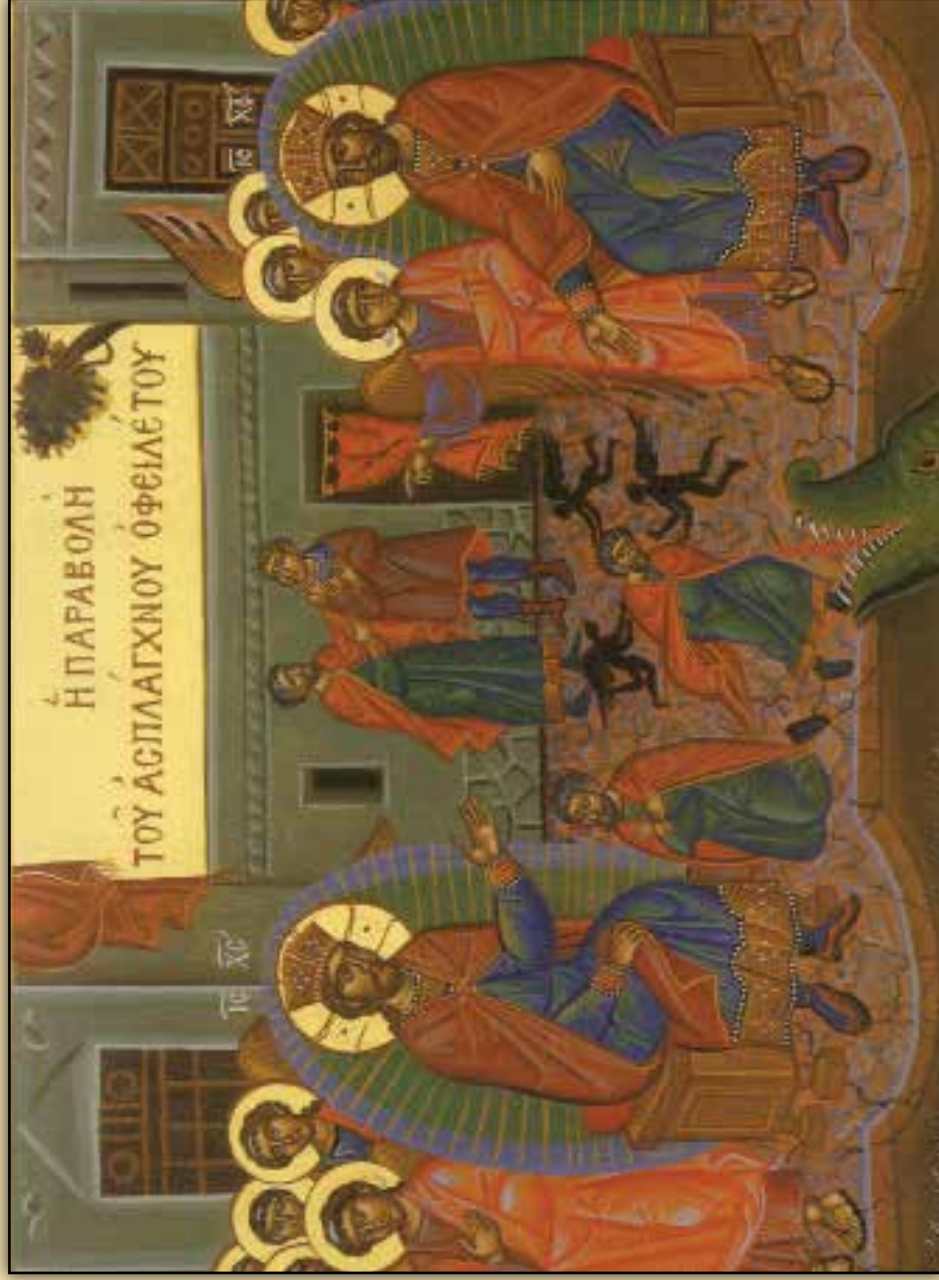


## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:23-25)*

## August 24, 2025: Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Cor. 9: 2-12

Gospel: Mt. 18: 23-35

<b>This Weekend</b>	4:00 pm + George & Mary Marushock (Daughter, Ilona) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
<b>Mon., Aug. 25</b>	9:00 + John Sokirka (Wife)
<b>Tues., Aug. 26</b>	9:00 + Bob Zelno (Howard Smith)
<b>Wed., Aug. 27</b>	9:00 + Clement Kunchick (Sandra Berta)
<b>Thurs. Aug. 28</b>	9:00 + Margret Heyl & Pat Marcinko, Jr. (Family)
<b>Fri., Aug. 29</b>	<b>Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Simple Holy Day)</b> 9:00 Health of Hooshiar Family (Andrea)
<b>Sat., Aug. 30</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Gene Maslar (Romanovitch Family)
<b>Sun., Aug. 31</b>	10:30 For Our Parishioners

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

### Baptism and Membership in the Church

When Jesus had accomplished everything he set out to do, and was about to return to the Father, he commissioned the Disciples, saying:

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age”*

(Matthew 28: 18-20).

Through baptism, we become members of the body of Christ, that is, the Church.

Through baptism, we are constituted as the people of God.

Through baptism, we participate in the priestly, prophetic, and royal function of Christ.

Through baptism, we are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world: to tell others the Good News of the Father’s love and mercy.

How seriously do we take our baptismal call?

### **From Baptism to Christian Discipleship**

All too often today, we go through the motions of being followers of Christ. We attend Divine Liturgy on occasion. We call upon the pastor for First Holy Communion, a wedding or a funeral. We bless pussy willows, our Easter baskets, and undertake similar activities.

Perhaps influenced by the secular world around us, we have become consumers of the services provided by the parish, adopting an attitude of “What’s in it for me?” or “Go ahead, entertain me.”

Rather, through baptism, our membership in Christ’s Church calls for a commitment on the part of each of us to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, to foster our prayer life, and to use our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure in the building up of the Christian community.

In other words, the rights we inherit as members of the Church are balanced by an equal obligation in continuing the mission of Christ entrusted to our care.

Baptism means being a disciple of Christ.

And being a disciple of Christ comes with certain expectations related to my

membership in a given parish.

### **Parish Membership and Expectations**

What then does it mean to be a parishioner? What are the expectations?

As a result of my baptism, in practicing my Christian discipleship, I am expected as a registered member of my parish to:

- regularly attend and participate in the Sunday Divine Liturgy, together with my family;
- regularly participate in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church;
- develop and practice an ongoing personal/family prayer life;
- witness to the teachings of the Church by the manner of my living life;
- practice stewardship of my time, talent and treasure in service to the mission of the Church;
- acknowledge, as a registered member, that I am to be a participant in serving the mission of the parish rather than being only a spectator; and
- realize the necessary and ongoing importance of love, generosity, faith and family.

Christ comes into the world to tell us of the mercy and love of the Father.

Through baptism, we say: “yes, Lord, I choose to follow you by becoming an active disciple and parishioner. Thank

you for the opportunity to serve you and my neighbor. Bless me!”

## 10 THINGS ABOUT GUARDIAN ANGELS

1. *Guardian angels exist.* The Gospel affirms this, the Scriptures support it by countless examples and episodes. The Catechism teaches us from an early age to feel this presence on our side and to trust in it.
2. *Angels have always existed.* Our Guardian Angel is not created with us at the time of our birth. They have always existed, from the instant at which God created all of the angels. It was a single event, a single moment in which Divine Will generated all the angels, by the thousands. After this, God no longer created any other angels.
3. *There is an angelic hierarchy and not all angels are destined to become Guardian Angels.* Even the angels differ from each other in their tasks, and above all in their positions in heaven compared to God. Some angels in particular are selected to take a test and, if they pass it, they are qualified for the role of Guardian Angels. When a child is born, one of these angels is chosen to stand by his side until death and beyond.
4. *We all have at least one.* We cannot sell it, we can not share it with anyone. In this regard also, the Scriptures are full of references and quotations.
5. *Our Angel guides us on the pathway to Heaven.* Our Angel cannot oblige us to follow the path of goodness. He cannot decide for us, impose choices on us. We are and remain free. But his role is precious, important. As a silent and trustworthy advisor, our angel stays by our side, trying to advise us for the best, to suggest the right path to follow, to obtain salvation, to deserve Paradise, and above all to be good people and good Christians.
6. *Our Angel never abandons us.* In this life and in the next, we will know that we can count on them, on these invisible and special friends, who never leave us alone.
7. *Our Angel is not the spirit of a dead person.* Although it might be nice to think that when someone we love died, they became an Angel, and as such returned to be by our side, unfortunately, this isn't so. Our guardian angel cannot be anyone we have known in life, nor a member of

our family who has died prematurely. It has always existed, it is a spiritual presence generated directly by God. This does not mean that it loves us less! **We should remember that God is Love first and foremost.**

8. *Our guardian angel has no name ... or, if he has, it is not our job to establish it. In the Scriptures, the names of some angels are mentioned, such as Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. Any other name attributed to these celestial creatures is neither documented nor confirmed by the Church, and as such it is inappropriate to claim it to use for our Angels, especially by pretending we've determined it using a fanciful method like the month of our birth, etc.*
9. *Our Angel fights on our side with all*

*his strength.* We must not think of having a tender plump cherub at our side playing the harp. Our Angel is a warrior, a strong and courageous fighter, who ranks at our side in every battle of life and protects us when we are too fragile to do it alone.

10. *Our guardian angel is also our personal messenger, charged with bringing our messages to God, and vice versa.* It is to the angels that God addresses himself in communicating with us. Their job is to make us understand his Word, and move us in the right direction.

*[https://www.holyart.com/blog/religiousitems/who-your-guardian-angel-is-and-what-they-do-10-things-you-shouldknow/](https://www.holyart.com/blog/religiousitems/who-your-guardian-angel-is-and-what-they-do-10-things-you-should-know/)*

## FROM THE ARCHBISHOP...

On Sunday, August 24, 2025, Ukraine marks its 34<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. I will spend this day in Kyiv, praying and expressing my support for the faithful of our Church in Ukraine. I ask you to join the initiative of a Global Prayer for Ukraine supported by the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations and endorsed by President Volodymyr Zelensky.

This initiative brings together churches, faith communities, and people of goodwill across the world in a common

prayer chain for peace and freedom in Ukraine. Participation is simple: parishes are asked to dedicate prayers during the Divine Liturgy, and the faithful are encouraged to join prayer gatherings in their communities or register online at [prayforukraine.org.ua](http://prayforukraine.org.ua) to be part of the global prayer chain.

Let us pray together for peace, freedom, the return of our children, and comfort for all who grieve.

In addition to prayer in our churches, I strongly encourage participation in

community events organized for this occasion. Coming together in faith and solidarity strengthens our people and gives witness to the world that Ukraine is not alone.

Praying for you all in wounded yet resilient Kharkiv.

In Christ,  
+ Borys

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

Three fundraising events are planned: 1. Our Second Annual Car Show is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 to 4:00. The show will be dedicated to the memory of + Gibby Carozzi who was instrumental in the success of our first car show. We will be selling food and having a basket raffle and selling 50/50 tickets.

2. By request, we will have a tent at the second Kris Kringle event in Olyphant on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00

to 5:00. We will sell kielbosi and sauerkraut sandwiches, halushki, hot chocolate and baked goods. One basket to raffle as allowed by the committee.

3. With support from those who responded to the survey, we are going to host our first BINGO on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Manor on Main in Dickson City. We would appreciate those who offered to sponsor bingo games to send checks made out to “St. Cyril’s” to the rectory, with attention to “BINGO”.

## UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE FOLK FESTIVAL

On Sun., Aug. 24, at 12:00 PM, the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub (County Line and Lower State Rds., Horsham, PA) invites you to the Ukrainian Independence Folk Festival 2025. Commencing at 1:30 PM, enjoy “A Celebration of Liberty, Valor and Unity”, a vibrant Outdoor Summer Concert of Ukrainian Dance, Music and Song, celebrating the 34th anniversary of Ukraine’s Independence, the Unity of her People and their Struggle for Freedom, Prosperity and Dignity. The

performers -- “Voloshky” (Phila.) and Spirit of the Dance (Balt. – DC) Ukrainian Dance Ensembles, singer-songwriter “Iryna Lonchyna” (UA), violinist “Innesa” (UA), “Soloveyko” (Phila.) (Nightingale) Quartet; and “Vox Ethnika” (NYC) Orchestra -- have created a dynamic, integrated concert program for your delight. Live, vibrant music by the “Vox Ethnika” will follow the concert and play on until 8:00 PM. Ukrainian ethnic foods and baked goods, a BBQ and cool refreshments for

all ages will be plentiful. Visit vendors' grove and the Ukrainian Arts and Crafts market. Admission: \$20; Free for kids to age 14. Info: 267-664-3857; info@tryzub.org;

www.tryzub.org. \$2 of each paid admission goes to Humanitarian Relief in Ukraine.

## **FOOD FESTIVAL**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, Nanticoke, is having a food festival on August 30<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 4 pm. Food will be for eat-in or take-out, featuring pyrohy, haluski, holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), potato pancakes, sausage and pepper, borscht,

clam chowder, and baked goods. There will also be a basket raffle with a variety of basket prizes. The event takes place in the church hall, located at the corner of Bliss Street and Center Street, which is near the church (church address is 240 Center Street).

## **PRAISE4LIFE**

Pennsylvanians for Human Life - Scranton Chapter invited you to attend Praise4Life, a family event at Lackawanna State Park on September 7 from 1–3 PM.

The event will feature live praise music, food, kids' activities, and a speaker, with free admission and a request to bring a dish to share.

## **SIMPSON FUNDRAISER CASH PRIZE BINGO**

A fundraiser Cash Prize Bingo is planned for October 12, 2025 at Trinity Hall, Prospect St., Simpson. The Bingo will include 14 games, 3 Specials, and a Jackpot prize. Snacks and refreshments

will be available for purchase. Tickets will be \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

For tickets or more information, call 570-282-5680 or 570-282-0796.

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of August 2025 is Team #4:

Ron Barkofsky, Steve & Jeannie Cucura.

**Sunday Collection for Aug. 16 & 17, 2025: \$**

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

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

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

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Web Site: [stcyrils.weconnect.com](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)

E-Mail: [olyphant@ukrcatholic.org](mailto:olyphant@ukrcatholic.org)

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***Condemn Ourselves for Our Sins, and to Forgive Others***

Two things therefore does He here require, both to condemn ourselves for our sins, and to forgive others; and the former for the sake of the latter, that this may become more easy (for he who considers his own sins is more indulgent to his fellow-servant); and not merely to forgive with the lips, but from the heart.

Let us not then thrust the sword into ourselves by being revengeful. For what grief has he who has grieved you inflicted upon you, like you will work unto yourself by keeping your anger in mind, and drawing upon yourself the sentence from God to condemn you? For if indeed you are watchful, and keepest yourself under control, the evil will come round upon his head, and it will be he that will suffer harm; but if you should continue indignant, and displeased, then yourself will undergo the harm not from him, but from yourself.

For if we be willing, no one shall be able to injure us, but even our enemies shall advantage us in the

greatest degree. And why do I speak of men? For what can be more wicked than the devil; yet nevertheless, even hence have we a great opportunity of approving ourselves; and Job shows it. But if the devil has become a cause of crowns, why are you afraid of a man as an enemy?

See then how much you gain, bearing meekly the spiteful acts of your enemies. First and greatest, deliverance from sins; secondly, fortitude and patience; thirdly, mildness and benevolence; for he that knows not how to be angry with them that grieve him, much more will he be ready to serve them that love him. Fourthly, to be free from anger continually, to which nothing can be equal. For of him that is free from anger, it is quite clear that he is delivered also from the despondency hence arising, and will not spend his life on vain labors and sorrows.

*St. John Chrysostom*