

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday After Christmas, December 29, 2013**

9:00 AM Lit. Sp. Int. Robert Matthew Cheloc
r/by Yurechko Family

11:30 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

Monday, December 30, 2013

No Liturgy Scheduled

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

5:00 PM Lit. Health and Blessings for the New Year
r/by Edith Kovalczyk

Wednesday, January 1, 2014**Circumcision of Our Lord**

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

Thursday, January 2, 2014

7:20 AM Lit. + Philip, Anna, Helen, John, Nicholas,
Steve, Marie Romanko - Legate

Friday, January 3, 2014

7:20 AM Lit. + Arlene Lampart (40th Day) r/by Family

Saturday, January 4, 2014

8:00 AM Lit. + Wolodymyr Lewkowicz r/by Wife, Tekla

5:00 PM Lit. + Diane Zaremba r/by Family

Sunday Before Theophany, January 5, 2014

Epistle - 2 Tim 4:5-8; Gospel - Mk 1:1-8

9:00 AM Lit. + Oleksa Kuzyszyn; Stefania & Mykola
Nahirnyj r/by Kuzyszyn Family

11:30 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

New Year's Eve Dance, "Zabava"**- Volunteers Needed**

The New Year's Eve Dance on Tuesday, December 31, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. is a Church sponsored event and proceeds will defray the expenses of the church's property insurance, which last year was over thirty-two thousand dollars.

Please consider volunteering your services for several hours, whether in the kitchen, helping with decorations, or cleanup on the day after. Volunteers are needed for Sunday, Dec. 29 starting at 3 PM, Monday Dec. 30 starting at 6 PM, and Tues. Dec. 31 starting at noon. Sign up sheets are in the church hall. Please come and help if you can! Both men and women are needed!

Theophany House Blessings

This year, the traditional home blessings are by request only, and will take place during the month of January. If you wish to have your home blessed, please sign the sheet in the church vestibule or call the rectory at 732-826-0767.

Prospora (Holy Supper)

On the evening of January 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM, we will hold a Prospora, Holy Supper, the traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve supper. There is no charge, but you must sign up so that we can set enough places for all. We are also asking those attending to bring a dish (enough to feed their family plus a little extra) or other item. The food will be shared. The menu should conform to traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve type foods, whatever your family usually prepares. If you do not cook or bake, you can help with other items. A sign-up sheet is available in the church hall.

Church Renovation Fund

\$1,000.00 - Ann Marie Stek, in memory of
+ STEK and PIKUS FAMILIES

\$200.00 - Ernest Moryan, in memory of
+ GEORGE LADAY JR.

Bishop Gabro School Endowment Fund

\$1,000.00 - Ernest Moryan,
In loving memory of Wife, Anna

We Are the Church

So, why do we drag ourselves out of bed on Sunday mornings and make the trek to East Herkimer? Habit? Obligation? Piety? Fulfillment? Our answers are often these and more, and may not be the same from week to week. It is also just as easy to do the contrary and stay home. Tired? Ill? Overcommitted? Angry? Newspaper and breakfast? There will always be a Liturgy again next week... These answers are equally varied and, at times, valid for those who are "absent with just cause," but they are more often easily rebutted.

Do we come for the beauty of the edifice, the icons, the hymnody, the sermon? While these are often pleasant, what we tend to forget is they are only external aspects of the Liturgy. Our presence at Church should not be solely for our emotional support, or even for working on our salvation, important though they are, but the simple fact that without our presence the Church ceases to be. The essence of the Church is the coming together of believers to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ our Savior, to join with Him, with the Saints, in communion with other Orthodox believers, with all that have gone before and all that will come, in a singular point of time - outside of time. And we do that not simply by attending, but by active participation in the Divine Liturgy. The priests, the deacons, the choir and the people all contribute. The people say the word "I" in only two places in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostomos - the Creed and the Communion Prayer, everything else said by the people is as a corporate act. To be Christian is to be in the Community, in the Church and of the Church.

We have a weekly opportunity to experience heaven on earth, to live momentarily in eternity "putting aside all earthly cares," and to renew in ourselves a right spirit so that we may, by putting on Christ, be able to keep the faith, fight the good fight, and be the proper Christian example to our families, our friends and our community. And maybe, take one more step on that long journey toward heaven.

My dear parishioners, in the New Year of 2014, don't just come for the services out of habit, don't just come to Church - Be a part of the Church! God bless you and Happy New Year!

Carteret Malanka

St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka that will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret, NJ. Entertainment provided by Luna Band. Tickets are \$60, which includes admission, hot dinner buffet, open bar and a midnight champagne toast. The St. Demetrius Center is located just blocks from exit 12 of the NJ Turnpike. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Dinner promptly served at 7:00 pm. For tickets and more information, please call Hala Kaskiw at (908) 322-6964 or Roman Rubas at (732) 969-1594. Dinner tickets will not be sold at the door. Deadline for tickets is January 5. Tickets for zabava and open bar only after 9:00pm are \$40.

Donation Envelopes

Be sure to clearly check off or write the amount of your donation on all envelope offerings. If you do not do so, you will not be credited.

Envelopes for 2014 may be picked up in the church hall. Please do not use the new envelopes until January 1, 2014. If you cannot find your envelopes, contact Fr. Ivan or the parish secretary. If you wish to have envelopes for your child(ren) please contact the secretary.