

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK

8th Sunday After Pentecost, August 7, 2011

9:00 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

11:00 AM Lit. + Nicholas & Olga Koval r/by Linda Coyne

Friday, August 12, 20118:00 AM Lit. + Charles, Anna, Nick, Olga, Judith
Dachishen - Legate**Saturday, August 13, 2011**

8:00 AM Lit. + Col. Joseph Petronis - Legate

5:00 PM Lit. + Lillian Henderson r/by Doris Wysocki

9TH Sunday After Pentecost, August 14, 2011

Epistle - 1 Cor. 3:9-17, Gospel - Mt 14:22-34

9:00 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

11:00 AM Lit. Special Intention Irene & Emil Dochych
r/by Ed & Alice Gregory**Epistle Readers, 11:00 a.m. Liturgy:**

Joan Zaleski	8/7/11
Kenneth Bialkowski	8/14/11
Kathy Lis	8/21/11
Peter Baralecki	8/28/11
Nancy Bialkowski	9/4/11

August Pyrohy Sale

If you wish to place an order please use the order sheets in the church vestibule. Potato pyrohy will be sold on Aug. 18 and 21, sauerkraut pyrohy will be sold on Aug. 25 and 28. Please see the order sheets for details!

Holy Dormition Pilgrimage

The 57th HOLY DORMITION (ASSUMPTION) PILGRIMAGE will be held at St. Mary's Villa, Sloatsburg, NY, sponsored by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, honoring the Mother of God on Saturday and Sunday, August 13-14. Our Lady, Mother of God, invites all of us to a greater good. We work together to make a difference in the world. We strive to bring the Gospel message of God's love and compassion to the people entrusted to our care. For more information please see the flyer in the vestibule and at the side entrance of the Church.

Annual Frackville-Maizeville Picnic**Sat. and Sun. August 20-21**

Food and live dance music will be featured at the Annual Picnic which will be held Saturday, August 20, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, August 21, from 12 noon to 8 p.m., at St. John's Picnic Grove here on Main Street (Route 54) in Maizeville. The picnic is jointly sponsored by the parishioners of both St. John's Church, Maizeville and St. Michael's Church, Frackville. Saturday dance music will be provided by *The Pennsylvania Good Times*, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday dance music will be provided by *The Pennsylvania Villagers* from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission and parking are free and the picnic is held rain or shine. Seating is provided in the large enclosed dance hall and under several large tents that are set up on the spacious 5 acre property. Ethnic foods, as well as open fire kettle bean soup will be sold. Homemade desserts, hand-dipped ice cream, theme baskets, beverages, games will also be available. St. John's Picnic Grove is located on Main Street in Gilberton approximately one mile west of the Gilberton exit off of Route 924 in Schuylkill County, Pa.

Church Organizations

Please submit in writing, or by email, to the rectory, a schedule of meeting dates and any event information for the calendar for the month of September no later than August 23.

**Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord,
God and Savior Jesus Christ**

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6. The feast commemorates the transfiguration or metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

Scriptural Account

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. This reference to the booths could imply that this occurred during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews would be camping out in the fields for the grape harvest; for this Feast had acquired other associations in the course of its history, including the memory of the wanderings in the wilderness recorded in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus. As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead.

Blessing of Fruit

The feast of the Transfiguration falls during that time when the fruits of the earth reach maturity. From the earliest times in the Eastern Church, on this day fruit is blessed in thanksgiving to God for the first-fruits of the earth. This custom was adopted by the Christian Church from the Old Testament which prescribed that fruit be brought to the Temple of the Lord. In the Book of Exodus we read: "You shall carry the first-fruits of the corn of your ground to the house of the Lord your God." (23,19)

The Sixth Ecumenical Council of 691 spoke of the blessing of the first-fruits of grapes (the vine) and wheat. In the Typicons of the Great Church of Constantinople from the ninth-tenth century no mention was made of the blessing of the vine, that is, grapes. In Greece, in the month of August grapes and wheat, which are the more important fruits, reach their maturity. For this reason, the custom of blessing the grapes and ears of wheat in church on the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord prevailed there. In Rus-Ukraine, grapes of the vine were replaced by apples and other fruits.

