

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday Before Christmas, December 20, 2020**

9:00 AM - Lit. + Marta Royik - Fr. Ivan

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

Monday, December 21, 2020

No Liturgy Scheduled

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

8:00 AM - Lit. + Eva, George Radich - Legate

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

8:00 AM - Lit. + Anna Baralecki r/by Helen & Jeff Ilek

Thursday, December 24, 2020**Vigil of Christmas - Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM - Children's Divine Liturgy

10:30 PM - Great Compline (English)

11:00 PM - Divine Liturgy (English)

Friday, December 25, 2020**Christmas Day, Birth of Our Lord**

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

11:30 AM - Divine Liturgy (English)

Saturday, December 26, 2020**Synaxis of the Mother of God**

9:00 AM - Lit. Special Intention

5:00 PM - Lit. + Nick Lyszyk r/by Krystyna Chrominski

Sunday After Christmas, December 27, 2020

Epistle - Gal 1:11-19; Gospel - Mt 2:13-23

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Rose Ann Rudy r/by Nancy Bialkowski

Christmas Greetings.

Our Byzantine Catholic greeting to one another for Christmas through Christmastide is "Christ is born!" Our response is "Glorify Him!" In Ukrainian it is "Christos Raždajetsa!" and the response, "Slavite Jeho!"

Prophora Bread.

Our traditional Christmas Eve Supper Prophora Breads will be blessed and distributed after all liturgies this weekend. Thanks to Mrs. Colette Baginsky and her helpers for making the bread.

COVID Cleaning.

Thank you to Iryna, Tania, Oksana and Natalia for sanitizing and cleaning our church this week. Also thanks to Volodymyr for disinfecting and sanitizing using Hospital-Grade Disinfection SniPER® and Vectorfog C150+ ULV Electric Cold Fogger machine. We want to make sure you know that your family's safety is important to us. From seating adjustments for physical distancing to cleaning and sanitizing our church, we are making sure that you can safely worship with us this Christmas season.

COVID Reminder.

We are asking all who come to Sunday services to please continue wearing a mask and keep a "social distance" of 6ft or more from each other as much as possible until further notice. Please remember, if you are feeling sick (Covid Symptoms, Flu Symptoms, ANY symptoms), please stay home from Church. With the rise in Covid cases, it's best to keep EVERYONE around you safe, even if you don't think your symptoms are "contagious."

2021 Donation Envelopes

Donation Envelopes for 2021 may be picked up in the church hall. Please check your envelopes for correct name and address. Any corrections should be directed to the church secretary. If you do not see your envelopes, please contact the parish office. If you would like to have envelopes, please speak to Fr. Ivan or contact the parish office @ 732-826-0767 and a number will be issued to you.

Parish Choir Christmas CD.

The disk includes a mix of traditional carols and is a great Christmas gift! Each CD costs \$15 and can be purchased from Choir members after today's Liturgies or at the Church Rectory. You can also order it from Andrij Wowk by emailing him andywowk@gmail.com or sending a check \$18: Choir Boyan, c/o Andrij Wowk, 213 Short Hills Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Gift for Children.

Children, St. Nicholas has a Christmas gift for you! Look for your tree ornament at the church manger.

The Pastor's Christmas Message

Dear Parishioners,

In just a few days, we will once again gather to celebrate that great moment when "the Word of God leapt from heaven, when half-spent was the night." This celebration brings back so many memories to all of us and yet there is always a newness to it. As we celebrate this Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity with the Eucharist, we realize that this isn't historical reminiscence, but rather, the altar becomes the manger, the bread and wine become that same Lord who first took flesh among us in the infant of Bethlehem. We hear in the proclamation of the Gospel that the Magi made a long journey to the Christ, but when the star came to rest over the place where He was, they opened the door, beheld the Lord with their own eyes and fell down and worshipped Him. Each week, we endure a difficult journey of life. Each Sunday, we are supposed to come to the house where Christ is, with Mary, His Mother, and all the saints, and we are supposed to walk in the door and fall down and worship Him. Today's verse about the arrival of the Magi is something we should be experiencing on a weekly basis. May the same faith and trust that sustained them in their journey to Christ sustain us in our journeys. Leave time for worship this (and every) week!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours, Fr. Ivan - Pastor

Memorial Donations**In Memory of + CAROLYN TEREKENKO**

\$100.00 - Kevin & Susan Keyasko

\$50.00 - Ann Marie Stek

\$25.00 - Janice & Jake Scherer

ACS Virtual Christmas Bazaar.

Get your Christmas shopping done from the comfort of your own home, all while supporting Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ. Go on school or Fr. Ivan facebook pages and bid on some great prizes. Hoping to spin some boards soon.

Question About Our Faith

Our Liturgy and traditions are similar to those of the Orthodox Church—what makes us Catholic?"

To begin it might be helpful to offer a few historical references. Yes, we share much in common with the Orthodox Church. We both derive from the ancient Church of Constantinople. For example, missionaries like Saints Cyril and Methodius who brought Christian faith to the regions of Central and Eastern Europe where our particular church developed came from Constantinople. Constantinople later was called Byzantium. Hence, the term "Byzantine" has come to identify the heritage of those churches which trace their origin to the ancient Church of Constantinople. And so our Liturgy, the practices related to the Sacraments [Holy Mysteries], and the theology and spirituality of both Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox have this common root or origin. These have developed differently in some respects, but the essential elements are for the most part the same. As to the question "What makes us Catholic," the separation between Catholics and Orthodox occurred in a more definitive way in 1054 AD. Reasons are both theological and political and deserve much more attention than could be given here even in a few paragraphs. Most Catholics and Orthodox who study this matter today seem to agree that it is the role of the Pope as the Bishop of Rome to decide which is the really divisive issue. However, once again much more would need to be said about this. Our identify as "Catholics" and as "Byzantine Catholics" is to me a most important topic.

Thanks In Advance!

As we enter the beautiful liturgies of the Christmas season, it is obvious that we would not have all that we do, all that inspires and leads us deeper into the mysteries of these days, if we didn't have our decorators, cleaners, cantors and singers. We are most grateful to all who contributed to the beauty of our services. Let's unite in asking the Lord to bless all these folks abundantly, as we all benefit from what they provide for our worship!