



Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
(St. Mary's)
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Sunday Divine Liturgies: 8:30 a.m. Holy Days as scheduled in the Bulletin

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 02-09, 2018

Sunday December 02 28th Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE COL. 1:12-18; GOSPEL: LK.18:18-27 TONE 3

8:00 a.m. – Confession 8:30 a.m. – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

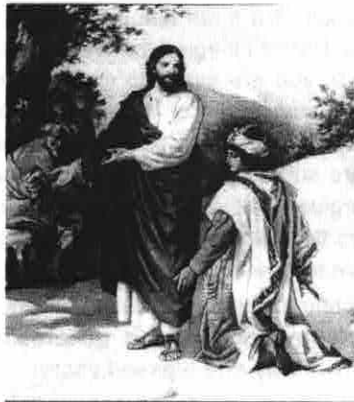
Sunday, December 09 29th Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE COL. 3:12-16; GOSPEL: LK.17:12-19 TONE 4

8:00 a.m. – Confession 8:30 a.m. – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

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The 28th Sunday after Pentecost



In today's Gospel reading a rich young ruler approached Jesus and asked Him what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells the young man to sell all that he had and give to the poor (v.22). The rich man left Jesus feeling sad.

If we know our scriptures we will recognize that Christ's command fulfills the lessons taught in the *Parable of the Talents* (Matthew 25:14-30), the *Parable of the Unjust Steward* (Luke 16:1-13) and the *Parable of the Vineyard Owner* (Mark 12, Luke 20). All three stories tell of a master who appointed servants to manage his possessions and lands, and later returned to collect the profits. In this case, the rich young ruler was asked to give an account of the wealth entrusted to him. When Jesus said that that was one thing that the young ruler still lacked (v.22), he implied that the young man should

have already given to the poor. Sometimes this does not make much sense to us. Don't we work hard for what we have? Yes, many of us do. However, the exhortation that what we have ultimately belongs to God tells us about what God is like and what we should be like too. Look at Christ for example. When Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead, He paid a ransom to purchase us from the bondage of sin and death. He was the ransom. It's like one slave owner buying a slave from another owner. Christ bought us, but then He set us free. St. Clement of Alexandria wrote: As a further motivation to give, remember that Jesus gave his all to save us. For each of us He gave His life. Because he gave up His life for us, He demands we give our lives for each other. If we owe our very lives to our brothers, shall we hoard our wealth and keep it away from them? Shall we keep things away from each other only to have those things burn at the end of the world? No, no! If we do not love our brothers, we are children of the devil and heading for the flames ourselves. But the true Christian loves his brothers! Love seeks not her own, but is diffused on the brother. About the brother love is fluttered, about him she is soberly insane! And as Paul tells us, love is the only thing that lasts. If we become sad, angry, bitter, defensive, or uncomfortable when we hear the message of today's gospel, then we have not yet relinquished our attachment to worldly possessions. We are responding just like the rich young ruler did. St. Ambrose wrote: A possession ought not to belong to the possessor, not the possessor to the possession. Whosoever, therefore, does not use his patrimony as a possession, who does not know how to give and distribute to the poor, he is the servant of his wealth, not its master; because like a servant he watches over the wealth of another and not like a master does he use it on his own. Hence, in a disposition of this kind we say that the man belongs to his riches, not the riches to the man.

