



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

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

JULY 05, 2020

Saturday July 04 5th Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM – Confession. 5:00PM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for the health and blessings of Barbara Osborn from Helen Troy

Saturday July 11 6th Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM – Confession. 5:00PM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for the health and blessings of William Bergkamp from Ann Woroniak

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Embracing the Truth in These Troubled Times

A Reflection for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost—Independence Day Weekend
Gospel Reading Matthew (8:28-9:1)



In one of the most significant trials in human history, the trial of Jesus before Pilate, Pilate asks Jesus, “What is Truth?” In the Gospel of John, we read “*Pilate said to Him, 'Then You are a king? Jesus answered, 'You say I am a king. For this, I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice. Pilate said to Him 'What is truth?'*” (John 18:37-38)

What is truth? What a profound rhetorical question? When one reflects on the meaning of truth, one realizes that truth is immutable, it does not change. It is an absolute. Think of a witness in the courtroom-- the witness places a hand on the Bible and swears to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.’ But what is the source of ultimate truth in this life?

It is Christ Himself—for Jesus tells us “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” (John 14:6) In today's Gospel, Jesus encounters two possessed men and drives the demons out of them into the swine and they meet their

doom. The Truth, Jesus Christ, by encountering evil destroys evil. Truth overcomes evil. The importance of truth for us as moral human beings is beautifully expressed in the encyclical of St. John Paul II entitled "*Veritatis splendor—the Splendor of Truth.*"

"The splendor of truth shines forth in all the works of the Creator and, in a special way, in man, created in the image and likeness of God. Truth enlightens man's intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord."

From the truth that we discern and with which our consciences are formed, we increase our understanding of human existence and ultimately our relationship to our Creator, Almighty God.

The prophet Micah reminds us, "*You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: "Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God."*(Micah 6:8)

To do justice and good, one must know the truth. Sounds simple! Yet we human beings find such advice hard to follow. One cannot do justice and love goodness without knowing the Truth—the revealed truth of Jesus Christ and what God, the ultimate lawgiver, provides for us in Holy Scripture. Think back again to the trial of Jesus before Pilate. After His scourging, Jesus again came before Pilate, and Pilate asked him, "*Where are You from? Jesus did not answer Him so Pilate said to Him "Do you not know that I have power to release You and I have power to crucify You?" Jesus answered "You would have no power over Me if it had not been given to You from above."* (John 19:9-11) What is Jesus telling Pilate? Any power Pilate has comes from God. That Almighty God is the source of our human governance. St. Paul states this principle in his Epistle to the Romans, "*Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established from God.*" (Romans 13:1) The ultimate lawgiver is Almighty God.

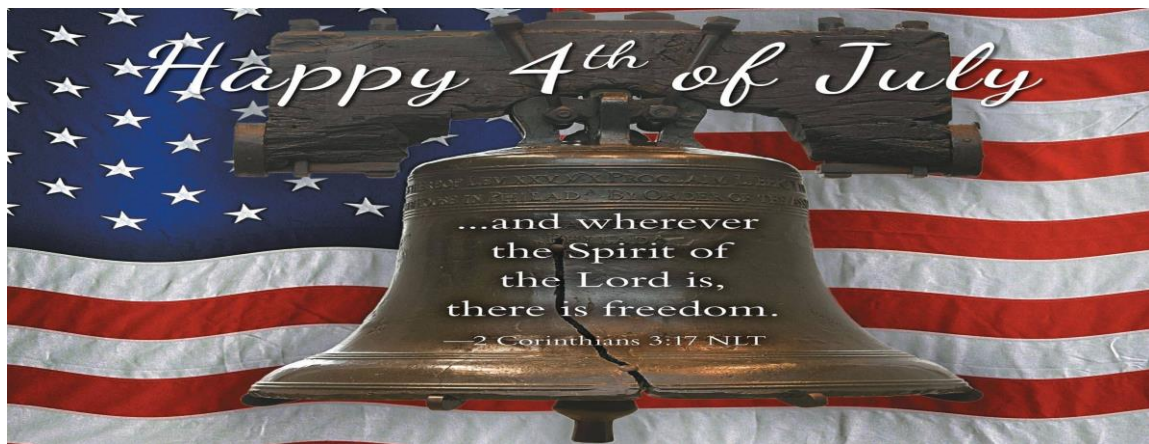
Our Founding Fathers knew this principle and expressed this reality in these immortal words from the Declaration of Independence, "*We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.*"

The brave men gathered in Philadelphia in 1776, who risked their lives and their sacred honor to establish this nation, a bold experiment in democracy, acknowledged that all rights are derived not from kings or presidents, or parliaments or congresses. Human beings are endowed with these rights by their Creator, Almighty God..

This Independence Day weekend, let us be grateful and thankful to Almighty God for inspiring our Founding Fathers with the truth and the courage and wisdom to establish for themselves, for us and our posterity this great nation, the United States of America.

And as we enjoy the blessings of liberty, let us walk the Way of Jesus Christ on our journey to eternal life, as we come to know, understand and embrace Him, the Truth of the world.





Announcements

Welcome Back to our church! Please share this news with your family and friends! We have resumed **our Sunday Liturgy on Saturdays with the indoor service**. Please keep in mind all protocols that were set out for us, with the blessing and guidance of our Metropolitan Borys and Bishop Andriy. These will be followed for the foreseeable future, given that the Covid-19 pandemic is not over. All social distancing applies. The faithful must wear a mask during the celebration of Liturgy, except for the brief moment while receiving Holy Communion. Sit in designated pews and respect social distance between others of 6 feet or more unless you are one family unit. Sanitize your hands as you arrive for the service. No handshakes, hugs, kissing of icons, etc. Stay home if you are sick or not feeling well. The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains lifted until further notice, especially if you are part of a vulnerable population and/or have an underlying health condition. While these protocols are intrusive, they are necessary as they allow us to celebrate the Sacraments in person while doing our part to help stop the spread of coronavirus. May the Lord keep us protected and healthy and, as always, well prepared for the gift of eternal life!

Floods In Ukraine As you may already know, parts of western Ukraine are under water due to strong torrential rains that have been falling for several days earlier this week. Two regions, Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi, were affected the most. In the Ivano-Frankivsk region, over 4600 houses are lost or flooded, 550 kilometers of roads are damaged or washed away and 90 bridges are gone. In addition, at least three people lost their lives. Thousands of people had to be evacuated leaving their homes and properties behind. Many have lost their belongings and savings. This is the time when our brothers and sisters in Ukraine need help. Patriarch Sviatoslav has sent a letter of appeal asking us all, in the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, to assist in this campaign. We will be taking special collection for the next two weekends to submit to the Archeparchy and assist those affected Ukraine. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

●**Church Donations** We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail their donations when they're unable to come to Divine Liturgy. If you are financially able, please continue to support our church. You may mail your donations to: PO Box 2735, Manassas, VA 20108. THANK YOU!

Collection June 27 \$475

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

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Troparion and Kontakion:

Troparion (4): When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the glorious news of the resurrection and cast off the ancestral condemnation, they proudly told the apostles: Death has been plundered! Christ our God is risen, granting to the world great mercy. **Troparion (3):** O Athanasius ever glorious, the ranks of angels marveled at your life in the flesh for you with your body engaged the unseen foe, and wounded the legions of demons. For this Christ rewarded you with lavish gifts. Therefore, pray, O Father, that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Kontakion (8): Your flock invokes you, O God-inspired Father, as one graced with special insight into things unseen and as a true herald putting into practice the word that you taught. Yield not in praying for your servants that God would free them from every harm and attack. For they cry out to you: Rejoice, O Father Athanasius.

Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (4): My Savior and Deliverer from the grave, as God, has raised out of bondage the children of earth and shattered the gates of Hades; and as Master, He rose on the third day.

Prokimenon (4): How great are Your works, O Lord; You have made all things in wisdom. **Verse:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, You are exceedingly great. What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has rendered to me?

Prokimenon (7): Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His venerable ones.

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (Rom 10,1-10)

Brethren: My heart's desire and prayer to God on their behalf is for salvation. I testify with regard to them that they have zeal for God, but it is not discerning. For, in their unawareness of the righteousness that comes from God and their attempt to establish their own [righteousness,] they did not submit to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for the justification of everyone who has faith. Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from [the] law, "The one who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down) or 'Who will go down into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is the word of faith that we preach), for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

Alleluia Verses: (4): Poise yourself and advance in triumph and reign in the cause of truth, and meekness, and justice. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (4):** You have loved justice and hated iniquity. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse:** Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse:** His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Gospel: (Mt 8,28-34;9,1) At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road. They cried out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?" Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding. The demons pleaded with him, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go then!" They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds ran away, and when they came to the town they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district. He entered a boat, made the crossing, and came into his own town. **Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**