

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday After Christmas, December 31, 2017**

9:00 AM + Harry Sefczek r/by Nick Lyszyk
 11:30 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

Monday, January 1, 2018**Circumcision of Our Lord**

9:00 AM - Lit. + Anthony Kuzniak
 r/by Ana & Ron Mascenik

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

7:30 AM Lit. + Loretta Suto r/by Palya Family

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

7:30 AM Lit. + Philip, Anna, Helen, John, Nicholas,
 Steve, Marie Romanko - Legate

Thursday, January 4, 2018

7:30 AM Lit. + Stephen Andrusezko r/by Rozalia

Friday, January 5, 2018**Vigil of Theophany**

8:45 AM Lit. Health & Blessings for Iryna Buryk Family

7:00 PM Lit. + Stefan Maturak r/by Michailo Boliuk

Solemn Blessing of Water**Saturday, January 6, 2018****Theophany of Our Lord**

9:00 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners
Great Blessing of Water

5:00 PM Lit. + John Adamshick

r/by Glenys & Charles Biloholowski

Sunday After Theophany, January 7, 2018

Epistle - Eph 4:7-13; Gospel - Mt 4:12-17

9:00 AM + Oleksander Kuzyszyn; Stefania &
 Mykola Nahirni r/by Oksana & Bohdan Kuzyszyn
 11:30 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

2018 Church Envelopes

Parish envelopes are available for pick-up in the church hall. If you used envelopes in 2017, the envelopes will be labeled with your name and address. **Please advise the office of any corrections or changes.** Please do not use 2018 envelopes until 2018! Any 2018 envelopes used in 2017 will be credited to 2017.

Prospora (Holy Supper)

On the evening of Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM, our parish will hold a Prospora, the traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve supper with a menu consisting of meatless dishes. There is no charge, but donations will be appreciated on the day of event. If you are planning to come you must sign up by Sunday, December 31, 2017 so that we may have an accurate count.

Parish Christmas Concert

On Sunday, January 14, 2017 after the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy our parish children and choir "Boyan" will have a Christmas concert downstairs in our hall. Please plan to attend and to hear the old traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols being sung and see our parishioners perform.

Feast of Theophany

The Feast of the Theophany commemorates the Baptism of our Saviour in the River Jordan and the manifestation of the three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Theophany is one of the greatest feasts of the Eastern Church, whereby it is customary to bless water which is used throughout the year and used in so many ways. The faithful also take the blessed water to their homes and use it during illness, danger, family prayers and other Christian ritual. For the Vigil of Theophany on Friday, January 5th, Divine Liturgy & Solemn Water Blessing will be at 7:00 PM. On the Feast itself, Saturday, January 6th Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.

The Gift of Christmas

How many of you send out Christmas cards?

There was a woman who had waited until the last minute to send Christmas cards. She knew she had 49 folks on her list. So she rushed into a store and bought a package of 50 cards without really looking at them. Still in a big hurry, she addressed the 49 and signed them without reading the message inside.

On Christmas Day when things had quieted down somewhat, she happened to come across the leftover card and finally read the message she had sent to 49 of her friends. Much to her dismay, it read like this: "This card is just to say a little gift is on the way."

Suddenly she realized that 49 of her friends were expecting a gift from her they were never going to get.

Beloved, unlike that unfortunate woman ... God HAS sent us a gift in Jesus, "For God so loved the world than the gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him not perish, but have eternal life". John 3:16.

The Lesson At Bethlehem

From the Child in the manger, we are given the answer of the spirit that we need: we are taught love, not hate; forgiveness, not bitterness; we are shown that we should make ourselves poorer to help those who have less than we. If we want peace in our hearts, in our homes, our country and our world, we must come to Bethlehem and learn from Christ. A Child shall lead us. He has come to direct our feet in the way of peace. "Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign; behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:1

Thank You

This year's celebration of the Lord's Nativity was very joyous in part due to a very good attendance, as faithful parishioners and friends gathered for worship and fellowship on this high Holy Day. As we give thanks to God Almighty, I also wish to express my thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas celebrations. To all those who came to decorate the church, to everyone who donated toward the Christmas collection, to all cantors and the choir who sang so beautifully. May God Bless you all.

Why is holly associated with Christmas?

One of the many symbols of the Christmas season is holly. The small plant can be found in many different places in the world and has ties to antiquity and the Christian religion. The Druids in particular thought holly was a sacred plant and could protect against evil spirits. For this reason they would often wear holly in their hair, occasionally as a wreath upon the head. With Christianity the plant took on a new meaning. The red berries were thought to represent the blood of Christ and the prickly leaves symbolized the crown of thorns. According to a legend, "the palm leaves of the crowds in Jerusalem turned into spring holly twigs when the 'Hosanna' to the Christ changed into 'Crucify him!'" In different parts of Europe holly became known as "Christ Thorn" on account of this symbolism.

The fruit of the holly ripens in winter and so the plant, while connected symbolically to Christ's passion, became associated with Christmas. It is a great reminder during this Christmas season that while Christ came into the world as a little child, he came so as to save us from our sins and ultimately make the perfect sacrifice of himself.

