

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Cross*

## **March 8, 2026: Third Sunday of the Great Fast**

Epistle: Heb. 4:14 - 5:6

Gospel: Mk. 8:34 - 9:1

**This Weekend**      4:00 pm For Our Parishioners  
10:30 + Robert & Mary Ilene Harris (Jule Harris)

**Mon., March 9**      9:00    Intention Available

**Tues., March 10**    9:00    + Howard & Olga Smith (Son, Howard)

**Wed., March 11**    6:00 pm Stations; Sorokousty

**Thurs., March 12**                    **No Divine Liturgy Today.**

**Fri., March 13**      6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Sat., March 14**                    **No Morning Divine Liturgy**  
2:00 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm + Elinor Chowanec (Family)

**Sun., March 15**      10:30 For Our Parishioners

### **MEDITATION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**

Daily we are bombarded with messages which reveal the steadfast rivalry between various political and social groups. Each contends that they are acting in the interests of all in society. Panels of media “experts” debate the merits of what people in power say and do. Yet, there is a reluctance to surrender to some common ground. Where is the gift of sacrifice in the interests of the other, the common good? St. Paul, in his Epistle to the Philippians, exhorts us to “do nothing out of selfishness or out

of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:3-5).

The veneration of the Holy Cross on the third Sunday of Great Fast reminds us of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for our salvation. As you venerate the Holy Cross, resolve to live with greater humility. Let go of rigid attitudes and

perceptions. Resolve to show greater understanding for the benefit of the common good. Participate in the spe-

cial Lenten services, being a part of a community of faith. A Blessed Journey in Great Fast!

## **SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST**

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60

or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sorokousty).

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful. Families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

## **THE REAL PEARL NECKLACE**

Jenny was a bright-eyed, pretty five-year-old girl. One day when she and her mother were checking out at the grocery store, Jenny saw a plastic pearl necklace priced at \$2.50.

How she wanted that necklace, and when she asked her mother if she would buy it for her, her mother said, "Well, it is a pretty necklace, but it costs an awful lot of money. I'll tell

you what. I'll buy you the necklace, and when we get home we can make up a list of chores that you can do to pay for the necklace. And don't forget that for your birthday Grandma just might give you a whole dollar bill, too. Okay?"

Jenny agreed, and her mother bought the pearl necklace for her. Jenny worked on her chores very hard every day, and sure enough, her grandma gave her a brand new dollar bill for her birthday. Soon Jenny had paid off the pearls.

How Jenny loved those pearls. She wore them everywhere-to kindergarten, bed and when she went out with her mother to run errands. The only time she didn't wear them was in the shower; her mother had told her that they would turn her neck green.

Now Jenny had a very loving daddy. When Jenny went to bed, he would get up from his favorite chair every night and read Jenny her favorite story. One night when he finished the story, he said, "Jenny, do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, you know I love you," the little girl said.

"Well, then, give me your pearls."

"Oh! Daddy, not my pearls!" Jen-

ny said. "But you can have Rosie, my favorite doll. Remember her? You gave her to me last year for my birthday. And you can have her tea party outfit, too. Okay?"

"Oh no, darling, that's okay." Her father brushed her cheek with a kiss. "Good night, little one." A week later, her father once again asked Jenny after her story, "Do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, you know I love you."

"Well, then, give me your pearls."

Oh, Daddy, not my pearls! But you can have Ribbons, my toy horse. Do you remember her? She's my favorite. Her hair is so soft, and you can play with it and braid it and everything. You can have Ribbons if you want her, Daddy," the little girl said to her father.

"No, that's okay," her father said and brushed her cheek again with a kiss. "God bless you, little one. Sweet dreams."

Several days later, when Jenny's father came in to read her a story, Jenny was sitting on her bed and her lip was trembling.

"Here, Daddy," she said, and held out her hand.

She opened it and her beloved pearl necklace was inside. She let it

slip into her father's hand. With one hand her father held the plastic pearls and with the other he pulled out of his pocket a blue velvet box. Inside of the box were real, genuine, beautiful pearls. He had them all along. He was waiting for Jenny to give up the cheap stuff so he could give her the real thing.

*The same with our Heavenly Father, He is waiting for us to give up*

*the cheap/fake things in our lives. Are you holding on to harmful relationships, habits, activities... which you have come so attached to that it seems impossible to let go? Sometimes it is so hard to see what is in the other hand but do believe one thing, God will never take away something without giving us something better.*

## **ON WINTER CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Winter sometimes brings stormy weather. We kindly ask our parishioners to use good judgment and common sense by not driving when conditions are dangerous. As weather varies from place to place, it may be that services will be held as scheduled, despite the fact that conditions in your area are difficult. Please prioritize your safety and that of others by assessing the situation before venturing out.

Also, wintertime is cold and flu

season. If you are truly sick, please stay home. Refrain from attending services to avoid the risk of infecting your fellow parishioners with your illness. Rest assured, God will understand your need to take care of your health and the well-being of the community.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in these matters. Let us all do our part to ensure a safe and healthy winter season.

## **OUR CONDOLENCES**

In your Christian Charity, please remember the soul of + William "Bill" Krenitsky who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bill

was buried from St. Cyril's on Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup>. May his memory be eterna! Vichnaya Pamyat!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Shawn Toolan** and **Lauren Carey** on the holy celebration of their marriage on March 1<sup>st</sup> in our Church. Shawn and Lauren, may God bless your union

abundantly, grant you grace in all seasons of life, and guide you always in faith, love, and fidelity. May God grant you many happy and blessed years! Mnohaya Leeta!

## PUSSY-WILLOWS

Flowery (Palm) Sunday is just three weeks away! Once again this year, we turn to our Parishioners to help in procuring our pussy-willows. If you have any bushes, please share

them with us. You can either bring them in or arrangements can be made to have them picked up. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## TUNA HOAGIE AND CLAM CHOWDER SALE

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 430 N. 7th Ave. in Scranton, will be having a Tuna Hoagie and Clam Chowder Sale this Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Albacore Tuna Hoagie w/ lettuce, tomato and cheese. Manhattan Clam Chowder by the quart. Only \$10 each. To order, Call Maria (570) 503-1514 by Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

## ST. JOSEPH DAY BREAKFAST

The Women's Society of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church on N. St. Frances Cabrini Avenue, West Scranton, is sponsoring its annual St. Joseph Day Breakfast, Sunday, March 22, 2026. Eat In or Take Out. Our abundant meal includes Eggs, scratch pancakes, Home Fries, Olives, HoneyBaked Ham, Breads,

juice & coffee. 9 am - 1 pm. Adults \$12.00 and children age 6-10 \$6.00. Take Out \$10/\$6 with no beverages. Our fragrant St. Joseph Bread available in two loaf packages for \$6 until sold out. Tickets at the door. For more information 570-343-6092, melkite.scranton@gmail.com, facebook or melkitescranton.org.

## SHOPA DAVEY POST 6082 AUXILIARY'S FUNDRAISER FOR LENT IS "POCONO CHEESECAKE."

Shopa Davey Post 6082 Auxiliary's, Peckville, PA., fundraiser for Lent is "Pocono Cheesecake." Available for pick-up on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday, and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday. Each cheesecake is 6" and \$16.00 per cake. Available in Original flavor, Oreo, Peanut Butter cup, and Raspberry Swirl.

Deadline to pre-order is March 18 (Wednesday). Pre-orders call Pete at 570-335-5551. Pre-payment is appreciated at the Post House 123 Electric Street, Peckville, PA. Pick up on Specific days, Noon- 5:00 p.m. A very limited quantity is available on the day of.

*(As per received email)*

## LAUGH4LIFE

We're counting down to Laugh4Life - and we're thrilled to welcome our National Headliner, David Kaye, to Scranton!

If you've been waiting for a reason to plan a night out, this is it: a comedy showcase that supports Pennsylvanians for Human Life while giving you a fun, feel-good evening with friends.

### Event Details

- Saturday, March 28, 2026
- Waldorf Park Banquet Room | Scranton
- Doors 5:30 PM |  Show 7:00 PM
- \$30 advance / \$35 at the door
- 21+ only

Phone orders/info: 570-343-5099

Thank you for supporting our mission — and for bringing a friend along for the laughs.

## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Olyphant Borough Alert: On Saturday, April 4th at 1 PM Olyphant Borough will be hosting the Annual Easter Egg

Hunt at Wargo Park! Hope to See you there!

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2026 is Team #3:

Marlene Zelno, Cheryl Matuszewski, and Carol Zadarosni.

**Sunday Collection for Feb. 28 & March 1, 2026: \$**

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

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***The Cross, Our Victory***

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? ... Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory.

The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory.

Let us praise the Lord and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent.

The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.

*St. John Chrysostom*