

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, August 23, 2020**

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

11:00 AM - Lit. + Mary Ann Makar  
r/by Caterina & Ralph Iacuzio**Monday, August 24, 2020**9:00 AM - Lit. + Lesia (40<sup>th</sup> Day) r/by Daughters**Tuesday, August 25, 2020**9:00 AM - Lit. + Michailo (40<sup>th</sup> Day) r/by son, Vitaliy**Wednesday, August 26, 2020**

9:00 AM - Lit. + Jessica Zulin r/by Husband and Sons

**Thursday, August 27, 2020**

9:00 AM - Lit. Health of Martiak Family

**Friday, August 28, 2020**

9:00 AM - Lit. + Michael Fedeyko - Legate

**Saturday, August 29, 2020**

5:00 PM - Lit. + Maria Kuzmiuk r/by Lyszyk Family

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, August 30, 2020***Epistle - 1 Cor 16:13-24; Gospel - Mt 21:33-42*

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

11:00 AM - Lit. + Joan Bigos r/by Ron &amp; Irene Bigos

**THANK YOU** to everyone who continues to support our parish financially in our weekly collections. I realize that the economic impact hurts some households greatly, and please know of my prayers and genuine offer of any support the parish can provide for you. Please don't worry if you can't contribute. Trust in God and know of my prayer. If you are staying home, and are able to still send any amount, it would be a blessing.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MESSAGE**

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst". Religious Education For Children First Confession and Solemn Holy Communion Instruction classes led by Mrs. Nancy Bialkowski will start in October. This year again, we will try to offer classes for children who already received First Penance and Communion. Please contact Fr. Ivan at 732-826-0767 to register your child for the program. More info is coming in future bulletins. Enjoy the rest of your summer, be safe and we are looking forward to October!

**Meet the Pastor**

If you would like to meet with Fr. Ivan, please call him at 202-368-2408 to arrange a time and place that is convenient for you. If you are in church already and need to see him, please don't be afraid after the liturgy to go through the side glass door and meet him at the sacristy. The sacristy is located next to the altar where the priest vests and prepares before the service.

**Divine Liturgy Intentions.**

Liturgy Intentions may be offered for those who are deceased, ill or for family, friends and special occasions for loved ones. I noticed that many people in our parish often order the Liturgy for their loved ones on Saturday or Sunday but NEVER come to church for the requested Liturgy, while there are people who are asking for Liturgies on a weekend and want to come but those days are already taken by someone who called at the beginning of the year and preordered Liturgies for the entire year. Starting from September, no more than 2 Intentions from a family will be accepted for the weekend Liturgies per year. You are always welcome to offer intentions for a weekday Liturgy.

**Please Pray**

*Lord, The plight of our country is deep and the suffering of Christians is severe and frightening. Therefore, we ask you Lord to spare our lives, and to grant us patience, and courage to continue our witness of Christian values with trust and hope. Lord, peace is the foundation of life; Grant us the peace and stability that will enable us to live with each other without fear and anxiety, and with dignity and joy. Glory be to you forever. Amen.*

**Liturgy Schedule**

Starting September 1 we will go back to our regular schedule, Sunday masses at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM; weekday masses at 8:00 AM. Saturday evening stays at 5:00 PM.

**TODAY: 12th Sunday after Pentecost.**

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" Sell all of your possessions - very difficult to do, both then and now. We place so much emphasis on the earthly, what we own, how much we make and our status in society. As we work towards our salvation, we must focus on the Heavenly. God will judge us on what we have done with all that He has provided - not our status, wealth or position in life.

**A Blessing of the Backpacks.**

As we prepare to welcome back our students back to school for in person or a distance learning, we ask that ACS students and all children of our parish who attend different schools to bring their backpacks to Divine Liturgies on Sunday, August 30 at 9:00 am or 11:00 am to have them blessed. Prior to this blessing at the end of Liturgy, all children and youth in the congregation are asked to come forward, bringing their backpacks to be blessed.

**WELCOME:** Next Saturday and Sunday, Bishop Andriy Rabi, auxiliary bishop of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, will celebrate Divine Liturgies in our parish, as Fr. Ivan will be away on a weekend. Bishop Rabi, will also bless backpacks at the conclusion of Sunday's Liturgies.

**What exactly is a bishop?**

The bishop is the first and highest degree of the clergy in the Catholic Church. He is the successor to the Apostles in the service and government of the Church. A ruling bishop is responsible for and is the head of all the parishes located in his diocese. The ministry and authority of the lower orders of clergy (priests, deacons, subdeacons, readers) is derived from the bishop, who alone performs the mystery of ordination. Likewise, lay stewardship in the Church (educative, administrative, or otherwise) is conducted with the blessing of the bishop. While hierarchs may differ in rank and title (as some are called patriarchs, popes, metropolitans, archbishops, or simply bishops), nevertheless all bishops are equal as they all share in the same apostolic succession, they all have the same sacramental powers, and they all are divinely appointed teachers of the faith.

**Change, no matter what.**

At the age of 40 an eagle's nails grow too long and too soft and he is then unable to catch his prey. His beak becomes too long and too crooked which does not allow him to eat. The feathers on his wings and breast are too thick and too heavy which hinders his ability to fly. At this point an eagle has a choice - death or a long and painful period that lasts 150 days. He flees to his nest on top of a mountain and there he beats his beak against a rock until the beak falls off. Then he waits until a new beak grows back and with this new beak he pulls out his nails. When his nails grow back he uses them to pluck his heavy feathers. And then, after 5 months of pain and suffering, with a new beak, new nails and new feathers he can live another 30 years. Very often in order to live we need to change. Sometimes this process is painful, frightening and filled with doubts. We get rid of memories, habits and past traditions. It is only when we are free of the burdens of the past that we can live in the everyday and prepare for the future.

**BENEATH YOUR COMPASSION**

The oldest prayer we know dedicated to the Virgin Mary is known as "Beneath Your Compassion." The earliest text of this hymn was found in a Coptic Vespers for Christmas of the 3rd century. It is written in Greek and dates to approximately 250 AD. It is used in the Coptic Liturgy to this day, as well as in our Compline service, it being the last hymn to be sung.

*Beneath your compassion, We take refuge, Virgin Mother of God. Despise not our prayers in our necessity But deliver us from harm O only pure, only blessed one.*

The ancient date of the hymn tells us that the early Christians had an established devotion to the Theotokos and called upon her intercession. Long before the usage of the term "Theotokos" in the 5th century, the Church already knew the Virgin Mary as "Mother of God".