

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK

9th Sunday after Pentecost, July 25, 2021

9:00 AM - Lit. + Aleksandra Melnyk r/by Halyna B. Tulys

11:00 AM - Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

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

Saturday, July 31, 2021

5:00 PM - Lit. + Ethel Melnykevich r/by Glenys & Family

10th Sunday after Pentecost, August 1, 2021*Epistle - 1 Cor 4:9-16; Gospel - Mt 17:14-23*

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

11:00 AM - Lit. + Carolyn Terefenko

r/by Bernadette Zavorsky

Church Office

Summer office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mornings, 9 to 12. Please call ahead.

Outfitting of the convent!

You've probably already heard that two religious sisters from Ukraine are arriving in the USA at the beginning of September and will be residing in our parish convent. The two sisters are from the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, SSVM, which is part of the Institute of the Incarnate Word. Colette Baginsky has volunteered to coordinate the effort to outfit the Convent for the newly arriving Sisters. A list has been compiled and is posted in the vestibule of the NEW items that are needed. If you would like to donate the item or donate cash to sponsor a particular item please sign your name on the line next to the item. For the monies that are donated a shopping trip will be planned to obtain the rest of the needed items. Please send your monetary donations to the rectory or drop in the collection basket labeled "For the Convent." It would be appreciated that all donations be made by August 15 to give us time to shop for other needed items.

Boxes and baskets have been placed in the church basement for any paper products and nonperishables that you would like to donate. St Ann's, Holy Name, Seniors, FSA, Assumption School and Soyusz Ukrainok have already pledged funds towards this effort.

Let us show the incoming Sisters the spirit of the Assumption Parish Family. Thanks to all for your continued generosity!

ON VACATION - Fr. Ivan will be on vacation starting on Tuesday, July 27 through, Wednesday August 18. Fr. Volodymyr Prokopchuk will substitute for him. There will be no weekday services, only Saturday evening and Sunday morning, and any funerals. Please express your welcome and hospitality for a visiting priest. In the event there is an emergency need for a priest, please call the rectory.

Blessing of Vehicles.

Last Sunday, in commemoration of the holy prophet Elijah (July 20) who was taken into heaven on a fiery chariot, Fr. Ivan blessed parishioner's cars at the conclusion of Liturgies. May the Lord keep the drivers and passengers in safety, as they strive to glorify God through the use of their vehicles.

Thank You

Assumption youth cooled down during a foam party, part of the ACS 21CCLC Summer Program and Camp. Children in kindergarten through eighth grade attended the four week program filled with educational and fun activities. Thank you to everyone who participated

August 1 to 14: the Fast of the Dormition.

The Feast of the Dormition is preceded by a two week fast, referred to as the Fast of the Dormition. Let us resolve as a parish to seek God together during these coming days, and to ask His blessing upon our community.

Full Time Teacher Needed.

Assumption Catholic School is looking to hire an elementary school teacher for the upcoming school year. We are looking for someone who is willing to learn, believes in the value of a Catholic School education and is a team player. Call Mrs. Shumny at 732-826-8721, or email your resume to lshumny@assumptioncatholicschool.net.

• **PASTOR'S CORNER:****Holy Tradition vs. Local Customs.**

In our church there are those things which belong to "Holy Tradition" and those things which are simply "traditions" (or, perhaps, better called "customs"). In essential matters—doctrine, sacraments, worship, etc.—there are no differences.

In minor things—the style of vestments, the exact order of services, customs associated with various feast days—there is a wide variety of customs which may be found, as developed in various times and various places based on a wide variety of circumstances.

Furthermore, these customs are not, nor were they ever intended to be, that which brings about unity within the Church.

For example, in some places in Ukraine it is the custom to close the royal doors for much of the Liturgy; in other places like in America this is not the case.

What is important is that the Eucharist is being celebrated, that the faithful are receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in a reverent manner— and with proper preparation—etc. Whether the doors are opened for the entire Liturgy, as in some practices, or closed for much of it is secondary. After all, Christ says, "Unless you eat of my body and drink of my blood, you have no life in you." He does not say, "Unless you open the doors, you have no life in you."

The sin of the pharisees, which Christ continually combated, was enslavement to externals with no regard to the spirit in which the externals were developed or employed.

Another example: In some places the iconostasis is a rather high, solid wall, consisting of several rows of icons; in other places, the iconostasis is low, perhaps only one or maybe two rows high. The important thing is that the icons are properly displayed and employed and venerated; of secondary—and here quite inconsequential—importance is how many rows any given iconostasis may or may not have.

A third example: Among some Christians there is a custom of blessing food in conjunction with the celebration of Holy Pascha; in other places this practice is unknown. This does not indicate a "difference" in anything essential in the faith or in the life of the Church; rather, it is an expression of Paschal joy developed in some places for specific reasons but perhaps not in others. In no way does the blessing of Paschal food, or the lack thereof, make one's celebration "better" or "worse." What is critical—and what is absolutely the same among all Christians—is the centrality of the celebration of the Holy Pascha, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Blessing food may be a wonderful aspect of this celebration, but it surely is not essential to obtaining eternal life.

On the feast of the Transfiguration we bless fruits and vegetables as a beautiful sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord. Parishioners are encouraged to bring baskets of fruit to be blessed after the EVENING Liturgy next week.

The Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Mother of God will be celebrated Sunday August 15TH The Great Feast of the Dormition of The Theotokos celebrates the wondrous way in which The Theotokos left this earthly life and was taken into heaven in a miraculous way: both body and soul. Holy Tradition tells us that all the Apostles, except Thomas, were transported mystically to Jerusalem in order to be with the Mother of God as she died and present at her burial. When Thomas arrived the next day, they opened the tomb so that he could say his farewell. They found only an empty tomb filled with sweet-smelling flowers. *Parishioners are welcome to bring flowers that day, to be blessed in remembrance of this great sign of her holiness.*

Thank You - we collected \$1200 for Pavlo Motychka, who was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and needs a very costly injection before he reaches the age of 2. The collected funds were sent to United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc.