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Cantor
Joseph Luzanski
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Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or by
appointment

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych
Василь Якубич
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The Divine Liturgy intention is for the he parish family

If you would like to schedule a Litrgy please talk to Father Vasyl or use the sign up sheet in the vestibule.

House Blessings will begin after Theophany (January 6th) start thinking about what day would be best to invite Father Vasyl for this annual blessing.

Why do you pray to saints?

To be accurate, we pray with the saints, not to them. Much the same as you would ask your friends, family or other Christians to pray for you, we ask the saints to intercede on our behalf. We don't pray to the saints "instead" of to God, just as any Christian does not ask his fellow Christians to pray for him instead of going directly to God with his concerns. Rather, we enlist Saints, along with the rest of the Church, to pray to God to hear us and have mercy on us. No saint would ever get between anyone and God. Rather, they always pray for us to God so that we can become one with Him just as they did.

Why are there icons everywhere?

Icons are in some sense our "family album". In the same way that many people keep photo albums to help them remember people and events, we keep the icons to remind us of people and events. They adorn the walls of our worship spaces. Most Eastern Rite Christians also have an icon corner in their home.

Why do you mention Mary so much?

As the one who gave birth to God Himself in the

35th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 2

Menologion

Our venerable father Macarius of Egypt, known as Macarius 'the Elder,' priest and abbot of the monastery of Skete in Egypt, who, dead to the world and to himself, lived for God alone, which he also taught his disciples. (390)

Propers
Pages 130-132

Fasts & Feasts

JANUARY

30 The Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil The Great, Gregory The Theologian And John Chrysostom. 9 am

FEBRUARY

2 Encounter of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ with Simeon and Anna 8:30 am

9 Sunday of the Prodigal Son. 8:30 am

22 First All-Souls Saturday 9 am

23 Sunday of the Second Coming of Christ (Meat-Fare) 8:30 am

March

2 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-Fare) 8:30 am

3 Beginning of the Holy Forty Days Fast

8 First Sunday of the Great Fast (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

flesh, we hold her in high reverence and respect. It only makes sense that we should love someone who literally held God inside her for nine months. She also shows us the way to become one with her divine Son—humility, love and obedience to Him. Why is she so important? Mary stands witness that Jesus Christ is fully human, even while being fully God. The early Christians made a point of inserting into the Nicene Creed (AD 325) the statement that Christ was "incarnate of

I will be going into the hospital to have surgery on my spine January 31st. Father will provide cantors and don't forget that Zach is waiting in the wings. I will have a bulletin printed for February 2nd and hopefully for the 9th. The surgeon will stabilize my condition, but I can not expect significant improvement.

We are planning events and fundraisers in the New Year. Mike Pochan will keep you informed. These fundraisers are very important because because the GCU provides matching funds.

the Virgin Mary" to ensure there was no confusion on this matter.

Why do you pray to Mary?

As for prayers, we pray with Mary, and ask her to intercede on our behalf, as we do with all our Saints. It's no different than asking your own mother to pray for you. And in this case, we're asking Jesus' mother to pray for us.

Why do you cross yourselves?

Jesus calls us to "take up [our] cross," and this is a visible identification with that command of our Lord. We make the sign of the cross to remind us of Christ's conquest of death on the cross. Making the sign of the cross is not unique to the Eastern Rite —Roman Catholics also make the sign of the cross, as do many Protestants, including Anglicans/Episcopalians and some Lutherans (including Martin Luther himself). But, the Eastern Rite Christians cross themselves right to left, signifying the Eastern direction of the crucifixion, resurrection, and the awaited second coming of Christ.

Don't you get tired of singing the same hymns or praying the same prayers every week?

Our hymns and prayers change every day. Yes, there are some hymns we sing regularly, but each day different hymns are sung to celebrate a feast, the life of a saint or some other event in the life of the Church. Like most churches, we have a large and varied hymnbook, and some of the hymns and prayers are used more than others. But because the Eastern Rite liturgical tradition is so vast, full immersion in it provides an almost endless variety of exploration and possibility.

Why do you use incense?

Our worship is not merely mental—we use all our senses, sight, smell, sound, taste and touch. Incense wafting upwards symbolizes our prayer rising to God in heaven. The Scriptures always depict incense when they describe worship in Heaven (Is. 6:4; Rev. 8:3-5), and incense is mentioned in the worship of God on Earth well over 100 times in the Bible. The Prophet Malachi even predicted that incense would be characteristic of Christian worship (Mal. 1:11).

Keep Christmas joy alive in your home:

- a. Keep up the tree until the Feast of the Holy Encounter February 2nd if possible. For your family prayers, read part of the Christmas story from the Gospel from St. Matthew or St. Luke in front of your Christmas icon or Nativity set. Did you put up Christmas lights? Try to keep those up too.
- b. Everybody goes to see the infirm in nursing homes before Christmas, but after Christmas no one goes. Take children along - you'd be surprised what a difference it makes for the elderly infirm to have children around!
- c. Make phone calls or write notes to thank people who sent them presents for the holiday. Perhaps thank a special person in your life, just for being a gift of joy to them. Help them learn to appreciate others and what they do for them: teachers, neighbors, relatives, friends.
- d. Let us all make a point of thanking Jesus for coming into the world to save us from sin and death, and to open the gates of heaven to us once more.