

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday of the Prodigal Son, February 17, 2019**

9:00 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners
 11:30 AM Lit. + Ronald Hutnick (3 yrs.) r/by Sister, Eleanor

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

8:00 AM Lit. + Petro Stachiw - Legate

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

8:00 AM Lit. + Charles Kopcho Sr; Charles Kopcho Jr.
 - Legate

Thursday, February 21, 2019

8:00 AM Lit. + Pauline Dochych r/by Tom Dochych

Friday, + February 22, 2019

8:45 AM Lit. Special Intention Maria Espinal
 r/by ACS Faculty

Saturday, February 23, 2019

8:00 AM Lit. + "Nebesna Sotnya" (Heavenly Hundred)

Літургія у пам'ятть про Героїв Небесної Сотні.

5:00 PM Lit. + Mary Makar r/by Daughter

Sunday of Meat Fare, February 24, 2019

Epistle - 1 Cor 8:8-9:2; Gospel - Mt 25:31-46

9:00 AM Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners
 11:30 AM Lit. + Geri Palyla r/by Husband and Family

St. Ann Society Gift Auction

An *Under the Sea Gift Auction* will be held on **Sunday, March 3, 2019** in the Assumption School auditorium, 370 Meredith St., Perth Amboy. Doors open at 12:00 noon; auction starts at 2:00 PM. There will be special prizes, four levels of fabulous baskets and prizes, door prizes, 50/50 and more. Kitchen will be open for food and beverage purchase (no outside food or beverage please), complimentary cake and coffee. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from members or at the rectory. Call 732-826-0767 for information.

Sorokousty Memorial Services

REMEMBERING THE DECEASED - in our tradition, during Great Lent, we have a special prayer service called, "Parastas - Sorokousty". During Great Lent, every Saturday beginning March 9, 2019 and on All Souls Saturdays, the names of deceased persons submitted to the priest will be read aloud and prayed for. Please update your Family Memorial List and return it to the parish office. If you would like your deceased family members commemorated during these services, please submit your envelope with the names clearly listed, by Feb. 24. After that date, names of your loved ones can still be submitted and will be commemorated, but not listed in the bulletin. May the memory of our ancestors be everlasting.

Panachidas (Memorial Services)

In addition to the general commemorations for the departed made on All Souls Saturdays, it is customary to remember our loved ones on the 9th and 40th day, and on the yearly anniversary of their falling asleep. If you wish to have a Liturgy and Memorial Service (Panachida) prayed after the Liturgy, let Fr. Ivan know along with the name(s).

Cemetery Plots

If you wish to purchase burial rights at our parish cemetery, the cost is \$500.00 per grave per registered parishioner. Please contact the office for more information.

Cemetery Clean - Up

Any winter decorations (artificial or live) not removed by March 1st, 2019 will be removed by cemetery personnel. All articles and decorations are subject to cleanup. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them before March 1st.

Bans of Marriage

KHRYSTYNA SLUPSKA, daughter of Stepan Slupskiyy and Oksana Slupska, and TARAS BORSHOSH, son of Ivan and Olga Borshosh, are getting married in our church on Feb. 23, 2019. If anyone has any reservations about this marriage, please contact Fr. Ivan in the church office.

Today: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

Why do we light candles in our Church?

We Christians don't just pray with our lips. We pray with all of our senses, sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste, to even include that sixth and often neglected sense, the nous which is sometimes called the eye of the soul. Candles are just one small part of that. Upon entering the church it is customary to light candles and offer prayers for one's personal needs or that of a family member or friend. Candles are lit before icons as a sign of one's faith and hope in God's help that is always sent to all who turn to Him and His Saints with faith and prayers. In practice, when lighting a candle in Church the faithful usually make a small offering to the Church. By lighting a candle and offering a prayer, one enters into closer contact with the Church and her ministry to the faithful, invisibly warming the soul by the visible light of the candle.

What does "prodigal" mean?

The word "prodigal" is mysterious to us. Almost the only time we ever hear it is in the title of this parable. It's basic meaning is "wasteful"--particularly with regard to money. It comes from Latin roots that mean "forth" (pro-) and "to drive" (agere). It indicates the quality of a person who drives forth his money--who wastes it by spending with reckless abandon. That's what the prodigal son does in this story

How often do you recharge your mobile phone?

How often do you recharge your mobile phone? Some need to do this once every three days, while others need to recharge their batteries daily. Then there are those who don't have mobile phones, so recharging does not apply to them. Let us look at this from a different angle. Doesn't the need to recharge a phone battery remind you of the need to recharge yourself? This is a valid comparison. Quite often, it seems that a person's battery is low, and he or she needs to find a source of energy and recharge. This "boost" provides the strength to go on. Our Lord is the source of renewal for each of us. He is our true source of inspiration and strength. He is always ready to help and strengthen us spiritually: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11, 28). Such a recharging is far more important than the recharging of a mobile phone. So why do we so often forget about this? Why are we not concerned that our battery is critically low, and why are we not looking for a charger? We go on the internet, we play games on our mobile phones, we listen to music and do other things which are basically not important or pressing at the given moment. The same goes for our internal state. We are spiritually exhausted, yet we continue to do that which exhausts us even more. On the surface it may seem that we are full of energy, yet this is not always a good indicator of what is happening on the inside. A mobile phone looks exactly the same on the outside, whether it's charged or not. When we click the on button, the phone lights up and we can see how much life the battery has remaining. It's much the same with us: when we feel an emptiness inside, we turn to God and HE gives us the light that opens our eyes. May each of you have a light in your heart that indicates when your battery is running low and needs recharging. May you always draw strength and inspiration from being with God, and may your battery always be 100% charged.

Yaryna Dudytska (Dyven Svit)