



August 23, 2020

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Parish Schedule

- Aug 22 (Sat) Divine Liturgy** **5:00pm**
+Sophia & Michael Prodan req by Anna Prodan
- Aug 23 (Sun) TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
+Ruth Seech req by Ray Seech (51st Anniversary)
- Aug 28 (Fri) VIGIL OF THE BEHEADING OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**
Divine Liturgy **7:00pm**
+Ann & George Bodnar req by Anna Prodan
- Aug 29 (Sat) Divine Liturgy** **5:00pm**
+Susan Sabol req by Michael & Arlene Dzura
- Aug 30 (Sun) THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
+Mary Soltis req by Ann Dole and Family

Our Tithe to our Parish - August 16, 2020 - \$2,573.00

To all those who have been so faithful in your donations, especially during these trying times, we offer a huge Thank You! Our parishioners have been very conscious in the support of our church that allows us to continue to meet our expenses and even the extra items that come up.



Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of August 23 thru August 29 for the health and well-being of Tillie Abraham.

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.



Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Jude Bodnar, Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Kevin Ianni, Ted Race, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko Sr.

Best Wishes and a Very Happy Birthday to Tillie Abraham on the Occasion of her 96th birthday on August 24. Please Remember her in your prayers .

VOTING



Even though November seems to be a long time away, it is not too soon to begin to think about our responsibility as citizens to vote.

With our many concerns about the pandemic, many are looking at the option of voting by mail. And with the current questions and disruptions with the United States Postal Service, it is not too soon to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.

Please go to: www.votespa.com and you can ask for either a **Mail-in-Ballot** or an **Absentee Ballot**. Then follow the instructions on the forms.

REMINDER

The Divine Liturgy is live-streamed on the parish Facebook page each Sunday at 10:30am.

This is a way of our parish reaching out to others who may be interested in our parish and our way of evangelizing both the local community as well as those who are interested from a distance.

Be sure to let your family and friends know about this.

I HANDED ON TO YOU ... WHAT I FIRST RECEIVED ...

BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER

On Saturday of this week, we celebrate the feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist of Christ.

In life ... we generally celebrate a person's birthday ... as a way of commemorating that person.



It is striking that for the saints ... we usually celebrate the day of their death ... for it is truly the day of their *birth into heaven* ... into the fullness of life.

This is certainly true for John the Baptist ... who was a prophet and preacher of repentance all his life ... and even in death, he continued to proclaim his call to repentance.

The Vigil Divine Liturgy for the feast will be celebrated at St Stephen Church on **Friday, 28 August, at 7:00 pm.**

Traditionally the feastday itself (29 August) is a day of fasting in the Byzantine Tradition in commemoration of the gruesome death of St John. Additionally, among the Eastern European peoples, it

is a day of not eating from plates since the head of John was brought to King Herod on a platter. Instead, bowls or other ways of serving were used. Also, anything that resembled a head (e.g., lettuce, cabbage, apples, etc.) were not eaten.

Yes, these may seem like simple folk customs, but they do reflect a deep connection between our daily life and the Liturgy of the Church. We don't leave the Liturgy when we exit the church building; rather we carry the Liturgy into our daily lives and allow it to influence our everyday decisions. This is called "living liturgically."

If someone asks you: "What do you believe as a Christian?" ... How would you go about beginning to answer?

Some might talk about the Church in its outward appearance ... that is ... attending the Divine Liturgy and other Services ... keeping the various feasts and fasts.

Others might begin by speaking about the "Christian life" ... that is, leading a good moral life ... keeping the commandments ... living as an image of Christ for others.

Still others might simply say that they believe in God and all that He taught.

In today's Epistle reading, St. Paul is reflecting with the young Christian community at Corinth. In this reflection, he summarizes the core of the Christian faith ... *as it was handed on to him* ... He says that he is handing on (the literal meaning of *tradition*) to them that which he himself had first received. Namely that:



*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures
and he was buried
and he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures
and he appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the Twelve*

He clearly emphasizes that *Christ died* ... thus, underlining the reality of his death ... that he really did die.

And secondly, he stresses that *Christ appeared* ... that is, he really did rise *from the dead* ... not only in appearance ... but that he rose and actually appeared to his disciples and others.

The core of our faith is always centered on the reality of the death and resurrection of Christ ... and this is what we celebrate in each Divine Liturgy ... and what we seek to live out in our daily lives.