

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday After Christmas, December 30, 2018**

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Steven Palya and Paraska Lykosh

r/by Palya Family

Monday, December 31, 2018**New Year's Eve**5:00 PM Lit. + Philip, Anna, Helen, John, Nicholas, Steve,
Marie Romanko - Legate**Tuesday, January 1, 2019****Circumcision of Our Lord, St. Basil the Great**9:00 Lit. + Marie Caro (40th Day) r/by Joyce, Bill, Mike**Wednesday, January 2, 2019**

No Liturgy Scheduled

Thursday, January 3, 2019

8:00 AM Lit. + Loretto Suto r/by Daughter

Friday, January 4, 2019

8:45 AM Lit. + Thomas Balandovich r/by Sr. Thomas

Saturday, January 5, 2019**Vigil of Theophany**

8:00 AM Lit. + Kevin Mahony r/by Wife

5:00 PM Lit. + Maryann Petrick r/by Galetta Family

Solemn Blessing of Water**Sunday, January 6, 2019 - Theophany of Our Lord***Epistle - Titus 2:11-14 & 3:4-7; Gospel - Mt 3:13-17*

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Mary Boboski r/by Dn. Paul & Anna

*This year the Great Blessing of Water
will be after 11:30 Liturgy***2019 Church Envelopes**

If you have not picked up your donation envelopes for 2019, please find them downstairs 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.

Prospora

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.

Prospora (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 Rabi, will be the honored guest at the Holy Supper and a main celebrant of the Christmas Liturgy on January 7, 2019.

Many Thanks from Fr. Ivan to all those who made the services for Christmas so splendid: Holy Name Society guys who decorated our church beautifully, cantors and choir director Alla who directed the choir "Boyan" on the services for the Nativity; the Members of the Choir, who attended rehearsals and those who sang at the festal services; Mrs. Colette Baginsky for baking communion bread, Fr Deacon Paul and Servers who assisted at the Christmas services. Thanks also to all of our parishioners and friends who attended Christmas services. Your warmth, love and generosity towards me and our church are a beautiful expression of the spirit of this season. May God inspire us all to reflect His love and care for the world towards one another and the world around us.

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!*" The season of the Incarnation spans the time until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February; the 40th day of Christmas. We celebrate the central mystery of the Christian Faith—the Word become flesh. The Incarnate Word—Jesus the Christ—shines light into our lives to bring wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

Feast of Theophany - Blessing of Waters

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. There will be two Blessings of Waters, the first during Vigil after the 5:00 pm Saturday Liturgy, January 5, and the second at the end of the 11:30 Sunday Liturgy, January 6, 2019.

Theophany Home Blessing

It is a Ukrainian custom to bless homes with holy water after the Feast of Theophany. Fr. Ivan would like to come to your home after Theophany to bless your home and pray for the health of the family. This year, the traditional home blessings are by request only, and will take place only from Tuesday, January 8 till Sunday February 3. If you wish to have your home blessed, please sign the sheet in the church vestibule or call the rectory at 732-826-0767.

In Honor of the Upcoming Blessing of Our Homes.

The priest was doing his rounds to bless all the homes of the faithful after Theophany. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, after blessing the front door, he took out a card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door. When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."

New Year's Eve Dance, "Zabava" - Volunteers Needed

The New Year's Eve Dance on Monday, December 31, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. is a Church sponsored event and proceeds will defray the expenses of the church's property insurance, which last year was over thirty-two thousand dollars. Please consider volunteering your services for several hours, whether in the kitchen, helping with decorations, or cleanup on the day after. Volunteers are needed for Sunday, Dec. 30 starting at 3 PM, Monday Dec. 31 starting at 3 till 7 PM. On Tuesday January 1 after the 9:00 am Liturgy we are going to clean the hall and the kitchen, and once the work is complete we will have a meal and a good time. Both men and women are needed, but we especially need men to take out trash and wash floor.

When is the official end of Christmas Season?

It can be a little confusing. In secular society, Christmas is celebrated around the time of Halloween up until Christmas Day. On the day after Christmas all the decorations are put away and Christmas trees are put on the curb.

However, in the Eastern Catholic Church, the liturgical season of Christmas ends on Stritennia. Stritennia (the Ukrainian word which means "presentation") refers to the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple which is celebrated on February 2nd. This holyday is celebrated 40 days after Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas season.

The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple is a holyday that commemorates the offering and dedication of the baby Jesus to God's service by His mother Mary and father Joseph. On this feast, candles are blessed and distributed to the faithful. In homes, the blessed candles are lighted and placed before an icon in times of serious illness or grave danger.

Holy Name Society

A meeting will be hold on THURSDAY, January 3, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the church hall.