

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, December 3, 2017**

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Ed and Katherine Canty r/by Family

**Monday, December 4, 2017**

No Liturgy Scheduled

**Tuesday, December 5, 2017**7:30 AM Lit. + William, Philip, Rose, Catherine, Anna,  
Sophie, Anastsia Blois and Lasiw Families - Legate**Wednesday, December 6, 2017****Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra**7:30 AM Lit. Special Intention Michael Szpyhulsky  
r/by Sr. Yosaphata, M.S.M.G.**Thursday, December 7, 2017**

7:30 AM Lit. + Helen Blyskun r/by Family

**Friday, December 8, 2017**

8:45 AM Lit. + Stefan Palka r/by ACS Faculty

**Saturday, December 9, 2017****Immaculate Conception**8:00 AM Lit. + John Andrewshetsko, Brothers & Sisters  
r/by Bobbie Karanevskii

5:00 PM Lit. + Mary Makar r/by Daughter, Mary Ann

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, December 10, 2017***Epistle - Eph 6:10-17; Gospel - Lk 17:12-19*

9:00 AM Lit. + Sam Liteplo r/by Lojko Family

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

**CONCEPTION OF ST. ANN****(IMMACULATE CONCEPTION)**

This feast is celebrated to remind us that the Mother of God was conceived and born into this world free from the stain of original sin. Although the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was defined by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854, the feast known in the East under the name of the "Child-begetting of St. Anne", and celebrated on December 9th, dates back to at least the fifth century. St. John Damascene in his First Sermon on the Nativity of Mary says "Why is the Virgin Mother born of a once sterile mother? Plainly, because it was necessary that the road to that which was to be a new thing under the sun and the chief among wonders should be paved by wonders and that a gradual ascent should be made from the lower to the more sublime."

**PLEASE NOTE:** Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word "Liturgy" means work of the people which means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God's grace to enter into our hearts. Please remember that in our church, Holy Communion is only for practicing Catholics who have prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, recent confession, and who arrive on time for the Liturgy (before the Epistle and Gospel readings), and are at peace with everyone.

**Church Lighting**

The Holy Name Society invites all parishioners to join them for the third annual outside Church Lighting Ceremony! The whole congregation is invited to gather in front of the church steps on Saturday, Dec 9, after the 5:00 PM Liturgy for lighting all lights outside of our church. After the short ceremony, please join us for hot chocolate, coffee and donuts.

**Holy Name Society** would like to thank all who attended the Breakfast on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Your support is greatly appreciated!

A meeting of the HNS will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017 at 8:00 PM in the church hall.

**Liturgical Calendar Book**

Dear Parishioners: the 2018 Liturgical Calendar Book has arrived. Please call the rectory to schedule Liturgies for 2018. PLEASE, be courteous and restrict your Saturday & Sunday requests to a minimum. This coming year has many Holy Day Saturdays & Sundays, so the availability is even more limited. Thank you in advance for your understanding!

**Bethlehem Peace Light**

For many years now, the Bethlehem Peace Light from the Birthplace of Our Savior in Bethlehem has been carried throughout the world. It will once again be a part of our parish, burning on the Tetrapod table through this Holy Season. This year, the flame will arrive at our parish with Larissa Wowk Plastunynka (Ukrainian Scouts) on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy. Parishioners are invited to bring either a lantern fueled by smokeless paraffin oil or a devotional candle to church, with which they may carry the Peace Light to their own home. From your homes, the Bethlehem Peace Light can be shared with family, friends and neighbors.

**The End of the Year**

As we approach the end of the year, you may wish to review your offering envelopes to see if you postponed or overlooked any that you want to make up before the books are closed on December 31, 2017.

**Thank You!**

Sincere thanks to all men of the Holy Name Society who came and worked hard on decorating our Church in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ.

**WHO IS ST. NICHOLAS?**

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships. Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, that there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th (December 19 on the Julian Calendar).

**HOLODOMOR :****The famine-genocide of Ukraine, 1932-1933.**

In June of 1933, at the height of the Holodomor, 28,000 men, women and children in Ukraine were dying of starvation each day. The land that was known worldwide as the breadbasket of Europe was being ravaged by a man-made famine of unprecedented scale.

Stalin and his followers were determined to teach Ukraine's farmers "a lesson they would not forget" for resisting collectivization, which meant giving up their own land to work on government controlled farms. Moreover, the famine was meant to deal "a crushing blow" to any aspirations for independence from the Soviet Union by the Ukrainians, 80 percent of whom worked the land.

While millions of people in Ukraine and in the mostly ethnically Ukrainian areas of the northern Caucasus were dying, the Soviet Union was denying the famine and exporting enough grain from Ukraine to have fed the entire population.

*It is our solemn duty to remember this sad page in the history of the Ukrainian people and, indeed, of the world, not only to ensure that it is never repeated anywhere ever again, but to commend to the Lord the poor souls who had no one to pray for them.*