Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost



Icon of Cosmas and Damien-- November 1st

November 1, 2026: Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Eph. 2: 4-10 Gospel: Lk. 8: 26-39

This Weekend	4:00 pm	+ Olga Telep (Daughter, Lauren)
	10:30	For Our Parishioners
Mon., Nov. 2	9:00	Intention Available: See Father Nestor
Tues., Nov. 3	9:00	Special Intention (Anonymous)
Wed., Nov. 4	9:00	+ Dan Telep, Sr. (Daughter, Lauren)
Thurs., Nov. 5	9:00	+ Martha Myshrall (Father Nestor)
Fri., Nov. 6	9:00	+ Leona, Michael Sr. and Michael Jr. Korzemba (Legate)
Sat., Nov. 7		**No Morning Divine Liturgy**
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Catherine & Nicholas Shumek (Michael Shumek Family)
Sun., Nov. 8	10:30	For Our Parishioners

Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Mesopotamia

Commemorated on November 1st

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother Saint Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, Saint Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus

Christ, “Freely have you received, freely give.” (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Saints Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, “Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When Saint Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. Saint Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where Saint Damian’s grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenaries. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus’ friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith.

Two fearsome men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, “My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?”

They replied, “We are the servants

of Christ, Cosmas and Damian," and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened to her. Glorifying God, she went up to the icon of the holy brothers and tearfully offered prayers of thanksgiving for her deliverance. And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life.

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome (July 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).

Election Day

While walking down the street one day, a politician was tragically hit by a car, and died.

His soul arrived in heaven and was met by Saint Peter at the Pearly Gates. "Welcome to heaven," said St. Peter. "Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We weren't expecting you, and we weren't prepared – so we're not sure what to do with you. "No problem, just let me in," said the politician.

"Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from my higher ups. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose for yourself where to spend eternity." "Really? But I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven," said the politician. "I'm sorry, but we have our rules." And with that, St. Peter escorted him to the elevator and he descended down, down, down to hell.

The doors opened and he found himself in the middle of a lush green golf course. In the distance was a clubhouse and standing in front of it were all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him. Everyone seemed very happy and in formal evening attire. They ran to greet him, shook his hand, and reminisced about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people.

They played a friendly game of golf and then dined on lobster, caviar, and the finest champagne. Also present was the devil, who was really a very friendly guy, having a good time dancing and telling jokes. They were all having such a good time that before the politician realized it, it was time to go. Everyone gave him a hearty farewell and waved while the elevator rose out of sight. The elevator went up, up, up and the door reopened in heaven, where St. Peter was waiting for him – "Now it's time to visit

heaven."

So, 24 hours passed with the politician joining a group of contented souls, moving from cloud to cloud, playing harps and singing. They had a good time and before he realized it, the 24 hours had gone by and St. Peter returned. "Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity."

The politician reflected for a minute, and then answered: "Well, I would never have said it before; I mean, heaven has been delightful, but from what I saw, I think I would be better off in hell." So, St. Peter escorted him to the elevator and the politician went down, down, down to hell.

Then the doors of the elevator opened and he found himself in the middle of a barren land, covered with foul smelling waste and garbage. He saw all his friends again, but now they were dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash kept falling to the ground. The devil came over to him and put his arm around his shoulders.

"I don't understand," stammered the politician. "Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of smelly garbage, and my friends look miserable. What happened?" The devil smiled at him and said, "Yesterday we were campaigning; today you voted!"

Tuesday is election day, so CHOOSE WISELY!

Church Bulletin Bloopers

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they

can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Valley Community Library's fall book sale will take place on Friday, November 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Patrons may fill a provided bag on Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for $5.

There will be a special presale for Friends of the Library members only on Thursday, November 19, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Purchase a membership at the door for $10 individual/$15 families. The book sale will be held inside the library.

The Valley Community Library, a member of the Lackawanna County Library System, is located at 739 River St., Peckville, and serves residents in the valley area.

Community Event: Mid Valley Secondary Center PTSA Craft Fair

Join the Mid Valley Secondary Center PTSA for their annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Mid Valley Secondary Center in Throop.

Kick off your holiday shopping with a variety of local vendors, a basket raffle, a visit from Santa, and more! Proceeds directly support Mid Valley students and school programs.

Vendors Needed: Vendor applications are currently being accepted. Official details and registration information can be found on their Facebook event page (Mid Valley Secondary Center PTSA Craft Fair). Please note: For safety, the PTSA will never request online payments for vendor fees.

Save the Date: St. Cyril's Cash Bingo!



Mark your calendars! St. Cyril's will be hosting our annual Cash Bingo on Sunday, January 24, 2027. In the event of inclement weather, the snow date is scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2027.

Please take note of our new location this year: The Moon Ballroom (located right next to Idle Hours).

Thanks to the incredible generosity, hard work, and participation of our parish family, last year's Bingo was a tremendous success. As this is one of our major parish fundraisers, we are counting on everyone's help and enthusiasm once again to make this event just as rewarding.

More details regarding ticket sales, times, and volunteer opportunities will follow in the coming weeks. Please spread the word to family and friends, and thank you in advance for your continued dedication and support of St. Cyril's!

Collection Processing Team

The Collection Processing Team for the month of November 2026 is Team #3: Cheryl Matuszewski, Carol Zadarosni, and Jeanne Cucura.

Sunday Collection for Oct. 24 & 25, 2026: $

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

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Beyond Medical Knowledge

Even without anyone to instruct us we are quite able, on the basis of what we see, live and feel, to understand how our body is formed. Its own nature teaches us. It may be useful, nonetheless, to consult experts to have a clearer idea. The science of anatomy has allowed us to know the positions of the individual parts of the human body. Other sciences help us to grasp their uses.

In a detailed study we must examine the organs as having three kinds of function: life, enjoyment and conservation.

The organs without which it is impossible to have life are three: the brain, the heart, the liver.

Then there are the gifts that nature gives to the human being to make life pleasant: the senses. The lack, which is not infrequent, of one or other of them does not result in death, but without being able to use them life is less enjoyable.

Finally, we should recall those organs which have no purpose in themselves but are useful to conserve life, for example, the stomach and the lungs.

The true and perfect life, however, is that of the soul. In the soul is found the beauty of the likeness of God, who created humanity with the words: "Let us make human beings in our own image, after our own likeness."

St. Gregory of Nyssa