

## DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK

**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, December 5, 2021**

9:00 Am - Lit. + Maria and Stefan r/by Bobbie and Family

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

**Monday, December 6, 2021****Feast of Saint Nicholas**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Joseph Yurechko r/by Eugene Bratach

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Helena Kawanka r/by Eva &amp; Lukasz &amp; Fam.

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Deceased in Family r/by Maria Dzeva

**Thursday, December 9, 2021****Conception of St. Anne (Immaculate Conception)**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Kenneth Chordas r/by Dorothy Magyarits

**Friday, December 10, 2021**

8:45 AM - Lit. + Maria Espinal r/by ACS Faculty

**Saturday, December 11, 2021**8:00 AM - Lit. + Stepan Hluchiy (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.) r/by Family

5:00 PM - Lit. + Elizabeth Silasi r/by Vera Gochal

**Sunday of the Forefathers, December 12, 2021***Epistle - Col 3:4-11; Gospel - Lk 14:16-24*

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

11:30 AM - Lit. Blessings for St. Ann Society

**Pastor's Corner**

This week, as we continue to prepare for the birth of Christ, we have two special feast days.

On Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate St. Nicholas of Myra. He was a bishop in Myra, which is now in the country of Turkey. Although he came from a wealthy family, Nicholas liked nothing better than to help others. He saved three young women from being sold as slaves by providing bags of gold coins; in this way, their poor father could supply a dowry and the girls could marry. St. Nicholas is the special friend of all children. We can pray this prayer on December 6<sup>th</sup>: O good and holy Saint Nicholas, you who brought joy to the children, put into my heart the spirit of childhood about which the Gospel speaks. Teach me how to sow happiness around me, as you did. Amen.

On Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (IMMACULATE CONCEPTION). This feast is celebrated to remind us that the Mother of God was conceived and born into this world free from the stain of original sin. Mary is the only human person who remained perfect and unstained by sin throughout her life. Since 1846, Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, has been the Patron of the United States of America.

**Holy Name Society**

A meeting will be held in the church hall at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

**St. Ann Society.**

There will be a Corporate Communion for all members next Sunday, December 12 at the 11:30 Liturgy. It will be followed by installation of officers for 2022-2023. Afterwards, there will be a regular monthly meeting in the church hall. Desserts and coffee will be provided. New members are always welcomed!

**Pyrohy Sale!**

Once again, during the month of December we will be selling pyrohy in the church hall following Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 9:00 and 11:30 am liturgies. Potato pyrohy only, \$8.00.

**The New 2022 Weekly Offering Envelopes**

Church envelopes should be ready for pick up next weekend in the church basement. Every married couple or single person 18 years or over is to be registered and receive envelopes. The neglect of regular church attendance and regular use of church envelopes can lead to difficulties at the time of baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc. If you did not receive Church envelopes, and would like to, please call the Church office at 732-827-0767 during regular office hours.

**Thank You!**

Sincere thanks to all men of the Holy Name Society who came and worked hard on decorating our Church in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Also, thank you to the Boyko and Bigos families for donating materials to build our new wooden Nativity Creche with Star On Roof.

**Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak Visits  
the Ukrainian Catholic Church  
of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

On Sunday, November 28, 2021, Metropolitan-Archbishop visited the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy.

Rev. Ivan Turyk, Deacon Paul Makar and parish trustees welcomed the archbishop to the parish at the door of the church. Two children welcomed Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak with bread (on traditional Ukrainian cloth), salt, and flowers. This long-standing Ukrainian tradition symbolizes eternity (bread) and hospitality (salt). Pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rev. Ivan Turyk presented the archbishop with a cross.

Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Rev. Ivan Turyk, celebrated the divine liturgy with the assistance of Deacon Paul Makar, Deacon Volodymyr Radko, and several altar boys. In attendance at the service were over 55 nuns including Mother Mary of the Immaculate Conception Ambriogio, Provincial Superior of the Sisters Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara SSVM and Sister Veronica who will begin their ministry at the parish. Members of the parish welcomed the archbishop and the visiting sisters. The sisters come from all over the world to join their order. They are Latin Rite and wear blue and grey. These two different colors signify Jesus as both divine (blue) and his humanity (grey). Sister Veronica and Sister Maria wear the black habits because they belong to Byzantine Rite branch of the order.

Archbishop Borys's sermon was on the day's gospel Lk 13:10-17 which is about a woman who had been humped over for 18 years. The woman entered the synagogue and Jesus called her over to him and he healed her. This made the synagogue leader jealous, so he complained because Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Jesus calls him a hypocrite stating that the woman has a right to be healed after 18 years of being bound by her disfigurement.

The archbishop stated, "The American slang would be, "Give me a break!" He continued, "All of our prayers, abstinence, self-denial, sacrifice - love of God and love of your neighbor. Religion comes from the Roman (Latin) word ligare - to join(reconnect). Jesus wants our heart. He gives us the love of God. Jesus is saying, "Give me a break! You tell me about rules of the Sabbath. The woman has been in pain for 18 years." Rules keep order the community. But if the rules get in the way, sometimes the rules need to be suspended. Rules are our comfort zone. Our Lord is not negating the law. There is one fundamental criteria - love. Love is always for others. You can't love all by yourself. God is a relationship. In God, there is love. Jesus is a relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We are living in a time where we have all these rules - vestments, robes. There is true love - God is calling us to come back to Him - to love. There is no more radical counterculture movement in the 20th (and 21st) century when a woman becomes a nun. You have in your order more than fifty women when everything is crying money, power, sex - you are obedience, poverty, chastity. We pray for you, sisters. We have great trust in God and the community. We pray through your ministry in Perth Amboy that you have many vocations. We see something we only have by grace. Be armed with the word of God. The life of the church is only beginning. It is only 2,000 years old. The church is very young. The universe is billions of years old. Maybe around 20,000 years from now, people will talk of the early years of the primitive church. God bless you!"

At the end of the divine liturgy, Archbishop Borys blessed Sister Veronica a Superior of the convent in Perth Amboy, NJ and Sister Maria for the beginning of their ministry in Perth Amboy. The nuns in attendance sang the prayer, "Hail Mary," in old Slavonic.

After the liturgy, there was a reception at Assumption Catholic School cafeteria prepared by parishioners and ladies from the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) branch 135. Assumption Catholic School Principal Mrs. Lissette Shumny and several school children presented Archbishop Borys, Rev. Ivan Turyk, Mother Mary and Sister Veronica with flowers and a song.

After eating lunch, some of the sisters who attended the service got up on stage to sing. One spiritual hymn was, "Down by the Water Side We Meet," while the postulates sang, "I Saw the Light." It was a pleasant day for all.

*Article is written By: Katherine Massopust*