

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday Before Christmas, December 23, 2018**

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Rose Ann Rudy r/by Nancy

Monday, December 24, 2018**Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM Lit. - Children's Divine Liturgy (English)

10:30 PM - Great Compline (English)

11:00 PM - Divine Liturgy (English)

Christmas, Birth of Our Lord, December 25, 2018*Epistle - Gal 4:4-7; Gospel - Mt 2:1-12*

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

11:30 AM - Divine Liturgy (English)

Wednesday, December 26, 2018**Synaxis of the Theotokos**

9:00 AM Lit. + Ivan Kuchirka r/by Daughter, Olesia

Thursday, December 27, 2018**Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr**

9:00 AM Lit. + Helena Tulys r/by Sr. Yosaphata

Friday, December 28, 2018

8:00 AM Lit. + Sophie Ruiz r/by Senior Citizens Club

Saturday, December 29, 2018

8:00 AM Lit. + Anastasia r/by Daughter, Maria

5:00 PM Lit. + Kornylo Halushka r/by Rozalia Czaban

Sunday After Christmas, December 30, 2018*Epistle - Gal 1:11-19; Gospel - Mt 2:13-23*

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Steven Palya and Paraska Lykosh
r/by Palya Family**Children's Divine Liturgy - Christmas Eve**

On Monday evening, children who wish to participate in the procession for the 4:00 pm Liturgy are asked to gather in the church hall ten minutes before Liturgy. **All children are encouraged to participate in procession!**

2019 Church Envelopes and Calendars

Parish envelopes and calendars for 2019 are available for pick-up in the church hall. If you used envelopes in 2018, the envelopes will be labeled with your name and address. Please advise the church office of any corrections or changes.

Marriage Preparation Course

For those couples wishing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Assumption Church in 2019, please confirm your interest with the Parish Office as soon as possible. All couples will be required to attend a Marriage Preparation Course. Class dates to be announced.

Prophora (Holy Supper)

- **Sunday, January 6:** Christmas Eve Holy Supper (according to Julian calendar) at 7:00 PM.
- **Monday, January 7:** Christmas Day Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM (according to Julian calendar).

His Grace Bishop Andriy Rabyi, will be the honored guest at the Holy Supper and a main celebrant of the Christmas Liturgy on January 7, 2019.

Prophora

Registration form for those who wish to attend the free dinner is located on the table in the vestibule. Please register by Sunday, December 30.

Children! There will be Christmas ornaments, gifts for the children of our parish, in a basket near the manger. Children may take one per child on Christmas Eve.

Thank You

Through your generosity, we were able to collect nonperishable goods and children's toys for the Saint Vincent DePaul Perth Amboy Food Pantry that distributes food to individuals and families in need in Perth Amboy, NJ.

Christmas Greetings

Our Byzantine Catholic greeting to one another for Christmas through Christmastide is "Christ is born!" Our response is "Glorify Him!" In Slavonic (transliterated), it is "Christos raždajetsa!" And the response, "Slavite Jeho!"

Genealogy Sunday

Today we begin the last few days before we celebrate the birth of Jesus. During the past two weeks we have heard about the Savior, about his role, and how to respond to him. From now on we hear about his actual appearance among us, beginning with his genealogy. Jesus was a member of a family that Matthew traces back to Abraham. And what a family it is! On Jesus' family tree you will find sinners and saints - and many people who were a combination of both. The list is full of flesh and blood human beings with their own backgrounds, characters, sins, and defects. It is into that often-dysfunctional family that Jesus was born into our world. He became one like us. He came to help us to triumph over our sinfulness. He came in our misery to overcome it together with us.

Mirovanije – In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, there will be anointing with blessed oil (mirovanije) and distribution of blessed bread. All are welcome to receive anointing and blessed bread.

Prayers for the Living & Deceased

As we slowly come to the beginning of the year 2019, I ask that if you have any special dates throughout the year on which you would like to have prayers offered for the living or for the blessed repose of your loved ones, you please contact the parish office now to reserve that day. Remember that during the Great Fast and Holy Week the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on weekdays due to the fact that these are aliturgical (without Divine Liturgy) days.

Christmas Stewardship - (from Archeparchial Office)

During this Christmas season we think about giving and receiving gifts. But as Christians we are called to be stewards, and stewardship goes beyond just giving objects. It entails giving gifts of the heart, mind and soul, as well as our time, talent and treasure. This year let us help ourselves and our children and grandchildren to understand what it means to be wise stewards of Jesus and His Good News for the world. Google the word "Steward or stewardship" and come to understand what the word "steward" really means. Many times we use words in conversation but do not know what they really mean. Part of being faithful followers of Jesus means we continue to educate ourselves spiritually. In order to be good stewards, we must first have the message of hope and love and faith to give, we can't give what we don't have. May God made man to inspire us to grow in knowledge and faith!

Trip to Lourdes

Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Phoenixville PA is organizing a trip to PARIS & LOURDES (May 16 - 24, 2019) under the spiritual guidance of Rev. Ihor Royik. Registration deadline is Dec. 30, 2018. For more info, see flyers in church vestibule or call Marijka Helbig at 201-463-4656.

2019 Ukrainian Catholic Pilgrimage to UKRAINE

Join us for this spiritual, cultural, and historical journey, June 30 - July 12, 2019. This is a unique opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Underground Church. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was decimated by Stalin and the Soviet government in 1946. The surviving clergy and faithful were driven "underground" and continued to worship and practice their faith in secrecy. The church reemerged in 1991 with the independence of Ukraine. This pilgrimage will visit some of those secret sites as well as other well-known historical and cultural landmarks. The trip is sponsored by St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ. More details and reservation information can be found on Facebook (St Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Passaic NJ) or call the Rectory at 973-471-9727. Cost per person is \$3,450.

Inclement Weather

Winter sometimes brings stormy weather. We ask our parishioners to use good judgment and common sense not to drive when conditions are dangerous. As weather varies from place to place, it may be that services will be held as scheduled, despite the fact that conditions in your area are difficult.