

SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!  
SLAVA VO V'IKI



GLORY TO JESUS CHIRST!  
GLORY FOREVER!

February 7, 2016

### Sunday of Cheese Fare

***Please remember in your prayers*** those confined to home, nursing facility or hospital. *Please pray especially for Brother Gus, OFM, Barbara C., John, Margaret, Tom, Deacon Richard, Hiromi, Tammy, Darren, Theresa, Bill, Bernice, Augustina, Fr. Greg and Fr. Jody.* If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please give a written note or email to Fr. Jerome or Deacon Larry. Communion calls are made on the week of the first Friday of each month. Please call the rectory if you or a family member wishes to be visited, either permanently or temporarily. Don't wait until there is a crisis to call. The sacraments should be brought to the sick on a regular basis.

***Pirohi making sessions will not be held*** this Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that we will have a sale on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Baked goods would be appreciated. Pirohi making sessions will resume on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

***St. John Bingo*** is held every Tuesday night in the church hall. Doors open at 4:30 PM and bingo begins at 6:00 PM. Please patronize our parish bingo and bring a friend!

***Aluminum Cans*** – We are still collecting aluminum cans to help in raising funds for the parish. You can bring the cans in whenever the church is open for Divine Liturgy, or call the rectory to make other arrangements for dropping off cans. Please remember: *aluminum cans only* and please be sure all liquids have been removed.

***Good News about Phone Numbers*** – When I called Verizon to finalize details about the new phone lines, the agent I spoke with was **able to port our current phone numbers** to Verizon service. I do not understand why the first agent was unable to do this, but it was worth asking and waiting almost 90 minutes on the phone for this to go through.

***Boyer's Market Rebate-*** As listed in weekly income above, we have received \$141.67 from Boyer's Markets as a rebate for those using the Boyer's rebate card. We thank those who have been using the cards. If there is anyone who wants additional cards, please call the rectory. Thank You.



## ***From the Pastor – Gospel Reflections***

Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

Jesus says three things in today's Gospel: forgive those who transgress against you, do not look gloomy when fasting, and store up treasure in heaven rather than storing earthly things. How does he move from one thing to the next?

St John Chrysostom tells us, “Do you wish to receive mercy? Then show mercy to your neighbor.” If mercy or forgiveness were some kind of treasure we could hold, it would be like the manna the Jews were given in the desert: hoarding it caused it to go bad. Instead, mercy, forgiveness, and love have the awesome property that sharing them increases how much you have. Like a good investment, investing your mercy – even in a person who has not shown you mercy – results in more mercy for you, if not from that person, at least from God and perhaps from others who see the mercy you extended.

When we make a sacrifice – whether fasting during Lent or giving to others – we do this with joy in our hearts. Out of love, we sacrifice. If we are only following rules grudgingly, it can be difficult to accept the love of God that is the purpose of fasting and generous giving. So when we have mixed feelings, the advice Jesus gives is especially helpful: wash your face and realize the joyful love that prompts you to sacrifice. First place in our hearts is reserved for the joyful love of Christ. This is exactly that heavenly treasure that Jesus wants to share with us, the treasure sweeter than all the passing joys of this life.

***Read it again: Matthew 6:14-21***

***The Great Fast: more than bitter fasting, it is a time of joyous feasting!***

FAST from judging others ... FEAST on the Christ within others.  
FAST from emphasizing differences ... FEAST on the unity of life.  
FAST from thoughts of illness ... FEAST on the healing power of God.  
FAST from words that pollute ... FEAST on phrases that purify.  
FAST from discontent ... FEAST on gratitude.

## ***Lent: A Time for Mercy***

***Our Holy Father's Lenten message*** this year begins with a Scripture quote from the Gospel of Matthew, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice". (Matthew: 9, 13; which points back to the same words in Hosea: 6,6.)

Do you remember the Sisters drilling into our heads to give up something during Lent? Candy, soda, and ice cream were tough things to give up as a child. And we all joked we would rather give up school, homework, and chores. Forget the hard things and instead give up the easy ones. That's not exactly what Pope Francis has in mind. He would like all of us to incorporate the Spiritual Works of Mercy into our Lenten journey. But how is this a sacrifice? If it is difficult for you to do, if you have to go out of your way to make it happen, or if you have to step out of your comfort zone – it's a sacrifice. Just as there are many ways to perform the Corporal Works of Mercy, it is the same with the Spiritual Works.

**BEARING WRONGS PATIENTLY:** Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. The tough part about this one? Everything! It is not in our nature to stand by quietly while someone tears us apart. Someone cut you off while driving? I try (*try*) to say a Hail Mary for the person. I don't always succeed and sometimes it is said through gritted teeth!

*Kate Kleinert, OFS, Minister of St Katharine Drexel Region of the Secular Franciscan Order*

## ***Cantor Training starts again February 11 at Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville***

We have just been notified that there will be cantor training on Thursday February 11, 6-9pm. Whether you feel called to become a cantor or reader, or simply wish to know more about the chant tradition of our church, you are welcome to attend this class. Contact Phil Yevics [570-239-0611](tel:570-239-0611) or [philyevics@gmail.com](mailto:philyevics@gmail.com) for more information.

## ***Rediscover Jesus ... Best Lent Ever!***

For those of you who received or purchased a copy of the book Rediscover Jesus, please note that DynamicCatholic.com has a free program based on this book to send a short inspirational video each day during Lent (starting with the Roman Catholics on Ash Wednesday). Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/Lent -- If you would like to see the videos but do not have email access, please speak with Fr Jerome who will show these videos in the rectory.

***If you have not received a copy of Rediscover Jesus, you can purchase one from Fr Jerome for \$2 ... or receive one for free by asking for him to bless your home.***

***Please remember to return your parish census forms as soon as possible. You may return the forms by placing them in the collection basket. Thank You!***

***House Blessings 2016:*** Forms are in the vestibule to sign up to have your house blessed. Fr Jerome and Deacon Larry have a special gift for each family that requests a house blessing. Sign up today! ***Census and House Blessing forms may be returned in the collection.***

### ***Parish Calendar***

#### ***Forgiveness Vespers Sunday***

***February 7 at 3:00 PM***

Prepare for the Great Fast by praying to God for the grace to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. Reconcile with others.

**Join us for a pot-luck in the parish hall after vespers.**

***Food Sale*** – On Wednesday, February

10, we will have a food sale in the church hall beginning at 10:00 AM until sold out. Featured will be pirohi, either cooked or frozen, haluski, soup and a bake sale. Parishioners are invited to bring in items for the bake sale.

***Moleben to Mary at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 11, at St Mary's Byzantine Church, Hazleton,*** in celebration of the jubilee year of mercy. The side door to St Mary's Church has been marked as a special door of mercy for our region.

### **February 2016**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

www.free-printable-calendar.net

**24 Hours for the Lord: Friday March 4, 9am-9pm, and Saturday March 5, 6am-6pm.** The church will be open these extra hours for prayer and opportunity for Confession and Reconciliation. See the poster in the vestibule for a detailed schedule. If you would like to help lead a prayer during this time (rosary or other devotion), please speak with Fr Jerome.

**Saturday March 12, 9:00 AM** Akathist to the Mother of God (Church). **10-11:30am** “Why, O Lord?” Fr Vasyl Chepelskyy speaks about suffering and the Christian life (Parish Hall). Details on the poster in the vestibule. Please mark this date and time on your calendar.

**Great Fast 2016** – The Great Fast offers opportunities for prayer, discipline and generosity. The weekday schedule will be the same as last year with Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays & Fridays, and Monday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. The other weekdays we will have Typica at 9:00 AM. See your church calendar for fasting rules which help train our discipline. Please be extra generous with the poor as a sign of God’s mercy to the

**Great Fast Liturgy Intentions** can be offered at the weekday Typica or Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts. Because these services use presanctified gifts, you need not offer the usual \$15 stipend requested for Divine Liturgy of St John or St Basil. The “stipend” you offer is a gift to the priest or deacon who leads the service, in gratitude for including prayers for your intention.

## ***From the Prophet Jeremiah***

The word of the Lord came to thus:

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,  
before you were born I dedicated you  
a prophet to the nations, I appointed you.

Ah, Lord God I said,

I know not how to speak; I am too young.

But the Lord answered me,

Say not, “I am too young” to whomever I send  
you, you shall go

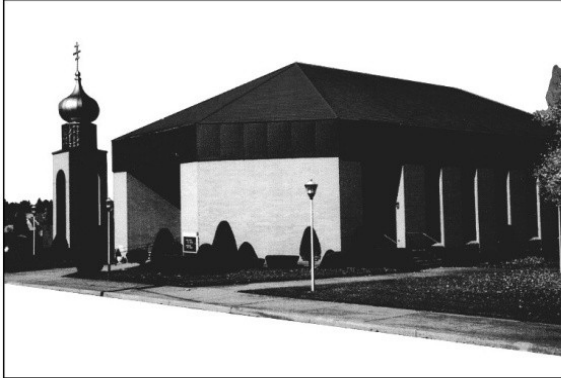
Whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Have no fear before them, because I am with  
you to deliver you

Jeremiah 1: 1-8



***Reflections on the Epistle*** –In the Epistle from St. Paul for Cheesefare Sunday, we might reflect on what we did this past week. How much of it was focused on the awareness of the coming of the Lord? Most people, caught up in the daily pressures and business of life, tend to forget the big picture. They forget that Christ will again come in glory and that He will be the ultimate judge of the living and the dead. St. Paul exhorts us to cast off the darkness of this world and put on the “armor of light,” our Lord Jesus Christ. During the Great Fast, one of our responsibilities is to love with patience, be tolerant of others and not to judge our brethren. We may be prone to judge others who are different from us. So, we should make an effort to accept one another and love one another, in spite of our differences.  
(Romans 13: 11-14, 14: 1-4)



## **st john the baptist byzantine catholic church**

5 East 20th Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania  
office/rectory: 570-454-1142  
hall/kitchen: 570-454-9075 (Bingo & food orders)

Fr Jerome Wolbert, ofm, Pastor  
jeromeofm@yahoo.com 570-401-8684 (cell)

Deacon Lawrence Foran  
sjohnbyz@ptd.net 570-956-1140 (cell)

[www.facebook.com/stjohnbyz.hazleton](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnbyz.hazleton)

[plus.google.com/+StJohnsByzantineCatholicChurchHazleton](https://plus.google.com/+StJohnsByzantineCatholicChurchHazleton)

### **Sacramental Mysteries:**

**Confession (Repentance & Reconciliation) Saturday 3:30-4pm and by appointment.**

**Baptism, Chrismation, Becoming Byzantine Catholic: Please meet with Fr Jerome or Deacon Larry.**

**Holy Matrimony (Weddings): Planning must begin at least six months in advance.**

**No date can be set until all paperwork is in order. Pre-Cana classes held every Spring.**

**Please contact Fr Jerome or Deacon Larry to set up an initial meeting.**

**Holy Anointing for Healing: on request in church after Liturgy or call Fr Jerome.**

**Eucharist: for those unable to attend church, contact Deacon Larry for temporary or on-going visits.**