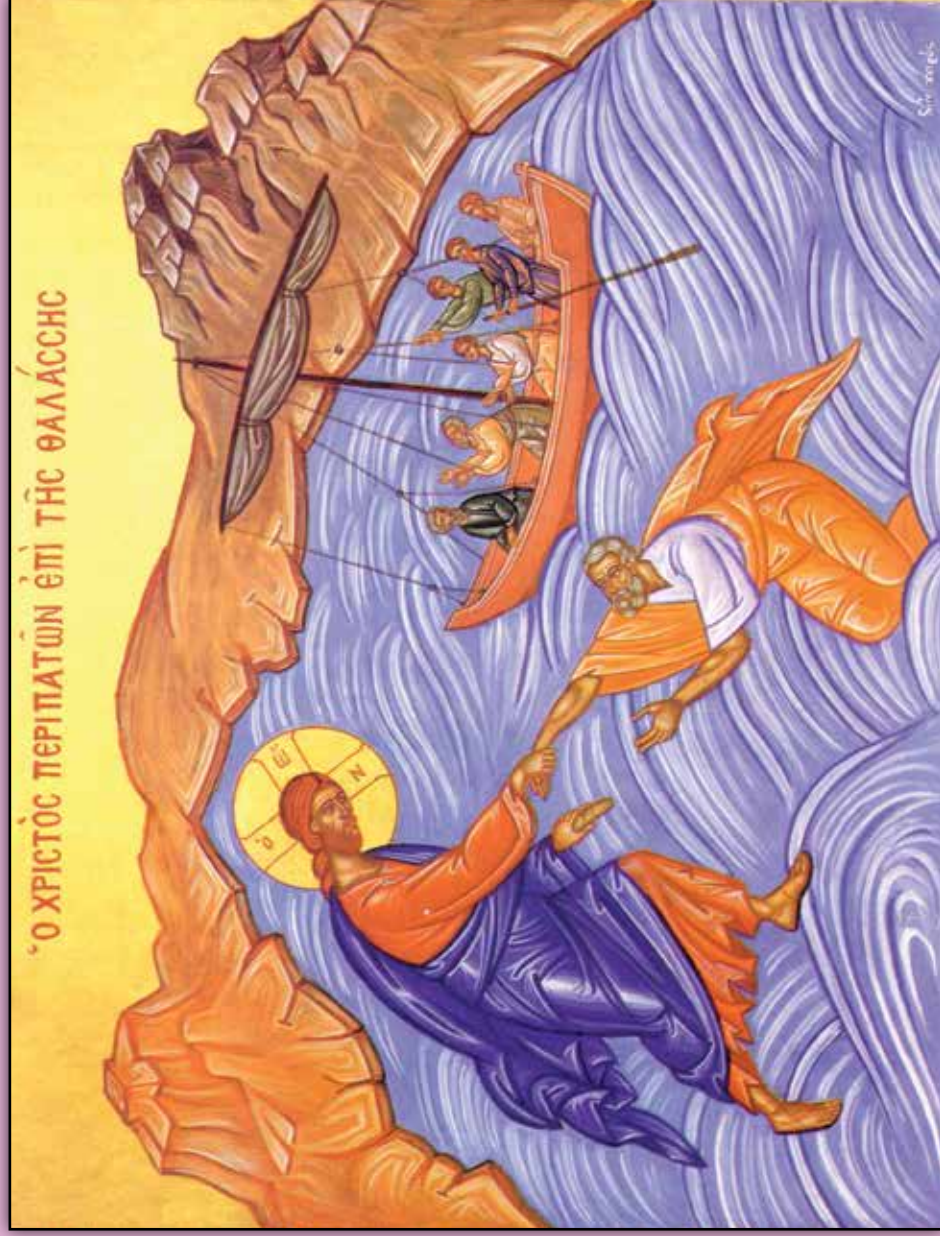


NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Christ Walking on the Water

July 26, 2026: Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 3: 9-17

Gospel: Mt. 14: 22-34

This Weekend	4:00 pm + Ron Dubiac (Sister, Marlene Matiskella) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
Mon., July 27	9:00 + Irene Hermanovich (Lauren Telep)
Tues., July 28	9:00 + Joan Stecco (Carol Kovacs & Family)
Wed., July 29	9:00 Reparation of the Sins of the World
Thurs., July 30	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
Fri., July 31	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
Sat., Aug. 1	No Morning Divine Liturgy. 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Joseph & Helen Sembrat (Sharon, Joseph & Jeanne)
Sun., Aug. 2	10:30 For Our Parishioners

WHAT TO DO WITH OLD SACRAMENTALS

When your rosary breaks or your crucifix falls apart, what do you do?

What should be done with these holy objects? Sacramentals are sacred signs and provide for us grace (spiritual help) through the intercession of the Church. They can be any number of religious items that have been blessed by a priest: a rosary, medal, scapular, crucifix, or even a candle. Catholics are instructed to dispose of old sacramentals in a way that shows due reverence. All sacramentals can be either burned and buried or buried as

they are in order to properly dispose of them. This type of disposal honors their sacred purpose and returns them to the earth in a dignified way. By treating sacramentals with respect, we recognize & honor the heavenly blessing that was placed on the object. Should you wish to dispose of pussy willows blessed on Flowery (Palm) Sunday, they should also be disposed of in the same way: you may bury them or burn them and spread the ashes outside.

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 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!

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE WITH THE GOSPEL

During the Third Antiphon, the Priest makes a procession around the Altar symbolizing the walks of Jesus through the cities and villages with His disciples and His preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The Priest, carrying the Gospel, symbolizes Christ's bringing the Word of God to the world and the beginning of His ministry.

The Priest comes to the center of the Royal Doors, facing the Altar, he elevates the Holy Gospel (symbolizing

victory of Christianity throughout the world) and calls upon us to stand reverently in order for Christ Himself to penetrate our mind and soul. The beginning of Wisdom is the fear of God; and the advanced Wisdom is Love.

In the early church, the Gospel was hidden in crypts from the pagans; today, the Priest, in memory of this practice, carries it into the Church triumphantly, raising it in front of the Altar and exclaiming: "WISDOM!"

KEEP YOUR FORK

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things “in order,” she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what Scriptures she would like read, and what outfit that she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible. Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. “There’s one more thing,” she said excitedly. “What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply. “This is very important,” the woman continued. “I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.” The pastor stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say. “That surprises you, Doesn’t it?” the woman asked.

“Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request,” said the pastor. The woman explained. “In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, ‘Keep your fork.’ It was my favorite

part because I knew that something better was coming... like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder ‘What’s with the fork?’ Then I want you to tell them.”

“Keep your fork... the best is yet to come.” The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral, people were walking by the woman’s casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and her favorite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled. During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably will not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So the next

time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you oh so gently, that the best is

yet to come.

ANNUAL LEBANESE-AMERICAN FOOD FESTIVAL

St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church in West Scranton invites you to its 25th 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 or the church's Facebook page. Questions may be directed to 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 3rd and last of their “Why Cook Wednesday Dinners” for the Summer with a Ukrainian Festival Food, Take-Out Dinner on Wednesday, August 12th. 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 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, 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.

SUPPORTING ST. CYRIL'S PARISH FINANCIALLY IN 2026 AND IN THE FUTURE!

Just a reminder, all those who have no envelopes, to get and use them regularly. Those who pay ONLY their annual dues, but do not have and do not use envelopes, are not truly supporting the Parish financially as they should. Long gone are the days, when \$1.00 in the Church envelope per week, (\$52.00 per year) was adequate. Times have changed, and we know there are Parishioners on limited income. But for the others, this is 2026 and for the welfare of our church, you need to cooperate

in this respect so that we will be able to proceed with necessary repairs and expenses without any assessments. The average collection per week is approximately \$2,000.00 or \$104,000.00 per year. We do have big expenses: gas, water, electricity, insurance, labor etc.... the cost of everything in the home has risen; so therefore the Church is no exception. This is our Church that we are all so proud of, and we need your additional support, financially.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of July 2026 is Team #3: Cher-

yl Matuszewski, Carol Zadarosni, and Jeanne Cucura.

Sunday Collection for July 18 & 19, 2026: \$

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

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrated their birthday in July:

Joseph Budnovitch, Jr.

Brad Prado

Allison Carey-Wehrenberg

Happy Anniversary and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrate their Wedding Anniversary during July:

Mark & Allison Wehrenberg

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

Christ and Fear

For what purpose does He go up into the mountain? To teach us, that loneliness and retirement is good, when we are to pray to God. With this view, you see, He is continually withdrawing into the wilderness, and there often spends the whole night in prayer, teaching us earnestly to seek such quietness in our prayers, as the time and place may confer. For the wilderness is the mother of quiet; it is a calm and a harbor, delivering us from all turmoils.

He Himself then went up there with this object, but the disciples are tossed with the waves again, and undergo a storm, equal even to the former. But whereas before they had Him in the ship when this befell them, now they were alone by themselves. Thus gently and by degrees He excites and urges them on for the better, even to the bearing all no-

bly. Accordingly we see, that when they were first near that danger, He was present, though asleep, so as readily to give them relief; but now leading them to a greater degree of endurance, He does not even this, but departs, and in mid sea permits the storm to arise, so that they might not so much as look for a hope of preservation from any quarter; and He lets them be tempest-tossed all the night, thoroughly to awaken, as I suppose, their hardened heart.

For such is the nature of the fear, which the time concurs with the rough weather in producing. And together with the compunction, He cast them also into a greater longing for Himself, and a continual remembrance of Him.

Saint John Chrysostom