

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday After Theophany, January 8, 2017
9:00 AM Lit. + Oleksa Kuzyszyn; Mykola & Stefania Nahirni; Maria Podolsky; Olha & Emil Karas r/by Oksana & Bohdan Kuzyszyn
11:30 AM Lit. For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners
Monday, January 9, 2017
No Liturgy Scheduled
Tuesday, January 10, 2017
7:30 AM Lit. + Philip, Anna, Helen, John, Nicholas, Steve, Marie Romanko - Legate
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
7:30 AM Lit. + Eleanor r/by Makar Family
Thursday, January 12, 2017
7:30 AM Lit. + Helen & Rose Gurneak - Legate
Friday, January 13, 2017
8:45 AM Lit. + Frank Victor r/by Pickering Family
Saturday, January 14, 2017
8:00 AM Lit. + Helen Dzera r/by John & Anna Dzera
5:00 PM Lit. + Caroline Terefenko (1st Anniv.) r/by Daughter, Carolyn
35th Sunday After Pentecost, January 15, 2017
Epistle - Col 3:12-16; Gospel - Lk 18:18-27
9:00 AM Lit. + Dr. Stephan Banach r/by Wife, Melania
11:30 AM Lit. For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners

Parish Christmas Concert

Today, January 8, 2017 after the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy our parish children and choir “Boyan” will have a Christmas concert downstairs in our hall. Hear the old traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols being sung and see our parishioners perform.

St. Ann Society corporate communion will be held at the 11:30 AM Liturgy today. After Liturgy, a Christmas party will be held at the Armory Restaurant.

St. Ann Society Gift Auction

The annual Gift Auction will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2017. Mark your calendars!
Members are reminded that gifts for the auction may be dropped off at Bingo on Wednesday or Friday evenings. Small items may be dropped off at the rectory office during the day (call 732-826-0767).

Theophany House Blessings

The traditional home blessings are by request only, and will take place only from Tuesday January 10 till Saturday, February 4. If you wish to have your home blessed, please sign the sheet in the church vestibule or call the rectory at 732-826-0767.

QUESTIONS ABOUT HOLY WATER

- Q. Does holy water have magical powers?
No. But it is matter that is “spirit-bearing” which brings the blessing of God, cleansing, healing, and can be used for every purpose that is expedient.
- Q. Where should I keep the holy water?
Some keep the holy water in their icon corner and others in the refrigerator.
- Q. When should I drink holy water?
When you feel a spiritual need, that is when you find yourself strongly tempted; feel in an evil way; are about to set out on a journey; will miss the divine services; before a difficult encounter; in illness, afflictions, etc.. It is the custom of some pious people to take a drink of holy water the first thing every day before they eat or drink anything else (not on days when they receive Holy Communion).

Vertep (Nativity Play)

Next Sunday, January 15 at 10:30 am, the parishioners of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, Trenton, NJ, will come to our parish and present a traditional Christmas Vertep Play. All are invited to the free play in the church hall.

Sunday after the Theophany of Our Lord

After Christ was baptized, the first words that He said were: “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” Why? Because after we have been baptized, we are always tempted and the only way to end temptation is to repent. But what exactly do these words mean? What is repentance? Repentance is not just an idea, a thought; it is above all an ACTION. Repentance is a change of mind which leads to a practical and visible change in our way of life.
Yes, it is true, that often we seem to come to Confession with the same sins as before. Yes, it is true, that often we seem to make no progress, that although we have done wrong yet again, we have no tears, no depth of repentance to make us change our way of life. However, this should not mean that we lose hope, that we despair. That would be to fall to another temptation of the demon, the thought that we are unable to repent and that all our efforts are futile. Merely coming to Confession and saying that we are weak, that we have done wrong yet again, that our repentance lacks depth, is an act of repentance in itself. As the Gospel says, we must forgive even unto seven times seventy. Moreover, by continued repentance and the determination to repent, eventually depth of repentance and tears will come to us. On this Sunday we ask Almighty God to grant us the desire for that repentance. Amen.

Holy Water

Holy Water that was blessed on the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord is available at the back of the Church. Please be careful when you are filling your containers so to not spill it on the floor. Remember that this Holy Water is sanctified by the Holy Spirit, so that we by partaking of it may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Ivan’s Communion Visitations

If you know of any parishioners who are sick and unable to come to church for an extended period of time, please inform Fr. Ivan so he can call them up and see about putting them on his home communion visitation schedule on the first Friday of the month.

The Jordan River

The Jordan River has a lengthy association with the Chosen People. Joshua led the Chosen People across the Jordan from the east into the Promised Land near Jericho. King David made his escape from Absalom crossing the Jordan. Elijah and Elisha crossed it just before Elijah was taken up to heaven. Elisha told the Syrian general Naaman to wash himself in the Jordan and be healed. John the Baptist baptized people—including Jesus—in the Jordan on which occasion the Trinity was manifest, hence the term Theophany—appearance of God. Theophany itself is popularly known as Jordan among the Slav people. “Jordan” means the stream that descends rapidly (“the descender”), an apt description particularly in its portion above the Sea of Galilee. Its actual length is some 80 miles, but its full length if one straightens out its twists and turns, would come to over 200 miles. Below the Sea of Galilee its width is ninety to one hundred feet, and its depth, from three to ten feet. No part of it is navigable; although it is so shallow in places, it actually can be waded. In Biblical times, it had no bridges, so it formed a major obstacle to military tactics.
The river is almost entirely useless because its bed is so low, it is not practical for irrigation. It forms a barrier between East and West Palestine so is not any means of communication. The winters are mild, but the summers are extremely hot and humid. Nonetheless, it is Israel’s main river. The northern part of the Jordan Valley is fertile; the southern end, approaching the Dead Sea is desert.