

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, November 26, 2023**

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Rose &amp; Joseph Bigos

r/by Ron &amp; Irene Bigos

**Friday, December 1, 2023**

8:45 AM - Lit. + Marie M. Demoreski r/by ACS

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

8:00 AM - Lit. + Kathleen Haedrich r/by Family

5:00 PM - Lit. + Stepana, Maria, Paraskevia, Andriy, Sofia, Maria

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, December 3, 2023***Epistle - Eph 6:10-17; Gospel - Lk 18:18-27*

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Nancy Makar r/by Dn. Paul &amp; Anna

**Christmas Bazaar.**

Assumption Catholic School will be holding its Annual Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 from 11:00 am - 5 pm. FREE admission! As usual, the kitchen will be open serving all kinds of delicious hot cooked meals to eat in or take out. Enjoy an afternoon of old-fashioned family fun. There will be games of chance, vendors, 50/50 raffles, crafts, prizes, and baked goods. All are welcome. Bring your friends and neighbors. Call 732-826-8721 for info.

**Visit with St. Nicholas.**

Parish children 12 years old and younger are invited to a Saint Nicholas Party on Sunday, December 10, 2023 after each liturgy. Admission is free; please sign the form in the vestibule by Dec. 3. Sponsored by the Holy Name Society.

**KOLIADA in your house.**

Our parish sisters and choir "Boyan" are organizing a parish VERTEP (nativity play) with the participation of choir members and youth. The Nativity Play will be presented to the entire parish on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> following 9:00 am Liturgy, but apart from performing in the church, the VERTEP can also come to your home.

The carolers will express the good news and the joy of the Nativity of Christ. Let's not be indifferent to the revival of the spirit and tradition of Ukrainian Christmas koliada! VERTEP in your home is the joyful proclamation of the coming of Christ and the singing of ancient carols that will leave an echo in the hearts of your children and family!

To have VERTEP come to you, sign up on the list at the entrance to the church (December 30-31, January 6). The funds donated for the koliada will be used for the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine! Let everyone contribute to the victory.

**St. Ann's Society Donation**

Two weeks ago, at their monthly meeting, President of St. Ann's society Mrs. Melanie Fedynshyn presented Fr. Ivan with a check for the church in the amount \$13,000 from their fundraising activities. We all wish our St. Ann's Society a very blessed and productive year ahead, with prayers and hopes that more women of our parish will join their ranks. May the Good Lord hear and answer our prayers!

**Philip's Fast-Advent.**

The Philip's Fast, also known as the Advent Fast, lasts until the eve of the Nativity of Christ (December 24) inclusively. The regulations for this Fast are far more lenient than for the Great Fast. During this time we are to observe Wednesdays and Fridays as a day of "Simple Fast", that is, no meat is to be eaten.

**Fr. Ivan on Vacation**

With the blessing of Archbishop Borys our Pastor Fr. Ivan is taking his annual vacation. We welcome Fr. George Worshak, who is substituting this week. We ask that in case of pastoral need, please call the parish office.

**Parishioners That Are Home Bound.**

If you or a loved one are homebound and cannot make it to Church to receive the Holy Mysteries, Fr. Ivan would be very pleased to visit at your home, in the hospital, at a nursing home, or any other place. Please be sure to schedule a visit.

**Welcome to Our Parish.**

*Glory be to Jesus Christ! (respond with: Glory be forever!)*

*Slava Isusu Christu! (respond with: Slava na viki!)*

We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship, please see Fr. Ivan after Liturgy.

**Congratulations!**

Last week, our former pastor Fr. Roman Dubitsky celebrated his 85th birthday and was elevated to the rank of Archpriest by Archbishop-Metropolitan Borys Gudziak. He is now entitled to wear the pectoral gold cross with decorations. On the occasion of his elevation, and the twenty-nine and a half years of faithful service as Pastor at Ukrainian Assumption Church, our Parish gifted Fr. Roman with the pectoral cross. Mnohaya Lita!

**Feed the Hungry in Our Community.**

This year's Thanksgiving holiday will be a joyful celebration for many families thanks to efforts by the Knights of Columbus throughout the United States.

Last Sunday, the Knights of Columbus Council 299 members and their families cooked and served many turkey dinners at ACS for those in our community who needed a hot Thanksgiving meal. In addition, the Assumption Catholic school offered the opportunity for those less fortunate to take groceries home in order to get them through the holiday season.

We thank all the students who brought items and supported this endeavor. A very special thank you goes to our 8th grade volunteers, our teachers and the basketball players from St. John Vianney High School who helped the Knights make this successful community outreach event! All extra collected good pantry items from the parish and the Bingo donations were given to Basket for Neighbors who make baskets for other families in the area who need a Thanksgiving blessing.

**QUESTIONS About Our Faith:**

- ***What is the 40th Day Commemoration-Memorial for the Departed?***

In the Eastern Church it is customary to remember our departed brothers and sisters in a special way on the fortieth day after their death. We recall that after Christ our Savior rose from the dead, destroying death and conquering Hades, He appeared on many occasions to His disciples, especially to "the eleven," i.e. the holy Apostles.

On the fortieth day He called them to the holy mountain, commissioned them to "Baptize all nations", and to forgive sins through the Sacrament of Confession. Then, before their very eyes, He was taken up bodily into heaven where He is "enthroned at the right hand of the Father." His last words to us were: "Behold, I am with you always - even to the end of the ages."

Recalling His glorious Resurrection and the fulfillment of His promise to remain with us through the Holy Church, the same Church calls us, after forty days, to put off mourning. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, the priest leads the faithful in prayers for the forgiveness of the sins of the departed servant(s) of God, and asks the Lord to admit his or her soul into the heavenly mansions.

- ***Why Do We Light Candles?***

In Christianity, lighting candles is a significant act of prayer and worship. Candles symbolize the light of Christ, and lighting them signifies a person's prayer request, devotion, and our sacrifice. In olden days, people made their own candles. Some had a bees hive at home. Candles were made from pure wax then, without any mixtures. Bees were thought of almost like saints, because of their purity.

When we light the candle before an icon and say a prayer for someone; we tell God that we are praying for that person and as long as our candle burns our prayer will be there before God. We say to our friends who are sick or troubled that we will light a candle for them. We light candles for someone who has died. Sometimes we light a candle to say "thank you" to God. In some churches people kiss the candle before lighting it.