

## SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS



*Icon of the Holy Fathers*

## July 13, 2025: Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils

Epistle: Heb. 12: 7-16

Gospel: Jn. 17: 1-13

<b>This Weekend</b>	4:00 pm + Justina & Michael Galay Family (Marie & John Martin) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
<b>Mon., July 14</b>	9:00 + Brian Eric Thomas Mayer (Mother, Rita Mayer)
<b>Tues., July 15</b>	9:00 + Mary Patricia Brown (Howard Smith)
<b>Wed., July 16</b>	9:00 + Alice Pitera (George & Diane Zevan)
<b>Thurs. July 17</b>	9:00 + Frank & Margaret Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene)
<b>Fri., July 18</b>	9:00 + Marie F. Piercy (Dee Capooci)
<b>Sat., July 19</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Gene Maslar (Bill & Jane Granza)
<b>Sun., July 20</b>	10:30 For Our Parishioners

### FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

*“Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith.”*

Today we remember the Fathers of the first six Ecumenical Councils, those pastor-bishops who met in various gatherings from the fourth to the seventh centuries to combat heresies and formulate canons, or rules, to guide the Church in holy living. We honor these Fathers – indeed, we honor all the saints – because they are friends of Christ, because they show us Christ. The Fathers

committed their lives, many of them as martyrs, to teaching clearly and faithfully the word of God. And so, we are called to consider carefully the outcome of their lives and to imitate their faith. We are to follow their examples in never neglecting to do good and to share what we have, for such is the way of the fathers, the way of the saints, and such sacrifices are well-pleasing to God.

One of the reasons our Churches are filled with icons is to aid us in this task. In worship we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, a tremendous

company of those who teach us in word and deed the way of Christ. Many of them were mistreated by the world. Like their Lord Christ, they met their end in dishonor, “dying outside the city,” far removed from fame or fortune. For here they had no lasting city, but rather they sought a city which is to come. As a community of faithful we are to remember them, we cling to their relics, we venerate their icons, because we know that they’re not simply dead and gone, buried and forgotten. We know that in Christ they live! Dwelling in the fullness of His presence, they are in a

certain profound sense more alive than we are in our present struggles.

And so we ask their prayers, that our lives may become more deeply rooted in the life and love of Christ, just as theirs are. We remember them this day and every day. In the words of St. John of Damascus, who wrote in the eighth century: “Let us carefully review the life of these men, and let us emulate their faith and love and hope and zeal and way of life, and endurance of sufferings and patience even to (the shedding of) blood, in order that we may be sharers with them in their crowns of glory.” Amen

## **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 relaxation, and renewal!  
may your summer be filled with joy,

## **FRONT STEPS RUG REPLACEMENT AND REPAIRS**

We wish to inform our congregation and visitors of some recent developments concerning the front steps of our Church. Many of you may have noticed that the rug on the steps had become worn and torn in several places, posing a potential tripping hazard for all who enter.

We are deeply grateful to a generous donor, Ann O. Nymous, who kindly provided the funds to purchase a brand-new rug for the Church's entrance. Such thoughtful acts of generosity help to ensure the safety and comfort of everyone who comes through our doors.

During the process of removing the old rug, our installer observed that the steps themselves are in need of some repairs. We want to assure you that these necessary repairs will be addressed promptly. Once the work on the steps is completed, the new rug will be professionally installed, restoring both the beauty and safety of our Church entrance.

We look forward to welcoming you with renewed warmth — and a secure, beautiful new rug — very soon.

## **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.

## 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.

## Reasons I Never ~~Go to Mass~~ Shower

*A priest in Ireland got tired of listening to people explain why they don't go to mass on Sundays. He wrote this in the bulletin:*

1. I was forced to shower as a child.
2. People who shower are hypocrites. They say they are cleaner than everyone

else.

3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never decide which one was right.

4. I used to shower, but it got boring so I stopped.

5. I shower only on special occasions,

like Easter and Christmas.

6. None of my friends shower.

7. I'm still young. When I'm older and have gotten a bit dirtier, I might start showering.

8. I really don't have time to shower.

9. The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.

10. People who make soap are only

after your money.

(There's More)

- I get along very well without showering.

- I work hard all week and I'm too tired to take a shower on the weekend.

- The first bar of soap I ever used gave me a rash, so I haven't gone near soap since.

## **A VERY FAITHFUL WOMAN**

An elderly lady was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. She would stand on her front porch and shout "PRAISE THE LORD!"

Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!"

Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for GOD to send her some assistance. She stood on her porch and shouted "PRAISE THE LORD. GOD I NEED FOOD!! I AM HAVING A HARD TIME.

PLEASE LORD, SEND ME SOME GROCERIES!"

The next morning the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD." The neighbor jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't."

The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "PRAISE THE LORD. He not only sent me groceries, but He made the devil pay for them. Praise the Lord!"

## **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 24<sup>th</sup> 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](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 for the month of July 2025 is Team #3:

Marlene Zelno, Cheryl Matuszewski, and Carol Zadarosni.

**Sunday Collection for July 5 & 6, 2025: \$**

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

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***Authority of the Council - Authority of the Church***

The authority of the Councils is based also on their ecclesiological grounding. A council is not an independent, autonomous body, additional, coming from outside, acting unilaterally. It is not the product of accidental circumstances in history and imposed afterwards. It is closely, or rather organically, related with the very essence of the Church. This body of Christ is a living organism, destined to grow, to face difficulties during this process, to be implanted in other regions of the world needing inculturation and a certain adaptation.

Such embodiment and multifaceted ministry creates problems, tensions, even divisions and in spite of the good will of the local

bishop and pastors, the convocation of as a major assembly is considered as a natural instrument, salutary and indispensable.

The official voice of the catholicity and the koinonia of all the other sister churches, in harmony and guided by the Spirit, would only provide the new assessments, possible remedies and solutions. The functioning of such a council was such that the opinions and requests at issue found expression from the very womb of the Church. Once the decision was made, the people had a part in receiving it and publicizing it (Acts 15:22) as is seen in the first assembly of Jerusalem.

*Metropolitan Emilianos*