

May 31, 2015

Sunday of All Saints

May 30 (Sat) **Divine Liturgy** 5:00pm

May 31 (Sun) **Sunday of All Saints**
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Jean Dzura req'd by Michael & Brenda Bache

June 1 (Mon) **Funeral for Fr. Cuthbert Jack**
St. Mary Church, Homer City, Pa.

June 3 (Wed) **Divine Liturgy** 8:30am
+Fr. Cuthbert Jack

June 5 (Fri) **Divine Liturgy** 8:30am

June 6 (Sat) **Divine Liturgy** 5:00pm
+Bernadette Squeglia req'd by Bill & Denise Wasko

June 7 (Sun) **Divine Liturgy** 10:30am
+Margaret Mihalick req'd by Jack & Sue Sabol



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of May 31 thru June 6 for the health and welfare of the parishioners of St. Stephen.

May 24, 2015

Sunday collection: \$1,645.00

PRAYER LIST



Let us remember in our prayers all of our Friends and Parish Family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all those who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diane Abraham, Marion Campbell, Rose Chomanics, John Fekete, Richard Heckel, Marie Klotz, Alice Kohan, Carl Magdic, Fran Mogush, Fr. Anselm Orlosky, Joseph Rusinko, Maria Rusinko, Terry Soltis, Cecelia Stephan, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

HELPING HANDS DAY

One of the hallmarks of a Christian community is the willingness to reach out and help each other, especially in times of need. Obviously, we cannot go to Nepal and help after the earthquake, and most of us cannot go to Texas and the other states affected by the recent severe flooding. We often assist from a distance by sending donations to the agencies that offer aid in such situations, and we certainly try to support them with our prayers and good wishes.

But there are also times when we can actually reach out and physically offer the work of our hands to others. Such an opportunity is awaiting us later this week.



Each year around the first Saturday of June, a special event takes place at Mount St Macrina in Uniontown PA. This is called **Helping Hands Day**. It is a day in which we are invited to assist on the grounds of Mt Macrina in Uniontown. The work normally consists of cleaning up the grounds after the harsh winter.

It means raking leaves, weeding flower beds, planting new flowers, cutting grass and weed-whacking, etc. There is also inside work for those who prefer this. There are guest buildings to be spruced up and the normal cleaning chores.

This event will take place this Saturday, 5 June 2015, beginning at 9.30 am. If you can lend a few hours of work, the Sisters will be grateful to you. Please bring rakes, brooms, weed-whackers, and whatever other toys you like to play with! It will be a great time! And ... lunch will be provided!

If you have any questions, please contact Fr John. He will be happy to provide you with a pair of work gloves!!!



SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

On this first Sunday after Pentecost we commemorate all the Saints throughout the ages ... women and men ... martyrs and monks ... known and unknown ...

This feast flows directly from Pentecost ... the pouring out of the Holy Spirit.

The Saints are those who have *accepted* this gift of the Holy Spirit and who have let their lives be directed by the Spirit.

We all live with various tensions. One of these tensions is that of living according to our own will ... or allowing ourselves to be directed by God's call.

At first, it seems rather easy to say that we want to live according to God's will for us. Most of us truly want to do that. The difficulty comes when we begin to feel the inner clash ... the tension between what seems to be the call of God in my life ... and what I would rather do!

Many times we know the right thing to do or say. We just do not want to do it! At times we fear what others would think ... at other times we simply do not want to upset the status quo. Sometimes we simply lack the courage to live up to our convictions.

Here is where we need the Saints. They are our *models* ... our examples of people from every age and style of life ... who dared to live up to their convictions ... or better, who dared to listen to the voice of God within them and took the risk involved in following it.

May they now intercede with God for us ... that we might have the courage to live up to our convictions.

ETERNAL MEMORY!

Our Archeparchy was saddened this week to hear of the untimely death of Fr Cuthbert Jack, OSB, a monk of St Vincent Archabbey and the parish priest of St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer City PA. Fr Cuthbert was a bi-ritual priest, that is, a Roman Catholic priest who has the blessing of the Archbishop and of his Archabbot to also serve in the Byzantine Catholic Church.



Fr Cuthbert fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, 29 May 2015, and his funeral will take place at St Mary Church in Homer City PA on Monday, 1 June 2015. Hence there will be no Divine Liturgy here at St Stephen Church on that day. May his memory be eternal! Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat'!

Because of the shortage of clergy, a number of generous priests have obtained bi-ritual faculties and are now serving in the Byzantine Catholic Church. They normally undergo a thorough preparation for serving the Byzantine Divine Liturgy and the other Services, often spending time studying at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.

We are grateful to these priests for their interest in and service to our Church.

In other words, we can *all* do something! We can't wait for someone else. We can't wait for the Archeparchy to do something. We need to be the *personal ambassadors* for our Church and invite others to join us. We need to reach out, especially to those who have no parish at this present time or to former parishioners who may have drifted away for various reasons.

Finally, two questions also resulted in very interesting statistics.

* Should the law allowing the divorced and remarried to receive the Eucharist be changed?

0	Yes	608
0	No	211
0	Not Sure	161

*I uphold the church and its teaching about marriage, divorce, and birth control.

0	Completely	478
0	Partially	468
0	Not at all	45

This gives us a glimpse of how the people in our Church are thinking, and it gives our Archbishop a better idea of the thinking of the people he represents at the Synod.

SURVEY ON FAMILIES

In Preparation for the Synod in October

As you recall, earlier this spring, a survey was distributed in our parishes asking for input from parishioners to give to the Archbishop as he prepares to participate in the *Synod on Family Life* in Rome this fall. This Synod is a gathering of select bishops from around the world to discuss issues in family life today. Archbishop William will be a participant.

At the recent gathering of our clergy, the results of this survey were distributed. As your parish priest, I would like to share some of the results of this survey. This should be of interest to our parishioners.



In the Byzantine Catholic parishes across the United States, 1022 surveys were returned. Of these, 40% came from parishes in our Archeparchy. The vast majority came from married couples, followed by single persons and then widow and widowers. A lesser number came from the divorced and separated.

In the age categories, most came from those over age 50, and then the group from age 30-50 came next. Only 5% came from those under age 30.

In terms of invigorating the vitality of our parishes, almost all categories pointed to the *personal* and *direct approaches to inviting people into the life of our parishes*. Large Archeparchial programs, printed materials and publicity all ranked very low in terms of building up parish life.