

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Christ Healing the Centurion's Servant*

## July 6, 2025: Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Rom. 6: 18-23

Gospel: Mt. 8: 5-13

<b>This Weekend</b>	4:00 pm + Susan & Andrew Horvath (Daughter) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
<b>Mon., July 7</b>	9:00 + Nadine Rudd (Andrea Novak)
<b>Tues., July 8</b>	9:00 + Mary Patricia Brown (Howard Smith)
<b>Wed., July 9</b>	10:00 Funeral: + Judy Ferrone
<b>Thurs. July 10</b>	9:00 Thanksgiving: 20 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (Mark & Alba Nagurney)
<b>Fri., July 11</b>	9:00 + Anna Novak (Andrea)
<b>Sat., July 12</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Justina & Michael Galay Family (Marie & John Martin)
<b>Sun., July 13</b>	10:30 For Our Parishioners

## CHURCH TRADITIONS & ETIQUETTE

Modern culture is rather casual in its approach to worship and sacred space. In our Church we adhere to long-standing traditions that express the reverence which is due to God, to each other, and to ourselves. Respect for God and His house translates to respect for all of His creation. The following guidelines are customs and traditions of etiquette that we need to be aware of as Catholic faithful. Please read the following information

prayerfully and with an understanding for the Church's obligation to shepherd with love and compassion for all the faithful.

**Entering the Church.** Arrive on Time - The time to arrive at church is before the service starts. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy has begun, try to enter the church quietly and at the appropriate moment. We must not be walking in or around the church when the Gospel is being read, when

a procession is taking place, or at any time that the priest is facing the congregation.

**Fast before the Liturgy.** It is a Church law that one fasts for at least 1 hour before receiving Holy Communion. Water and medicine can be consumed, of course. The purpose is to help us prepare to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Please be quiet while in church. Once you enter the church – it is not the time or place to visit with those around you. If you must talk - do so as quietly and briefly as possible. Remember that your conversation might be disturbing someone who is in prayer, which is much more important. Sssshhhhh.

**Cell phones should never be**

**used in Divine Liturgy for calls or texting.** The exceptions are emergencies (big ones, not everyday ones) and if you do use one, please walk out of church to do so. Also, if you are using the phone for readings or prayers, this is appropriate, but try to be discreet.

**Proper Church Attire.** Church is a sacred place with its traditions. When we come to worship we should respect those traditions. Our clothes should be modest and tasteful. Inappropriate attire such as tight pants, mid-thigh dresses and skirts, low cut blouses can be perceived as disrespectful and could be offensive to other worshipers. Thank you for your consideration.

## **A REMINDER FOR VACATION SEASON**

It is 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!

## **AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AT OUR CHURCH: CHALLENGES AND THE PATH FORWARD**

Our church is currently facing a significant challenge with our air conditioning system. The bigger unit, which has served us well over the years, is no longer functional. This has placed a considerable strain on the smaller air conditioning unit, which, while still operational, is not always capable of maintaining a comfortable temperature in the church.

The malfunction of the larger unit has led to fluctuating temperatures within the church, making it challenging for our Parishioners to enjoy a comfortable environment during services. The smaller unit's

inability to consistently regulate the temperature has been particularly problematic during peak summer months, affecting the overall experience of our community.

In response to this issue, we have invited several contractors to assess our air conditioning system and provide quotes for its replacement. We are currently awaiting their bids, which will give us a clearer understanding of the scope and cost of the project.

It is important to note that this will not be an inexpensive project. Replacing an air conditioning system of this scale involves significant

investment, and we are mindful of the financial implications for our church community. We will explore various options to fund this project, including potential fund raising efforts.

Our goal is to ensure that our church remains a welcoming and comfortable space for all. We are committed to finding a solution that balances cost with efficiency and

reliability. Once we have received and reviewed the bids from the contractors, we will communicate further with the congregation about the chosen path forward and any assistance we may require.

We appreciate the patience and support of our community as we navigate this challenge and work towards a sustainable solution for our air conditioning needs.

## BINGO SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who returned the BINGO survey, though it is very disheartening that out of almost 200 letters sent out, only 41 parishioners cared enough to respond. The Fund-raising Committee is reviewing how to proceed with fund-raisers.

The survey brought many different suggestions and concerns. One concern that seems to be reoccurring is that “money just goes to the Bishop, so why should we donate anything?” That fairly common perception must be clarified.

As citizens, we pay taxes to our government. All Catholic Parishes pay Diocesan assessments, which

support various ministries and services and ensure the Diocese can fulfill its mission. Canon Law grants Bishops the right to impose assessments. They help fund the Diocese’s central administration, which provides services and support to all parishes within the Diocese.

Perhaps in the past, when our congregation was much larger, the Parish was able to contribute beyond the assessed amount to the diocese. **This is no longer the case.** We are not financially able to do this and pay only the amount assessed. **Any additional funds earned from fund-raisers or individual donations stay entirely within our parish. The diocese does**

**not require a percentage of our income.** This fear that the Bishop may get more money only hurts our Parish financially.

## CHICKEN DINNER

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church will hold a Chicken Dinner as their Why Cook Wednesday Dinner for July. The dinner will be on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 in their school hall on the corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, near the General Hospital Parkade in Wilkes-Barre. This dinner will be Take-Out Only and Pre-Orders are strongly

encouraged. Dinners will be \$15 and will include: a brined and roasted half-chicken, baked potato, corn, macaroni salad, roll and dessert. Place your order by calling the School Hall Kitchen (570) 829-3051. Pick-Ups will be from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Tickets will also be sold for a Basket Raffle. Remember... When Baba Cooks, Everybody's Happy!

## 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LEBANESE-AMERICAN FOOD FEST

### Event Overview

Join us for the beloved 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 and maamoul.

- Local Picnic Favorites: Enjoy familiar classics that everyone in the family will love.

- Variety Baskets: Try your luck and take home one of our fun and festive baskets, filled with treats and surprises.

**More Information**

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

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team #3: Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, for the month of July 2025 is Team and Cheryl Matuszewski.

## Sunday Collection for June 28 - 29, 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 June:*

Michaelene Davis  
James Matuszewski,  
Jr.

Paul Mizerak  
Susan Sakson  
John Sakson, Jr.

Sarah Sakson  
Carol Zadarosni

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

Cindy & Jim Creavey  
Bill & Jane Granza

John & Marie Martin  
Joey & Debbie Turko

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***Nowhere in Israel Have I Found as Much Faith***

The Lord Jesus agreed to go to the centurion's house to cure his servant, but he replied: *I am not worthy to have you under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.* In protesting his unworthiness the centurion showed himself worthy to have Christ enter not his house but his heart. Yet he could not have said this with such faith and humility unless he already bore within his heart the One he was too overawed to have within his house. In any case, there would have been no great happiness at the entry of the Lord Jesus within his walls if he were not present in his heart.

But what emboldened the centurion to act as he did? *I am under authority myself*, he said, *and have soldiers under me; and I say to one man, Go, and*

*he goes; to another, Come here, and he comes; to my servant, Do this, and he does it.*

Now the man who said this was a Gentile as well as a centurion. He was a professional soldier and, as a centurion, acted according to his rank: subject to authority and exercise in authority, obeying as a subordinate and giving orders to those subordinate to him. As for the Lord, though living among the Jewish people, He was already beginning to make it known that His Church would extend throughout the whole world into which He was about to send His apostles. Although the Gentiles would not see him they would believe in him, whereas the Jewish leaders who saw him would put him to death.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*