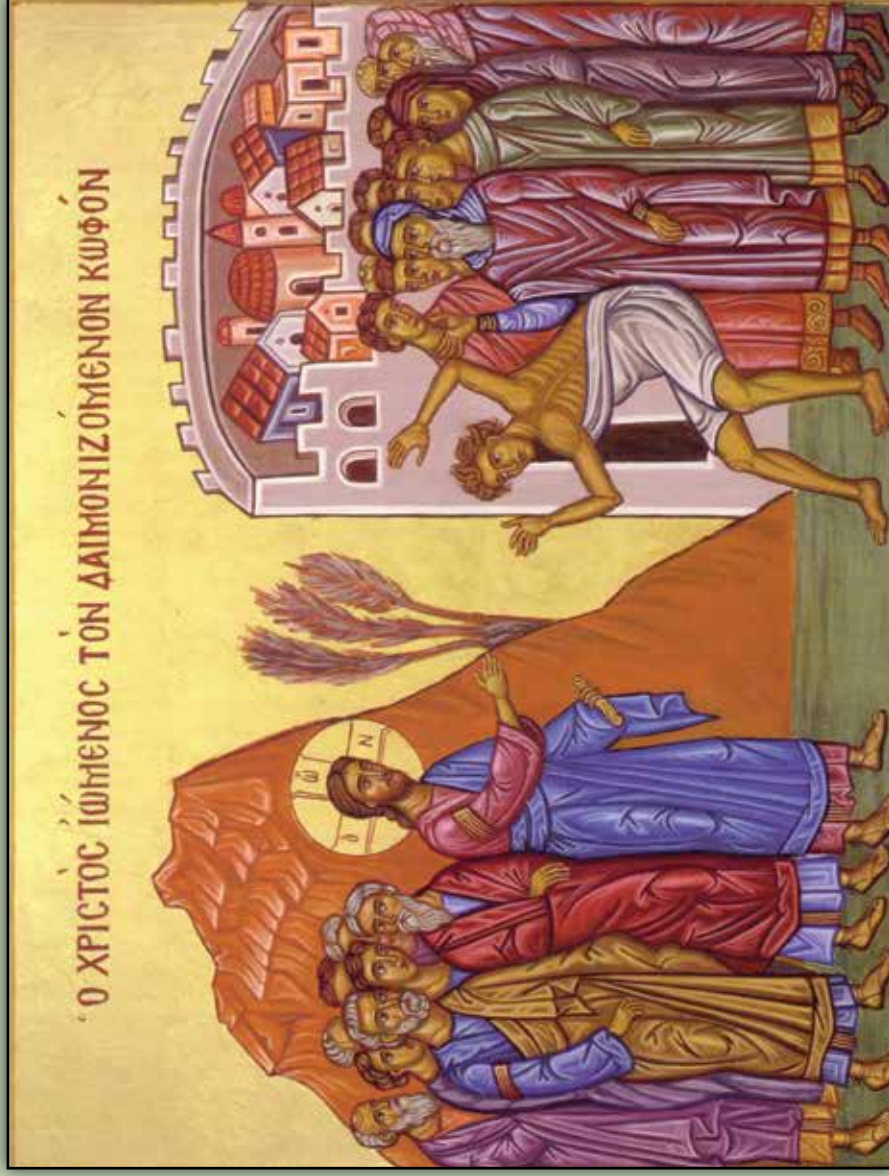


# TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Healing of the Demoniac Boy*

## August 2, 2026: Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 4: 9-16

Gospel: Mt. 17: 14-23

**This Weekend**      4:00 pm + Joseph & Helen Sembrat (Sharon, Joseph & Jeanne)  
10:30 For Our Parishioners

**Mon., Aug. 3**      9:00 + Renee Good & Alex Pretti

**Tues., Aug. 4**      9:00 + Mike Bozym (Lauren Telep)

**Wed., Aug. 5**      9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor

**Thurs., Aug. 6**      **Transfiguration of Our Lord (Solemn Holy Day)**

9:00 For Our Parishioners; Blessing of Fruit

**In Simpson:**      5:30 Divine Liturgy

*While this may not be a Holy of Obligation, everyone is encouraged to attend the Divine Liturgy for this Feast Day. For those who cannot make the Divine Liturgy in Olyphant, we provide the information from Ss. Peter & Paul in Simpson.*

**Fri., Aug. 7**      9:00 + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory (Andrea Novak)

**Sat., Aug. 8**      **No Morning Divine Liturgy.**

2:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm + John, Lucille & George Marushock & Mildred Nagy,  
& Evelyn Foster (Sister, Ilona)

**Sun., Aug. 9**      10:30 For Our Parishioners

## 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.**

## SIX CHALLENGES

A Franciscan friar is challenging Catholics to rethink how they go to Mass — and his simple “6 challenges” are striking a chord on social media.

Father Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, shared a practical guide to help Catholics enter more deeply into the Eucharist by rediscovering silence, focus, and intentionality:

**1. Arrive 10 minutes before Mass.** Instead of sliding into the pew at the last second, take time to pray. Offer your week to God—your joys, struggles, intentions—and prepare your heart for what’s about to happen.

**2. Leave your phone in the car.** “You can do it, you can do it,” Ames says. Yes, really. He calls this a “heroic act.” For most people (some exceptions include medical personnel or those with medical devices), the world can wait an hour. Enter the sacred space without distractions.

**3. Read the readings before Mass.** Whether at home or during those 10

quiet minutes before Mass, knowing the readings helps you engage more deeply with the liturgy.

**4. Close your eyes after receiving Communion.** After receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, resist the urge to look around. Stay recollected. Speak to Him. “Be with Jesus,” Ames says.

Keep your eyes closed after you receive Holy Communion until the priest resumes the Liturgy.”

He adds, “I know if you have little kids, that’s not possible.”

**5. Make a thanksgiving after Mass.** Instead of rushing out, take a few extra minutes to thank God. Let the grace of the Eucharist settle in.

**6. Talk to at least one person.** Before heading to your car, connect with someone. Build community. The parish is not just a place—it’s a people.

“Interact with at least one person before you head back to your car after you leave the church,” he says.

## **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 sup-

port, 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!

## **Fall Mum Fundraiser**

We are now taking orders for the 2026 Fall Mum Fundraiser! Mums are 9-inch pots for \$10.00 each and will be sold as vouchers to be redeemed by the purchaser at Corky's, 729 Justus Blvd., Scott Township. Customers may choose their mum color at pickup. Orders will be taken in the back of the Church before Liturgy on 8/8, 8/9, 8/15, 8/16, 8/22, 8/23, 8/29, and 8/30. Orders must be placed by

8/30; vouchers will be ready for pickup in the back of the church before and after the September 12th and 13th liturgy's. and may be redeemed September 11–25, 2026. For more information you may call Janet Melnick – 570-56-16460, Judy Sepinsky 570-780-5244, Carol Zadarosni 570-0766-0596. Payment is due at the time of the order. No exceptions.

## **ANNUAL LEBANESE-AMERICAN FOOD FESTIVAL**

St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church in West Scranton invites you to its

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lebanese-American Food Festival, August 7–9, 2026. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a delicious selection of authentic Lebanese foods and homemade pastries, along with local picnic favorites.

The festival will be held at the church, located at 130 N. St. Frances Cabrini Ave. (off Lower Jackson St.), West Scranton, on Friday and Saturday from 4:00–9:00

p.m. and Sunday from 1:00–7:00 p.m. Visitors can also enjoy variety baskets, a 50/50 raffle, and instant bingo throughout the weekend.

For more information and the festival menu (available in August), visit [melkitescranton.org](http://melkitescranton.org) or the church's Facebook page. Questions may be directed to [melkite.scranton@gmail.com](mailto:melkite.scranton@gmail.com) or the rectory at (570) 343-6092.

## **WHY COOK WEDNESDAY DINNER**

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last of their “Why Cook Wednesday Dinners” for the Summer with a Ukrainian Festival Food, Take-Out Dinner on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Order from a menu of festival foods including: a Holubtsi Dinner with 2 piggies, 3 pyrohy and green beans for \$12.00, a Kovbasa Dinner with Kielbasa & Sauerkraut, Hard Roll and 3 Pyrohy for \$10.00, Pagash - 3 Cuts for \$6.00 or a whole tray of 12 for \$22.00, Pyrohy - 6 for \$6.00 or a dozen frozen for \$10, Cabbage

and Noodles for \$4.00 a pint, and Piggie 6-Packs for \$18.00. Desserts available at our bake sale. 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. Tickets will also be sold for a Basket Raffle. Remember... When Baba Cooks, Everybody's Happy!”

## **UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE FOLK FESTIVAL**

On Sun., Aug. 23, 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 2026. 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 35th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence, the Unity of her People and their Struggle for Freedom, Prosperity and Dignity. The performers – “Hromovytsia” (Chicago), “Voloshky”

(Phila.) and Spirit of the Dance (Balt.) Ukrainian Dance Ensembles, singer-songwriter “Shanis”, violinist “Innesa”, “and “Vox Ethnika” 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. Review the website for possible offsite parking instructions.

### **ST. CYRIL’S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CAR SHOW**

Parishioners and friends are invited to participate in St. Cyril’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Show on Sunday, September 20, from 12:00–4:00 p.m. at 207 River St., Olyphant, with a memorial salute to +Gibby Carozzi. (Rain date: September 27.)

Cars, trucks, and motorcycles are welcome. Registration is \$10 per vehicle.

The event will feature trophy awards, door prizes, basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle, a Gas Card raffle, food, and music by Stevie Ray Entertainment.

Proceeds benefit SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church. For information, contact Ron at (570) 876-3213.

### **SIMPSON FUNDRAISER CASH PRIZE BINGO**

A fundraiser Cash Prize Bingo is planned for October 11, 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.

For tickets or more information, call 570-282-5680 or 570-282-0796.

### **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of August 2026 is Team #4:

Cheryl Matuszewski, Carol Zadarosni, and Jeanne Cucura.

**Sunday Collection for July 25 & 26, 2026: \$**

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

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451

Web Site: [stcyrils.weconnect.com](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)

E-Mail: [olyphant@ukrcatholic.org](mailto:olyphant@ukrcatholic.org)

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***Christ Heals the Demoniac Boy***

It is by Him that we have gained deliverance from the power of unclean spirits, this lesson proves. For we heard read that a man ran towards Him from among the multitude, and related the intolerable malady of his son. For he said that he was cruelly torn by an evil spirit, and suffered violent convulsions. But the manner of his approach was not free from fault: for he made loud outcries against the company of the holy apostles, saying that they could not rebuke Satan: whereas it would have been more fitting, had he honored Jesus when asking His aid, and imploring grace.

For He grants us our request when we honor and confide in Him, as being the Almighty, Whose power nothing can withstand. For He verily is the Lord of powers, and nothing can offer resistance to His will. Yea rather, every-

thing whatsoever that is capable of possessing power obtains entirely from Him the possibility of being what it is.

For just as He sheds His light upon those who are capable of being illuminated, as being Himself the true light; and just as in like manner He is the bestower of wisdom upon those who are capable thereof, as being Himself Wisdom, and perfect understanding: so, inasmuch as He is Power, He bestows power on those capable of receiving it. When then by our disbelief we despise His glory, and wickedly scorn His supreme majesty, we can receive nothing from Him: for, We must ask in faith, nothing wavering, as His disciple said.

*Saint Cyril of Alexandria*