O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified, for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth. Through them You led us to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory to You!

My son Titus, this saying is true, and in this matter, I want to insist that those who believe in God be careful to excel in good works; these are good and useful to people. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and quarrels, and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and futile. Avoid a factious man after warning him one or twice, knowing that such a man is perverted and sins, since he is condemning himself.

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Help Zenas the lawyer and Apolos on their way, taking care that they lack nothing. And let our people also learn to excel in good works, in order to help cases of urgent need so that they may not be unfruitful. All my companions greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

0 God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds you did in their days, in the days of old. For you saved us from those who afflicted us and have put to shame those who hated us.

The Lord said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but upon the lamp-stand, so as to give light to all in the house. Even so let your light shine before men, in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one letter or one stroke shall be lost from the Law till all things have been accomplished. Therefore whoever does away with one of these least commandments, and so teaches men, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever carries them out and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”
2020 WEEKLY COLLECTION
July 12
Weekly Offering $ 685.00
Liturgy Intentions $ 20.00
Candles $ 15.00
Total: $ 720.00
Thank you for your support!

EVENTS IN JULY
Saturday, July 18, 2020
Great Vespers 3:15 p.m.
Sunday Divine Liturgy 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 19, 2020
Resurrectional Orthros 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Divine Liturgy
St. Joseph Church Scranton, Penna. 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS
18 July†Frank Milewski
from Bill Weller
19 July†A.J. Bolus,
newly fallen asleep in the Lord
†Frank Milewski
from St. Joseph Ladies Society
19 July†Michael Barron
from St. Joseph Ladies Society
25 July†Michael Barron
from Anthony and Kathie Barrett
26 July†Frank Milewski
from Anthony and Kathie Barrett
01 August†Frank Milewski
from Deborah and Connie Parente

Blessing of Vehicles after the Divine Liturgy

2020 FOOD FESTIVAL NEWS
DATES:
Friday, August 7: 4 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Saturday, August 8: 4 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Sunday, August 9: 1 P.M. - 7 P.M.

FOOD PREPARATION:
Grape leave-making August 4, 2020 : 4 p.m.
Grape leave-making August 5, 2020: 4.p.m.

FOOD FESTIVAL DONATION SHEET
Emailed with the bulletin
and posted in the back of the church

2020 Second Quarter Financial Report
in the back of the church
FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

On the Sunday following the 13th of July – or on that day if it is a Sunday – the Church commemorates the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 in opposition to the heresy of ‘Monophysism’ (Greek: mono- one, physis – nature) that was led by the two heretics, Eutyches and Dioscorus.

The Bible reading dedicated to this commemoration is from the Gospel of Matthew 5:14-19, from a segment known as the ‘Sermon of the Lord on the Mount’. This Gospel reading contains three central ideas: That disciples are “the light of the world”, that Christ did not come “to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfil them”, and the idea of combining practice with teaching, “he who does and teaches shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven”.

The Church has chosen this particular reading because it applies to the lives of the 630 Holy Fathers whose commemoration we hold today. Indeed, they were the “light of the world”. They illuminated the universe with their divine teachings, and they were a spiritual light, a beacon for humanity and a lamp that lit up the Church and the path towards truth in Orthodox doctrine.

In the Matins, we read: “Ye truly were shown, O blessed Fathers, unto the world as luminous stars bright with the truth of Christ that have shone most brilliantly on the earth.” They were a light to the world, not only with their divine teachings but also through the example of their life of holiness.

In the Bible, ‘light’ refers to the knowing of the truth, just as darkness indicates the ignorance of it (or not knowing the true God). That is why the Bible states that after the baptism of the Lord Jesus and His initiation of evangelisation, the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned” (Matthew 4:16; Isaiah 9: 2).

The Lord affirmed: “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”(John 8:12). He then said to His disciples: “You are the light of the world.” That is, you will reflect the light of Christ in your life and work. In the prayers of the Vespers, we chant the Apolitikion of the Holy Fathers: “Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.” Those God-mantled blessed Fathers assembled together in Chalcedon to refute and respond to the false teaching (heresy) of the false preachers (heretics) Eutyches and Dioscorus, who stated that in the person of Jesus Christ the human nature was absorbed into the divine nature like a cube of sugar dissolves in a cup of water. Therefore, Christ was left with only one nature, the Divine!

During the convening of this council, the Holy Fathers emphasised the unity of the person of Christ and the two natures of Christ: divine and human. In this teaching and identification