

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, August 8, 2021**

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

11:00 AM - Lit. + Olga Kanuschak r/by Stelle and Joan Gadek

**Saturday, August 14, 2021**

5:00 PM - Lit. + Charles Stek r/by Ann Marie Stek

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, August 15, 2021****Dormition of the Holy Theotokos***Epistle - 1 Cor 15:1-11; Gospel - Mt 19:16-26*

9:00 AM - Lit. + Katarzyna Hnat

r/by Sister, Bobbie, and Family

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

**Myrovania after Liturgies****Parishioners are welcome to bring flowers that feastday, to be blessed at the conclusion of Liturgies.****Outfitting of the convent!**

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 Soyuz 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!

**The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary ( August 15)**

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God.

**Questions and Answers about Our Faith**

- *Is it right that some Christian traditions are paganistic, like worshipping the Virgin Mary as the "Mother of God"?*

First of all, we Christians do not worship Mary. Worship is reserved for God alone. However, Mary is greatly esteemed and honored as the one chosen by God to bring forth His Only-Begotten Son into the world. Because of this, she is the most exalted of all creatures. She herself prophesied "All generations shall call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Jesus Christ is an eternal, divine Person who took on a complete human nature through the Virgin Mary (John 1:1,14). As Mary gave birth to and nurtured a divine Person, she is rightly called the "Mother of God." This, of course, does not imply that she is the mother of God the Father. Many of those who question the title "Mother of God" are those who also doubt the full divinity of Jesus Christ. There is nothing paganistic in the Church's veneration of the Mother of our Savior.

- *Do I really have to go to Church and celebrate the Divine Liturgy every Sunday?*

"Remember the Sabbath", and the Church has taught since the beginning that, at minimum, we are to fulfill this commandment by going to Church every Sunday. (Interesting fact, Sunday actually begins with sunset on Saturday evening.) On Sunday, nothing should come in the way of the worship of God, service and relaxation. For more information, see (CCC 2185) Catechism of the Catholic Church or CCC for short. We know this can be tough at times. There are many demands and opportunities that come up on Sunday that can conflict with Sunday Liturgy. Just ask yourself, "If they were serving my favorite dessert, wouldn't I try to get there?" or "If they were handing out free gift cards to my favorite grocery store to everyone in attendance, would I make an effort to get it?" If you would make it for that and not the Eucharist, what does that say about where God is first into your list of priorities? In addition, God desires to share with us something far greater than merely material things and possessions. He offers us His very self - present in the Holy Eucharist - His Body, Blood and Divinity. What treasure on earth could ever compare?

- *What is Incense?*

Incense is produced from the resin of trees, of various kinds. It can sometimes be mixed with other fragrant pieces of plants. For example, frankincense comes from the Boswellia tree. Incense should smell sweet or floral when burned. The resin is placed with a small spoon onto lit charcoal in a container called an incenser or 'kadilitzja'. They can come in many shapes and sizes, but they are designed to have increased airflow and puff the smoke up into the air when used. The incenser is swung during the Divine Liturgy (and other times/services) in order to draw our hearts and minds to certain realities in the Church. The things which are incensed are always symbolic or sacramental of Christ. During the Divine Liturgy the altar, the Chalice, bread and wine offered, the Gospel (before its proclamation), the icons, and even the people are incensed.

**BLESSING OF FLOWERS**

In the Byzantine Church we bless flowers on this festival, not simply because they were found in the tomb of the Virgin Mary, but because they are the seeds of next year's plantings. What we see in any bloom now is the seed of another one to come, and therefore a strong symbol of resurrection. Besides seeds, we also bless herbs on this day. The prayers speak of all these things, flowers, herbs and seeds, as medicine. There is a healing that comes from death, as contradictory as that might sound. St. Gregory Nyssa once referred to death as "the final remedy." Things which cannot be set right in this world can be made right in the next. Bring your flowers to the Church for blessing on NEXT Saturday-Sunday.

**2022 Donation Envelopes**

It is that time of year when we prepare a list for next year's church donation envelopes. If there are any changes or corrections to your name or address, please contact the rectory office by phone or email. If you do not have envelopes and wish to be considered an active registered parishioner, please contact the office.

Any envelopes that were not picked up for 2021 will not be renewed, but will be put out for use in 2022.