commandments," the man expects Him to add immediately, "my commandments." "Which ones?" he asks. He was quite deceived in his expectation. For Christ did not answer him as he expected but simply pointed him to the law.

This is not because the law is perfection, for "no one is justified by the law," as it is written, but because the life lived according to law is a kind of introduction to the eternal life, briefly acquainting trainees to the things above. "For the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ."

The law is the starting point for social justice. Christ is the perfection. For the beginning of good is to act justly, He says. Just action then is shown by the law, but goodness is shown by Christ. The law taught us to repay those who wish to harm us, as in "eye for eye, tooth for tooth."

But Christ taught us to let go such balanced vengeance with a view to the greater good, teaching that "if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well."

St. Cyril of Alexandria