



Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ukrainian Catholic Church

(St. Mary's)

6719 Token Valley Road

Manassas, VA 20112

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Reverend Alexander Dumenko — Pastor (301) – 421 – 1739

Sunday Divine Liturgies: 8:30 a.m. Holy Days as scheduled in the Bulletin

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 01, 2020

Sunday February 23 Sunday of Cheese Fare (Forgiveness)

EPISTLE ROM.13:11-14:4; GOSPEL: MT. 6:14-21 TONE 4

8:00AM – Matins/Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
The health of Reed & Roxolana Armstrong from Ann Woroniak

Sunday March 01 1st Sunday of Great Fast

EPISTLE HEB 11:24-26,32-12:2; GOSPEL: JN 1:43-51 TONE 5

8:00AM – Matins/Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
The health of Robert Bergkamp from Ann Woroniak

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Sunday of Cheese Fare



Beloved, you heard the readings from the Epistle and the Gospel today which talk about this stage of the fast that we are entering today. The Epistle says, "The night is ending and the day has drawn near, so let us cast aside the cares of darkness and arm ourselves with the weapons of light." We heard the chant say, "the time has come for spiritual struggles." So, we Christians should understand the meaning of fasting. What does the fast mean for us Christians? The fast is a period of time designated by the Church for our benefit and for psychological, spiritual, and bodily use. It is not a time for torturing the soul and body, but for developing the soul.

What is the essence of fasting? The word fasting is not a clear word. The true translation for this stage is abstinence, abstinence from that which is idle and prioritizing that which is good. What does the Church say to us during this time in which prayers there are multiplied, man returns to himself and searches himself, how he lives and why he lives, and what is the purpose of his life... In short, all these prayers, all these fasts, have the purpose of the faithful Christian trying to transform his love for himself, to transform this selfishness into love of God and love for others, to look, even a little, to others and especially to others in need, to think of others and not to think only of one's self, to transform material concerns into loftier concerns, which give value to one's life, purpose and meaning to one's life. This is the purpose of the fasting that awaits us. It is an opportunity for us to purify our souls and bodies. A person tries to wash his body from time to time, and to clean his house. So how much more important is the soul than the body or the house. So let us try to do this, with the Lord's help and with the means that the Church offers us. Today the Gospel calls on us to forgive, "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Let us forgive and not hate or resent others. Let us not judge others easily. Let us have this pure heart, this heart that is open wide to all the world. This is our Church, this is our heritage, this is our faith-- that we open our heart and that we open our mind also. This is what the Lord asks of us. This requires struggle on our part: abstinence, fasting, prayer, and love. This is a season of joy, not a season of sorrow and mortification. It is a season of joy because the Lord awaits us and He is the one who gives us every joy, all peace, and all salvation. POSTED BY +EPHREM (KYRIAKOS)

•**Sorokousty (praying for our deceased)** – Every Sunday during the Lent in our church will be conducting Sorokousty service for all deceased from our families. Please use the Sorokousty envelope from your box of the church envelopes and give a listing of the names you wish to be remembered along with your offering. May the Memory for them be Eternal!

•**Parish/Finance Council meeting** on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 10 am, at the church.

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YOUR OFFERINGS: Collection: – 02/16- TBA

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

The Forgiveness Service

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.