

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Jan. 28, 2024**

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Anastasia Bamburak r/by Louise Fowler

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024****Three Holy Hierarchs**

7:30 AM Lit. Health and blessings for Oleg

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

7:30 AM - Lit. + Daniel Clark r/by Biloholowski Family

**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

7:30 AM - Lit + Mykola r/by Khrystyna Khrystychenko

**Friday, February 2, 2024****Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna**

8:45 AM - Lit. + Ronald Halosz

r/by Marty &amp; Mary Beth Pickering

6:00 PM Lit. for the Superior of Sisters Servants of the Lord and Virgin of Matara

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**

8:00 AM - Lit Special Intention

4:15 PM - Rosary Recitation

5:00 PM - Lit. For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

**Sunday of Mear-Fare, February 4, 2024***Epistle - 1 Cor 8:8-9:2; Gospel - Mt 25:31-46*

9:00 AM - Lit. + Teodor Worobel

r/by Daughter, Bobbie, and Family

11:30 AM - Lit. + Ihor Sytar r/by Ivan and Natalia Sytar

**Gift Auction**

St. Ann Society is happy to announce the upcoming TRICKY TRAY/GIFT AUCTION on Sunday, March 3, 2024. This year's theme is "Around the World" and will feature 100's of beautiful prizes and specialty baskets. There will be a 50-50, "It's Your Lucky Day" raffle, super stage prizes, gift card raffle, and many other opportunities to win. Free cake, coffee or tea, and one sheet of tickets for the level I prizes are included in the cost of admission which is \$20. Doors will open at 11:30 AM, and drawings will begin at 2 PM.

Donations of items for the gift auction will be gratefully accepted. Items from parishioners or members can be dropped off at the bingo hall on Wednesday evenings after 7:30 PM. Items can also be left in the church hall but should be clearly marked "for St. Ann's Gift Auction." Items can also be dropped off at the rectory, also marked for St. Ann Gift Auction. Your donations of new items, gift cards, bottles of wine, etc. are a great help to the success of the gift auction.

**Donation to Church**

\$1,000.00 - In loving memory of LYDIA KERNITSKY, by her husband, Roman Kernitsky

**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. Please take a moment to update the commemoration of your deceased love ones.

**Envelopes Note:** New parishioners, please check in the church hall to see if you received donation envelopes for 2024. Any recently registered parishioners who do not have a box set of envelopes should use the temporary envelopes found in the church vestibule, or any blank envelopes for donations. Please write your name and the amount of your donation on the envelope.

**Church Cemetery clean-up**

Grave blankets, etc. will be removed from graves the week of February 5<sup>th</sup>. If there are items you wish to save, please remove them before the clean-up.

**Parish Individual Contribution Report**

Copies of the registered parishioners report of annual contributions to our parish are on the table in the vestibule.

**Pray the Rosary.**

All are invited to join in as we pray the rosary together Next Saturday at 4:15 pm. Please plan on joining us.

**TODAY: Sunday of the Prodigal Son.**

Our Lord gave the parable of today's Gospel to illustrate three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion.

Merciful Father, we implore you, bring back the prodigal sons and daughters of our Church who have left the Church and grant us fervor when our hearts wander. Give us also faithful servants who answer your call to the priesthood, diaconate in Christ, as well as consecrated monastics who serve and show your same merciful lovingkindness, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

"All that is mine is yours." The merciful Father welcomed the Prodigal Son and showed love to his brother when he questioned that profound love which gave all that was his to his children. Are you open to share that love of the Father by a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, religious or monastic life? If so, contact Fr. Ivan or Sisters.

**Did someone say PARTY?**

Thanks everyone for coming to our Bingo Christmas party last week! We had so much fun eating great food at the Santini Seafood and Steakhouse in Carteret, NJ, laughing with fellow bingo volunteers, playing a Mexican Bingo game and eating a delicious cake made by the Bingo chairperson Colette K Baginsky. We all had so much fun and great company! Thank you to all who attended, you are an amazing hard working crew. The weekly Bingo fundraiser is a HUGE benefit to Assumption Catholic School <http://assumptioncatholicschool.net>.

Bingo is held on Wednesday and doors open at 6 P.M. Food and refreshments are available for purchasing. Bingo games start at 7:30 p.m.

**Providing gifts for Ukrainian orphans.**

The Assumption bingo players collected toys for Ukrainian orphaned children during the December charity month. The four large boxes packed with toys, clothing, arts and crafts were collected and sent overseas to the orphanage in the village of Horoholyna, Ivano-Frankivsk, run by the Sisters Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará. We are grateful to so many bingo players who actively engaged in this beautiful act of kindness, empathy, and generosity. Thanks to Rozalia Chaban and the Bingo chairperson Colette Baginsky for helping to organize this special toy drive. We stand with Ukraine!

**How it all began...**

The church, varenyky, and history were the topic of our meeting with teenagers last Saturday at our Sisters' convent. Father Ivan began with the story that our parish was built with varenyky, made and sold by our parishioners over 60 years ago. And then our teenagers tried their hand at it, all dressed in vyshyvankas, working together to make beautifully crafted varenyky, even though many of them were born in America.

While the varenyky were cooking, everyone plunged into the ancient history of our Church: from the Apostle Andrew in Kyiv and the baptism of Ukraine-Rus' right up to the present day and the Church of the Assumption in Perth Amboy. It was mentioned that the Church is a great gift for everyone and a great responsibility to preserve this gift.

After a meal of Ukrainian varenyky with sour cream, our meeting ended with a fun game.

**Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord.**

On Friday, February 2 at 8:45 a.m. and 6:30 pm we will celebrate the Entrance of Our Lord into the temple 40 days after His Nativity. Candles will be blessed on this feast to emphasize the reference to Christ as "a Light of the World" in Luke 2:32. These blessed candles are used in the church and at the Holy Supper on Christmas Eve, at the blessing of the home, in the room of the sick or dying, at Pascha, etc. They are sometimes called "thunder" or "hromnitza" candles and are lighted during storms and lightning. The lighting of candles is a must in the Ukrainian Church. No service can be held without them. Next time you are in church, light a candle for a special intention. It is a centuries and centuries old tradition.