

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday of the Prodigal Son, February 9, 2020**

9:00 AM - Lit. + Teodor Worobel r/by Daughter & Family

11:30 AM - Lit. God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

Monday, February 10, 2020

No Liturgy Scheduled

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

8:00 AM - Lit. + Mary, Charles Kopi - Legate

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

8:00 AM - Lit. + Arthur Peter Dochych r/by Tom Dochych

Thursday, February 13, 20208:00 AM - Lit. Blessings for Pete & Maggie Baralecki
r/by Tom Dochych**Friday, February 14, 2020**

8:45 AM - Lit. + Michael & Olga Raab r/by Sons

Saturday, February 15, 20208:00 AM - Lit. + Joseph Yurechko (40th Day) r/by Family

5:00 PM - Lit. + Anna, Steve Palyla r/by Roman & Cathy

Sunday of Meatfare, February 16, 2020*Epistle - 1 Cor 8:8-9:2; Gospel - Mt 25:31-46*

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Ronald Hutnick r/by sister, Eleanor

St. Ann Society Gift Auction

The annual Gift Auction will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Mark your calendars! Members or anyone wishing to make a donation are reminded that gifts for the auction may be dropped off at Bingo on Wednesday or Friday evenings, as well as at church on the weekend. Deadline for prize Donations: February 23!

Sorokousty Memorial Services

As in the past, we will honor the memory of our beloved deceased with Sorokousty Memorial Services at 9 a.m. on all Saturdays of Lent beginning February 29, 2020. During the Great Fast we remember those who have departed this life before us in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Memorial services will be offered during which the names of our departed family members and friends are commemorated. If you would like your deceased family members commemorated during these services, please submit your envelope with the names clearly listed, by Feb. 16. After that date, names of your loved ones can still be submitted and will be commemorated, but not listed in the bulletin.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

A Ukrainian woman is seeking employment as a caregiver of an elderly or ill person. If you are interested, contact the church 732-826-0767.

Just a Little Reminder

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to verify their contact information and pick up their 2020 Donation Envelopes. If you haven't yet picked up yours, they are now available in the Church hall. Please pick yours up promptly. Anyone who took a box of blank envelopes, please put your name and address on the envelopes for the first few weeks. We ask that scotch tape NOT BE USED to seal the church donation envelopes. This makes it harder for the counters to open as well as running the risk of envelopes sticking together and getting missed. Thank you for your cooperation!

Thank You

A sincere thank you to the men of the Holy Name Society who helped out recently, taking down the Christmas decorations. Thank you very much for your benevolence.

Memorial Donations

In Memory of + JOSEPH YURECHKO:

Church:

\$100.00 - Robert & Helen Cheloc

\$100.00 - S. & H. Jakubowycz

\$100.00 - Maria Ochotsky

\$50.00 - Sharon & George Blyskun

Bishop Gabro School Endowment Fund:

\$100.00 - Paul Pohlid

\$100.00 - Margaret Putykewycz

\$50.00 - Oksana Tabaka

\$50.00 - Olga Lystiuk

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.

School News

Last week, the police officers, firefighters and EMS visited Assumption school in Perth Amboy, NJ as part of the school activities for national Catholic Schools Week. These heroic men and women live each day fulfilling this year's theme for Catholic Schools Week, *Learn, Serve, Lead and Succeed*. The good work they do is not often mentioned in the papers or on the evening news, but they are the unsung heroes of our communities. Thank you for your service and we ask God's blessing and protection on each of you.

Why did so many saints choose to live in caves?

Caves were a popular choice for many saints for both practical and spiritual reasons. Some of the greatest saints of the Catholic Church fled the comforts of the world and sought refuge in a cave. The list of saints is a long one and includes St. Benedict, St. Anthony of Egypt, St. Jerome, St. John Chrysostom and even St. Francis of Assisi for certain periods in his life.

Why did these saints choose caves? Couldn't they have lived in a monastery or a small house attached to a church? For many saints caves were initially a **practical** choice. Throughout Europe, the Holy Land and Northern Africa, caves are a naturally occurring feature of the landscape. It doesn't take long for someone to travel outside of a city and find a cave embedded in a nearby mountain. Furthermore, most caves require absolutely zero building materials. A monk or nun could sell everything they had, wander into the mountains, and find a cave with no tools or money.

Caves also provide sufficient **protection**, both from natural elements and any criminals. Most caves maintain a constant temperature throughout the year, keeping heat in the winter and remaining cool in the summer. Storms also have a minimized effect on caves, allowing an individual to keep safe no matter the weather. A well placed cave can also be "invisible" to the eye and a passerby may never notice it, protecting the person from criminals or enemy soldiers passing through.

Additionally, caves were a **spiritual** choice as well, recalling the most famous "hermit" in the Old Testament, the prophet **Elijah**. It was while dwelling in a cave that Elijah encounters the **presence of God**.

And there he came to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him. (1 Kings 19:9)

Caves provided a perfect **spiritual sanctuary** that was entirely secluded from the rest of the world. Caves are most often found in areas that are difficult to reach and not on any main road. If you want to be alone, caves are where you want to be! The caves also reminded the saint of **Jesus' death and burial**, representing the "death" to their old selves that they sought in order to experience a newness in their spiritual lives.

ACS Fundraisers

February 25 is ACS night at Miller's Ale House, 350 US Highway 9 North, Woodbridge.

March 24 is ACS night at Longhorn Steakhouse, 366 US 9 North, Woodbridge.

For information call the school, 732-826-0767.

To Father Ivan and fellow parishioners, just wanted to say, "Thank you" for your outpouring of love and support that you have shown my sons and I during this most difficult time. We are truly overwhelmed by your kindness and expressions of sympathy. We are blessed to know such kind people. Thank you.

Peter, PJ and Andrew Zulin