

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****25<sup>TH</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, November 22, 2020**

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Joseph &amp; Rose Bigos r/by Ron &amp; Irene

**Monday, November 23, 2020**

No Liturgy Scheduled

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

8:00 AM - Lit. + Roman Kobryn r/by Wife and Children

**Wednesday, November 25, 2020**

8:00 AM - Lit. Health of Carolyn Terefenko r/by Family

**Thursday, November 26, 2020 - Thanksgiving Day**

8:00 AM - Lit. Health of Christopher Tricolis r/by A.C.S.

**Friday, November 27, 2020**8:00 AM - Lit. + Dolores Peles (40<sup>th</sup> Day) r/by Michael, Carol, Steve, Scott, Natalie, Brian, Brianna**Saturday, November 28, 2020**

8:00 AM - Lit. Health of Joseph Yurechko r/by Family

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

**26<sup>TH</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, November 29, 2020***Epistle - Eph 5:9-19; Gospel - Lk 13:10-17*

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Raymond Otlowski r/by Joan &amp; Bob Galetta

**Pastor's Word.**

Due to increased Coronavirus infections in our area and seasonal flu which will come with cold weather, and out of Christian love and care for the safety and health of our faithful and people around them, our Archbishop requires all who come to church for worship to wear a mask. The old instructions including social distancing in church are still in effect. If any of our faithful do not feel safe and/or are not healthy, please stay home. During the service singers, chanters and cantors are required to wear a mask. Hand sanitizer is available in several areas in our church. Any faithful who feel it is not safe to attend Sunday 9:00 am Liturgy worship, please attend one of Saturday evening at 5:00 pm or Sunday at 11:30 am which are attended by much fewer people. You are always welcome to come and pray in our church, light candles, and receive the Holy Mysteries at any time!

**Feed the Hungry in Our Community.**

In preparation for the Christmas Holiday, until Sunday Dec. 22, our parish will have a special collection of nonperishable goods and children's new toys for the needy people in Perth Amboy, NJ. Please leave your donation in the Church foyer or downstairs on the bench next to the bulletin board. You may also donate a gift card that will be given only to our parish or school families in need.

**Help the Elderly.**

Women's monastery of the Ternopil-Zboriv archeparchy of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic church located in Petrykiv village is a home to 10 elderly women, some of them disabled. Due to financial constraints they are reaching out for assistance with the personal hygiene items which they need daily: diapers (size S, M and L), disposable waterproof underpads, wipes, pads. Branch 135 of the UNWLA is collecting the above necessities and will be grateful for any contribution of the items. PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>.

**Philip's Fast( Pylypivka)**

Last week, in preparation for Christmas and the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, our church began the spiritual journey of the pre-Christmas Fast. Please prepare to worthily celebrate the Birth of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a voluntary fast period. Please observe it as you are able to best prepare yourself for Christmas - Good Deeds, Volunteering, Confession, Fasting.

**NO DUMPING ANYWHERE ON CEMETERY PROPERTY.**

Please take home used floral pots, artificial flowers, plastic flower containers, etc. Dispose of trash at home.

**Donation to Church**

\$3,000.00 - Ron & Irene Bigos, in memory of  
+ STEPHEN & VERA LAHOLA

**Happy Thanksgiving Day**

While our celebration of Thanksgiving this year might feel a bit strange, the circumstances we are facing today are quite similar to 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday in the midst of the Civil War. Today, our nation is again divided. We are experiencing a large-scale loss of life, just as the American people did then. Yet, in the midst of the challenges our nation faced in those days, President Lincoln called on the people to thank God for their blessings, to offer penance for those who were suffering and to ask God to heal the wounds of our nation and restore us to peace, harmony and unity.

Perhaps President Lincoln's words can inspire us this year and provide a road map to how we might celebrate Thanksgiving, rooted in gratitude, self-sacrifice and petition to God.

Start with gratitude. There is always someone and some blessing for which to be grateful, even in the midst of a pandemic, whether it is our own health, a stable job or our ability to connect with loved ones virtually. Take some time this Thanksgiving to reflect on the ways God is blessing you during these difficult times.

This year, as part of your Thanksgiving, I am asking you to sacrifice for the good of others. Please follow the guidelines of the CDC and the governor in keeping this Thanksgiving safe. I know this is difficult, but I would invite you to do what my mother used to tell us to do when we faced a difficulty, "Offer it up."

Offer it up for our health care workers on the frontline in the fight against this virus. Offer it up for the people who are in hospital beds struggling to survive. Offer it up for those who have lost a job or a home or especially a loved one due to COVID-19.

Finally, my dear parishioners, take time this Thanksgiving to ask for God's mercy to come upon all of us. Ask God to bring an end to this pandemic and the suffering that so many people are experiencing as a result of it. Pray that God will bring healing - physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually - to our nation. Ask God to restore peace, harmony and unity in our hearts, in our homes and in our communities.

**May God bless all of you abundantly this  
Thanksgiving!**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR FAITH.**

- *In the icon of the Last Supper, who is the man without a halo?*

The halo designates the presence of the Holy Spirit in the heart, mind and soul of a person. It indicates that the person pictured with the halo is a holy and devoted person. Of all those who were present at the Last Supper, only one person does not fit that description—Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed our Lord. Therefore, he is not represented as having a halo in the icon of the Last Supper.

- *Why can't we put flowers on or around the altar?*

The reason why we do not decorate the altar itself with flowers, or any other ornamentation, is to keep the focus centered on what the altar is (its essence) and what the altar is for (the altar's proper function). It is the place where we participate mystically in the memorial of Christ's Body and Blood given freely to us, the altar is "... a sign of Christ himself". In regard to the altar's function, it is the ultimate place of sacrifice. It is the altar upon which Christ, the Paschal Lamb, is once and for all sacrificed for the reparation of our sins. In light of these understandings, the church asks us to refrain from creating any opportunity of distraction from these realities.