

**Українська Католицька
Церква Св.Родина**

Парох: о. Микола Олвіян Попович
225 N. 4th St.

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Phone: (631) 225-1168 / **Fax:** (631) 225-1177

E-mail: popovici1@aol.com

Web Page: www.holyfamilyucc.com

Facebook: Saturday School:

<https://www.facebook.com/HFUkrainianSchool>



**Holy Family Ukrainian
Catholic Church**

225 N. 4th St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Pastor: Fr. Olvian Nicolae Popovici

Phone:(631) 225-1168 / **Fax:**(631) 225-1177

Parish Center: (631) 225 - 1203

E-mail: olvianpopovici@yahoo.com

Trustees: Silvia Smith (516) 712 - 5526

Nadiya Moskalyuk (631) 579-1519

Choir Director: Iryna Popovych 943-3348

Nataliya Popovici – **English cantor**

Web Page: www.holyfamilyucc.com

Sunday Divine Liturgies: 9:00 am - English / 10:15 am - Ukrainian

Weekday Divine Liturgies: 8:00 am or 9:00 am or 7:00 pm

Holy Days Liturgy: 9:00 am or Previous Day at 7:00 pm

No. 11/18

CHURCH BULLETIN – ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

March 18, 2018 / Березень 18, 2018

DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE:

March 18, 2018, 5th Sunday of the Great Fast. St. Mary of Egypt. Our Holy Father Cyril.

Tone 8: Epistle: Hebrew 9:11 – 14. / **Gospel:** Mark 10:32 – 45.

Note: *Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.*

9:00 am – Pro Populo - English.

10:15 am – (God's Blessing upon Vadym Teslyk & Family; God's Blessing upon Ruslan & Seredniy Family, req. Olena Yakubovska and Nadia Chornomydza) - **Ukrainian.**

Note: This week Sanctuary Candle Light will be in Memory of † Richard Russo, req. Marta Skrypoczka

Monday, March 19, 2018 – *Chrysanthus and Daria Martyrs.*

9:00 a.m. – (Special Intention) - † Deceased Souls in Purgatory, req. Maria Galyluiko (1)

7:00 p.m. – Akathistos to the Passion of Christ.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 – *Venerable Fathers of the St Sabbas Monastery.*

8:45 a.m. – Panakhyda in Memoriam † Anastasia Oleshko, req. + Gloria Tolopka

9:00 a.m. – God's Blessing upon 75th birthday to Helen Samilo, req. Samilo Family

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – *James of Catania Bishop Confessor.*

9:00 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – Ukr.

7:00 p.m. - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. / (Prostrations) – Ukr.

8:00 p.m. - Bible Study (Reading, Explanation, etc) – Ukr.

Thursday, March 22, 2018 – *Basil of Ancyra Priest Martyrs.*

7:00 p.m. – 40th day for † Mychailo Fostakovskyy /Panakhyda/, req. Fostakovskyy Family

Friday, March 23, 2018 – *Nicon and Others Venerable Martyrs.*

9:00 a.m. - Holy Cross of the Way – English

7:00 p.m. – Holy Cross of the Way / Хресна Дорога – Ukr.

Saturday of Lazarus, March 24, 2018.

8:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy - English

5:15 p.m. – † Divine Liturgy for all the deceased followed by Panakhyda (Ending Sorokousty) – Ukr.

6:00 p.m. – Vespers (Вечірня)

March 25, 2018, Palm Sunday. Annunciation of the Theotokos.

9:00 am – (God's Blessing upon Orest, Nancy, Andrew and Cristopher Baransky & Family, req. Family) - **English**

10:30 am – Pro Populo - Ukrainian.

Confessions: Can be heard by appointment daily and on Sundays before or after the Divine Liturgy.

Baptism and Chrismation: By appointment. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

Marriage: Please contact the Pastor at least six (6) months in advance.

Attendance at pre - Cana is required.

Ukrainian Culture School will be held Every Saturday from 9:15 am until 1:35 p.m.

For more information please call the Rectory or contact the Director, Mr. Roman Vaskiv at (631) 225 -1203 or visit our Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HFUkrainianSchool>.

Ukrainian Cultural Dances for children ages 5 to 12 are provided by Mr.

Gregory Momot and Khrystyna Momot of Paramus, NJ, every Saturday, by groups: ages (5 – 9) 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.; ages (8 – 11) 2:15 p.m. – 3:55p.m.; ages (10 – 14) 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Religious Education: Classes for religious education will resume on September 18, 2017 and will be held every Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 5:55 p.m./6:00 p.m. – 6:55 p.m. Please contact the rectory for further information.

Ministry to the Sick: Father Popovici will make visits to the sick on the first Friday of the month. It is the responsibility of an immediate family member to kindly notify Rev. Popovici at the Rectory office about any sick or aged individual who is hospitalized or confined at home or in a nursing home, and he will gladly visit and administer the sacraments. In case of emergencies please call any time.

Pray the Rosary: The Apostleship of Prayer requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **First Sunday** of each month, beginning 20 minutes before Divine Liturgy. The Rosary Society requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **Third Sunday** of the Month beginning at 10:00 a.m. before Ukrainian Divine Liturgy.

Mothers in Prayer: Next prayer group will be held on **April 6, 2018 at 8:30 p.m.**

St. Joseph's Men's Prayer: group will be held every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

Rectory Office Hours: **Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm;** Evenings by appointment. **Attention: Monday** is a free day for the priest. In case of an emergency, please call at any time.

Divine Liturgy: Dear Parishioners! Remember your faith; please come every Sunday and Holy Days to Church.

Divine Liturgy for Children: Special Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian language) for family/children will be held today **Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 12:00 Noon.** All parents are requested to bring their children to church to celebrate the Holy Divine Liturgy.

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Notices should be phoned in or brought to the Parish Office **NO LATER** than 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the Sunday of publication.

Bequests: In making out your will, kindly remember your church. Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church of Lindenhurst, N.Y. is our legal title.

New Parishioners: Welcome to Holy Family Church! To all who are tired and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need friendship, to all who are discouraged and need hope, to all who are hopeless and need sheltering love, to all who sin and need a Savior, this Church opens wide its doors in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please stop by the Rectory to introduce yourselves and register. We look forward to meeting you.

Change in address or telephone? Parishioners, kindly provide the rectory with your new address and telephone numbers as soon as possible.

Parishioners and guests: after each Divine Liturgy, coffee, rolls, & cakes are served in the Parish Center for a donation of \$3.00 per person.

Dear Parishioners: Sincere thanks for the offerings made on Sunday, March 11, 2018. May God bless you all for your generosity.

Our Prayer: Please remember all those parishioners who are ill or elderly within your families. They are part of our parish and need to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion. To schedule a visit by the priest, please call the rectory for an appointment.

Attention: To all who celebrate their birthday during the month of **March 2018**, our best wishes and many happy healthy years! Mnohaya Lita and God's Blessing.

Our Church News:

1. We will make pyrohy with kapusta, potatoes and meat for Sviachene and for sale, on Tuesday March 20, 2018, starting at 7:00 pm. Parishioners, please make every effort to come help us on this day.

2. **Paschal Flower Donations:** You are invited to make a donation between now and Palm Sunday, so that flowers may be purchased for the Good Friday bier, and for Paschal Liturgies (April 1, 2018).

3. **Memorial Donations:** In honor of † **Gloria Tolopka's request, memorial donations are to be used toward Construction/ Installation of a Bell Tower for Holy Family Church:** the following parishioners/friends have donated: Apostleship of Prayer - \$500.00; Rosary Society - \$500.00. To date, \$2,425.00 has been donated.

4. Upcoming events:

A. March 2018 collections: Today, March 18, 2018, there will be a Second Collection after each Divine Liturgies to raise necessary funds for support (Rice Bowl and Poor Collection); and to partially support the trips for missionary priests as well our regular monthly collection. They come for confessions at our parish and preach the Lenten Retreat in preparation for Easter. It's so that the resurrection of Christ can enrich and fulfill our Christian life.

B. Dear Parishioners: Fish Fry Luncheon – scheduled for next Sunday, March 25, 2018, which is Palm Sunday/Fifth Sunday of Lent. Mark this date on your calendars! More information is attached to our church bulletin.

C. Stewardship Council/Pastoral Council will have a monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. This is a request and invitation for all of you who would like to take part in the life of the Church.

5. We will start to bake Paska for Easter. Ladies, please make every effort to come help our ladies from the Rosary Society one of the evenings from Monday through Thursday.

6. Dear Parishioners: If you have any unopened and unused merchandise (**with tags and in new condition**) that you don't need, consider donating it for our "Chinese Auction" scheduled for November.

7. Outreach program for the Easter Season:

A. Please be as generous as possible for the needy in our community. Items needed are: canned vegetables, fruit juice, gravy, coffee, tea, tuna fish, baked beans, pasta sauce, etc. Please bring your items to the church vestibule no later than March 27th, 2018. Also, we will gratefully accept cash donations toward the purchase of items for the Easter baskets. (M/M Ihor & Olesia Warywoda have volunteered to be responsible for the parish outreach program.)

B. The Members of the Rosary Society are asking parishioners to bring children's clothes and shoes (ages 5-14), snacks, candies or a monetary offering to help ship packages to the orphanage in Ukraine.

Our funds are limited so we rely on your special donations. The following Parishioners has been donated for the Shipping the packages to Ukraine: Ms. Susan Oleshko - \$350.00; Thank you, in advance, for your attention and donation.

8. Dear Parishioners! Join us for our next Pilgrimage: "Steps of the Saints" – Italy (Rome, Padua, Asisi, etc). Save the dates: September 16 – 28, 2018. More information is attached to our Church Bulletin.

Dear Parishioners: In light of world events, let us pray more every day for God's forgiveness and mercy and for His guidance.

Please Note: Spiritual Quotes:

A. "The soul leaves all surface appearances, not only those that can be grasped by the senses but also those which the mind itself seems to see, and it keeps going deeper until by the operation of the spirit it penetrates the invisible and incomprehensible, and it is there that it sees God. The true vision and the true knowledge of what we seek consists precisely in not seeing, in an awareness that our goal transcends all knowledge..." - *St. Gregory of Nyssa*

B. Our real journey in life is interior; It is a matter of growth, deepening, and of an ever greater surrender to the creative action of love and grace in our hearts. Never was it more necessary to respond to that action. - *Thomas Merton*

C. "When you reach a state of harmony within yourself and become friends with yourself, then, simultaneously, your environment, Heaven and Earth, will become your friends. For such a person there are no enemies, no 'impure' people. Everything is pure to those who are pure." "Do you realize that our best friend is ourselves? We don't have a closer and more intimate friend than ourselves... So the first person you must befriend is yourself. You will then be able to see yourself with great love and compassion." - *Fr. Maximos quoted in THE INNER RIVER*

D. Allow me to explain the good news my religion proclaims," said the preacher. The master was all attention. "God is love. And God loves and rewards us forever if we observe God's commandments. "If?" said the master. "Then the news isn't all that good is it?" - *Antony de Mello*

E. The Fifth Beatitude that was spoken in the Sermon on the Mount is, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matt. 5:7). It is possible that no other commandment of Christ is needed more in our epoch than this commandment of mercy, of charity. We live in the era of ideologies which in their attempt to be all-encompassing exist in continuous strife, and this strife fills the world with fear and hatred. We live in a world where mercy and charity are exiled, and that that is perhaps the most frightening thing about it, the sign of its dehumanization. How often it is told about Christ in the Gospels that He had compassion on them, that He was merciful to them!

- *Fr. Alexander Schmemmann*

F. In love did He bring the world into existence; in love does He guide it during this its temporal existence; in love is He going to bring it to that wondrous transformed state, and in love will the world be swallowed up in the great mystery of Him who has performed all these things; in love will the whole course of the governance of creation be finally comprised. And since in the New World the Creator's love rules over all rational nature, the wonder at His mysteries that will be revealed then will captivate to itself the intellect of all rational beings whom He has created so that they might have delight in Him, whether they be evil or whether they be just." - *St. Isaac of Syria*

G. In prayer we discover what we already have. You start from where you are and you deepen what you already have, and you realize you are already there. We have everything but we don't know it and don't experience it. Everything has been given us in Christ. All we need is to experience what we already possess. - *Thomas Merton*

H. Created man cannot become a son of God and a god by grace through deification, unless he is first through his own free choice begotten in the Spirit by means of the self-loving and independent power dwelling naturally in him.

- *St. Maximos the Confessor*

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt: Today is the fifth Sunday in Lent, the day we commemorate St. Mary of Egypt. Since we focus on her every year toward the end of Lent, I'm sure most of you are familiar with her story, but to summarize it briefly, Mary's early life was decidedly un-saintly. She lost her virginity at the age of 12, and spent the next 17 years pursuing a life of sin, driven by lust and depravity. The turning point came when she was in Jerusalem at the time of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, when a fragment of the cross of Christ was held up for all to venerate. Out of curiosity she joined the crowds that were streaming toward the church, and pushed her way into the foyer with the others. But when she reached the door to enter the church, some mysterious force prevented her from going in. She tried again, three or four more times, but each time she reached the door she could go no further. Finally, exhausted, she stood in a corner of the foyer, trying to figure out what was happening. Gradually she realized that it was the sinfulness of her own actions that prevented her from entering the church. As she stood weeping at this realization, she noticed that there was an icon of the Theotokos on the wall near where she was standing. Looking into the eyes of the Mother of God she asked for her help. She begged to be allowed to look on the life-giving cross, where the Virgin Mary's son had died for her, and promising that she would renounce the world and its temptations, and go wherever the Theotokos led her. Then she tried again and nothing kept her from entering the church. After kneeling before the cross she returned to the icon and asked the Mother of God to lead her. Then she heard a voice saying "If you cross the Jordan, you will find rest." She obeyed, crossed the Jordan River and went into the desert, where she lived alone for the rest of her life. So how do we know about her? Because there was a monk, Father Zosimas, who had become well known for his asceticism. Eventually he came to believe that he had probably attained perfection in asceticism; that there was nothing more anyone could teach him. Then he visited a monastery, where it was the custom that the monks spend all of Lent alone in the desert, not knowing how anyone else lived or fasted. When they all returned on Palm Sunday, no one would ask anyone else how he had succeeded in his Lenten fast. Thus no one was tempted to impress anyone else; each one had to struggle only with himself, before God. So he went into the desert, and after twenty days, as he stopped for prayer, he saw a human being in the distance. It was Mary – old now, her skin blackened by the sun because long ago her clothes had worn out and fallen off. He tried to approach her but she avoided him, because of her nakedness, until he threw her his cloak. Then he begged her to tell him her story, and she reluctantly complied. He could tell, by the way she talked and things she knew about him that she lived in close communion with God. So what are we to make of Mary and Zosimas? The church commemorates St. Mary of Egypt every year, as an example of repentance. I have to admit, when I first heard about her, I didn't like her very much. I thought she was too extreme – too extreme in her sinfulness, and too extreme in her repentance. Why did she have to spend 47 years repenting, punishing herself for her sins? Why didn't she just accept God's forgiveness and get on with her life? Well I've learned a little more about repentance in the ten years I've been Orthodox, and I know that so far I've just scratched the surface. I do *not* speak to you as an authority on the subject. But I know now that repentance isn't about guilt and punishment. And it's not just saying you're sorry and then moving on. Repentance is about self-awareness. In that moment before she prayed to the icon of the Theotokos, when she stood in the corner wondering why she couldn't get in to the church, Mary became aware that she was a sinful person, and that it mattered.

I'm sure up to that moment she had lived her life doing whatever she felt like doing, satisfying her own desires, and believing that it didn't make any difference. But God in His mercy gave her the experience of seeing that her behavior did matter, and that it prevented her – literally! – from coming close to him. That, I think, is the object of repentance – not to wipe the slate clean, not to hit the "reset" button, but to come closer to God. The first step in coming closer to God, I think, is seeing ourselves as we really are. Not as we think others see us, not as we want others to see us; and not as our parents told us we would turn out, either. But as we really are, with all our pretenses and defenses stripped away. Self-awareness is seeing ourselves as God sees us. While Mary's sinfulness was glaringly obvious, Father Zosimas's was hidden, at least from himself. He was an awesome ascetic, really good at it – and really proud of it. Comparing himself with others, he thought he had reached perfection that no one could teach him anything more. It seems that he may have lost sight of the reason for asceticism – it wasn't until he visited another monastery that he met monks who "burned with the love of God." And they very carefully avoided comparing themselves with others. Then when he met Saint Mary, he saw clearly how far from perfection he really was. So repentance starts with self-awareness. Then it's about recognizing the obstacles that keep us from coming closer to Him - not our specific sins, so much as our sinfulness; not the things we do, so much as the desires that make us do them. The Fathers boiled it down to a list of eight appetites or "passions" that drive us all: gluttony, unchastity, avarice, anger, listlessness, despair, vainglory, and pride. Mary spent the first 17 years of her life in the desert subduing the appetites that she realized made her seek all those sexual encounters. The sexual sins were the symptoms, but she needed to treat the sickness that *drove* her to keep committing those sins. In order to make progress in repentance we need to recognize the appetites, or passions, that are driving us. Repentance also involves recognizing that we can't do it on our own. Mary knew she couldn't subdue her passions on her own, even with extreme asceticism; that's why she begged for help from the Theotokos – first that day in the foyer of the church, and again each time she was overcome by lust, or hunger or thirst. Each time Mary was overwhelmed by temptation she would bring to mind the image of the Theotokos, remembering her promise and asking her help, and afterwards she would see a great light all around her and be filled with peace. Instead of dwelling on the things she had done or wanted to do, she focused her attention on that image – single-mindedly, receptively, and expectantly. This is the essence of Christian meditation, isn't it – being focused on the present moment, attentive to God, receptive. And more and more she did experience that peace and rest that the Theotokos had promised she would find. She knew the Theotokos as her mediator and intercessor. And we have the same help available – from God, who loves us, and from the Theotokos and all the saints (including St. Mary herself), who pray for us and encourage us. Mary's example shows us that repentance begins with self-awareness, that it involves vigilantly resisting the characteristics in ourselves – the passions – that draw us away from God, and that God loves us so much that his help is always available. As Father Zosimas saw, the result was that Mary grew closer and closer to God and became more and more like Him. If she did, then we can too!

"An old man was asked, 'How can I find God?' He said, 'In fasting, in watching, in labors, in devotion, and, above all, in discernment. I tell you, many have injured their bodies without discernment and have gone away from us having achieved nothing. Our mouths smell bad through fasting, we know the Scriptures by heart, we recite all the Psalms of David, but we have not that which God seeks: charity and humility.'" - *The Desert Fathers*