

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Christmas Day, Birth of our Lord, December 25, 2022**

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian)

11:30 AM - Lit. + Olga Yurechko - by a friend

**Monday, December 26, 2022****Synaxis of the Theotokos**

9:00 AM - Lit. Intention of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara

**Tuesday, December 27, 2022****St. Stephen, Protomartyr**

9:00 AM - Lit. God's Blessing for Maria Dzeva

**Wednesday, December 28, 2022**7:30 AM - Lit. + Serhiy (40<sup>th</sup> day) r/by daughter, Stanislava**Thursday, December 29, 2022**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Michailo, Anna, Mykola r/by Iryna Kuzychyn

**Saturday, December 31, 2022**

8:00 AM - Lit. Special Intention

5:00 PM - Lit. + James Muenster r/by Rozalia &amp; Joe

**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

**Mirovanije** – In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, there will be anointing with blessed oil (mirovanije). This year, Fr. Ivan will use the oil that was recently brought to him from the Holy Land trip by a parishioner, Mary Retalis. All are welcome to receive anointing and blessed bread.

**Donations to Church**

\$700.00 - COFFEE HOUR

\$200.00 - Hanna &amp; Vasyl Kitchoula

**Memorial Donations**

\$300.00 - In memory of + CAROLYN TEREFENKO

**In Memory of + HARRY J. SEGUINE:**

\$100.00 - Theodore Fedynyshyn

\$50.00 - Christine Eldridge

**New Year's Eve Dance "Zabava"**

Saturday, December 31, 2022.

Music by "Cheremosh"

Delicious, Bountiful Buffet Dinner Served at 8:00 p.m.

and lasts all evening. Dessert Table and Champagne Toast.

- Adult Tickets - \$120
- Young Adults (age 13-17) - \$90
- Children (up to 12) - \$60

For tickets please call: 732-826-0767 or 202-368-2408 or purchase them in the church hall after the 9:00 am Liturgy.

**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.

**Christmas Flowers.**

Our tradition here at Assumption is to decorate the church with beautiful Poinsettia Flowers as we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord. We thank Kuchie's Alpine Florist for donating flowers to our church.

**Christmas Ornaments for Children!**

There are Christmas ornaments for you in a basket near the manger. Children may take one per child on Christmas Eve.

**Pastor's Corner**

Beloved in Christ,

Despite the challenges of this past year, today we celebrate the Incarnation of Love coming to bring the transforming and saving power of that love to a world in desperate need of it. Jesus Christ is born. It is the dawn of our salvation, let us rejoice!

On behalf of Deacon Paul, the Religious Sisters, and our whole staff, I want to wish all of you an abundant share of the Lord's love this Christmas. May Christ our Savior fill your hearts with his love and bring you the peace and joy he wants you to enjoy. Know that you and your families are in my intentions at all of the Christmas Liturgies. As we enter the New Year, may all of us be transformed more into the likeness of Christ so that after having received the love of Christ ourselves, we may share it with others. God bless you and may you have a holy and joyful Christmas celebration.

Fr. Ivan Turyk - Pastor

**Vertep/Nativity Presentation.**

Our Sisters and Laity invite everyone to our Christmas pageant vertep on Sunday, January 8 following the 9:00 am Liturgy.

**Thank You.**

The other day, on social media I saw someone posted, "I highly recommend loving Jesus." I kept thinking about this positive post and agreed that I, too, could highly recommend loving Jesus. Since God created each one of us, we should all jump at the chance to be His friend and love His Son Jesus, who shines a light so we can see what God is like.

At our parish we demonstrate that we love Jesus when we pray together, help take care of Church and School property, keep the commandments, and love each other. We show our love for Jesus Christ Our Lord by what we do here.

These two weeks before Christmas were truly busy for our parish family with the Parish Youth Gathering, Catechism-Bible Studies for Women provided by our Sisters, the arrival of the Bethlehem Peace Light, the Blessing and Distribution of the Prospora Bread after last week's Sunday Liturgies, the Coffee Hour at which our exclusive "Church Christmas Ornament" was introduced, a beautiful fellowship at St. Ann's Society Christmas Party, the School Christmas Concert, a Christmas Bread Sale, a very successful Bingo and so on.

May God bless all our parishioners and volunteers for running these projects and "Loving Jesus" and His Church on earth.

**School Christmas Concert**

If the best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud for all to hear, then the Christmas season has officially been ushered in at ACS!

Parents, family and friends gathered in our festively decorated auditorium to hear the students sing about kings, shepherds, and angels - all of the people (and other worldly beings) who bore witness to Jesus' birth. The nativity scene performed by our seventh graders was a reminder that all were called to Jesus' birth - the lowly shepherds invited by angels and the royal wise men who followed the star. Our eighth graders danced and sang in three languages (!!!) and our students from littlest to our oldest delighted the audience with a variety of carols from around the world and across the years. Our show was opened with our Ukrainian dance group performing a traditional Pryvit, or welcome dance, and our Senior Chimes performed a traditional arrangement of the timeless "Shchedryk" or Carol of the Bells. Our show concluded with our fifth through eighth graders performing "A Star to Follow," which we have not done since 2019 (and the students worked extra hard to make sure we sang it this year), and finally a medley of beloved Ukrainian and English language Christmas carols. A big thank you to our music teacher Miss Anna Lawrence for a wonderful production!