

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Thomas Sunday, April 8, 2018**

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Mary Andruszeko r/by Rozalia

**Monday, April 9, 2018**

No Liturgy Scheduled

**Tuesday, April 10, 2018**7:30 AM - Lit. + Brianna Victoria Rasimowicz  
r/by Bachorik Family**Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Lynn Kopi - Legate

**Thursday, April 12, 2018**7:30 AM - Lit. + John Kodan r/by Daughter, Arlene,  
And Grandchildren Cindy, George, Steve**Friday, April 13, 2018**8:45 AM - Lit. Special Intention Robert Ore  
r/by ACS Staff**Saturday, April 14, 2018**8:00 AM - Lit. and Pan. + Lahola-Stempel Family  
r/by Ron & Irene

5:00 PM - Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

**Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers, April 15, 2018***Epistle - Acts 6:1-7; Gospel - Mk 15:43-16*

10:00 AM Lit. + Karen Mack r/by Helena Blyskun

**Sviachene, Easter Dinner -****Deadline to Purchase Tickets**

Our annual Parish Easter Dinner/Sviachene will be held on Sunday, April 15 following a 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy. As in the past, only one liturgy will be held that Sunday. Tickets are available today in the church vestibule. The cost is minimal, \$10 per adult, children under 12 free, \$5 for children 12 to 18.

**St. Ann Society**

The Rosary will be recited on Tuesday, April 10, in church at 7:00 PM. A meeting will follow in the church hall.

**Senior Citizens Club** will meet on Thursday, April 12 at 12:00 noon in the church hall.

**Many Thanks to All!**

Dearly beloved, Great Lent and Holy Week seems to bring the best out of people in our parish. We once again had good attendance, especially at what are considered to be the main services. But more than just numbers in the pews, hopefully it served as a time where individuals grew a little closer to Christ or gained a little insight in regard to matters of faith. Some things that jumped out for me:

- The solemn mood on Good Friday service.
- The number of ACS students and parish youth at the Good Friday and Holy Saturday Services.
- The beauty of the choral singing at the Jerusalem and Resurrection Matin Services by our choir and the men from the Holy Name society.
- The number of good confessions before Easter.
- The number of people who took advantage of spending some time at the grave vigil
- The many families continuing the custom of the basket blessing of traditional foods.
- The number of people who made it for every Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday evening Lenten Service.

Many thanks to those who contributed to a memorable week by cleaning, singing, serving, decorating, cooking, etc. Thanks to the cantors, choir "Boyan" singers, men from the Holy Name who set up Jesus's tomb for veneration, ladies who baked paska, bread and cleaned the church for Easter, procession participants, ushers, altar servers. Your labors, time, and offerings did not go unnoticed but instead are greatly appreciated! May the Risen Lord bless you!

**At the Liturgy: Instead of 'Indeed, it is fitting':**

*The angel cried out to the One full of grace: "O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day and raised the dead." Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exalt now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.*

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN**

Some time ago I read about a married Ukrainian Catholic priest who spent twenty years in the gulag prison camps in Siberia, enduring all human indignities because he refused to give up his faith. When he was released, his daughter wrote in her memoirs that she noticed he had difficulty walking and talking. She took him to the clinic, and the doctors indicated that he had what we call today progressive muscular atrophy. Gradually, he lost his ability to walk and to speak. And on Pascha morning, before he died, he scribbled this note to his daughter: "It's terrible to wake up on Pascha morning and have no voice to sing 'Christos Voskrese.' But it's still more tragic to have a voice and not sing, "Christ is risen. Indeed He is risen". And so my friends in Christ, on this holy and glorious day of Christ's Resurrection, let us not be silent but let us lift up our voice to glorify and praise the divine victory of Christ by singing "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life." Easter people, raise your voices; sounds of heaven in earth should ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

**Today: The Sunday of St. Thomas**

The Eastern Church observes the Sunday of Thomas one week following the celebration of the Sunday of Holy Pascha. The day commemorates the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. It also commemorates the appearance of the Lord to His disciples eight days later when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ. At the end of the Divine Liturgy please come forward for the distribution of the Artos Bread and Festal Anointing-Mirovanya.

**No Kneeling**

It is forbidden to kneel in church or at home for prayers from the proclamation of the Resurrection Gospel on Holy Saturday evening until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost. This is in keeping with the ancient tradition codified by the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. We stand as a reminder that Christ's passion and death have freed us from slavery to sin and His Resurrection has brought us a new relationship as children of the Father. We can stand before God as freed men and women redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb.

**Icon of St. Josaphat**

In our church, on the side altar, we have a reliquary with relics of St. Josaphat Kuntsevych, a bishop and monk whose example of faith inspired many Eastern Orthodox Christians to return to full communion with the Holy See. We are looking for a donor to sponsor \$500 for a small hand painted icon of St. Josaphat for the side altar. The icon will be purchased from the Byzantine Church Supply store that is a major financial source of assistance for our Archdiocesan seminary. Please call or see Fr. Ivan for more information.

**Baskets for the Needy**

During this Lenten season, our parish collected food to help food-insecure families and individuals in our community. The food drive was very successful and I am very grateful for your generosity and concern for the poor and needy among us. Amarilis and Anali Rodriguez, two Assumption Catholic School alumni, saw the need in their community of Perth Amboy and wanted to help make a difference. They have been hosting donation drives to collect nonperishable goods throughout the Lenten season. Through the Lenten season our parishioners generously donated food for the needy: the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption in Perth Amboy, NJ contributed enough donations to provide twenty baskets to families in need for Easter. Amarilis and Anali are so thankful to the church and their The Alma Mater for the continued support and generosity.