

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday After Theophany, January 7, 2018

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

Monday, January 8, 2018

No Liturgy Scheduled

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

7:30 AM Lit. + Yaroslava r/by Son, Michael

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

7:30 AM Lit. Special Intention, For Our Benefactors
r/by Missionary Sisters of Mother of God

Thursday, January 11, 2018

7:30 AM Lit. + Anna, Walter Sefcheck - Legate

Friday, January 12, 2018

8:45 AM Lit. + Wolodymyr Lewkowicz r/by Family

Saturday, January 13, 2018

8:00 AM Lit. + Helen, Rose Gunneak - Legate
5:00 PM Lit. + Deceased Members of Holy Name Society
r/by H.N.S.

Sunday of Zacchaeus, January 14, 2018

Epistle - 1 Tim 4:9-15; Gospel - Lk 19:1-10

9:00 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners
11:30 AM Lit + Rose Ann Rudy r/by St. Ann Society

The Magi--Wise Men

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and went to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological.

- **Gold** is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship.
- **Frankincense** is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple.
- **Myrrh**, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

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.

Keep Greeting One Another

Just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40-day preparation and fasting period, so now we celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beautiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional "*Christos - Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*". According to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2nd.

Clergy Visitation

If you are aware of anyone ill, at home or in the hospital, or who simply would appreciate a visit from Fr. Ivan, please inform our parish priest. We need to keep in touch with all of our members and a vital part of this specific ministry is YOUR HELP - please keep Father informed.

The Feast Of The Theophany Of Our Lord

The celebration of the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River reveals wondrous salvific events:

- The Mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed.
- The waters were blessed by Christ and ceased to be waters of the fall and became waters of renewal (Holy Water).
- Any demonic influence over water was ended.
- A model of Baptism was established for the followers of Jesus Christ.
- The sin of the old Adam was washed away and buried in the waters.
- The Forerunner John the Baptist was blessed by Christ.

Theophany Home Blessing

After the Twelve Days of Christmas we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, whose celebration includes taking the water blessed at Epiphany to the homes of our parishioners. Thus Fr. Ivan would like to come and visit with you, pray with you and ask God to bless your home. This year, the traditional home blessings are by request only, and will take place only from Tuesday, January 9 till Sunday 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.

The annual blessing of homes is a custom of special beauty and significance. We again ask Christ to bless and enter into our homes and our lives. We ask Him to be with us, as we desire to be with Him. We ask that by the sprinkling of blessed water, the Holy Spirit renew us, our families and our lives in our homes. As Christ brought salvation to the house of Zacchaeus; we ask for the same for all dwelling in our homes.

For Consideration

On one of the stones in the Church of Hagia Sophia, the following words were engraved: "Wash your sins, not only your face." Whoever entered this glorious Church read this inscription and remembered that the Christian Faith requires of him moral purity: purity of the soul, purity of the heart and purity of the mind. Just as in the heart of man is concentrated the complete spiritual man, this is what the Lord also said, "Blessed are the pure of heart" (Matthew 5:8). Total external cleanliness does not help at all in gaining the kingdom of heaven. Oh, if only we would invest as much effort in washing ourselves from sins as we invest daily in washing our faces, then God would truly be seen in our hearts as in a mirror!

The three temptations by which Satan tempted the Lord Jesus after His Baptism in the Jordan River:

1. Gluttony: The temptation with bread;
2. Pride: Lifting Him above the Temple;
3. Greed: Offering Him the possession of the entire world.

Come And Take The Blessed Water!

This Saturday morning we commemorated the Lord's Baptism with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the Great and Solemn Blessing of Water. Some of the blessed water is still available in the church so that you can drink it. You may also bottle some of the water and take it with you for the sanctification of your homes.

Donations to Church

\$1,200.00 - Roger and Ann Allen, in memory of
+ TEKLA LEWKOWICZ

School Technology Fund

\$2,000.00 - Irene Dochych

St. Ann Society

The annual Christmas party will be held on Sunday, Jan. 14, at The Armory, 1:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 21 after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy.