

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday of Cheesefare, March 3, 2019**

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

11:30 AM Lit. + John Diakun r/by Wife, Jeanette

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross (English)

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross (Ukrainian)

Friday, March 8, 2019

7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 9, 2019

9:00 AM Lit. Divine Liturgy and Lenten Commemoration

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

1st Sunday of Lent, March 10, 2019

Epistle - Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2; Gospel - Jn 1:43-51

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Myron Kataryniak r/by Wife, Eleanor

St. Ann Society Gift Auction - Today!

An *Under the Sea Gift Auction* is being held today, Sunday, March 3, 2019 in the Assumption School auditorium. 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.

Join Deacon Paul on a Spiritual Journey through Lent.

Starting on Tuesday, March 5th following Stations of the Cross, Deacon Paul will be presenting a series of short talks to help us understand the importance of Lent and preparing for Pascha (Our Lord's Resurrection). There will be four consecutive Tuesday sessions that last about 30 minutes each. Take a little time out of your weekly schedule to reconnect with God.

Donation to ACS Technology Fund

\$200.00 - In Memory of JOHANNA MASLAK BERES by Family

Donation to Church

\$500.00 - Donation from Coffee Hour.

Thank you coffee volunteers, for preparing coffee for us and creating a beautiful morning atmosphere after Sunday 9:00 am Liturgy!

Paint and Sip

Assumption Catholic is hosting a Paint and Sip Event on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call the rectory or school to get tickets.

LENTEN REMINDER

In keeping with the practice of the entire Eastern Catholic Church, Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on weekdays of Great Lent. In our church we will have one exception with the school liturgy on Wednesdays during Lent. The Divine Liturgy is a celebration of Pascha, and such a celebration is not in keeping with the somber, penitential character of the Lenten weekdays. Those parishioners who desire to have memorial services for the departed during Great Lent should include the names of their departed loved ones in the All Souls' Commemorations which fall on Saturdays during the Fast. Memorial Liturgies may resume after the Sunday of Saint Thomas.

Sunday of Orthodoxy--Blessing of the Icons

On the First Sunday of Lent the church commemorates the return of the Icons into the churches, according to the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Synod (787). The Sunday of Orthodoxy calls upon the people to rededicate themselves to the deep meaning of their faith and to declare in unison, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all". In our church, after Saturday and Sunday Liturgies we will have a special ceremony of blessing of the icons. If you have icons at home that you just purchased but they were never blessed, please bring them to church for the priest's blessing next week. Place them on the table in the front of the church.

Today: Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)

The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

- *Through greed we were once stripped naked, overcome by the bitter tasting of the forbidden fruit, and we were exiled from God. Let us turn back in repentance, fasting from the food that gives us pleasure. Let us purify our senses on which our Enemy makes war. Let us strengthen our hearts with the hope of grace, and not with foods which brought no benefits to those who trusted in them. Our food shall be the Lamb of God on the holy and radiant night of His Rising. He is the Victim offered for us, given in communion to the Apostles on the evening of the Mysteries, who scatters the darkness of ignorance by the Light of His Resurrection!*
(Vespers, Meatfare Sunday)

Great & Holy Lent begins tomorrow...

Here are six things that will make Great Lent, Great Again!

1) Fast a little more. The standard of the Fast in our church is a strict abstention from meat and dairy products throughout Lent and Holy Week (48 days). Do your best--at the very least--do more than you did last year (and if you stumble, don't despair, but try again the next day). In addition, try harder to stay away from entertainment, turn off the television a little more, listen to less radio, spend less time surfing the net & drop the video game controllers.

2) Go to Church! I would encourage you to attend at least one service per week; that is, in addition to the Sunday Divine Liturgy. The weeks of Great Lent offers Station of the Cross and Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Tuesday's, Wednesday's (Ukrainian) and Friday's. I promise there will be room in our church for you.

3) Go to Confession. We all must do it. If we do not confess our sins, at least once per year, we remove ourselves from communion with the Church. It is certainly not easy to look at your soul and yourself in front of Christ, but we do so in order to be healed and move forward; in doing so we will probably find we like it. Let's prepare ourselves and go!

4) Pray more than normal. I know I already spoke above about coming to church, but we should also make an effort to pray at home. The Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian is read during Lenten services, this should also be read at home, at least once a day, if not more often. Force yourself to read the Sacred Scriptures during this season. Pick out a spiritual book, or really, any "good" book, that wakes up and enlivens the soul and read it during Great Lent.

5) Gather the Fruits of the Spirit. No matter the manner in which you are fasting, fruit is more than likely fair game. As you fast from the sins of the flesh, gather the Fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)

6) Seek forgiveness & offer forgiveness. This requires humility. If we want it, we must give it.

I pray that each of you will have a most blessed, rewarding and spiritually enlivening Lenten season.

Today on this Forgiveness Sunday, if I have sinned against you in word, deed or thought, please forgive me, your unworthy priest, Fr. Ivan