

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Sunday of Zaccheus, January 14, 2024**

9:00 AM - Lit. + Helen Duda r/by Randy Siluk

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

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

7:30 AM Lit. + Anna and Walter Sefcheck - Legate

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Vira, Stepan, Ivanna, Volodymyr, Petro, Maria r/by Yulia Leshko

**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Deceased Sisters Servants of the Lord and Virgin of Matara

**Friday, January 19, 2024**

8:45 AM - Lit. + John Kopi - Legate

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**

8:00 AM - Lit Special Intention

5:00 PM - Lit. + Ray Otlowski r/by Otlowski/Galetta Fam.

**Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, Jan. 21, 2024***Epistle - 2 Tim 3:10-15; Gospel - Lk 18:10-14*

9:00 AM - Lit. + John Andrewshetsko, brothers &amp; sisters r/by Bobbie and Family

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

**Religious Education for the Parish Youth and Women in JANUARY.**

\*Friday, January 19, children up to 7 years old, 2nd grade included, 6:30-8:30 pm

\*Sunday, January 21, young adults (18 and over) meeting at the convent following 11:30 am Liturgy

\*Tuesday, January 23, women (English), 6:30-8:30 pm

\*Saturday, January 27, teenagers (13-18), 6:30-8:30 pm

**Church Donation**

\$24,000 - Grant funding has been provided by the City of Perth Amboy City Council through the American Rescue Plan Act- Non-Profit Assistance.

**Sorokousty Memorial Services**

In just a few short weeks, the holy season of the Great Fast (Lent) will once again be upon us. 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. This is the service where Fr. Ivan reads aloud in church the names of the deceased. If you would like your deceased family members commemorated during these services, please submit your envelope with the names clearly listed. Envelopes are included in your box of donation envelopes. Please clearly PRINT the first names of the deceased on the front. If there is no change from last year, please check "same as last year" on the envelope.

**Thanks**

Christmas at Assumption is the result of the hard work and dedication of many people. The Church during Christmas is always decorated so beautifully by the dedicated men of the Holy Name Society. Their hard work and dedication always enhances our worship of God at Holy Liturgies. Thank you to our men who took down the Christmas decorations last week.

Christmas may be over, and the beautiful decorations put away until next year. But remember what St. Mother Teresa once said: *"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."* Be well. Do good. God Bless!

**Assumption School Open House**

The largest elementary Ukrainian Catholic School in America, will host an Open House on Sunday January 28th from 12 noon to 3 p.m. as part of its Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Cognia accredited, the school provides a Christ-centered, Catholic environment to a diverse population of pre-kindergarten (age 4) through 8th-grade students. COME and ENROLL NOW. To receive more information about the school, call 732-826-8721 or visit [www.assumptioncatholicsschool.net](http://www.assumptioncatholicsschool.net)

**House Blessings by a Priest.**

The sign-up sheet for House Blessing is in the back of the church. Please include your name, phone number, and your preferred date and time for Father's visit. All house blessings must occur prior to February 2.

**Welcome**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after Sunday 9:00 am Liturgy. Please note that reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Catholic Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession.

**TODAY: Zacchaeus Sunday.**

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation. Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had. **Questions to Ponder:**

*\*Put yourself in the Gospel scene. Who am I? Zacchaeus? One of the people who wanted to see Jesus? Who murmured against Jesus? Who wants to Harm Jesus?*

*\*Once you decide which you are ask the question, WHY*

**Theophany Feast and Meat Festival.**

On the feast day of Theophany, following the Divine Liturgy, the Great Blessing of the water took place at our parish. This year, the faithful celebrated this holy day outside the church and in front of the Cross that was carved from solid ice. Fr. Ivan dipped ceremonial candles, then his right hand, and then the cross into the frigid waters and called upon the power of the Holy Spirit to bless the water. Following the blessing of water, all the faithful were invited to the parish hall to enjoy the parish hospitality, a delicious wine and a yummy shish kebab prepared by the dedicated parishioners. The area around the church smelled with the enticing smell of shish kebab and the event attracted many people from all over. At the luncheon, after all expenses, almost six thousand dollars were raised for the humanitarian aid and medical treatment of Ukrainians injured in the war. It was a great event of Our Lord's Baptism Solidarity and a day of Prayers for Ukraine. At the conclusion of the celebration, all tired volunteers' and faithful heard in their hearts the Lord's voice, "You are my beloved sons and daughters, in you I am well pleased"

**NYC youth trip.**

Last Sunday, the Assumption Youth Group traveled by train to NYC, to see the city in all of its festivities. Fr. Ivan, Sister Veronica, Sister Trijtsi and Sister Svitanku and seventeen young people had an experience like no other! Singing Christmas carols at Rockefeller Center, growing in faith by visiting St. Patrick's Cathedral, enjoying some coffee at the Times Square Starbucks and a fun-filled time of fellowship around a delicious pizza at the Sisters convent, made this trip a weekend to remember!

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**Parents and Children**

The presence of children during worship is a gift from God and reminder that our parish community is growing! A little commotion and noise is understandable, but if you feel the need to exit the sanctuary, please use the "cry room" in the back (near the narthex). For our Lord said, *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven"* (Matthew 19:14).