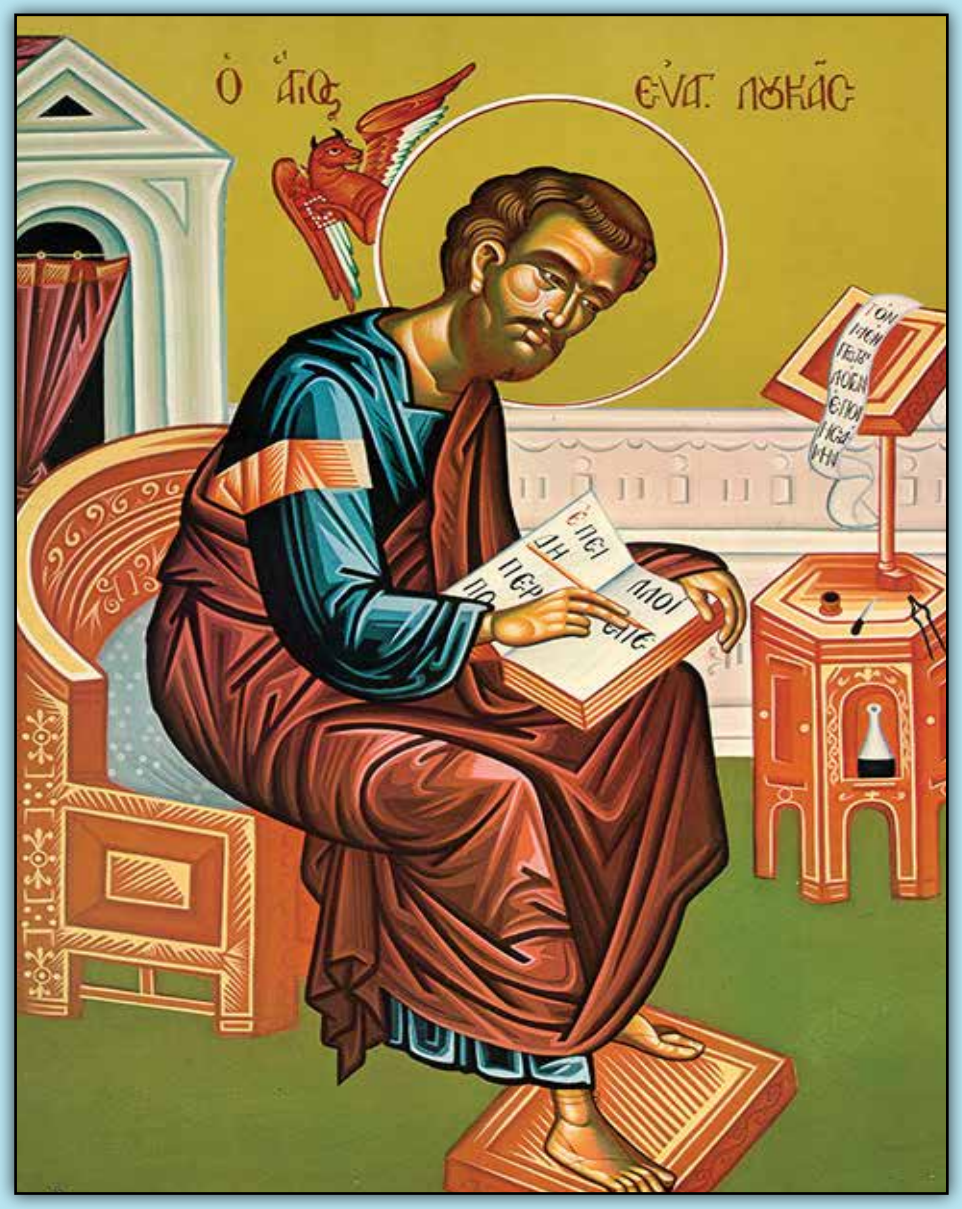
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



Icon of Saint Luke -- October 18th

October 18, 2026: Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Gal. 2: 16-20 Gospel: Lk. 8: 5-15

This Weekend	4:00 pm	+ Gene & Jimmy Maslar (Family)
	10:30	For Our Parishioners
Mon., Oct. 19	10:00	Funeral: + John Sokirka
Tues., Oct. 20	9:00	+ Mary Jo Schlasta (Jule Harris)
Wed., Oct. 21	9:00	+ Joann Berta (Eileen Kushner)
Thurs., Oct. 22	9:00	+ Alyce Marcinko (Andrea Novak)
Fri., Oct. 23	9:00	+ Viola Bianca Linko (Lauren Telep)
Sat., Oct. 24		**No Morning Divine Liturgy**
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
Sun., Oct. 25	10:30	+ Elaine Jablonski (Husband, Jim)

Everything You Should Know About Relics

From the finger of St. Thomas to the arm of St. Jude to the miraculous blood of St. Januarius and the Shroud of Turin, the Catholic Church is home to a plethora of relics. To an outsider, the tradition of venerating relics may seem strange; however, the roots of the practice are found in Scripture as well as in the ancient tradition of the Church.

Below are 10 of the most asked questions pertaining to relics and their veneration.

What is a relic?

A relic is a physical object that had a direct association with a saint or with Jesus Christ. The word relic derives from the Latin word "relinquere," which means "to abandon or leave behind."

What are the different classes of relics?

Traditionally, relics can be broken down into three classes: first, second, and third.

First-class relics are the body or fragments of the body of a saint, such as pieces of bone or flesh. An example

of a first-class relic would be the skull of St. Thomas Aquinas or the bone of St. Jude Thaddeus. Pieces of the cross on which Jesus was crucified are also considered first-class relics.

A second-class relic is an item that a saint touched or owned, such as a shirt or book, or fragments of these items.

Third-class relics are items that a saint has touched or items that have been touched to a first-, second-, or another third-class relic. For example, touching the first-class relic of St. Bernadette Soubirous' bones with your own personal rosary would make your rosary a third-class relic.

Additionally, a 2017 decree on relics identified the difference between "significant" and "nonsignificant" relics.

The decree defines a significant relic as "the body of the blesseds and of the saints or notable parts of the bodies themselves or the sum total of the ashes obtained by their cremation."

These relics are preserved in properly-sealed urns and are to be kept in places that guarantee their safety and respect their sacredness.

"Little fragments of the body of the blesseds and of the saints as well as objects that have come in direct contact with their person are considered nonsignificant relics," the decree states.

These are also preserved in sealed cases "and honored with a religious spirit, avoiding every type of superstition and illicit trade."

How are relics authenticated?

The process of authenticating a first- or second-class relic begins with the certification from a bishop or cardinal. In many cases the relics belong to the diocese to which the saint belonged.

Then, especially for first-class relics, the item must be scientifically proven to be human remains along with other criteria. This is done to ensure that fake relics are not being venerated by the faithful.

There is no process for formally recognizing third-class relics.

Why do Catholics venerate relics?

Catholics venerate the relics of saints as a way to honor the saint's inspiring way of life and bold faith. As Catholics, we strive to become saints ourselves and are encouraged

to imitate the lives of the saints in our own daily lives.

St. Jerome, a great biblical scholar, said: "We do not worship relics, we do not adore them, for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the creator. But we venerate the relics of the martyrs in order the better to adore him whose martyrs they are."

The veneration of relics is a Catholic practice of honoring the extraordinary work God did in a person's life — a person who has achieved the highest level of holiness in the Catholic Church.

Is relic veneration biblical?

Yes. There are several instances in the Bible where individuals are healed by touching an item.

In 2 Kings 13:20-21, the corpse of a man is touched to the bones of the prophet Elisha and the man comes back to life. In Matthew 9:20-22, the hemorrhaging woman is healed by touching the hem of Jesus' cloak. People were healed and evil spirits were driven out when handkerchiefs from the apostle Paul were placed on these individuals as is written in Acts of the Apostles 19:11-12.

Can relics perform miracles?

It is important to understand that while relics may be used in many miracles that are mentioned, the Catholic Church does not believe that the relic itself causes the miracle; God alone does. The relic is the vehicle through which God may work, but God is the cause for the healing.

Any good that comes about through a relic is God's doing. But the fact that God chooses to use the relics of saints to work healing and miracles tells us that he wants to draw our attention to the saints as "models and intercessors" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 828).

Is it OK to own a relic?

Ideally a relic should be kept in a church or shrine where it can be made available for public veneration. However, the Church does not forbid the possession of relics by lay people. They may even be kept in homes. Additionally, the Church no longer issues relics to individuals — not even clergy. The Church will only issue relics to churches, shrines, and oratories.

Can I buy or sell relics?

According to canon law of the Catholic Church, the sale of first-

and second-class relics is strictly forbidden. Relics can only be given away by their owners, and some very significant relics, such as a heart, arm, etc., cannot be given away without the permission of the Vatican.

Where can I see or venerate relics?

Relics are housed all over the world in different churches and shrines. For example, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Notre Dame, Indiana, is home to an estimated 1,200 relics. In Venice, Italy, St. Mark's Basilica houses the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist. Catholics can venerate relics of the true cross at the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem in Rome.

Relics will also go on tour to churches across cities throughout the world in order for the faithful to have an opportunity to venerate them.

Are there relics of Jesus or Mary?

There are no first-class relics of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Catholic Church teaches that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven. However, the most well-known second-class relic that is believed to have been Mary's is her veil, which is kept in Chartres Cathedral in France.

The case is similar for Jesus. While there are no bodily relics of Christ, who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, there are fragments of the true cross, a fragment of the holy manger in which Jesus was placed after he was born, and fragments of black-and-white stone that are said to be from the pillar on which he was scourged.

-- By Francesca Pollio Fenton, CNA Staff

Prayer for Pope Leo to St. Peregrine

Join us in asking for St. Peregrine's intercession for the Holy Father's healing, strength, and peace, and for all those facing cancer.

O great St. Peregrine, you have been called "The Mighty," "The Wonder-Worker," because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have

had recourse to you.

For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction.

Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you.

O St Peregrine, pray for our Holy Father, Pope Leo.

Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen.

From the Valley Community Library: Paws To Relax

Children and teens are invited to unwind and relax Monday, October 19 at 5:30 during this calming, sensory-friendly program. Take a break from the stress of everyday life by spending time with friendly therapy dogs from Companionate Canines while enjoying a variety of hands-on sensory activities. Whether you prefer petting a furry friend, exploring calming sensory stations, or simply relaxing in a quiet space, this program offers a peaceful opportunity to pause and relax. Ages 6-17. Registration is required. This program is a PA FORWARD Initiative promoting Health Literacy.

Ethnic Dinner at St. Mary's Churh

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, located at Linden St. & Mifflin Ave. in downtown Scranton, invites us to their Ethnic Dinner which is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 2026 (11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.). Dinner includes: halupki, halushki, pirohi, kielbassa, bread and butter. Potato pancakes, bake sale, and basket raffles are also available. For tickets & information, please call: 570-343-5151.

Annual Turkey Fest Dinner

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, will host their annual Turkey-Fest Dinner as a take-out only event on Saturday, November 7th in their school hall on the corner of West Chestnut and North River Streets in Wilkes-Barre. Pick-ups will be from 12:00 (noon) to 4:00 pm. The event will feature our traditional turkey dinner and basket raffle. Dinners will be $16.00 for adults and $10.00 for children. Call (570) 829-3051 to make your reservation. Walk-in customers will be welcomed, but reservations are strongly encouraged. Tell your friends and family. Non-perishable food items will be collected for donation to a local food pantry.

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.

Collection Processing Team

The Collection Processing Team for the month of October 2026 is Team #2: Eugene Zinsky, John Turko, Jr., and Michael Shumek.

Sunday Collection for Oct. 10 & 11, 2026: $

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

SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: olyphant@ukrcatholic.org

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Works of Jesus

Those who believe in one God the Father Almighty ought to believe in His only-begotten Son. Jesus says: "I am the door. No one can come to the Father but by me" (Jn 10: 9; 14: 6).

Anyone who does not accept the door cannot possibly reach the Father. Anyone who wishes to pray to the Father should adore the Son, or his prayer is not accepted.

The Son is called Christ, which means anointed, that is, consecrated. He was not anointed by human hands but consecrated by the Father to become a priest forever. He died, but He did not remain, as all human beings do, in the underworld. He is the only one free among the dead.

The Savior becomes all things to all, according to the need of each: to those who ask for joy, he becomes the vine; to those who wish to enter, he becomes the door; to those who are under the weight of sin, he becomes a lamb, a lamb slain for them. He becomes all things to all, but He remains nonetheless what He is.

He is called by a twofold name: Jesus because He gives us salvation, and Christ because He is priest. He is the healer of bodies and the doctor of souls. As He made whole those who were physically blind, so He gave light to their minds. As He gave the lame the chance to walk, so He urges the steps of sinners in the direction of the way of penitence.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem