

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, July 9, 2017**

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

11:00 AM Lit. + Anna Baralecki r/by Helen Duda

**July 10 to 12, 2017**

No Liturgy Scheduled

**Thursday, July 13, 2017**

7:00 PM Lit. + Michailo &amp; Kateryna

r/by Anna &amp; Vasyl Kitchoula

**Friday, July 14, 2017**

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

**Saturday, July 15, 2017**

8:00 AM Lit. Health of Oleksandr

5:00 PM Lit. + Michael &amp; Glenys Romanko r/by Children

**Fathers of the 6 Ecumenical Councils, July 16, 2017***Epistle - Rom 12:6-14; Gospel - Mt 9:1-8*

9:00 AM Lit. + Gerhard Debarry r/by Larissa Wowk

11:00 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

**Picnic and Baseball Game**

The Holy Name Society is sponsoring a picnic at the Somerset Patriots vs. Bridgeport Bluefish baseball game on Saturday, August 26, 2017. The picnic will be held in the Picnic Area overlooking TD Ballpark starting at 6:00 PM. The game starts at 7:05 PM. Cost is \$26.00 per person, which includes Ticket to game and picnic. RSVP to Charlie Boyko, 732-254-3966, by August 12.

**PASTOR'S CORNER**

Ah, summertime! Each of us looks forward to the time of year where we get a break from our daily work and school routine. In the United States, we call it vacation. Other countries call it holiday. Irrelevant of the name, it brings images of leisure time, travel, friends, family, and sometimes adventure. Whether it is a trip to the shore, a cabin in the mountains, a tent in a park, a luxury hotel, or a cruise on the open seas, we all need a break from our normal routine to recharge our personal batteries. We spend a great deal of our lives looking forward to a break from the norm—whether it's the typical long summer vacation from school or the ever-so-short week or two away from our jobs, it seems that planning for that getaway obsesses us for many weeks before the actual event. Time away...from what? We never seem to give much thought about our spiritual lives when we plan a vacation...it's just a Sunday or two missing church—God will understand! There are 50 other Sundays and other holy days to visit with Him...and of course, since He loves us, we don't have to worry about Him! He'll be right there when we get back...and if we need Him on our trip, He'll be there as well! Sometimes, we fail to plan for the most important part of our vacations—the spiritual recharge.

Beloved, each of us has been given the opportunity to experience God's love and creation every day of our lives. Do not pass up the chance to see Him in everything around you—trees, hills, water, birds, animals, clouds, rain, storms—all are His creation! On your vacation, take a few minutes to thank Him for everything He has given you—your health, family friends, and all good things come from Him. Visit the Catholic church where you find yourself—go in and look around, breathe in the smells, experience a slightly different view of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Recharge your batteries...and save those memories for when the snow flies! May God grant you a safe journey, no matter where you roam, a safe return to home and your Assumption parish family, and His Love and Protection along the way!

**QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR FAITH*****What do the two snakes on a bishop's staff mean?***

The episcopal staff has the cross of Christ with two snakes and this may seem disconcerting. There are actually two explanations for this symbolism. The staff reminds us of the brass serpent erected by Moses in the desert (Numbers 21). When the Israelites were bitten by poisonous snakes (being the sign of sin and earthly/demonic wisdom) the brass serpent that was lifted up was a type of a cross. Jesus Christ "became sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21) for us and triumphed over the poisonous and lethal power of sin. Hence, the snakes on the staff recall this story and the words of the Lord in John 3:14: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." Another way to consider the snakes is to see them not as symbols of false wisdom (James 3:15) but of true and holy wisdom, as in the Lord's saying (Matthew 10:16): "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

***Why do we touch our right shoulders first, before our left when we make a sign of the cross?***

Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father. God separated the sheep from the goats, putting the faithful sheep on His right side and the goats on the left. Because of this precedence, the Church has always treated the right side as the preferred side.

Censing of the holy table, the iconostas, the congregation, and of the church itself always begins with the right side. The priest always gives communion with his right hand, even if he is left handed. We only cross ourselves with our right hand. The priest, when blessing a person, first touches or points to their right side then their left. When parents makes the Sign of the Cross over their children, they cross from left to right, just as the priest blesses. When they make the Sign of the Cross over themselves, they do it the other way in order to touch their own right shoulders first.

Roman Catholics prayed the Sign of the Cross this way until the 15th or 16th century. Around that time, they started mimicking the priest's movement, following him first to the left, apparently unaware that when he went to the left it was with the intention of first blessing on their right. The apostolic tradition of moving from the belly to the right shoulder was never lost in the Christian East and we maintain that tradition to this day

***What are the three doors inside of our church?***

Every Eastern Catholic or Orthodox church will have an iconostasis before its altar. "Iconostasis" means "icon-stand", and it can be as simple as a large image of Christ on the right and a corresponding image of the Virgin and Child on the left. In a more established church, the iconostasis may be a literal wall, adorned with icons. Some of versions shield the altar from view, except when the central doors stand open.

The basic set-up of two large icons creates, if you use your imagination, three doors. The central one, in front of the altar itself, is called the "Holy Doors" or "Royal Doors," because there the King of Glory comes out to the congregation in the Eucharist. Only the priest and deacons, who bear the Eucharist, use the Holy Doors. The openings on the other sides of the icons, if there is a complete iconostasis, have doors with icons of angels; they are termed the "Deacon's Doors." Altar boys and others with business behind the altar use these, although no one is to go through any of the doors without an appropriate reason.

**Sale of Pyrohy**

This weekend, Fr. Ivan will be selling pyrohy from the festival (frozen) at the school kitchen. Please wait for Father after Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 11:00 am Liturgies by the playground entrance to the school kitchen. Pyrohy are \$8 per dozen.