

Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church /Assumption B.V.M. Ukrainian Catholic Church

131 North Beech Street, Mount Carmel, Pa. 17851

Very Reverend Archpriest Michael Hutsko, Pastor

Rectory 570-339-0650 Church Hall 570- 339-4333

Web Site- sspeterandpaulmc.org - E-Mail: stspmmc@ptd.net - Fax 570-339-2715

Prayer Line: Louise Cuff 339-3660 – Eleanor Stebila 339-2353 – Louise Troyan 339-1565

Please notify the rectory office if you or a loved one is hospitalized or admitted to a nursing home

Office Hours: Mon. Tues.- 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Wed., Thurs. 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

1ST Collection : Candles

2nd Collection: Regular Offering

Sunday of Cheesefare

February 11, 2018

Saturday – February 10, 2018

3:15 PM – Confessions

4:00 PM – For the Parishioners

Sunday – February 11, 2018

Sunday of Cheesefare

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – +Albert Olszewski req. by Wife, Sandra

11:00 AM – Assumption BVM – +Anna & Joseph

Sedor req. by Mary, Joanne & Andrea

3:00 PM – Deanery Forgiveness Vespers – Protection

BVM, McAdoo

Monday – February 12, 2018

First Day of the Great Fast – Strict Abstinence

6:00 PM – Stations of the Cross

Tuesday –February 13, 2018

No Services

Wednesday – February 14, 2018

6:00 PM – Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts - +Dr.

Jack Welsh req. by Ed & Michele Teevan

Thursday – February 15, 2018

8:00 AM – Lenten Hours

Friday – February 16, 2018

8:00 AM – Lenten Hours

Saturday – February 17, 2018

8:00 AM – +Joseph Cheddar req. by John & Esther

Ballent

8:30 AM – Services for the Deceased

3:15 PM – Confessions

4:00 PM – +Philip Huratiak, Anniversary of his

Death, req. by Wife, Catherine

Sunday – February 18, 2018

1st Sunday of the Great Fast

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – For the Parishioners

11:00 AM – Assumption BVM – +Francis Jurgill req.

by Wife, Barbara

3:00 PM – Deanery Stations of the Cross – Mount

Carmel

Welcome: We the people of Ss. Peter & Paul and Assumption Churches, are a catholic community that worships God, spreads the Good News of Christ, and serves those in need. Come into the house. Bring all you are, no need to check your failures at the door. There are no perfect people here. You are invited: come. Come in seeking, come in wondering, come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Ss. Peter & Paul/Assumption Churches open their doors to you.

Bulletin Requests

Any requests for any information to be placed in the bulletin must be in writing and submitted to the church office by 12:00 Noon on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Vibrant Parish

A place to encounter the living Christ through the Word of God, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer, Serving One's Neighbor, Leadership, Fostering & Serving Unity & Missionary Spirit.

Please Remember

Pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood & Religious Life.

Rosary Intention

For the week of February 11, 2018 – For the Sick and Infirm of our Parishes

Your Stewardship

We thank you for your financial support of our parish communities. Your weekly offerings are a visible sign of your love for our parish and your commitment to its mission.

In Your Prayers

Please remember to pray for the sick & infirm of our Parishes.

Upcoming Events

Feb 11: Holy Name Society Sunday
Feb 12: First Day of the Great Fast – Strict Abstinence
Feb 13-15: Pyrohy Preparations
Feb 15: Pyrohy Sale
Feb 18: Deanery Stations of the Cross at Ss. Peter & Paul
Feb 25: Deanery Stations of the Cross at St. Nicholas, St. Clair
Feb 28: Soup & Sandwich
Mar 2: Fish Bake from 4-7 PM (Advance Tickets Only)

Ss. Peter & Paul Replenish Fund Donations as of February 4, 2018

Total To Date: \$80,409.54

Replenish Fund: None

Rebuilding Fund: None

Weekly Parish Financial Report

Ss. Peter & Paul Church

Sunday, February 4, 2018	\$2,403.67
Expenses:	\$1,451.17
Sunday, February 5, 2017	\$2,440.50

Assumption BVM Church

Sunday, February 4, 2018	\$1,006.58
Expenses:	\$ 990.15
Sunday, February 5, 2017	\$ 380.00

Ss. Peter & Paul Church Lector Schedule

Sat– February 10th	
Ellen Goretsky	4:00 PM
Sun – February 11th	
George Ann Katchick	9:15 AM
Sat– February 17th	
Ed Cuff	4:00 PM
Sun – February 18th	
Justina Eisenhart	9:15 AM

Assumption BVM Church Lector Schedule

Sun – February 11th	
Zachary Gee	11:00 AM
Sun – February 18th	
Kianna Rizzo	11:00 AM

Tweets from His Holiness Pope Francis

“A life of faith means wanting to be with the Lord, and that means constantly searching for Him wherever He is.”

Sunday Social

Sunday Social is held at Ss. Peter & Paul immediately after 9:15 AM Divine Liturgy. All are welcome. Donations are accepted and appreciated.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Penance

Is available before each Divine Liturgy on Saturday, 3:15 PM to 4:00 PM and on Sunday in Ss. Peter & Paul Church 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM, and at Assumption BVM Church on Sunday before 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy in the confessionals.

Replenishment Fund Gifts

We are still accepting donations/gifts to our Parish Replenishment Fund established almost three years ago to restore monies that were used for the church renovations and repairs. Please consider making a special donation to this Fund. All donations remain here in our parish and are meant to secure the future financial health of our church. Your gift/donation will be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

Pyrohy Sale

Our next sale is Wednesday, February 14th and Thursday, February 15th. Work starts each day at 8 AM. **Orders for February were due by Thursday, February 8th.** Orders received after that time will be placed on a waiting list if we have extras. We are always in need of helping hands in all aspects of this project. Anyone interested in helping, please come to the church hall on the above dates and give us as much time of your time as you can. Many hands make the job easier for everyone!

Spiritual Reading Lending Library

We have assembled a library based upon spiritual reading, reflection and meditation for the benefit of our parishioners and friends. It is located in the vestibule of the church. Everyone is invited to browse through and take a book home to read. Once you have finished the book, please return it so others can make use of it. As we strive to live good Christian lives, it is important we fill our minds and hearts with things that are “of the Lord”. Please take advantage of this opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge.

Ss. Peter & Paul Holy Name Society

Sunday, February 11, 2018 is Ss. Peter & Paul Holy Name Society Sunday. All members are asked to pray together, receive the Holy Eucharist as a body and attend a short meeting immediately after the Divine Liturgy. New members are always welcome to join this society.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers can be sponsored weekly for \$35.00 per arrangement. Parishioners can sponsor these flowers in Memory of a loved one, or for any occasion. Anyone interested in sponsoring flowers may call 570 - 339-0650.

Shroud of the Dormition

A large and very beautiful Shroud of the Dormition (Assumption) of the Mother of God has been obtained for our Centralia Parish to be used at the Annual Call to Prayer Pilgrimage as well as on other liturgical occasions. We are asking if anyone, a family or individual, is interested in memorializing this Shroud in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings received. The cost of the Shroud is \$950.00. Please speak with Fr. Michael directly if you would like to make this offering.

Soup and Sandwich Ministry

We serve a humble lunch of a soup and sandwich every second and fourth Wednesday of the month between the hours of 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. This lunch is open to everyone in our community: the needy, the elderly, and the lonely and is totally free of charge. Our next lunch will be served on **February 28th**. Special thanks to everyone who has made a donation in support of this project. We are grateful for your generosity. **Keep in mind a special third collection for "loose change" will be taken the last weekend of every month.** If you would like to help with the meals, please join us. Any and all help is appreciated.

Icon of the Holy Family

A Vatican authorized icon of the Holy Family, blessed by Pope Francis, is on loan to our parish through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and Mr. James Bailoni. While here, we hope it serves as a visible symbol of true familial love and inspire that same kind of love in our parish families. There are prayer books available as well as holy cards. Please feel free to make use of them as you pray for your family, for our parish family and for families throughout our nation. Let us all strive to reflect among ourselves, the same love found between Jesus, Mary and Joseph - the true Holy Family.

First Day of Lent

Monday, February 12th marks the first day of Lent. It is a day of strict abstinence during which we are obliged to refrain from all meat and dairy products. Lent is also a time for us to embark on a spiritual pilgrimage filled with more intense prayer, fasting and alms-giving (charity). The ultimate goal of this special time is a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are all encouraged to make wise use of these 40 days and devote ourselves whole-heartedly to caring for our eternal soul.

Religious Education

Our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is held Monday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM in the church social hall. Again this year, we will have classes for all youth of our parishes, both Ss. Peter and Paul and Assumption BVM, from Pre-K through 8th grade. Parents, I wish to remind you of your serious obligation before the Lord to bring up your children in the faith. Please be sure they are registered for classes and attend faithfully each Monday evening throughout the school year. In order to complete the registration forms, we will need a copy of the student's baptismal certificate if they were not baptized in our parish. Registration forms are located in the vestibule of each parish. **Please note the following requirements for First Penance (First Communion):** *Child and parents must be registered and active members of Ss. Peter & Paul/Assumption BVM and * the child must have diligently completed 2 years of instruction. No exceptions will be made.

Divine Liturgy at Geisinger

We have made arrangements to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the hospital chapel at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville to aide the spiritual needs of staff and patients. Liturgy will be celebrated by priests of our deanery twice monthly on Tuesdays at Noon. The next liturgy will be February 20th. It is hoped we can begin to build a community of faithful whose prayers will support the health and emotional needs of the entire hospital community. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Ss. Peter & Paul Deanery Stations of the Cross

Ss. Peter & Paul will be hosting the Deanery Stations of the Cross Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 3:00 PM. After Stations a short meeting and a social will be held. As in past years, we are in need of desserts and baked goods. The desserts may be dropped off at the Church Hall before or after the Saturday and Sunday Divine Liturgies. Thank you for your participation in showing our guests our hospitality. Also, help is needed in setting up the Hall and cleaning up afterwards. Thank You!

2017 Donations

Anyone wanting a print out of their 2017 donations may contact the church office at 339-0650 during normal office hours.

Halupki and Pyrohy Available

Frozen, unbaked halupki (pigeons) and frozen Pyrohy are available. If you are interested, stop down in the hall after Divine Liturgy or contact the rectory office during regular office hours.

Fish Bake

Join us for a delicious baked fish dinner on Friday, March 2, 2018 from 4-7 PM in the church hall at Ss. Peter & Paul. Tickets are \$10 per person and must be purchased by Monday, February 26, 2018 at Noon. Dinner includes baked haddock, Pyrohys, coleslaw, green beans, roll and butter, drink, and dessert. Eat in or take out. Get your tickets early! Contact the rectory office at 570-339-0650 during business hours or purchase your tickets in the vestibule before Divine Liturgy.

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

The Mount Carmel Lions Club is sponsoring an All You Can Eat Spaghetti and Meatball dinner on Sunday, March 4, 2018 from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM at the Atlas Legion (Rt. 61 and Wilburton Rd). Adults: \$8, Children under 12: \$5. Take-out orders available (please bring a container).

Lenten Food Sale

We are taking orders for our Lenten Food Sale on Friday, March 23, 2018. Your choice of clam chowder or macaroni and cheese (with or without stewed tomatoes) are available in quarts for \$8 each or pints for \$5 each. Pre-orders only. Pickup is on Friday, March 23, 2018 from 3-6 PM only in the church hall. To place your order, call the rectory office during regular business hours at 570-339-0650 or sign up in the vestibule before Divine Liturgy.

“Best Lent Ever”

Don't give up chocolate for Lent. Instead, take a 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself. Join the Best Lent Ever, a free email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Every day you'll get inspirational videos, practical tips, and encouraging stories. Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/Lent

Easter Offering

Please begin now putting aside a couple of dollars a week so that you can make an extra special offering to our churches on Easter Sunday. We ask each parishioner to consider making an Easter donation of at least \$25.00. Gifts of \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00 or more would be greatly appreciated. When we stop to consider the great gift of Jesus himself, the Son of God, it is easy for us to respond generously as we celebrate His Resurrection.

Lenten Season

During Lent the **Psalm of Typica/Beatitudes** found on **page 6** and **page 10** respectively of the **Divine Liturgy booklet** will be responded instead of the Regular Sunday or Weekday Antiphons.

Pysanky Classes

Thursday, March 15th from 6-9 PM and Saturday, March 24th from 5-8 PM. Cost: \$40 including supplies. To register, call Paul at 570-668-5789. Class size is limited so register early. Classes held at S. Michael's Hall, 300 W. Oak St., Shenandoah.

2018 Deanery Lenten Services

All services will begin at 3:00 PM with a social following the services. A special collection will also be taken each week for the Seminary Fund.

Forgiveness Vespers:

Sunday, February 11: Protection BVM, McAdoo

Stations of the Cross:

Sunday, February 18: Ss. Peter & Paul, Mt. Carmel

Sunday, February 25: St. Nicholas, St. Clair

Sunday, March 4: St. John, Maizeville

Sunday, March 11: Patronage BVM, Marion Heights

Sunday, March 18: St. Michael's, Shenandoah

Sunday, March 25: St. Nicholas, Minersville

Sorokousty

The word "Sorokousty" literally means "forty mouths" (sorok = forty; ust = mouth). Originally, this was a prayer service offered by forty mouths or by forty priests. Historically, families would honor their deceased by holding services for them in the cathedrals on the 3rd, 9th and 40th day after their death -- with 40 priests celebrating the services. Today, Sorokousty is the service that honors the deceased and is offered during Lent.

A Gift from God

The Great Fast/Lent is a gift from God, for it is a time of renewal, healing and spiritual cleansing. Think of why the Great Fast occurs during the early Spring and why Easter Sunday falls on the Sunday of the first full moon following the vernal equinox. Spring is a time for renewed growth – life itself begins to shake off the slumber of dormancy during the cold, dead, Winter months. We engage in Spring cleaning of our homes during this time where the weather thaws off the frost of the past. What better time than now to allow God to help us renew our tired and dormant spirits?

Memoriam

We offer love, prayers, and sympathy to Harry and Janet Hudick, members of Ss. Peter & Paul Church on the loss of their sister and sister-in-law, +Dorothy Fallon who fell asleep in the Lord this past week. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort Harry and Janet and Dorothy's family and friends and may Dorothy's Memory be Eternal! **Vichnaya Pamyat!**



Fish Bake!

**Friday, March 2, 2018
4-7 PM**

**Dinner Includes: Baked Haddock, Coleslaw,
Pierogies, Green Beans,
Roll & Butter, Drink & Dessert
\$10 Per Person**

**Ss. Peter & Paul Church Hall
131 N. Beech Street, Mount Carmel, PA
570-339-0650**

Advance Tickets Only

**Deadline for Tickets: Monday, February 26 at Noon
Eat In or Take Out**

Mardi Gras Moo-la Madness

Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 7-10 PM at St. Nicholas Catering Hall, Rt. 901, Primrose. \$100 cash prize drawn every 20 minutes. \$500 Grand Prize drawn at 10 PM. \$25 ticket includes 4 chances for all 9 cash drawings and light buffet. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Trivia context, drink specials, 50/50 drawing and music. For tickets contact St. Nicholas Rectory at 570-544-4581, Sherri 570-527-0899 or Kelsey 570-624-6425.

Paid Internship for College Students

The Mother Maria Kaupus Center will sponsor the Sisters of Saint Casimir Faith and Spirit paid internship this summer. College students who are members of Divine Redeemer, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Holy Angels or Ss. Peter & Paul parishes are eligible to apply. Students interested in obtaining more information about the internship and the competitive application process should contact Jake Betz, Center Director at 570-339-3450, ext. 7, or kaupascenterdrc@ptd.net. Contact Jake as soon as possible as applications are due March 15th.

League of Ukrainian Catholics Retreat

The Annual Lenten Retreat of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America will be held March 16-18, 2018 at St. Mary's Villa Educational & Retreat Center in Sloatsburg, NY. The theme is "The Road to Repentance." Retreat cost: \$175 per person. Deadline for registration is March 2nd. Contact the Rectory Office during business hours to obtain the conference schedule and registration form.

Spiritual Regulations for the Great Fast

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

- Abstention from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.
- Abstention from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.
- Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations. All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy, Stations of the Cross, Akafist of the Passion and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sorokousty). Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful. This year, families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

Great Fast Liturgical Guidelines

The weekdays of the Great Fast are aliturgical. No Divine Liturgy, even for funerals, should be celebrated. Funeral Divine Liturgies are permitted on the liturgical day of Saturday. On Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated. Typika may be used the other days. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated for Sunday Liturgies during this time. Flowery (Palm) Sunday, March 25 is also the Feast of the Annunciation this year and the liturgical propers and scriptural readings for both feasts are to be taken at the Divine Liturgies. During Holy Week, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There is no Divine Liturgy celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On Holy Thursday evening, Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great should be celebrated. On Holy Saturday evening, Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated.

Article on the Forgiveness Service

On Cheesefare Sunday, all the clergy and faithful have been asked to conduct the Forgiveness Service after the homily during the Divine Liturgy. While this service has been traditionally part of Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday evening, by observing this rite of humility and love at the Divine Liturgy, more of the faithful will experience this moving service as the Christian community prepares to begin the journey through the Great Fast. The following article, written by Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann, explains the significance of the services of Cheesefare Sunday.

Forgiveness Service on Cheesefare Sunday

In the Orthodox (and Eastern Catholic) Church, the last Sunday before Great Lent – the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated – is called Forgiveness Sunday. On the morning of that Sunday, (also known as Cheesefare Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ:

"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..."
(Mark 6:14-15)

Then after Lenten Vespers – after hearing the announcement of Lent in the Great Prokeimen: "Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted! Hear me speedily! Draw near unto my soul and deliver it!", after making our entrance into Lenten worship, with its special memories, with the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, with its prostrations – we ask forgiveness from each other, we perform the rite of forgiveness and reconciliation. And as we approach each other with words of reconciliation, the choir intones the Paschal hymns, filling the church with the anticipation of Paschal joy.

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin the Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a "good deed" required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says:

In vain do you rejoice in no eating, O soul!
For you abstain from food,
But from passions you are not purified.
If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast.

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love

and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.

One may ask, however: Why should I perform this rite when I have no "enemies"? Why should I ask forgiveness from people who have done nothing to me, and whom I hardly know? To ask these questions, is to misunderstand the Church teaching concerning forgiveness. It is true, that open enmity, personal hatred, real animosity may be absent from our life, though if we experience them, it may be easier for us to repent, for these feelings openly contradict Divine commandments. But, the Church reveals to us that there are much subtler ways of offending Divine Love. These are indifference, selfishness, lack of interest in other people, of any real concern for them -- in short, that wall which we usually erect around ourselves, thinking that by being "polite" and "friendly" we fulfill God's commandments. The rite of forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us realize – be it only for one minute – that our entire relationship to other men is wrong, makes us experience that encounter of one child of God with another, of one person created by God with another, makes us feel that mutual "recognition" which is so terribly lacking in our cold and dehumanized world.

On that unique evening, listening to the joyful Paschal hymns we are called to make a spiritual discovery: to taste of another mode of life and relationship with people, of life whose essence is love. We can discover that always and everywhere Christ, the Divine Love Himself, stands in the midst of us, transforming our mutual alienation into brotherhood. As I advance towards the other, as the other comes to me – we begin to realize that it is Christ Who brings us together by His love for both of us.

And because we make this discovery – and because this discovery is that of the Kingdom of God itself: the Kingdom of Peace and Love, of reconciliation with God and, in Him, with all that exists – we hear the hymns of that Feast, which once a year, "opens to us the doors of Paradise." We know why we shall fast and pray, what we shall seek during the long Lenten pilgrimage. Forgiveness Sunday: the day on which we acquire the power to make our fasting – true fasting; our effort – true effort; our reconciliation with God – true reconciliation.

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

Troparion

Angelic Powers descended to Your grave, and the guards fell down and appeared dead. Mary came to the grave seeking your most pure body. You conquered and despoiled the Abyss without being touched by it. You, the Giver of Life, met the Virgin. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to you.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and forever, Amen.

Kontakion

O Guide to Wisdom, O giver of Understanding, O Instructor of the Ignorant, and Helper of the Poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Master, Give the word to me, O Word of the Father, that I may not refrain from crying out to You: "O Merciful Lord, have mercy on me, a fallen one."

Prokimenon

Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them.
V. God is known in Judah; in Israel His name is great.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

It is good to give thanks to the Lord; and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.
V. To proclaim Your mercy in the morning, and Your faithfulness throughout the night. Alleluia (3x)

Epistle: Rom 13:11-14:4

Gospel: Mt 6:14-21

The Forgiveness Service

After the homily, the priest, facing the people says:

Priest: My brothers and sisters, at this time let us try to remember all of our sins which we have committed throughout the course of our life, and with which we have offended God.

All: Lord, we have sinned against You in thought, word and action. We have been wrong and we have done wrong. Forgive us.

Priest: Let us try to remember if we harbor any ill-feelings towards God for anything that happened in our life.

All: Lord, help us to accept your will in our lives, to try to understand your ways, and not to feel angry with You or blame You for anything that might happen to us or go wrong for us in our lives.

Priest: Let us try to remember all of those people who have offended us, hurt us, angered us; all those people against whom, for whatever reason, we bear grudges, feel hatred, and whom we find hard to forgive.

All: From the bottom of my heart, I truly and sincerely forgive those who hate me, who have offended or hurt me, and against whom I carry a grudge or nourish ill-feelings.

Priest: Let us try to remember all of those people whom we ourselves have hurt or offended, knowingly or unknowingly, in word or in deed; and all those whom we, for whatever reason, hate and who bear grudges against us.

All: From the bottom of my heart, I truly and sincerely ask forgiveness and pardon of all those whom I hate, whom I have offended and hurt, and who hold a grudge against me because of this.

Priest: My brothers and sisters, if I have sinned against you, hurt you, or offended you in thought, word or action, knowingly or unknowingly, in any possible way, please forgive me, a sinner, and pray to God for me.

All: May God Himself forgive you and pardon your sins and transgressions, and we also forgive and pardon you. Father, bless us and forgive us our sins and offenses and transgressions, committed voluntarily or perhaps unwittingly, against you.

Priest: May the Lord God, through His grace and loving kindness, forgive you. And I also pardon and forgive you.

And now, let us ask forgiveness of one another by saying: Forgive me my brother/sister. And let the other answer: May God forgive you, and I also forgive you.

