

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK

4th Sunday of the Great Fast, March 6, 2016
9:00 AM Lit. For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners
11:30 AM Lit. + Andrew Mahasky
r/by Missionary Sisters of Mother of God
Monday, March 7, 2016
No Liturgy Scheduled
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross (English)
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
8:45 AM - Lit. + Wasyl & Mary Cap - Legate
6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross (Ukrainian)
Thursday, March 10, 2016
No Liturgy Scheduled
Friday, March 11, 2016
6:30 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, March 12, 2016
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Lenten Commemoration
5:00 PM Lit. + Glenys Romanko r/by Children
5th Sunday of the Great Fast, March 13, 2016
Epistle - Heb 9:11-14; Gospel - Mk 10:32-45
9:00 AM Lit. For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners
11:30 AM Lit. + John Diakun r/by Wife, Jeanette

Gift Auction in Perth Amboy, NJ. - Today!
St. Ann’s Society “Bunny Hop Tricky Tray” Gift Auction is being held today, Sunday, March 6, 2016 in our school auditorium. Doors open at 12:00 p.m. and auction starts at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$8. Free Cake, Coffee and Tea. The kitchen will be open for lunch. Tickets are available at the door.

Senior Citizens Club will meet on Thursday, March 10 at 12 noon in the church hall.

St. Ann Society will meet on Sunday, March 13 after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy. Hostesses are Ann Boyko and Kristen Celecki.

Sviachene
Our parish Easter Dinner has always been an event that united our parish family around a delicious luncheon of traditional Ukrainian Easter foods in our parish hall. This year, the Easter date on the Gregorian calendar is Sunday, March 27 and the Easter date on the Julian calendar is Sunday, May 1, 2016. Due to this fact, there is a 5 week difference between the two dates and it’s hard to find a date that can please all parishioners, so we decided not to have Sviachene this year. Next year, 2017, Easter will fall on the same date for both calendars, Sunday, April 16 and so we will have a big Sviachene Dinner for everyone.

Pastor’s Corner
I just want to take a second to say thanks to all of you for making my 39th birthday very special last Sunday. Thanks to parishioners and parish organizations who offered me birthday wishes and gifts.
Yours in Christ, Fr. Ivan

Are YOU ready for our Lenten Mission 2016?
My dear friends....a Parish Mission is for ALL the faithful. In the history of the Church, so called popular missions are series of instructions, sermons, and devotions conducted in a parish for the spiritual welfare of the people. No one will be forcing you to attend this special event in our parish. But the opportunity is here for you to experience personal growth, spiritual refreshment and invigoration. This is a great opportunity for all of us to receive that spiritual cleansing especially during this Lenten Season in preparation for Pascha-Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As your parish priest I ask you again to please mark your calendars for these special days during which we are ALL called into a deeper relationship with Our Heavenly Father. This year’s Lenten Parish Mission will take place on Palm Sunday weekend, March 19-20. The mission will be conducted by Rev. Yuriy Banga. There will be a spiritual talk at each service scheduled during the Lenten mission and time for the Sacrament of Repentance. Please plan to attend.

Jubilee of Mercy Open Door Ceremony
"A time to Heal, to Help, to Forgive" - Pope Francis
by Deacon Paul Makar

On Sunday February 28, 2016, the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the BVM in Perth Amboy, NJ became an official pilgrimage site for the Holy Year of Mercy. This is one of three parishes in New Jersey that have been designated by Pope Francis and Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan for the clergy, religious, and faithful of our Archeparchy to visit during this Jubilee Year of Mercy and receive a plenary Jubilee Indulgence.

Over 250 people, including clergy, religious and laity participated at the official opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy at Assumption parish. The ceremony began with a procession of the clergy from the rectory to the main entrance of the church. Rev. Taras Lonchyna, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ and Dean of the NJ Deanery, along with Rev. Ivan Turyk, pastor of Assumption parish in Perth Amboy, NJ and visiting priests performed the rite of opening the two main doors of the church. Fr. Taras knocked on the Holy Door with the cross and the blessing of holy water followed, a reminder of our Baptism and our commitment to share God’s message of mercy and reconciliation. After the ceremony, the doors that were decorated by a banner and beautiful floral arrangement, were opened and altar servers, priests and the congregation entered. Fr. Taras Lonchyna together with concelebrating priests and the faithful (pilgrims) began to celebrate the "Akathist to the Divine Passion of Christ." The church was filled to capacity. Confessions were also being heard during this time. At the conclusion of the Akathist service a very moving homily was delivered by Fr. Taras Lonchyna. He emphasized the importance of Mercy and Forgiveness. Echoing Pope Francis - "It is a favorable time to heal wounds, a time to offer everyone the way of Forgiveness and Reconciliation." A gathering followed afterwards in the Church Hall with refreshments. This has been truly a very blessed and special day in the history of the Assumption parish.

Today: 4th Sunday of the Great Fast
We celebrate the Forth Sunday of the Great Fast on which we honor our venerable father, John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Though details of the life of St. John Climacus are sketchy, it is known that he was born in the 6th century and entered the monastic life at an early age. After 40 years of living as a hermit, he was elected abbot of the monastery of St. Catherine at Mount Sinai. Because of his reputation for wisdom and piety, pilgrims traveled from all over the East to visit him. Many miracles were attributed to St. John during his lifetime. Yet it was above all in the gift of spiritual teaching that God manifested His grace in him. Basing his teaching on his personal experience, he generously instructed all those who came to him. This spiritual teaching, however, attracted the jealousy of some who then spread evil rumors about his character. Although his conscience was clear, Abba John stopped teaching for a whole year, convinced that it was better to do some slight harm to his friends rather than to exacerbate the resentment of the wicked. All the inhabitants of the desert were edified at his silence and by this proof of humility, and it was only at the insistence of his repentant detractors that he agreed to receive visitors again. He passed to the Lord on March 30, about 649. Throughout Lent, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, the spiritual classic authored by St. John is read in monasteries. The reading of this book is completed on this, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and so we honor him on this day.

Thank You!
Sincere thanks to all who participated in our Open Door Ceremony for the Year of Mercy last week. In a special way I wish to thank our parishioners who helped prepare for this event: John Baginsky for preparing flyers and banner, Peter Baralecki and his son Andrew for installing banner and flowers garlands, those who participated in the preparation and serving the food, to all who carried banners and to all men, women and children for their participation in this special day of prayer.