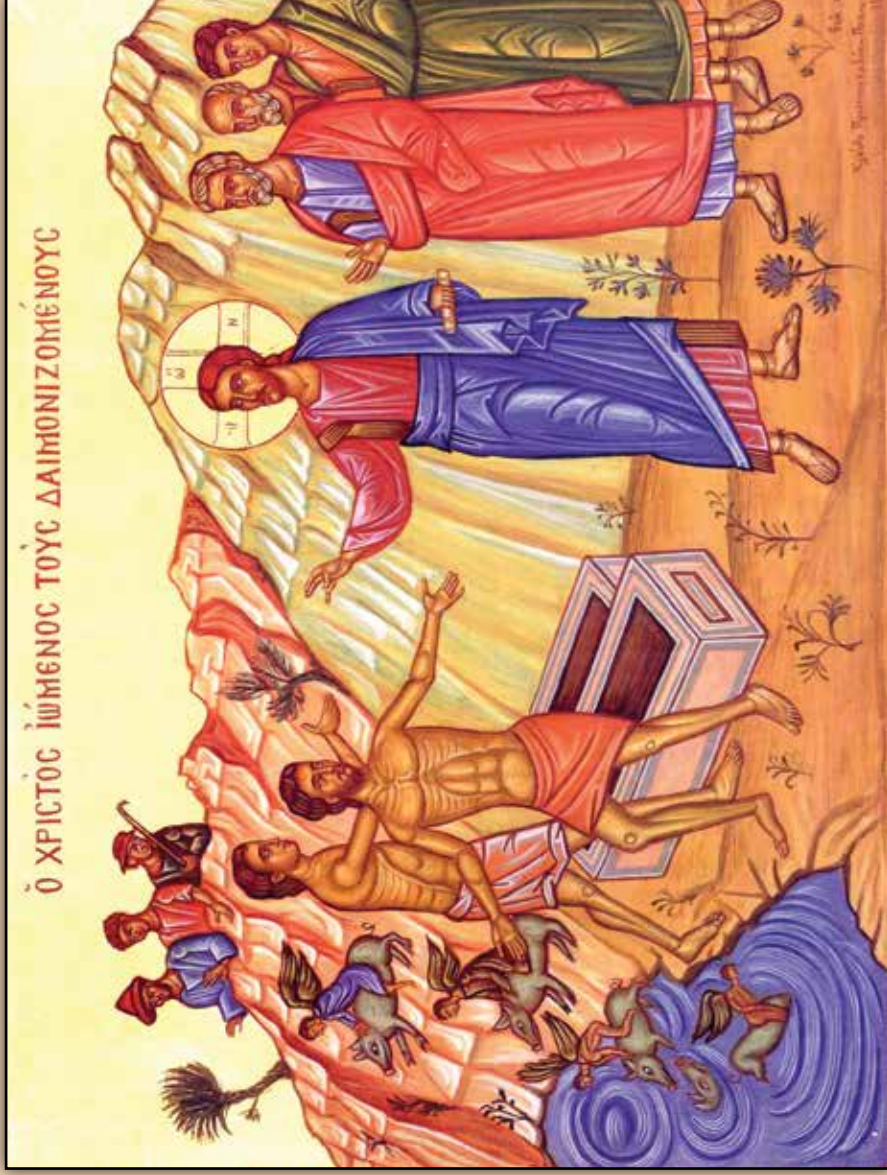


FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Healing Gadarene Demoniacs

June 28, 2026: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Rom. 10: 1-10

Gospel: Mt. 8:28 - 9:3

This Weekend 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners
 10:30 + Jacob, Ann & Karen Jablonski (Gloria Jablonski)

Mon., June 29 **SS. Peter and Paul (Holy Day of Obligation)**

9:00 For Our Parishioners

In Simpson: 5:30 pm Divine Liturgy

For those who cannot make the Divine Liturgy in Olyphant, this is another opportunity to fulfill your obligation.

Tues., June 30 9:00 + Romaine Barron (M/M William Bobar)

Wed., July 1 9:00 + Peggy Turner (Gloria Jablonski)

Thurs., July 2 9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor

Fri., July 3 9:00 + Souls in Purgatory (Andrea Novak)

Sat., July 4 **No Morning Divine Liturgy.**

2:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm For Our Country

Sun., July 5 10:30 For Our Parishioners

FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Commemorated on June 29th

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul came to be observed early in the history of the Church. Although they died at different times and places, their commemoration has universally been kept on the same day to highlight the central role they had in the foundation of the early Church. It is for the same reason that they are called the “Leaders of the Apostles” in the Liturgy.

St. Peter, whose original name was Simon, was a fisherman in Galilee when Jesus called him to be a Disciple. “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mt. 4: 19). After Jesus’ Ascension, Peter was the spokesman of the Apostles, and a witness of Christ’s divinity. He delivered the first sermon on Pentecost and received the first Gentiles into the church. From Jerusalem He went to

preach the gospel in Asia at Antioch (Gal. 2:11), then to Cappadocia, Galatia, Pontus, and finally Rome. He was crucified, head downward, most probably in 67 A.D.

St. Paul, known as Saul before his conversion, was born at Tarsus in the Roman province of Cilicia. As a youth, he went

to Jerusalem to receive his education in Judaism from the celebrated rabbi, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). At the time of Jesus' ministry he had already left Jerusalem. Saul did not see the Lord during His earthly ministry. By the grace of God, Saul was miraculously converted on the way to Damascus around the year 34 A.D. After receiving baptism Paul left for a long retreat in Arabia to prepare himself for his future mission. He was most zealous to preach the



gospel of Christ to the world. He established many churches and visited many other churches. To these he wrote numerous letters which form a significant part of the New Testament canonical writings.

The Icon of Peter and Paul is simple and direct, striving only to represent the holiness and wisdom of the two Apostles whose

lives were totally devoted to witnessing the Good News of Jesus Christ and our salvation. They stand majestically, as pillars of the Church and teachers of the Lord Jesus. The liturgy hails the chief Apostles with beautifully composed hymns. Peter is called the "rock of faith" and Paul "pride of the universe." Together they are celebrated as "luminaries of those in darkness, two rays of the sun and pillars of divine doctrines, and friends of Christ."

RELIGIOUS Q & A

Q: Why do we touch our right shoulders first, before our left when we make a Sign of the Cross?

A: Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father. God separated the sheep from the goats, putting the faithful sheep on His right side and the goats on the left. Because of this precedence, the Church has always treated the right side as the preferred side.

Incensing of the holy table, the iconostas, the congregation, and of the church itself always begins with the right side. The priest always gives communion with his right hand, even if he is left handed. We only cross ourselves with our right hand. The priest, when blessing a person, first touches or points to their right side

then their left. When parents make the Sign of the Cross over their children, they cross from left to right, just as the priest blesses. When they make the Sign of the Cross over themselves, they do it the other way in order to touch their own right shoulders first.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ Roman Catholics prayed the Sign of the Cross this way until the 15th or 16th century. Around that time, they started mimicking the priest's movement, following him first to the left, apparently unaware that when he went to the left it was with the intention of first blessing on their right. The apostolic tradition of moving from the belly to the right shoulder was never lost in the Christian East and we maintain that tradition to this day.

FOR OUR COFFEE DRINKERS

Did you know that if you live in the Western part of the world, you can thank a pope for your cup of coffee?

If it wasn't for a certain forward-thinking pope who was willing to go against the counsel of his advisers, coffee might never have found its way to you.

According to legend, the "coffee question" came to a head in 1600 while Pope Clement VIII reigned as

pontiff. Coffee was already popular in the Muslim world and found its way to Christian Europe. And for some people, that was a major cause of concern.

Wine was popular among Christians, and of course, was used at Mass for the Eucharist.

Muslims aren't supposed to drink wine, and it seemed coffee had become something of a cultural substitute.

As a result, some people thought that coffee in some way represented an anti-Christian beverage, a “bitter invention of Satan.” They said the pope should condemn and forbid it for Christians.

But Pope Clement wasn’t one to make a hasty decision. Before making any ruling, he said he wanted to try it first.

...And he loved it!

Some versions of the story even say he joked that Catholics should “baptize” this so-called devil’s drink

and make it a Christian beverage.

So he gave his blessing to coffee and the rest is history.

Historians usually treat this as a pious legend rather than a documented decree, but it captures how Catholics eventually embraced coffee.

So the next time you sip your morning brew, you can thank Pope Clement VIII, who refused to condemn a drink before tasting it.

-- *churchpop.com*

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!

MEMORY ETERNAL

With hope in the Resurrection, we commend to the Lord the souls of His servants who have recently fallen asleep. Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers:

+ **Romaine Barron**, buried from St. Cyril's on Tuesday, June 16th

+ **Joan Stecco**, buried from St. Cyril's on Wednesday, June 17th

+ **Ronald Frekey**, buried from St. Cyril's on Saturday, June 27th.

Let us remember them in our personal prayers and at the Divine Liturgy, asking the Lord to grant them rest among the righteous and comfort to their families.

May their memory be eternal!
Vichnaya Pamyat!

A MESSAGE FOR OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Summer is here, bringing with it warmer temperatures and increased humidity. To help ensure a comfortable environment for worship and fellowship, we are pleased to remind everyone that a new air conditioning system was installed in our church this past September.

To maintain a pleasant setting for all, we kindly ask for your cooperation as we keep the thermostat set at 75 degrees. This helps us balance comfort while being mindful of energy use.



As many of you know, the cost of the new system was \$42,000. To date, we have received \$6,575 in generous donations, with the remaining balance covered from parish savings.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to contribute, we humbly ask you to consider making a donation toward the cost of this important improvement. Your support is deeply appreciated and helps ensure that our parish remains a welcoming and comfortable space for everyone.

Thank you for your continued community.
generosity and commitment to our church

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

During June, our Archeparchy takes up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Leo with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Join our Holy

Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering. Please use the special "Peter's Pence" envelope in your donation envelope packet to make your offering. It is not too early to already submit your offering.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of June 2026 is Team #2: Eu-

gene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for June 20 & 21, 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 June:

Michaelene Davis

Paul Mizerak

Sarah Sakson

Patrick B. Marcinko

Susan Sakson

Carol Zadarosni

James Matuszewski, Jr.

John Sakson, Jr.

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

Cindy & Jim Creavey

Joey & Debbie Turko

John & Marie Martin

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed, and you would like it listed, please drop us a note indicating when your Birthday or Anniversary is. We only publish this information by request. If you do not provide this information, it will not be published.

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

Asking Jesus to Leave

Of all the miracle stories of Jesus, the one recorded in today's Gospel reading stands out as unique. In most other occasions when Jesus healed or cured, the result was that more people came and asked to be cured. However, in the case of Jesus expelling demons from the man in the Gadarene territory, the result was that the whole village came out and asked Jesus to leave that area! (Matthew 8:34)

Ingratitude is certainly not the reaction we would expect the townsfolk to have since a member of their community restored to his right mind by the command of Jesus. Previously, he was prone to fits of madness and the source of his madness was understood to be demonic possession. Jesus commanded the demons to leave the man and restored the man to his right mind. Had this been the end

of the story, perhaps the people would have been filled with gratitude. However, Jesus sent the demons into a herd of swine, which then jumped over a cliff and drowned.

Why did Jesus send the demons into the swine? According to Jewish law, pork is considered to be an unclean product. Jews were to have no contact with pork. Because of this, the Jews of that town were breaking their own religious law.

By expelling the demons into the swine, Jesus not only healed a man, but also reestablished a forgotten value system in a town. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were not ready to receive this lesson. It is no surprise, then, why they met Jesus with such ingratitude and asked Him to leave their district.