

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast, February 25, 2018**

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Kim Bialkowski r/by Nancy &amp; Kenny

**Monday, February 26, 2018**

No Liturgy Scheduled

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross (English)

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

8:45 AM - Lit. + Olga Diakun Kanuschak (40 Days)

r/by Helen Ilek

7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross (Ukrainian)

**Thursday, March 1, 2018**

No Liturgy Scheduled

**Friday, March 2, 2018**

7:00 PM - Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

**Saturday, March 3, 2018**

9:00 AM Lit. Divine Liturgy and Lenten Commemoration

5:00 PM Lit. + Walter Makar r/by Daughter, Mary Ann

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast, March 4, 2018****Veneration of the Cross***Epistle - Heb 4:14-5:6; Gospel - Mk 8:34-9:1*

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

11:30 AM Lit. + Catherine Kuchie (10 yrs.) r/by Family

**Second Sunday of Great Fast 2018****Metropolitan Stefan Soroka**

The recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida caused much hurt and anguish, and the precious loss of life for seventeen innocent people. We are gradually coming to learn more about the troubled mind and personality of the shooter. His unusual and bizarre behaviors, and his anger and bitterness shown to others, were often observed by many far in advance of the tragic event. This is characteristic of many such persons who choose to hurt others in violent ways. Such people are often loners, existing on the periphery of day-to-day life. Perhaps we may even foster their isolation because of our fears and our lack of understanding of such people.

In the Gospel, we hear of four friends tearing a hole in the roof of a place where Jesus was preaching, so that they could bring their paralyzed friend on a stretcher before Jesus for healing. Jesus heals the man because of the faith of his friends. One of the most healing forces in the world is another human being who can listen with patience and with love, and who responds with what his faith tells him at that time. The Church is called to be a society of true friends who care. The tragedy in Florida awakens us to be more attentive and to take more initiative to reach out to the 'loners' amidst us. May our Great Fast journey assist you and me to engage with others who may be needed to be brought closer to Jesus Christ for healing. May each of us have the courage to be a true Christian friend, setting aside our own pressing needs and fears as we see and respond to the needs of those we encounter on life's journey.

**Gregory Palamas Sunday - Second Sunday of Great Lent:**

Gregory Palamas (1296-1359) was a monk of Mount Athos. He was a practitioner of the method of prayer called hesychasm (hesychia means silence). By this method the person utilizes a rigorous bodily discipline in order to unite his mind and heart in God through continuous repetition of the name of Jesus, usually in the form of the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." Through the use of this method of prayer the hesychast monks claimed to gain genuine communion with God, including the spiritual vision of the Uncreated Light of Divinity such as that seen by Moses on Mount Sinai, and the apostles of Christ at the transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor.

**Questions about Our Faith: Why Do We Light Candles?**

Each time we light a candle, we are called to remember that it is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who is the True Light and that He and only He will grant us True Life. Every candle that we light should be a time of prayer in which we reflect upon the salvation that the Lord has worked for us and also a time of recommitment, where we renew our Baptismal vow that we, as children of God, are called to "Let our light so shine before men, that they may see [our] good works and give glory to [our] Father who is in Heaven." (Matt. 5:16) We light the candle, 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. There are no absolute rules as to where or how many lighted candles must be offered. Their purchase is a little sacrifice to God, voluntary and not burdensome.

Those who are meticulous about attending church try to light several candles during each visit: before the festal icon at the center of the church, at the icon of the Savior or of the Mother of God; for the health of their loved ones, and on the rectangular candlestand (kanun) before the Cross; for the repose of the souls of the deceased. If the heart so wishes, one may light candles to any saint or saints. Sometimes it so happens that all of the spaces on the candlestand are filled, leaving no place to set a lighted candle. One should not extinguish an already-burning candle and replace it with one's own. You should not be upset if, at the end of the Service, your candle is extinguished; the sacrifice has already been accepted by God. Please remember that our spiritual life, our participation in church services, is not limited to the candle. The candle will not free us from sin, will not unite us with God, and will not give us the power to wage the unseen warfare. The candle is filled with symbolic meaning, but we are saved not by symbols, but by the full reality, Divine grace.

**Lenten Faith Studies 2018**

Join us as we explore what we believe, why we believe it, and why it matters. The class will be held every Tuesday throughout the season of the Great Lent after Stations of the Cross.

**Gift Auction**

St. Ann Society is sponsoring an "OVER THE RAINBOW" Tricky Tray/Gift Auction on March 4, 2018 to be held in the Assumption Catholic School Auditorium, 380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 12:00 pm and the Auction starts at 2:00 PM. Admission is \$10. There will be 4 levels of wonderful prizes as well as other special raffles including an LG 49" LED Ultra HD 4K Smart TV with HDR, a Designer Bag raffle, Gift Card Extravaganza, 'It's Your Lucky Day' and 50/50 Money Raffle. Complimentary cake and coffee for all. The Kitchen, sponsored by the men of the Holy Name Society, will be open for lunch, serving delicious foods: pyrohy, kielbasa and kraut and much more.... Tickets are available in advance from any St. Ann member or at the door.

**2018 Ukrainian Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

You are cordially invited to join St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ, on a once-in-a-lifetime journey following in the footsteps of Jesus with an opportunity to celebrate our Divine Liturgy at sacred places along the way. WHAT'S THE COST? Land and Air \$3195.00, Land Only \$2495.00, Single Supplement \$695.00. Trip dates: October 14 - 23, 2018. For a brochure or further information contact Annette@select-intl.com, by phone 1-800-842-4842, 973-471-9727 or on Facebook, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic.

**Designers!!! Design the Winning Festival Poster****& Win a Prize.**

This is your chance to design the poster for our parish's 2018 Ukrainian Cultural and Heritage Festival and win a fabulous prize of \$100! No special artistic ability needed! Use your imagination!

**Poster requirements:**

1. Must be on a letter size (8.5 x 11) paper with your name on the back
2. Must have a Ukrainian theme.

**Contest rules:**

1. To enter you must be an ACS student or member of the parish up to 17 years of age.
2. Submit your entry to the school office, church rectory or electronically to [festivalbook@comcast.net](mailto:festivalbook@comcast.net) no later than March 17, 2018.
3. All entries become property of the Ukrainian Cultural and Heritage Festival Committee.
4. All decisions by the panel of judges is final.

Have questions? Email John at [festivalbook@comcast.net](mailto:festivalbook@comcast.net) or see Fr. Ivan or Mrs. Shumny.