

240 Center Street – Nanticoke, PA 18634
Nanticoke Rectory: (570)735-2262
Church Email: TransfigurationUCC@comcast.net
WebSite: www.transfigurationucc.org
Pastor; Fr. Walter Pasicznyk CELL PHONE NUMBER: (570)-406-5882

Divine Liturgy Schedule

January 21, 2023 A. D.

**Khrystos Razhdayesia! Christ is Born!
Slavyte Yeho! Glorify Him!**



Saturday, January 20

6:00 PM

Sunday, January 21

10:30 AM

Wednesday, January 24

10:00 AM

Thursday, January 25

10:00 AM

Friday, January 26

10:00 AM

Saturday, January 27

6:00 PM

Sunday, January 28

10:30 AM

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

†John Lipowski- Virginia Palermo

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

†Ted Weron- Donna Wurcester

†Anna Kutsup-Ellen Alqrainy & Leona Kobela

God's Blessings for America- Tom & MaryAnn Potsko

†Margaret Yanoshak- Tom & MaryAnn Potsko

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

†John Kaminsky- Denise Kaminsky & Children

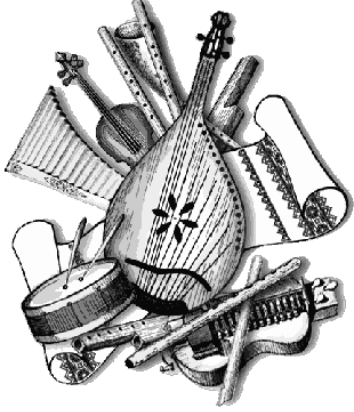
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

†Mike Sawczuk- Mark & Arlene Jennings



Petitions & Prayers for Our Parishioners: Please pray for our Parishioners Assisted Living: Mary Hoolick. At Home: Geraldine Adamchak; Shirley Kozar, Dolores Miller, Rita Kurtz, Diane Petry, Mary Louise Bailey. Away: Leona Kobela Prayer Request: Michelle Miller; Kerri; Ellen Kobela, Fr. Peter Waslo; Sister Evhenia Prusnay MSMG; Mary Oresick; Fr. Paul Wolensky,

Pavlyk Motychka (baby in Ukraine with SMA); Joyce Kishbaugh, Ken Weber; Marie Slota; Fr. Gregory Maslak, Angel Ocasio, Elizabeth Biasci, Dolores Jennings, Barnett Kurtz, Mike Oresick., Debbie Schwartz.



MYASOPUSNA 2024: Transfiguration of Our Lord Church is pleased to announce that dinner tickets are now available for our Annual Myasopusna Festival, held at the church's banquet hall at 240 Center Street, Nanticoke, on Sunday, February 4, from noon to 4 pm. The Myasopusna (Meatfare) Festival is the parish's pre-lenten celebration, preceding the Great Fast. Dinner (a platter of holuptsi, kobasi, pyrohy, black bread and butter, and a homemade dessert) will be served from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, followed by live Ukrainian dance performances by Saint Mary's Ukrainian Dancers. A variety of Ukrainian crafts will

be on display and for sale. Dinner tickets are \$20 if purchased by January 30 (\$22 at the door). Children under 12 are half price. Tickets can be purchased by calling **Helen (735-4654) -leave a message** OR from the rectory OR from Lisa 570-574-1016. Invite your friends and neighbors!

**THIS YEAR OUR FESTIVAL COMES VERY QUICK SO
PLEASE GET THE WORD OUT!!**

**DON'T MISS OUR UKRAINIAN BASKET RAFFLE TO
SUPPORT OUR ROOF FUND!**

THE RACE IS ON!.....



MYASOPUSNA FOOD MAKING: We will be making pyrohy for Myasopusna on **Thursday, February 1st at 8:30AM.** Please come out and help. We are making extra for Lenten Orders. Holupki (Stuffed Cabbage) will be made either- January 30, Tuesday or January 31, Wednesday.

PROGRAM BOOK ADS: If you are interested in an ad for the Program Book, please contact Lisa at 570-574-1016.

MYASOPUSNA DESSERT: We are asking for dessert items for our dinner. If anyone is able to make a dessert, it would be greatly appreciated. Please make sure your desserts are individually wrapped for service.

MYASOPUSNA SERVICE HELP: Please come out and help. We need servers and help-many hands make light work. Most of the help needed is between noon and 2:00PM to serve. If you have any grandchildren or teenagers that can help serve on February 4 it would be appreciated. We need SERVERS.

HALL SET-UP: We will be setting up in the hall on Monday, January 22nd.



JANUARY CANDLES



The Eternal Light is given by the Yanoshak Family in loving Memory of the Deceased Members of the Yanoshak & Kulmatiski Families.

The St. Nicholas Candle is given by Lisa Placek in memory of the Deceased Members of the Skordinski & Slota Families. The Icon Table of the Transfiguration of Our Lord is given by M/M Brian Kawczenski for the Health & Blessings of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parishioners.

SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN & PHARISEE
January 21, 2023

TROPAR: Though the stone was sealed by the Judeans, and soldiers guarded Your most pure body, You arose, O Savior, on the third day, and gave life to the world. And so the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of Life: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your saving plan, O only Lover of mankind.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

KONDAK: Let us bring sighs of sorrow to the Lord as did the Publican and approach the Master as sinners, for He desires salvation for everyone. He grants forgiveness to all who repent. For as God, the One-who-is, co-eternal with the Father, He became flesh for us.

PROKEIMEN: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You. Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

A Reading of the First Epistle from the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy 3:10-15:

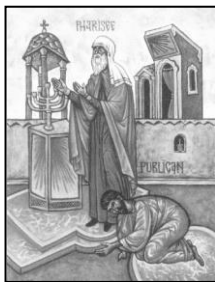


Timothy my son, you, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

ALLELUIA: (3). God gives me vindication and has subdued peoples under me. Alleluia (3). Making great the salvation of the king, and showing mercy to His anointed, to David, and to His posterity forever. Alleluia (3).

LENT: Remember, the first day of Lent is a fast from Meat and Dairy Products. **Lent begins with Forgiveness Vespers, Sunday, February 11th at 3:00 PM. The first full day of Lent will begin on Monday, February 12.**

Gospel of Luke 18:10-14



At that time, “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

LITURGICAL INTENTIONS: If you are offering a Divine Liturgy for a specific day for your beloved or other intentions for 2024, please make sure you turn it into the rectory in order to make sure that you get the exact time that you would like. Please keep in mind that there are no weekday liturgies during Lent. Please note that during Lent if there is a Funeral, there will be no Divine Liturgy with that service. If you want to add a Divine Liturgy, a special Liturgy can be done on Saturday morning.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

O Glorious St. Joseph, you were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, and the head of the Holy Family. You have been chosen by Christ’s Vicar as the heavenly Patron and Protector of the Church founded by Christ. Protect the Sovereign Pontiff and all bishops and priests united with him. Be the protector of all who labor for souls amid the trials and tribulations of this life; and grant that all peoples of the world may follow Christ and the Church He founded. Dear St. Joseph, accept the offering I make to you. Be my father, protector, and guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me purity of heart and a love for the spiritual life. After your example, let all my actions be directed to the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and your own paternal heart. Finally, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death. In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHURCH NEWS Every day is a Holy Day of Opportunity. Pray Always.- Father Daniel Gurovich



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!: A Happy Birthday to Geraldine Adamchak, who celebrates her birthday on January 30th! Mnohaya Lita! May God grant her many happy years,, peace, Health and Salvation. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

MYOSOPUSNA 2024: As always Myasopusna requires everyone to pull together to make our event successful. Your assistance is priceless and appreciated. Please try to keep the week before the event open and help out where you can, tell your neighbors, try to sell a few tickets, and when you see flyers in the back grab one and put it up at your college, library, or supermarket, etc. - THANK YOU, every little bit helps! **Your church needs YOU and don't forget to pray- we can't do this alone! You don't have to be a parishioner or Ukrainian to help! For tickets contact Lisa at 570-574-1016.**



UKRAINIAN RAFFLE BASKETS: We are looking for Raffle Baskets for the Myasopusna. Our raffle is one of the highlights of our events and we are hoping people will be once again be generous in their donations. Please, always include your name and the contents of the basket on it. If you have any questions, give Johanna a call 570-256-7883.

BLESSING OF HOMES: If you would like your home blessed, please call the rectory at 570-735-2262 or put you name and phone number in the collection basket.

CHURCH ENVELOPES, CALENDARS & 2024 CANDLES: The church envelopes and calendars are on the table in the back of the church. 2024 Candles are ready!

VISITING THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: Father Walter tries to visit the homebound the first Friday of every month. If you know someone who would like to be visited and receive Holy Communion and they were not visited, plea-se contact Father Walter at the rectory at 570-735-2262.

FIRST SATURDAY LITURGY & SOROKOUSTY: The first Saturday Liturgy and Sorokousty Service will be Saturday, February 3 at 8:00AM. Keep in mind that confessions will be from 7:30 AM to 8:00 AM, prior to Liturgy.

HOLUBTSI DINNER: Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre will hold a take-out Piggie / Holubtsi Dinner on **Saturday, January 27th, 2024**. Dinners may be picked up between 12:00 (noon) and 4:00 pm in our school hall, on the corner of North River and West Chestnut Streets, Wilkes-Barre. Dinner includes Piggies (meat & rice stuffed cabbage), mashed potatoes, vegetables, bread and butter and dessert. Dinners will be \$15.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children (12 and under). Walk-in customers will be welcomed, but reservations are Strongly Encouraged, (570) 829-3051.”



UKRAINIAN PYSANKY CLASSES offered by St. Cyril's Church in Olyphant. **February 18th and March 3rd**, with two classes each day: 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. Students will learn about this beautiful Ukrainian tradition. The beginner class is approximately 2 hours long, with step-by-step instructions to create your own egg. The cost is \$25 per person, with supplies included.

Class size is limited, and registration is required. Pysanky, additional supplies, jewelry and mosaics made from broken eggshells will be available for sale. Contact: Tammy Budnovitch 570-766-1919 to register for this parish fundraiser held at St. Cyril's Parish Hall, 207 River St., Olyphant.

REFLECTIONS FROM ST. THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE.....

Yesterday the Gospel Reading taught us persistence in prayer, and now it teaches us humility, or the feeling that we have no right to be heard. Do not assume that you have the right to be heard, but approach prayer as one unworthy of any attention, allowing yourself only the boldness needed to open your mouth and raise up your prayer to God, knowing the Lord's boundless condescension towards us poor ones. Do not even allow the thought to come to your mind, "I did such and such –so give me such and such." Consider whatever you might have done as your obligation. If you had not done it you would have been subject to punishment, and what you did deserves no reward; you did not do anything special. That Pharisee enumerated his rights to be heard and left the temple with nothing. The bad thing is not that he actually did as he said, or indeed he should have done it. The bad thing is that he presented it as something special, whereas having done it he should have thought no more of it. Deliver us, O Lord, from this sin of the Pharisee! People rarely speak like the Pharisee in words, but in the feelings of their heart they are rarely unlike him. For why is it that people pray poorly? It is because they feel as though they are just fine in the sight of God even without praying. - St. Theophan the Recluse

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ASK FATHER A QUESTION? Father, I have a question, I was speaking to a Parishioner who noticed that there are prayers in our black prayer book that are not indicated to be for the Priest or the People and are really small print. Are we supposed to say these prayers or are they Priest prayers? If they are Priest prayers, do you actually say them at that time in the Liturgy or do you say them at another time? The prayers that you are referring to are the Priest's silent prayers and yes, I really do pray them in the Liturgy at the appointed time. Remember, that the Liturgy is celebrated by the whole church; the people, the altar servers, the deacon, the priest(s), and the Bishop. In the Liturgy, because we do not have a deacon (and the Bishop is not present), your Parish Priest is taking all the prayers of the clergy. Why is it important to know this? Because during the Liturgy, the deacon is the Master of Ceremonies (MC) and he leads 80-95% of the Liturgical Prayers. While the Deacon is saying the Litanies and the other prayers, the priest is praying on behalf of the people all of those silent prayers. So, you would never notice any pause in the Liturgy when a deacon is present. Occasionally at the Liturgy, you notice a small pause, that is because your parish priest is concluding one of those silent prayers. Even though you did not ask, this why some of the parts of the Liturgy are sung slowly or seemingly again, so as to fill what appears to be silence in the Liturgy but is actually the priest praying in a low voice interceding to God in a low voice on behalf of the people and himself.



ASK FATHER A QUESTION? Father, first, I must say I do not go to communion on a regular basis. How often should one go to communion? I feel “incorrect” not going to communion without going to confession. Confession, however, seems to be like “Sin, Confess, Repeat” and seems to lack a depth of repentance. Can you help me with this? Perhaps I have the wrong perspective on this? Is the forgiveness I hope to receive something I give myself? I understand Absolution, the problem seems to be with me, not the sacrament.

PRIEST: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ABSOLUTION?

PARISHIONER: Forgiveness of sins. Perhaps, an adjustment in your perspective would help. Absolution is not merely a forgiveness of sins, but literally means from Latin, “to untie you from the devil or to unchain you from the devil” which is the result of sin. Perhaps, your feeling incorrect is from a viewpoint on your life and your sins as a sense of not taking seriously your behaviors-in other words- to take a sincere approach to your Sacramental Life. If you truly believe in God, and truly try to follow His commandments, and recognize that the devil and his fallen angels (demons) have been watching you intently all your life, and they know your weaknesses and will tempt you to break the commandments even in the most minor way either directly or through the interaction with other people. So yes, you might feel like your life is a revolving door and once you are at peace after having sinned you then recognize your action as a sin- which perhaps in that moment you did not desire or intend to do. So you grasped this when you reflect back on your day, week, or life in examining your conscience and perhaps you feel frustrated or hopeless, but this is truly not the case with sacraments. The devil will tempt you even with these feelings. The question to ask when you examine your conscience and you live your life and even in the confessional (with the priest), is “Are you truly sorry for these sins?” and “Are you actively trying to NOT repeat these sins?” If the answer is “Yes” then you have truly received forgiveness from God. So, the question is “Do you lack a depth of repentance or is there something else going on?” The answer to this could be that you might need a spiritual director, we all need a spiritual director in our lives, especially the clergy. I am guessing by our discussion so far; you need a spiritual director in your life. I have not heard my entire life and I doubt many other people have as well, that a spiritual director was even an option. Your spiritual director does not have to be a priest or nun, but someone who is further along the path of holiness than you are. In training for a sport, you seek out someone who has mastered that sport, so you too, should we seek a spiritual director who excels in the path of holiness. The point of this is, your spiritual director would assist you with your prayer and devotional life to help you grow in closeness and love of God so that you don’t feel so much that you are in a

revolving door of Sin, Confess & Repeat. Your spiritual director will give you “prayer exercises” to help you. Yes, you might commit the same sins again but hopefully less often and with a greater resolve you will remain sin-free. Now about receiving communion, we should receive communion as often as possible, and we should do this with a clear conscience. The simple reason is the receiving of Holy Communion is the action that finishes Confession and prepares you for heaven. If you should die today... you would desire a clean conscience for none of us knows the hour of our calling.

“All have sinned. All have fallen short of the glory of God.”-Roman 3:23

PARISHIONER: Thank You.

(The above account is true. The question was asked by a parishioner. The names have been changed to protect the sinner. Any resemblance to the Parishioner sitting next to you is a coincidence.)