

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Raising Lazarus from the Dead

March 22, 2026: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

Epistle: Heb. 9: 11-14

Gospel: Mk. 10: 32-45

This Weekend 4:00 pm + Jennifer Wisniewski (Mother)
10:30 For Our Parishioners

Mon., March 23 9:00 + Ron Benio (Sister, Rosemarie)

Tues., March 24 9:00 + Martha Myshrall (Father Nestor)

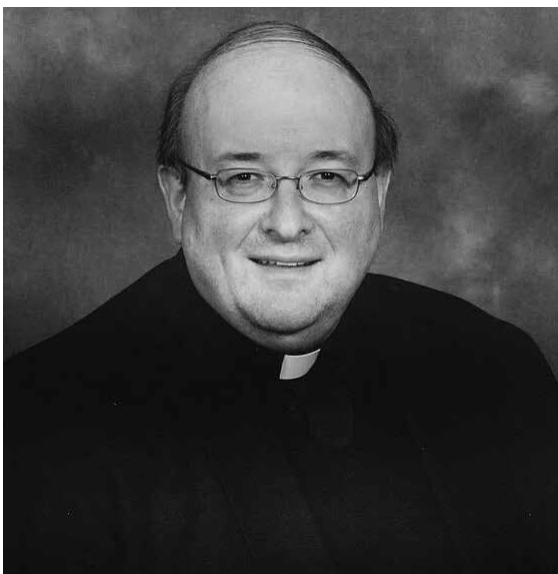
Wed., March 25 **Annunciation (Holy Day of Obligation)**
9:00 For Our Parishioners

Thurs., March 26 **No Divine Liturgy Today.**

Fri., March 27 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Sat., March 28 **8:00** Intention Available; See Father Nestor
2:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm For Our Parishioners

Sun., March 29 10:30 + Mary Patricia Brown (Howard Smith)



REV. GREGORY MASLAK

On March 10, 2026, Rev. Gregory Maslak, a priest of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, fell asleep in the Lord. He was 78 years old.

Rev. Gregory Maslak was born on September 12, 1947, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. After graduating from the University of Scranton, he entered St. Joseph Seminary and later completed his theological studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on November 12, 1972, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in

Philadelphia by His Grace, Most Rev. Ambrose Senyshyn.

Throughout his priestly ministry, Rev. Gregory Maslak served in many parishes of the Archeparchy, fulfilling various pastoral and administrative responsibilities. Among his assignments were Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Philadelphia, Secretary to His Grace, Most Reverend Ambrose Senyshyn, ministry at St. Andrew Church in Philadelphia, Vice Rector of St. Basil College in Stamford, Connecticut, as well as pas-

toral service in numerous parishes including Pottstown, PA; Cherry Hill, NJ; Ansonia, CT; Shenandoah, PA; Reading, PA; McAdoo, PA; Hazleton, PA; and Bristol, PA. He also served as a religion teacher at St. Basil Orphanage in Philadelphia.

In July 2015, Rev. Gregory Maslak retired after many years of devoted service to the Church.

May the Lord grant His faithful servant a place of light, peace, and eternal rest among the righteous. Eternal Memory!

MEDITATION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

St. Mark tells us of the disciples walking on the road to Jerusalem with Jesus walking in the lead. He tells us that “their mood was one of wonderment, while that of those who followed was fear” (Mk 10:32). Then we hear of two disciples vying to sit, one at the right and other on the left, when Jesus comes into His glory. This caused some anger among the other disciples. Jesus calms them by instructing them, “You know how among the Gentiles those who seem to exercise authority lord it over them; their great ones make their importance felt. It cannot be like that with you.

Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all” (Mk 10:44). Fear, mutual distrust, envy, and pride rob you and me of the special gift of walking with Jesus with wonderment. We can be blinded to the needs and sufferings of others around us. We can forget the importance of being of service to others. The Great Fast invites you and me to walk alongside Jesus Christ with wonderment as to where He will lead us. We are reminded, “... the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve...” (Mk

10:45). Saint Teresa of Calcutta saw the face of Jesus in every person she ministered to, especially the sick and the dying. Through her inspiration,

may we also cherish and search for opportunities to see Jesus Christ in the faces of those we serve!

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 Abstinance regu-

lations 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 Pre-sanctified 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.

LENTEN SERVICES

Five weeks of Great Lent are now over. One more to go until Flowery (Palm) Sunday and Holy Week. Have you made the effort to come to church for our weekday Lenten services? This

week offers several golden opportunities for you to come to church. Make it your plan to attend more of these services before Easter. Take extra care about your spiritual well-being!

PRAYER REQUEST FOR FATHER ROBERT HITCHENS

We kindly ask our parish community to keep Father Robert Hitchens in your prayers. Father Hitchens, who serves as the rector of our St. Josaphat Seminary in Washington and as Pastor

of our Holy Family Shrine, is currently undergoing chemotherapy for esophageal cancer. Please join us in praying for his strength, healing, and comfort during this challenging time.

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.

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

REQUEST FOR CHURCH CLEANLINESS AND ORDER

We hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. As members of our beloved Church community, we all share a collective responsibility to maintain the cleanliness and sanctity of our Church. Our Church not only serves as a place of worship but also as a place for reflection and prayer. It is vital that we all contribute to keeping it neat, orderly, and welcoming for everyone.

Lately, we have observed several instances of flyers, prayer cards, and pictures, etc., being left behind in the pews and other areas of the Church.

While we understand that these items may hold personal significance and are often shared with good intentions, leaving them scattered throughout the Church creates a cluttered and untidy environment. It is important to remember that our Church does not employ a full-time cleaning staff. As such, the responsibility of maintaining its cleanliness falls upon each one of us.

We kindly request that all parishioners take a few moments to ensure they have not left any personal items behind when departing from

a service. This includes Church Bulletins, prayer cards, pictures, tissues and any other materials you may have brought with you. By doing so, we can all contribute to keeping our Church clean and ready for the next service, allowing everyone to enjoy a pleasant and orderly environment.

We deeply appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter. Keeping our Church clean is a communal effort that requires the participation and consideration of every parishioner. By working together, we can ensure that our Church remains a beautiful and serene place for worship and community gatherings.

Additionally, we ask that you do not leave your mail in the vestibule of the Church. The vestibule is meant to be a welcoming space for parishioners and visitors alike, and leaving personal mail or other items can detract from its intended purpose.

In conclusion, we express our thanks for your continued cooperation and commitment to maintaining the cleanliness and sanctity of our Church. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the entire Church community. Together, we can uphold the beauty and order of our beloved Church, ensuring it remains a haven of peace and worship for all. May God bless you and your families.

PUSSY-WILLOWS

Flowery (Palm) Sunday is next week! 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!

EASTER IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Easter is April 5, 2026 and we will need volunteers to decorate. Setting up the Lord's Grave and decorating it will

take place Holy Thursday (April 2nd) following the 6:00 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

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 1st, Wednesday, and April 2nd, 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 March 14 & 15, 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

Conventional Wisdom and the Lord's

Listen, friend, it's a dog-eat-dog world out there. You've got to do it to them before they do it to you.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Always remember the golden rule: those who have the gold, make the rules.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Remember: Never get mad. Get even.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Take my advice, kid – Don't make waves. You've got to go along to get along. Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Charity is fine, but business is business. Always, always, always buy low and sell high.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

The drug users and the city scum – they deserve what happens to them. We work hard for what we've got – nobody is doing us any favors. Let them do the same. It can be done. Hey, look: You got to take care of your own.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Jesus' admonition is almost a pleading: If you really understand Me and what I am about, if you really want to be My disciple, if you really seek to be worthy of My name, then you must see the world differently and respond to its challenges with a very different set of values. The world may try to justify vengeance rather than forgiveness, to glorify self-preservation over selflessness, to insist on preserving the system and convention for the sake of compassion and justice.

But it cannot be like that with you.