May 27, 2018
SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Liturgical Schedule

May 26 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
For our Parish Family

May 27 (Sun) Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
+William Timko req by Eleanor Timko Family

June 2 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
+Theodore Druga req by Mr & Mrs Al Harella

June 3 (Sun) Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
+Anna Marie Borosky req by Pat Pierro

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 27 thru June 2 for all deceased veterans of our parish.

May 20, 2018
Our Tithe to our Parish—$2,000.00

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 who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Fr. John Petro, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES

If you are graduating from high school, college, university, etc. this spring, please contact the parish office this week, preferable on Monday or Tuesday.

REDSTONE HIGHLANDS
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

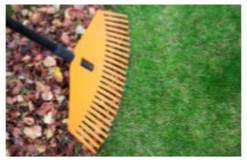
Redstone Highlands, right around the corner from our church on Lincoln Way, is offering a number of full time, part time and casual opportunities for employment. These include maintenance, housekeeping and facility workers. It also includes caregivers, nursing assistants, licensed nurses and nurse aid training.

For more information, please see the poster at the entrance of the church, or call: 724.972.4788.

HELPING HANDS DAY

Each year at this time, the GCU partners with the Sisters of St Basil in Uniontown to help clean up the grounds from the winter debris, to clean up the flower beds, to plant flowers, trim shrubs, weed whacking, etc. Everyone, young and not so young, is invited to lend a hand for a few hours on this day.

This year much help is needed since first a tornado touched down on the grounds, uprooting 16 trees. Since then, storms have brought down another huge oak tree. Although the limbs have been cut from the trees, there is still much small debris that needs to be cleaned up.



The grounds are not only used for the annual Pilgrimage over the Labor Day weekend, there are many Days of Prayer, Retreats, Meetings, etc. that take place over the summer months. We all want the grounds, which represent the image of our church, to look good and inviting for prayer and reflection.

This year the **Helping Hands Day** will take place on Saturday, 2 June, beginning at 9:00 am. Bring your weed whackers, rakes, gardening tools, etc. and mainly your generous spirit. Hope to see you there.

If you are unable to participate, perhaps you would want to help by making a monetary contribution toward the purchase of flowers to be used in the beautification of the grounds. Checks should be made payable to:

Helping Hands Day (Mount St Macrina)
GCU Fraternal Dept.
5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver PA 15009

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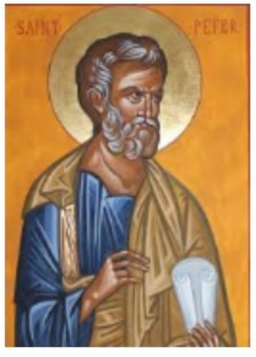
"Taking Up the Cross"

Seminarian Paul Varchola West

In this Sunday's Gospel, we receive some rather difficult advice from Jesus. At first glance, it seems as if He is placing upon us some rather impossible demands in order to attain salvation. Christ tells us in Matthew 10:37 that "Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son and daughter more than me is not worthy of me," concluding in verse 38 that "Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Wow! That is pretty pointed advice that is not exactly easy to hear. Are we to forsake our family in order to follow Christ? What about the commandment to "honor thy father and mother?" Is that no longer applicable now that Christ has come into the world? If I do not suffer (through "taking up the cross"), will I still inherit eternal life? What seems like straight forward advice raises quite a few difficult questions. I know I find these types of passages rather difficult to digest and I'm sure there are many of us who are made a bit uncomfortable when we hear Christ say these things as we view the abundance in our lives. Why are these direct passages so complex?



We are in good company, however, as we are not alone in our questioning. St. Peter himself, one of Christ's closest and most trusted companions replies to His demands by saying, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" (Mt 19:27) This sentiment is rather difficult for me to talk about as it hits far too close to home. During the more difficult times, I tend to identify with St. Peter as I begin to question my resolve. It is very easy for me to slip into the following mindset: "Here, I have left my home, my job, my family and friends - all I know - to come to seminary. Even worse, I have forced my wife to do the same and I have dragged my family along with me. I have done all this and what do I have to show for it?" This is exactly the danger that Christ warns against in the passages I have outlined in the previous paragraph.

Note the language usage: it is what "I" have done, "MY" home, job and friends, what "I" forced "MY" wife to do. Even St. Peter asks, "What will WE HAVE?" What Christ is warning against is not forsaking the ones we love, but rather He is calling us to avoid this type of self-centered thinking. While it is completely natural for a parent to worry about their children, the bills, their spouse and even their own aging parents, one must ask, "Am I worrying for their sake or am I worrying for my own?" Christ is gently reminding us here that if we let these worries consume us, worrying more about the here and now than the larger picture, we are forgetting about Him. To love our parents and to care for our children is to love and care for Christ. To take up our daily burdens, from the mundane to the heroic, always keeping Christ at the center, is to take up the Cross of Christ and to live (and ultimately die) for others. If we keep our head down, always worrying about today, we miss the bigger picture: Christ Himself.

Today's Gospel from Matthew concludes with Christ saying the following: "But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first" (Mt 19:30). Christ has something far greater in store for us than the day to day trials of earthly life. To transcend these trials, to live a Christian life, to be selfless in our care for one another is to indeed put Christ before all others while still loving those around us. The "cross" Christ is asking us to take up is one of selfless love. He is by no means asking us to forsake our loved ones. One the contrary, He is asking something far greater of us: He is asking us to love them not for ourselves, but for Him.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. Many people still designate it as such. It was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first celebrated on May 30, 1868, to commemorate them after General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic made a proclamation on May 5 in General Order No. 11 that:

"The 30th of May 1868 is desig-nated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance, no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit." During the first May 30, 1868 celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried in the cemetery.

CLERGY DAYS

This week, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Annual Clergy Days will take place. This is the time each year that all the priests (and the deacons who can make it) gather for further education and to discuss business matters of the Archeparchy. They will take place at the Cathedral in Munhall PA.

Please remember in prayer our Archeparchy at this time since so many important matters must be discussed and decision made. We count on your prayers during these days.