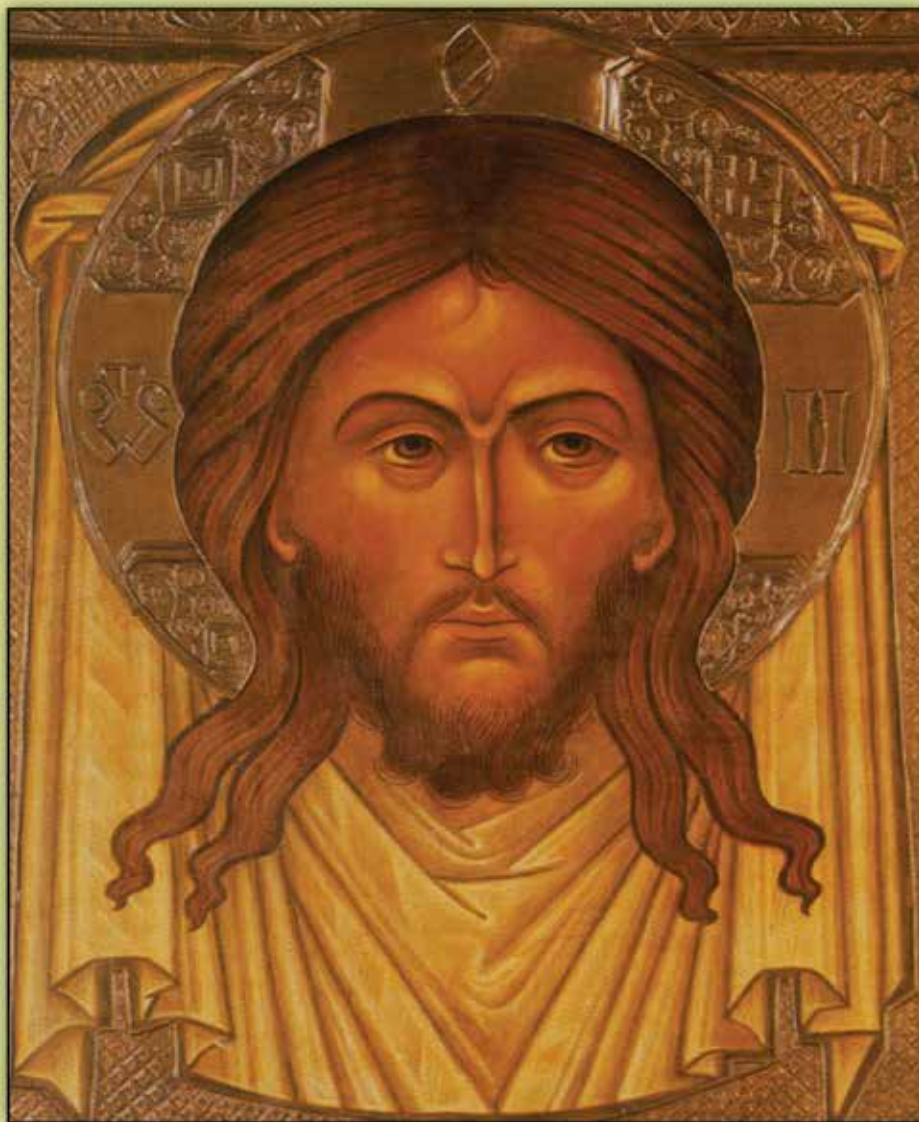


TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Holy Napkin

August 16, 2026: 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 15: 1-11

Gospel: Mt. 19: 16-23

This Weekend	4:00 pm For Our Parishioners 10:30 + Marion Turko (Marlene Zelno & Cheryl Matuszewski)
Mon., Aug. 17	9:00 + Paul & Rose Mizerak (Paul & Rosemary)
Tues., Aug. 18	9:00 + Sr. Mary Bernarda, OSBM (Father Nestor)
Wed., Aug. 19	9:00 + Robert Harris (Jule Harris)
Thurs., Aug. 20	9:00 Health & God's Blessing on Marlene Matiskella (Howard Smith)
Fri., Aug. 21	9:00 + Viola Bianca Linko (Lauren Telep)
Sat., Aug. 22	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Peter & Dorothy (Howard Smith)
Sun., Aug. 23	10:30 For Our Parishioners

‘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

PLEASE HELP US CONSERVE PARISH RESOURCES

We recently joked that Olyphant Borough sent us a thank-you letter for helping heat the Borough in the winter and cool the Borough in the summer! While we are always glad to keep our parishioners comfortable, we also want to be good stewards of our parish resources.

During the winter, the church thermostat is set at 65 degrees, and during

the summer it is set at 75 degrees. Recently, it has been noticed that the front door is sometimes hooked open and left that way. This allows heat to escape in the winter and cool air to escape in the summer, creating unnecessary waste and expense.

Please be considerate of the Church and help us conserve parish resources by

keeping the front door CLOSED. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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 facili-

ties 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!

2027 Divine Liturgy Intention Book

The Divine Liturgy Intention Book for 2027 is now available. We understand that many people prefer to schedule a Divine Liturgy on the weekend. In order to be fair to all parishioners, we ask that each family schedule no more than three weekend Divine Liturgies per year. There are many weekday Divine Liturgies available, and we encourage you to consider those dates as well.

Some may wonder about the weekly Divine Liturgy intention listed as "For Our Parishioners." Under Canon Law, the Pastor is obligated to pray for his parishioners every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we strive to accommodate everyone's intentions.

BROCHURE ABOUT THE ARCHEPARCHY

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy has prepared a new brochure to help the faithful learn more about the life and mission of our

Archeparchy. Please feel free to pick up a copy in the vestibule after the Divine Liturgy.

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.

HOLY DORMITION PILGRIMAGE

The 72nd Holy Dormition Pilgrimage will take place on August 15–16, 2026, at the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Sloatsburg, New York.

Held under the theme, “Mary, Our Queen and Loving Mother, Shelter Your Children in Times of War and Injustice,” this year’s pilgrimage will also commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beatification of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, honoring Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia and Blessed Martyr Tarsykia Matskiv.

The two-day pilgrimage will in-

clude Divine Liturgies, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Marian devotions, the veneration of the relics of Blessed Josaphata and Blessed Martyr Tarsykia, the Blessing of the Sick, the Stations of the Cross, blessings of religious articles, and other opportunities for prayer and spiritual renewal.

All are invited to participate in this annual pilgrimage and entrust themselves, their families, the Church, and all those affected by war and injustice to the loving protection of the Most Holy Mother of God. As the Sisters Servants

write in their invitation, the pilgrimage is an opportunity to gather in prayer, renew our faith, deepen our hope, and unite in prayer for peace throughout the world.

Location:

Sisters Servants of Mary
Immaculate
125 Sisters Servants Lane
Sloatsburg, NY 10974

ST. CYRIL'S 3RD ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Parishioners and friends are invited to participate in St. Cyril's 3rd 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, 2026 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:

Ron Barkofsky, Steve & Jeannie Cuccura.

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

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

SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: olyphant@ukrcatholic.org

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Heirs of God

Whosoever fears God and keeps His commandments, is the servant of God. And in this service is not perfection, but the righteousness which leads to adoption. For this cause the prophets also and the apostles, the holy band whom God chose, entrusting to them the apostolic preaching, by the goodness of God the Father became prisoners in Christ Jesus. For Paul says, "Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle" (Eph 3: 1; Rom 1: 1): so that the written law works with us in a good servitude, until we are able to master every passion, and to become perfect in the good ministry of virtue through this apostolic state.

For if a man draws near to grace, then Jesus will say to him, "I will no longer call you servants, but I will call you my friends and my brothers: for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (Jn 15: 15). For those who have drawn near, and have been taught by the Holy Spirit, have known themselves according to their intellectual substance. And in their

knowledge of themselves they have cried out and said, "For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but the spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom 8: 15): that we may know what God has given us – "If we are sons, then are we heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with the saints" (Rom 8: 17).

My dear brothers and sisters, and joint heirs with the saints, not foreign to you are all the virtues, but they are yours, if you are not under guilt from this fleshly life, but are manifest before God. For the Spirit enters not the soul of one whose heart is defiled, nor the body that sins; a holy power it is, removed from all deceit.

Truly, my beloved, I write to you as to reasonable people, who have been able to know yourselves. For he who knows himself, knows God: and he who knows God, is worthy to worship Him as is right.

St. Cyril of Alexandria