

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Holy Prophet Joel -- October 19th

Oct. 19, 2025: Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Cor. 11:31 - 12:9

Gospel: Lk. 8: 5-15

This Weekend	4:00 pm For Our Parishioners 10:30 + Nicholas Zinsky (Wife, Dorothy)
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Mon., Oct. 20	No Divine Liturgy Today
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Tues., Oct. 21	9:00 Dorothy Chezik (Family)
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Wed., Oct. 22	9:00 Thanksgiving (The Ladies)
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Thurs., Oct. 23	9:00 + Bob Zelno (Eileen Kushner)
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Fri., Oct. 24	9:00 + Bill Davis (Wife, Michaelene)
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Sat., Oct. 25	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions. 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners
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Sun., Oct. 26	10:30 + Gene Maslar (Robert Spryn & Family)
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EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RELICS

From the finger of St. Thomas to the arm of St. Jude to the miraculous blood of St. Januarius and the Shroud of Turin, the Catholic Church is home to a plethora of relics. To an outsider, the tradition of venerating relics may seem strange; however, the roots of the practice are found in Scripture as well as in the ancient tradition of the Church.

Below are 10 of the most asked questions pertaining to relics and their veneration.

What is a relic?

A relic is a physical object that had a direct association with a saint or with

Jesus Christ. The word relic derives from the Latin word “relinquere,” which means “to abandon or leave behind.”

What are the different classes of relics?

Traditionally, relics can be broken down into three classes: first, second, and third.

First-class relics are the body or fragments of the body of a saint, such as pieces of bone or flesh. An example of a first-class relic would be the skull of St. Thomas Aquinas or the bone of St. Jude Thaddeus. Pieces of the cross on which Jesus was crucified are also considered

first-class relics.

A second-class relic is an item that a saint touched or owned, such as a shirt or book, or fragments of these items.

Third-class relics are items that a saint has touched or items that have been touched to a first-, second-, or another third-class relic. For example, touching the first-class relic of St. Bernadette Soubirous' bones with your own personal rosary would make your rosary a third-class relic.

Additionally, a 2017 decree on relics identified the difference between "significant" and "nonsignificant" relics.

The decree defines a significant relic as "the body of the blessed and of the saints or notable parts of the bodies themselves or the sum total of the ashes obtained by their cremation."

These relics are preserved in properly-sealed urns and are to be kept in places that guarantee their safety and respect their sacredness.

"Little fragments of the body of the blessed and of the saints as well as objects that have come in direct contact with their person are considered nonsignificant relics," the decree states.

These are also preserved in sealed cases "and honored with a religious spirit, avoiding every type of

superstition and illicit trade."

How are relics authenticated?

The process of authenticating a first- or second-class relic begins with the certification from a bishop or cardinal. In many cases the relics belong to the diocese to which the saint belonged.

Then, especially for first-class relics, the item must be scientifically proven to be human remains along with other criteria. This is done to ensure that fake relics are not being venerated by the faithful.

There is no process for formally recognizing third-class relics.

Why do Catholics venerate relics?

Catholics venerate the relics of saints as a way to honor the saint's inspiring way of life and bold faith. As Catholics, we strive to become saints ourselves and are encouraged to imitate the lives of the saints in our own daily lives.

St. Jerome, a great biblical scholar, said: "We do not worship relics, we do not adore them, for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the creator. But we venerate the relics of the martyrs in order the better to adore him whose martyrs they are."

The veneration of relics is a Catholic practice of honoring the extraordinary

work God did in a person's life — a person who has achieved the highest level of holiness in the Catholic Church.

Is relic veneration biblical?

Yes. There are several instances in the Bible where individuals are healed by touching an item.

In 2 Kings 13:20-21, the corpse of a man is touched to the bones of the prophet Elisha and the man comes back to life. In Matthew 9:20-22, the hemorrhaging woman is healed by touching the hem of Jesus' cloak. People were healed and evil spirits were driven out when handkerchiefs from the apostle Paul were placed on these individuals as is written in Acts of the Apostles 19:11-12.

Can relics perform miracles?

It is important to understand that while relics may be used in many miracles that are mentioned, the Catholic Church does not believe that the relic itself causes the miracle; God alone does. The relic is the vehicle through which God may work, but God is the cause for the healing.

Any good that comes about through a relic is God's doing. But the fact that God chooses to use the relics of saints to work healing and miracles tells us that he wants to draw our attention to the saints as "models and intercessors" (Catechism of the Catholic Church,

828).

Is it OK to own a relic?

Ideally a relic should be kept in a church or shrine where it can be made available for public veneration. However, the Church does not forbid the possession of relics by lay people. They may even be kept in homes. Additionally, the Church no longer issues relics to individuals — not even clergy. The Church will only issue relics to churches, shrines, and oratories.

Can I buy or sell relics?

According to canon law of the Catholic Church, the sale of first- and second-class relics is strictly forbidden. Relics can only be given away by their owners, and some very significant relics, such as a heart, arm, etc., cannot be given away without the permission of the Vatican.

Where can I see or venerate relics?

Relics are housed all over the world in different churches and shrines. For example, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Notre Dame, Indiana, is home to an estimated 1,200 relics. In Venice, Italy, St. Mark's Basilica houses the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist. Catholics can venerate relics of the true cross at the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem in Rome.

Relics will also go on tour to

churches across cities throughout the world in order for the faithful to have an opportunity to venerate them.

Are there relics of Jesus or Mary?

There are no first-class relics of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Catholic Church teaches that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven. However, the most well-known second-class relic that is believed to have been Mary's is her veil, which is kept in Chartres Cathedral in France.

The case is similar for Jesus. While there are no bodily relics of Christ, who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, there are fragments of the true cross, a fragment of the holy manger in which Jesus was placed after he was born, and fragments of black-and-white stone that are said to be from the pillar on which he was scourged.

**-- By Francesca Pollio Fenton,
CNA Staff**

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR

There was once a man who was ship-wrecked and stranded on an island. Every day he prayed asking God to send someone to rescue him, but to his disappointment, no one ever came.

Months passed and this man learned how to survive on the island. During this time, he accumulated things from the island and stored them in a hut that he constructed. One day after hunting for food and returning back to his hut, much to his dismay he saw that his hut was on fire along with everything else he owned!

All of his possessions were going up in smoke! The only thing he had left were the clothes on his back. Initially he was in shock, and then he was consumed with anger and rage!

In his fury he threw a fist into the air and began cursing God and yelling, "God, how could you let this happen to me? I've been praying everyday for months about being rescued and no one has come, and now everything that I have is on fire! How could you do this to me! Why did you let this happen?"

Later the man was on his hands and knees weeping heavily when he happened to look up and catch sight of a ship coming in his direction. The man was rescued and as they were heading back to civilization the man asked the captain, "How were you able to find me?"

The captain responded, "We were voyaging across the ocean when we noticed on the horizon a column of

smoke going up. We decided to go check it out and when we did, that's when we found you!"

In life we are going to be confronted with challenges, problems, and disasters. But keep in mind that what the devil has meant for bad, God can transform into your good! What is a catastrophe can sometimes be a

blessing in disguise. "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." Psalms 34:17-19

LECTURE BY OUR ARCHBISHOP BORYS

Archbishop Borys Gudziak will visit King's College on Oct. 21, 2025 to deliver a lecture entitled "The Church—An Instrument of Peace Amid War: Reflections on the Invasion of Ukraine."

The lecture is free and open to the

public and starts at 7:15 p.m. It will be hosted in the Burke Auditorium on the first floor of the McGowan School of Business on 131 N. River St. in Wilkes-Barre. Visitors can park in lots off the circle accessed from N. Franklin St.

PASTA DINNER

The Women's Society of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church on North St. Frances Cabrini Avenue, West Scranton, is sponsoring its annual Takeout Pasta Dinner, Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 4pm to 6 pm.

Penne with meatballs, salad, bread, dessert will be served. Adult \$12, Children 6-10 \$7. Larger orders call ahead/email 570-343-6092, melkite.scranton@gmail.com. See us on facebook or melkitescranton.org.

UGCC SING CON

UGCC SingCon is an annual gathering of cantors, choristers, choir directors, and anyone interested in the musical tradition of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church. This year

it is being hosted by the parish of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, from October 23-26. The weekend includes workshops on liturgical and

musical topics, vocal exercises, mass choir practices, and liturgical services, including Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy. For further information, visit the website at <https://ugccmusic.com/>.

com/, or the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ugccmusic>. Student rates and scholarships are available. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is September 26th.

WHITE CANE DAYS

The Lions Club and the Mid-Valley Leo Club will conduct their annual "White Cane Days" on Saturday, October 25th and Sunday, October 26th before the Divine Liturgy. All funds received from this solicitation are used

for ongoing sight conservation and eye research projects, hearing programs and other community betterment projects. Please support this worthy cause and thank you!

FALL BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Valley Community Library's Fall Book Sale will take place on Friday, November 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Patrons may fill a provided bag on Saturday for \$5 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There will be a special presale for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, November 13, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Purchase

a membership at the door for \$10 individual/\$15 families. The book sale will be held inside the library.

Items for sale include fiction and non-fiction books, young adult and children's books, puzzles, and more! Prices vary from \$0.25 to \$2.00.

The Valley Community Library, a member of the Lackawanna County Library System, is located at 739 River St., Peckville, and serves residents in the valley area.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of October 2025 is Team

#2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for October 11 & 12, 2025: \$

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

Prayer is Answering the Word of God

Isidore said:

‘Anyone who wants to be always united to God must pray often and read the Bible often. For in prayer it is we who are speaking to God, but in the readings it is God speaking to us.

‘All spiritual progress is based on reading and meditation. What we do not know, we learn in the reading; what we have learned, we preserve by meditation. Reading the Bible provides us with a two-fold advantage. It instructs our minds, and introduces us to the love of God by taking our attention off vanities.

‘None can understand the meaning of the Bible if they do not acquire familiarity with it through the habit of Bible reading.’

Augustine said:

‘Nourish your soul with Bible reading. It will prepare a spiritual feast for you.’

Jerome said:

‘Anyone who is assiduous in reading the Word of God becomes weary while reading, but afterwards is happy because the bitter seeds of the reading produce sweet fruits in the soul.

‘Let us study while we are on earth that Reality which will stay in our minds also when we are in heaven.’

Defensor Grammaticus (ca. 7th century)