

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Sunday Before Theophany, Circumcision of Our Lord**  
**January 1, 2023**9:00 AM - Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners  
11:30 AM - Lit. + Peggy Liberti r/by Senior Citizens Club**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**7:30 AM - Lit. + Philip, Anna, Helen, John, Nicholas,  
Steve, Marie Romanko - Legate**Wednesday, January 4, 2023**7:30 PM - Lit. + Yuri Hordynskyi  
r/by mother, Marta Hordynskya-Shur**Thursday, January 5, 2023**7:30 AM - Lit. God's Blessings for Maria r/by Sytar Family  
6:30 PM - Lit. + Fr. Edward Semko r/by Elizabeth Wutkowski**Friday, January 6, 2023****Theophany of Our Lord**

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

**Saturday, January 7, 2023**9:00 AM - Lit. Special Intention  
5:00 PM - Lit. + Deceased Members of Holy Name Society**Sunday After Theophany, January 8, 2023***Epistle - Eph 4:7-13; Gospel - Mt 4:12-17*9:00 AM - Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners  
11:30 AM - Lit. + Zynowij Kwit r/by Maria & Jerry Flynn

January 7, 2023 (Julian Calendar)  
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Ukr.)

**Memorial Donations**

\$500.00 - In memory of + BRITTON FAMILY, r/by Joe Britton  
\$100.00 - In memory of + ANNA MELNYK,  
r/by Rozalia & Joe

**Thank You**

This year's celebration of the Lord's Nativity was very joyous in part due to a very good attendance, as faithful parishioners and friends gathered for worship in our church. Thank you to all our parishioners who shared their gift of treasure. We collected almost \$17,000 at four Christmas Liturgies. I also wish to express my thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas celebrations. To all those who came to decorate the church, baked the Communion and Prosfora Breads, to all cantors and the choir members who sang so beautifully. May God Bless you all.

**2023 LITURGICAL CALENDARS** are available to be picked up at the church entrance. Special thanks to Novak Funeral Home for once again sponsoring the beautiful liturgical calendars. Take one per family.

**2023 CHURCH ENVELOPES**

Church donation envelopes are available in the church hall. Please check your name and address when you pick up your envelopes. Please advise the secretary of any corrections. 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 732-826-0767 during regular office hours.

**Hope for Ukraine**

The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing at the State Theatre of New Jersey on February 17, 2023. This special event benefits the State Theatre of New Jersey Classical music programming and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society relief efforts in Ukraine. For more information and to reserve tickets, please visit [STNJ.org/HopeforUkraine](http://STNJ.org/HopeforUkraine).

**Vertep/Nativity Presentation.**

Our Sisters and Laity invite everyone to our Christmas pageant vertep on Sunday, January 8 following the 9:00 am Liturgy. If you would like Vertep to visit your home with Christmas carols contact Sr. Veronica at 908 956 2434.

**Welcome.**

If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family. If you wish to register with our parish, please email [assumptionchurch@verizon.net](mailto:assumptionchurch@verizon.net)

**THEOPHANY (Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord)**

The feast of Theophany is just as special and important as Christmas, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. In our parish, the Vigil Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday, January 5 at 6:30 PM and Divine Liturgy at 9 AM on Friday, January 6.

Every year the great blessing of Holy Water takes place at the end of Liturgies. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church – through the priest – goes to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home.

Traditionally, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our living quarters, our private space, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.

Bring a bottle or jar to fill with Holy Jordan Water to use in your homes throughout the year.

**House Blessings.**

Now is the time to arrange your house blessing: House blessings begin after Theophany, the Baptism of the Lord, on January 6. If possible, it is best to plan a time when everyone in your household is at home. Father's visit is primarily for the purpose of prayer and to answer any questions you may have regarding our Faith and practice. Fr. Ivan is available every day of the week on afternoons/evenings. Also, please understand that Father would like to visit as many homes in your area on the same day as time would allow. If you wish to have your home blessed, please sign the sheet in the church vestibule or phone Fr. Ivan directly (202 368 2408) or e-mail him at [assumptionchurch@verizon.net](mailto:assumptionchurch@verizon.net) should you have a preference of a day or time.

**Parish Christmas Ornaments.**

Our parish, has found another way to support Ukrainian army during the ongoing war in Ukraine. Fr. Ivan and a parishioner, Yuliya Martiak, developed an exclusive Christmas ornament design with the depiction of the parish church on it. 150 ornaments were created in Ukraine and sent to our parish for the Christmas season. The sale proceeds of \$3,000 will benefit Ukraine's armed forces and support humanitarian aid to those suffering the deadly consequences of a brutal war! We greatly appreciate the overwhelming support from all of you! We have several ornaments left for sale (\$25). If you are interested, please see Fr. Ivan after the Liturgy.

**Lighting Candles.**

A beautiful and meaningful tradition in our church is lighting candles. In lighting our candles, the first thing we should do is make an offering for this candle. Everything that we have is from God and the first step is to give back to Him for all of His many blessings. Your numerous intentions can apply to lighting one candle. There is no need to use a candle per person or per intention.

After taking a candle, light it, remembering all of our loved ones who are sick or who have passed into the next life, or who we just want to pray for, and beseech God to have mercy on their souls.

Our candles are traditionally made of beeswax. Worker bees who gather nectar from flowers do not play a part in the reproduction of the species. Reproduction is left to the queen bee and drone bees. The virgin worker bees dedicate their lives to the creation of this wax and represent Our Lady, the virgin mother who gave birth to Christ. The pure beeswax also represents Christ's pure flesh. Candles symbolize the Light of Christ. Christ said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)