

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Sunday of Cheese-Fare, February 11, 2024**

9:00 AM - Lit. + Msgr. Victor Pospishil

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

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross (English)

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross (Ukrainian)

**Friday, February 16, 2024**

6:30 PM - Presanctified Liturgy

**Saturday, February 17, 2024**9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy for all deceased parishioners  
Lenten Commemoration and Panahyda.

5:00 PM - Lit. + Charles Kopcho Sr.; Charles Kopcho Jr.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast, February 18, 2024**

Epistle - Heb 11:24-26,32-12:2; Gospel - Jn 1:43-51

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

11:30 AM - Lit. + Michael &amp; Olga Raab r/by Sons

**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 are needed. The Deadline to donate items is fast approaching. 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.

**Lenten Reminder**

In keeping with the practice of the entire Eastern Catholic Church, Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on weekdays of Great Lent. In our church we will have an exception with the school liturgy on Wednesdays during Lent.

**Prayer Corner for Lent.**

During our Lenten season, many community services are offered in our beautiful church. However, this year, I would also like to invite all parishioners to create in your house a Sacred Space called "a prayer corner" and pray for peace in Ukraine and stability in the USA.

Pray in your prayer corner every Thursday of the Lent, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Here are some tips on how to create "a prayer corner" within your home:

- Assess your home and pick a spot. Where is the best place within your home for you to pray? Say a prayer and ask Christ for help in choosing your prayer corner location.
- Place a chair or kneeler in your prayer corner. Light a candle.
- Place spiritual reading, a Bible, a Rosary on a side table next to your chair or kneeler.
- Surround yourself with holy images, like an icon or the cross. This can help focus your prayer time by reflecting on the lives of Jesus, Mary, and the Saints.
- Tell your family about your prayer corner and encourage them to use it, too!

There is no obligation, but when we pray together, we experience God's presence and "For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." Ephesians 3:12

**Blessing of Icons - БЛАГОСЛОВЕННЯ ІКОН.**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, we bring icons to the church to have them blessed. If you have unblest icons at your home, please bring them to church next Saturday and Sunday, and place them up front and Fr. Ivan will bless them after the Liturgy.

**TODAY: Cheesefare - Forgiveness Sunday**

This Sunday is called Cheese-Fare Sunday, because it is the last day that the church recommends we may eat dairy products and tomorrow we begin the Great Lenten Fast. Today is also referred to as Forgiveness Sunday. A basic truth of Christ's teaching is that access to Him is closed if we are not willing to forgive our neighbor.

Today's Gospel Reading makes this clear: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." With this in mind, the Church seeks to remind us to begin our Lenten Journey by not only seeking God's forgiveness through the sacrament of Holy Confession, but also by seeking and forgiving our brothers and sisters.

**Lenten Obligations**

So that our church may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following obligations are to be observed by all Catholics who enjoy the blessings of good health:

- The days of fast and abstinence are Clean Monday, the first day of Lent and Good Friday.
- All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
- The obligation of fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
- Fasting in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not equal to a full meal, so as to experience hunger.
- The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

**Religious Education provided by our Sisters for the Parish Youth and Women in FEBRUARY**

- Sunday, February 11, young adults (18 and over) meeting at the convent 11:15 pm. The youth will go skiing after the meeting.
- Saturday, February 17, teenagers (13-18), 6:30-8:30 pm
- Sunday, February 18, young adults (18 and over) meeting at the convent 11:15 pm
- Tuesday, February 27, women (English), 6:30-8:30 pm

**Questions about Our FAITH.**

- **Why, except for special feast days, Divine Liturgy is not celebrated during Lenten weekdays**

The character of the Divine Liturgy is that of a celebration, always connected with the Paschal Mystery of Christ, from which it flows. Thus, in the Eastern Church on the weekdays of Great Lent there is no Divine Liturgy (unless a special feast day occurs), because there is no "celebration." This is not to deprive the faithful of the Holy Eucharist. Indeed, the Church usually provides more opportunities for receiving Communion ( offering Presanctified liturgy on Friday evening). Yet this lack of celebration is a kind of spiritual "fasting."

On Saturday, which is the Sabbath, the day on which the Lord rested after creation, and one which He descended into Hades spiritually, while His sacred Body rested in the tomb, the Church celebrates the Divine Liturgy of Sorokousty for the souls of the deceased family members. And on Sunday the Divine Liturgy is celebrated because every Sunday is the Day of the Resurrection.

- **Why Do We Make Prostrations during Lent?**

The importance of prostrations, from the Fathers of the Church' point of view, is far more spiritual than physical. In bending our knees we assume an attitude of humility before the God to whom we offer our prayer. Kneeling, then touching our forehead to the ground, we acknowledge our sinfulness; we create a living image of our fall into sin.