

## SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *They Saw Because They Believed*

At that point, two blind men follow the Lord as He was passing by. But if they could not see, how could the blind men know of the Lord's departure as well as His name? Moreover, they called him "Son of David" and asked to be made well. In the two blind men, the entire earlier pre-figuration is complete. The ruler's daughter seems to be from these people, namely, the Pharisees and John's disciples, who already made common cause in testing the Lord.

To these unknowing persons the law gave evidence as to the one from whom they sought a cure. It indicated to them that their Savior in the flesh was of the line of David. It also introduced light to the minds of those who

were blind from past sins. They could not see Christ but were told about Him.

The Lord showed them that faith should not be expected as a result of health but health should be expected because of faith. The blind men saw because they believed; they did not believe because they saw. From this we understand that what is requested must be predicated on faith and that faith must not be exercised because of what has been obtained. If they should believe, He offers them sight. And He charges the believers to be silent, for it was exclusively the task of the Apostles to preach.

*St. Hilary of Poitiers*

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Healing Two Blind Men*

| <b>July 12, 2026: Seventh Sunday After Pentecost</b> |                                     |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Epistle: Rom. 15: 1-7                                |                                     | Gospel: Mt. 9: 27-35                                |
| <b>This Weekend</b>                                  | 4:00 pm + Ron Dubiac (Howard Smith) | 10:30 For Our Parishioners                          |
| <b>Mon., July 13</b>                                 | 9:00                                | + Souls in Purgatory (L.D.)                         |
| <b>Tues., July 14</b>                                | 9:00                                | Health & God's Blessings on Howard Smith            |
| <b>Wed., July 15</b>                                 | 9:00                                | + Andrew & Julia Evanina Family (Howard Smith)      |
| <b>Thurs., July 16</b>                               | 9:00                                | + Margaret & Frank Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene) |
| <b>Fri., July 17</b>                                 | 9:00                                | Intention Available: See Father Nestor              |
| <b>Sat., July 18</b>                                 | <b>No Morning Divine Liturgy.</b>   |                                                     |
|                                                      | 2:00 pm                             | Confessions                                         |
|                                                      | 4:00 pm                             | + Peter & Dorothy (Howard Smith)                    |
| <b>Sun., July 19</b>                                 | 10:30                               | For Our Parishioners                                |

### ASK THE PASTOR

**QUESTION:** *Did Mary the mother of Jesus Christ, have other children after Jesus?*

**ANSWER:** The short answer to this question is "No." But let's explore further. Most likely you are asking this question because some Scripture passages seem to suggest that Jesus had brothers and sisters. For example, here are two such passages: Mark 6:3 – Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" Matthew 13:55-56 – Is he not

the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us?

So should we conclude from these passages that Jesus had brothers and sisters in a literal way, meaning Mary and Joseph had other children in addition to Jesus? Certainly not. Scripture is quite clear that Mary conceived Jesus in a virginal way – by the Holy Spirit. Additionally, it is the constant teaching of the Church that she always retained her virginity. She had no other children

your Church during this busy season, and may your summer be filled

with joy, relaxation, and renewal!

### HOLY MYSTERIES OF INITIATION

We joyfully announce that Luna Sky Vaitsopoulos will receive the Holy Mysteries of Initiation this Sunday during the 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy.

and best wishes go out to Luna Sky and her parents, Anthony and Laura Lee. We welcome her with open hearts into our parish family.

Our prayerful congratulations

May God grant her many happy and blessed years! Mnohaya Leeta!

### 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LEBANESE-AMERICAN FESTIVAL

St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church invites you to our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lebanese-American Food Festival from August 7<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup>! Located at 130 N. St. Frances Cabrini Ave in West Scranton (off lower Jackson St), the festival features great Lebanese food and pastries, local picnic favorites, variety baskets, a 50/50

raffle, and instant bingo. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 4:00 to 9:00 PM, and Sunday from 1:00 to 7:00 PM. For more information, email [melkite.scranton@gmail.com](mailto:melkite.scranton@gmail.com), call the rectory at 570-343-6092, or visit [melkitescranton.org](http://melkitescranton.org). Be sure to check the website or Facebook page in August to view the menu!

### COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of July 2026 is Team

#3: Cheryl Matuszewski, Carol Zardosni, and Jeannie Cucura.

**Sunday Collection for July 4 & 5, 2026: \$1,594.00**

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

grasped her mitten and said “Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let’s see if I have the kind of miracle you need.”

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed without charge. And it wasn’t long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily

talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. “That surgery,” her Mom whispered, “was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?” Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost... one dollar and eleven cents... plus the faith of a little child.

A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.

## 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 dur-

ing 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

and never engaged in the marital act with Joseph. Sometimes this is confusing since there are references in the Scriptures to Jesus’ brothers and sisters. But this language was commonly used in reference to cousins. So this shouldn’t confuse us if we understand the language of the time. In fact this is still a common practice in other cultures of our day.

For example, people from various African countries commonly refer to those within their own village as their brother or sister when they are with them outside of that village. It was God’s plan that Mary only have one Son for various reasons. It was especially so because of the fact that we are all called to become brothers and sisters of Christ through

spiritual adoption. Therefore, if Jesus had blood brothers or sisters it would have undermined his spiritual brotherhood with them. It would have made their relationship with Jesus different. But God desires this deeper spiritual relationship with all people. Mary is the only blood relation to Jesus, thus, she shares a special bond with Him that no one else does. But it had to be that way if God was to become true man. Interestingly, though, even Mary’s deepest bond with Jesus does not come as a result of her physical blood relationship. It comes, first and foremost, by her spiritual motherhood. She is united with her Son primarily by her perfect faith and obedience. It is this bond that surpasses the natural one.

## THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION

Of the roughly 53 million adults who identify as Catholic in the United States, only about three in ten say they attend Mass weekly or more often. This is obviously a big problem!

It’s a problem for several reasons, not least of which that Mass is a source of necessary grace for our souls.

But there’s another serious reason that many self-identified Catholics may not fully understand: If a Catholic knows that Mass attendance is required on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, has Mass nearby he can attend, does not have a “grave cause” to miss Mass, but still skips Mass, **he commits a grave sin.**

**Yes, you aren’t just a bad**

**Catholic, you're committing a sin you will need to confess in Reconciliation for the sake of your soul.**

Mass isn't just a nice thing to do if you're particularly religious or "super Catholic"; rather, it's the cornerstone of any authentic Catholic life.

In fact, of the five precepts of the Church (what the Catechism calls the "necessary minimum" for being a practicing Catholic), attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is **the first one!** This requirement is also made explicit in the Code of Canon Law (CIC 1247ff).

Of course, as mentioned above, it's ***not*** a sin to miss Mass if you have a good reason; for example, if you are sick or have to care for others. If you are in that situation, know that

you are still an integral part of the Church, that the Church prays for you, and that the Church encourages any prayers you can offer.

What if you are one of the millions of Catholics who regularly skip Mass without a good reason? What should you do?

The first thing you should know is that the Church still wants you! You can always come back – and you should for the sake of your soul.

If you are ready to re-commit to the Catholic life, including weekly Mass attendance, you should go to Confession to get a fresh start. Remember, if we repent, Jesus is always willing to receive us back.

-- *churchpop.com*

## HOW MUCH IS A MIRACLE?

Tess was a precocious eight year old when she heard her Mom and Dad talking about her little brother, Andrew. All she knew was that he was very sick and they were completely out of money. They were moving to an apartment complex next month because Daddy didn't have the money for the doctor bills

and their house. Only a very costly surgery could save Andrew now and it was looking like there was no one to loan them the money. She heard Daddy say to her tearful Mother with whispered desperation, "Only a miracle can save him now."

Tess went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding

place in the closet. She poured all of the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about MY brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick... and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" asked the

pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew, and he has something bad growing inside of his head, and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But, my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago.

"One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents is the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he