

DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK**Sunday of Cheesefare, February 14, 2021**

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Mike & Olga Raab r/by Sons

Monday, February 15, 2021**First Day of the Great Lent - STRICT FAST****Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross, English

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross, Ukrainian

Friday, February 19, 2021

6:30 PM - Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Saturday, February 20, 2021

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy and Lenten Commemoration

5:00 PM - Lit. + Sena Waselyk r/by Ana & Ron Mascenik

1st Sunday of the Great Fast, February 21, 2021*Epistle - Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2; Gospel - Jn 1:43-51*

9:00 AM - Lit. + Mykola Lyszyk r/by Wife and Family

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

Important Safety Reminders

As we remain open for in-person worship, it is very important that we continue to observe recommended safety measures. In particular, we ask for your cooperation with the following:

- If you have ANY symptoms, even low risk symptoms (e.g. runny nose, congestion, sore throat, nausea, headache, fatigue), PLEASE stay home.
- If you do attend services, please wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth at all times.
- After each person has received, the Communion spoon is sanitized in a vessel containing an alcohol product [75% alcohol] which is drinkable, to encourage participation in the Eucharist.
- We are profoundly thankful to God that, despite challenges related to Covid-19, parish life continues: with Baptisms, Weddings, Liturgies, various services, in-person.

Thank you in advance for helping us maintain a safe environment for our attendees, especially the most vulnerable.

Sorokousty Memorial Services

As in the past, we will honor the memory of our beloved deceased with Sorokousty Memorial Services at 9 a.m. on all Saturdays of Lent beginning February 20, 2021. This is a time to remember our departed family and friends.

If you would like your deceased family members commemorated during these services, **please submit your envelope with the names clearly listed, by TODAY!**

Envelopes for Sorokousty are available in the church vestibule; **please add your name.** If you use the one in your envelope box, please clearly PRINT the first names of the deceased on the blank side. It is a pale grey envelope with only your name and number printed on it. If there is no change from last year, please write "same as last year" on the envelope.

Eternal Memory

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of +EDWARD BISHOP who fell asleep in the Lord this week. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayerful support to all of his family. Eternal Memory.

Lenten season brings Pyrohy Sale!

We will be selling pyrohy (from Passiac parish) in the church hall following this weekend's liturgies. Potato or sauerkraut, only \$8.00. Delicious pyrohy are cooked and then frozen, awaiting hungry buyers looking for a non-meat options during Lent.

Prayer.

"Once a man was asked, 'what did you gain by regularly praying to God?' The man replied, 'nothing... but let me tell you what I lost: Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death.' Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain."

Today: Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)

The Sunday of Forgiveness, the last of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, has two themes: it commemorates Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and it accentuates our need for forgiveness. There are obvious reasons why these two things should be brought to our attention as we stand on the threshold of Great Lent. One of the primary images in the Triodion is that of the return to Paradise. Lent is a time when we weep with Adam and Eve before the closed gate of Eden, repenting with them for the sins that have deprived us of our free communion with God. But Lent is also a time when we are preparing to celebrate the saving event of Christ's death and rising, which has reopened Paradise to us once more (Luke 23:43). So sorrow for our exile in sin is tempered by hope of our re-entry into Paradise.

Pastor's Corner.

**** Father, I understand that the Byzantine Catholic Church does not celebrate the Eucharistic Divine Liturgy on the weekdays of the Great Fast. My Roman Catholic friends say that they are encouraged to attend the Liturgy and receive the Eucharist on a daily basis, especially during the Great Fast. Why don't we Byzantine Catholics have a daily Divine Liturgy, especially during the Great Fast?*

In all of the Byzantine Churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is always a remembrance of the Resurrection. And receiving the Holy Body and Blood of Christ is always considered to be the breaking of any day of Fast. The use of leaven, rather than unleavened bread for the Eucharistic celebration is a sign of this Resurrectional orientation. This being the case, the Church has traditionally held that the Eucharistic is not celebrated on the weekdays of the Great Lent. During the Great Fast, those parishioners who desire to have memorial services for the departed should include the names of their departed loved ones in the All Souls' Commemorations which fall on all Saturdays during the Fast.

Of course, during the Great Fast, the Church does not wish to completely abstain from the reception of the Holy Eucharist. That is why she developed the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy is partially a Vesper Service during which Holy Communion is offered from bread, which was consecrated at the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before and is kept in a special container on the Holy Altar table.

The reception of the Holy Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament, originated in the ancient custom of permitting certain pious folks [especially monks and nuns] to carry the Eucharist home with them from the Sunday Liturgy. Later it became a common practice in many monasteries, since many monasteries did not have an ordained presbyter serving. The monks or nuns would receive the Holy Mysteries usually as part of a Typica Service or at Vespers. By the 5th and 6th Centuries the practice had entered cathedral and parish life. Current common practice in the Byzantine Churches, is to serve the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts on Wednesdays and Fridays during the Great Fast. In our Church, the beautiful Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts will be celebrated every Friday during Lent.

The Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian.

In the Eastern Catholic Church, this prayer is added to church services from Sunday through Friday evenings during the Lenten season. Add it to your daily prayers!

- *Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power and vain talking.*
- *But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience and love.*
- *Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not judge my brother. For blessed are You forever and ever. Amen.*

Statements of Parishioners' Offerings for 2020.

If you have need of your 2020 offerings statement, call the rectory 732-826-0767.