

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Sunday After Theophany, January 10, 2022**

9:00 AM - Lit. God's Blessings on Our Parishioners
11:30 AM - Lit. + Ed Bishop r/by Debbie, Cindy, Joanne.

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

8:00 AM - Lit. + Helen, Rose Gurneak - Legate

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

8:00 AM - Lit. + Anna, Dmytro Pikus r/by Ann Marie Stek

Thursday, January 13, 2022

8:00 AM - Lit. + Anna, Walter Sefcheck - Legate

Friday, January 14, 2022

8:00 AM - Lit. health of Patricia Cooper -
r/by ACS Faculty and Staff

Saturday, January 15, 2022

8:00 AM - Lit. Special Intention Maria Derevenska -
r/by Alla Korostil

5:00 PM - Lit. + Mary Clements r/by Joyce Adamshick

34th Sunday after Pentecost, Jan. 16, 2022

Epistle - 1 Tim 15-17; Gospel - Lk 18:35-43

9:00 AM - Lit. health and blessing for Andrea Hetling-Wernyj
- r/by choir Boyan/

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

At Assumption everyone is welcome....unless you are feeling sick.

Based on recent reports from various medical experts, the new COVID variants are highly transmissible. In light of this, our goal is to be cautious, not only to protect all parishioners but to make all who attend church feel at ease. As a community, it is our obligation to work together to safeguard all. If you wish to wear a mask or face covering during services, you are welcome to do that. We also respect those who either choose not to, or for medical reasons are unable to, wear a mask. We are blessed that our attendance is growing so we will continue to be vigilant and to do our best to follow all the covid directives for everyone's sake. Thanks for your cooperation.

Theophany House Blessing.

As announced in Church and reported in last Sunday's Bulletin, I will not be visiting homes this year for House Blessings because of the most recent surge of Covid-19. However, this does not mean you can not bless your own home. Simply take holy water from the church and use the prayers sheet on the bulletin table. Holy Water is available in the church vestibule for you to take to your homes. Thanks for your understanding.

Julian Calendar Christmas.

Despite the snow and most recent surge of Covid-19, nearly one hundred people gathered this Friday, January 7 to celebrate Christmas according to the Julian Calendar. The Julian calendar dates back to Roman times. It was created by Julius Caesar and Christmas falls 13 days later than the calendar we use now. It was a special time for faith, family, and celebration.

Thank You.

Thank you to all volunteers who baked bread, worked on our church sound system, cleaned and decorated the church, ushered, shovelled snow and helped in any way to make our celebrations this Christmas so festive.

Reception of Holy Communion.

Per Eparchial instructions, we currently use two golden spoons that are sanitized but the manner of reception is the same. Open your mouth wide, tilt back your head and wait for Father to remove the spoon. Don't scrape the spoon with your teeth. Remind your children too. Thank you!

Ask Fr. Ivan: Father, the day after Christmas was the Synaxis of the Theotokos. What is a synaxis?

A synaxis is an observance without a counterpart on the Roman calendar. This is a commemoration, on the day following a feast, of persons involved with the occasion for the feast - e.g. Sept 9, the day following the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Sept 8), is the synaxis of Joachim and Anna, her parents. So it follows that the day following the Nativity of Our Lord would be the synaxis of the Theotokos.

Today: SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt. 4:17)

With these profound and holy words, the incarnate Word began His preaching to fallen mankind. Outwardly, such simple teaching! But one must understand it with his very life: then these short and simple words which are contained in all of the Gospel will be revealed. Just as the holy Apostle Paul, when preaching the Gospel, which he did throughout almost all the known world, said that he testified "*both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Acts 20:21).

Brethren! In order to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ repentance is needed; in order to remain in this salvific faith, repentance is needed; in order to be successful in it, repentance is needed; in order to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, repentance is needed.

Divine Liturgy Intention.

It is a most holy and honorable action to remember individuals in Divine Liturgies. Sunday Divine Liturgies are always for the People of the Parish but other days are normally open. We can remember our living loved ones on their birthdays, baptism anniversaries, wedding anniversaries, health needs and indeed any other intention. For our deceased family and friends, we should remember them on the anniversaries of their death as well as any other time we wish. Offertory stipends are traditionally given to the priest for these services but no one is ever denied a Divine Liturgy intention based on a stipend. To pray for one another is a direct teaching of Our Lord and His holy church. "Pray for those who love us and pray for those who hate us". See Fr. Ivan or call the office for any scheduling of Divine Liturgy intentions.

SCHOOL NEWS:

The feast day of Theophany was commemorated at the Assumption Parish with the Divine Liturgy and the blessing of the waters at the end of the service. In his homily Fr. Ivan said that water is an essential and powerful element in our life and we Catholic Christians believe that the holy water, combined with faith and prayer, can heal those who drink it and cleanse people from spiritual impurities. After the blessing of the water ceremony, Fr. Ivan walked around the school with a small group of 8 grades students and blessed each room with holy water and offered a blessing to students and staff. Some students even had a chance to use Father's Sprinkler and bless their classmates with the holy water. He also asked students various questions about Feasts of Christmas and Theophany and was very pleased by their answers.

BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH - WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. This means that corporately, not individually, we are Christ Himself still incarnate in the world doing His work. If a person desires with their whole heart one can unite to Christ and become a member of His Body. Ideally, this is motivated by a simple desire to know God and to be where He is. Out of this love for God comes the desire to follow his commands and to worship Him. However, this happens in a context which is not our own. Our Catholic Faith maintains the ancient Jewish belief that God is manifest in the temple. We believe that the same glorious presence of God, the Shekinah Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Church Temple. "God is with us, understand all ye nations." Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from Great Compline says. If we truly understood what this means -- that the God "who is a consuming fire" is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently.

Church attendance is not merely about obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness. By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary. Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" Matt 6:21