



**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Ukrainian Catholic Church**  
**(St. Mary's)**  
**6719 Token Valley Road**  
**Manassas, VA 20112**  
**(703) – 791 – 6635**  
**www.stmarysbyz.com**  
**Reverend Alexander Dumenko Pastor**  
**(301) – 421 – 1739**  
**Sunday & Holy Days Divine Liturgies:**  
**as scheduled in the Bulletin**

**DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**OCTOBER 04, 2020**

**Sunday October 04 18th Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00AM – Confession. 8:30AM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for God's Blessings on Donna Hogan from Helen Troy

**Sunday October 11 Sunday of the Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council**

8:00AM – Confession. 8:30AM – Divine Liturgy For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for +Alexander Woroniak from wife Ann Woroniak

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**The 18th Sunday after Pentecost**



Our Lord Jesus Christ has revealed many wonderful truths, which until then were unknown. Many of these concern our relations with other people, either inside our homes or outside in society. Perhaps there is difficulty in remembering

everything one has to observe in dealing with other people. For this reason, Jesus, as a wise Teacher, has today given us a Life Rule, named for its great value, "The Golden Rule." What does this Rule say?

"And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise" (Luke 6:31). Words that are simple, easy, understandable, short and something everyone can remember.

In the Old Testament, we read: "What you yourself hate, do not do to anyone" (Tobit 4:15). There have been ancient philosophers who have taught the same thing: Do not do to another what you do not want done to you. It is the negative view of the subject. Jesus speaks of something higher and more precious; You do to others what you want them to do to

you. For example, if you see a poor person who has no food and his children are hungry, think: If you were in their place, you would want someone to help you. So, do something to help them, so they do not die of hunger! Can you not give them some food? Move, act among those you know, and make a team effort to find a way to help the situation.

What often happens, though, is this: If this person in need is a relative or a friend, someone we love, then we are interested in helping in every way. For others, however, we are indifferent, because we do not feel any love towards them. We consider them strangers. This is what the Lord is correcting when He tells us: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (verse 32). What is more, we also hear "love your enemies" (verse 35). The Lord wants us to love not only those unrelated to us and outside of our personal circle of family and friends, but also our enemies. This is the basic difference between the Christian and non-Christian. The non-Christian will not love his enemy; he will apply "an eye for an eye" if he does not do something worse, and "hate your enemy" (Matthew 5:38 and 43). But the Christian is called upon to apply Christ's new command of love, which no one has ever imagined: To love the whole world without distinction as to whether he is a friend or an enemy; whether he loves or hates you. And not just a sentimental show of words, but actual works: "do good," even to enemies!

Of course, being this way towards those who are troubled is not at all easy. This God-like model is given to us by Jesus: "He is kind to the unthankful and evil people." If we imitate God in love, Jesus said, "your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High" (verse 35).

If we could, my brothers and sisters, imagine how the practical love for all people will raise us to such a high position. If we do that, we will certainly do our best to deserve this greatest honor, to become children of the Most High God! Is there anything higher? It is worth making every effort, and the method we use will be simple: Applying the Golden Rule. If there is an issue with another person and their actions, let us ask our conscience: If I was in their position, what would I want another person to do for me? The answer will soon come, and we have to do exactly what our conscience tells us. This depends of course, on our conscience being healthy, good, and enlightened by the Holy Spirit.

My beloved brothers and sisters, let us base our lives everyday on the Golden Rule of our Lord, to deserve to be recognized by God the Father as His children.

Source: [pemptousia.com](http://pemptousia.com)

## 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Troparion and Kontakion:

**Troparion (1):** Though the stone was sealed by the Jews and soldiers guarded Your immaculate body, You arose, O Savior, on the third day, and gave life to the world. And so the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of life: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your saving plan, O only Lover of Mankind! **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Kontakion (1):** You arose in glory from the tomb and with Yourself You raised the world. All humanity acclaims You as God, and death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master; and Eve, redeemed now from bondage, cries out for joy: You are the One, O Christ, Who offer resurrection to all.

**Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Theotokion (1):** When Gabriel uttered to you, O Virgin, his Rejoice! - at that sound the Master of all became flesh in you, the holy ark. As the just David said, you have become wider than the heavens, carrying your Creator: Glory to Him Who dwelt in you! Glory to Him Who came forth from you! Glory to Him Who freed us through birth from you!

**Prokimenon (1):** Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You. **Verse:** Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous.

**Prokimenon (1):** Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

**Epistle: Reading of the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.** (2Cor 9,6-11) Brethren: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.

**Alleluia Verses:** Verse (1): God gives me vindication, and has subdued peoples under me. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (1): Making great the salvation of the king, and showing mercy to His anointed, to David, and to his posterity for ever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Gospel:** (Lk 6,31-36) The Lord said: "Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as also your Father is merciful."

**Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**A reflection in both English and Ukrainian of Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys on St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. It is based upon his conferences at the recent clergy retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey.**

In our bewildered, pandemic, pre-election world, we look for words of inspiration, encouragement, and guidance. There are no better ones than those of Sacred Scripture.

In these weeks our Church read Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The priests of our Archeparchy focused on this brief text during their clergy retreat last week that I was privileged to lead. In this edition of this biweekly article, which is slowly becoming a tradition, let me give you a recap of what we reflected upon and lived through during the retreat. Brothers and sisters, I recommend you read Paul's letter to the Ephesians this week and focus particularly on its first half — Chapters 1-3. They give a very specific picture of the riches humanity receives from Christ. You will find words about God's good will, His blessing, and generosity. Read the first chapters carefully. See how many times the words 'blessing', 'good will', 'glory', and 'redemption' are used.

To understand the context, we should know more about Ephesus. In the first century AD, when Paul was preaching there, it was probably the second biggest city in the Roman Empire with about 250,000 residents. The city was on the East-West trade route, the Temple of Artemis was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, there was a sports stadium for 25,000 people, and the city attracted many pilgrims and tourists. Try to think of it comparing Ephesus to Philadelphia — a modern prosperous city with inhabitants from all walks of life. After a first short visit, Saint Paul returned and spent two years in Ephesus building up there one of the first Christian communities. Christians — both Jews and Gentiles — were few in number. It is important to realize that these first century local Churches were about the size of our parish communities — a few dozen, or maybe a few hundred members. The surrounding culture was pagan, the religious practices were cultic — some bowed to one god, some to another, some to a third. The Roman Empire mirrored our present globalized world with its capacity to trade and communicate across great distances if not yet instantaneously. Although Roman civilization had many positive innovations and characteristics, particularly in the field of law, in the end it was a brutal world with slavery, the sexual subjection of women, and a death penalty by crucifixion, as was in the case of our Lord or the apostles Peter and Andrew, and by beheading, as in the case of our author, who at the time of writing was imprisoned awaiting trial.

The Gospel of non-violence that the tireless apostle Paul announced was in sharp contrast to the prevailing culture. He and the first Christians preached and lived the Gospel at a great price. They were a countercultural, marginalized minority, and poor in infrastructure but rich in mutual charity. It was their love in the name of Jesus that year after year, decade after decade, converted the Empire and its peoples to faith in Christ.

For us today it is important to hear and embrace the encouragement we find in the first three chapters of the Epistle to the Ephesians. The Kingdom of God is not somewhere far off, but it has its presence among us, in our mutual love which reflects the boundless love of God. The Gospel is much greater than a law or rules; it is grace, bounty, blessing, and the gift of eternal life.

The second chapter of Ephesians emphasizes the unity of all people — Gentiles and Jews — who live in Christ, who are unified by one faith, who are one in the Messiah (Eph 2,11-18), regardless of their sex, ethnic origin or social status. ‘There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, through all, and in all’, repeats Paul in Chapter 4. (Eph 4, 5-6). Try to replace ‘Jews’ and ‘Gentiles’ with Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians, Ukrainian and English speakers, black and white... or whatever divides us to make it sound real. Paul calls us to unity. In a divided world, in our segmented and antagonistic society, the fundamental Christian call to unity expressed by Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians is truly Good News.

The role of women was particularly important. Women embraced the teaching of Jesus and His followers because the dignity of all people was recognized. Paul enjoins the Ephesians: “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church” (Eph 5, 25). Pause and think about this: husbands are to love their wives as the Son of God loves His Church. In this section, which is read at the Byzantine crowning ceremony at Holy Matrimony, Paul extolls the unity of man and woman. For the modern Christian communities which are few in numbers, the enthusiasm of the Apostle for the modest Church of Ephesus underlines that the Kingdom is not measured by numbers. For committed Christians who feel isolated and discouraged in an increasingly secular and often antagonistic world, Paul’s desire, energy, and capacity to communicate from a prison in Rome to his brothers and sisters in Asia Minor demonstrates that we can live a full, spiritual, missionary life, even in the worst of circumstances! I encourage you to read the Epistle to the Ephesians because it is most relevant to our times. The Lord had Paul write not only across geographical distance, but also through the centuries. We need his encouragement, peace, and joy, especially in times of global pandemic and quarantine, when we may feel lonely and dispersed. Paul was not a preacher of comfort or convenience, yet he expressed the great joy and true essence of Christianity. The Gospel is not just a proposal of a lifestyle or temporary betterment – it is a radical offer for the dead to live! We were dead before our encounter with Christ because we breathed the air around us, and we lived according to the impulses of the flesh. ‘You used to be dead because of your offenses and sins’, says Paul (Eph 2,1). But now we can live. Now we know who we are — the sons and daughters of the Father. In Christ we are not alone. As human beings, we have an anthropological need to be at home, a deep existential need to know that we are not lost in this world. In Ephesians, we are assured that we are at home with God. “So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Eph 2.19) Take a healthy drink of the riches of the Gospel which are outlined in the first three chapters of Ephesians, then delve into the responsibilities of the Christian communities and each and every one of us explained in Chapters 4-6. If you have never read the Letter to Ephesians, you are missing out. Every Christian, every Ukrainian Catholic should know and rejoice in this relatively short but most life-giving text. I look forward to asking you about Paul’s letter to the Ephesians the next time we meet.

+Borys

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Parishioners and Friends! We welcome you to our Sunday Liturgy with the indoor service. Please keep in mind that social distancing applies and wearing a mask during the celebration of Liturgy is mandatory to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

**Food Pantry** Many food banks need donations more than ever during the current COVID-19 crisis. Instead of holding food drives only at Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will be collecting food and non-perishable donations throughout the year and taking donations to a food bank once a month. The collection box will be in front of the confessional/cry room so that donations can be deposited as we enter the church. God bless you for your generosity. Most needed items at this time: Canned fruit, cereal, instant mashed potatoes Other wish list items: Beans, canned meats, canned pasta, canned vegetables, jelly, canned soup, macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, Manwich, chili/stew, miscellaneous dressings, mixes, pasta and sauces, powdered milk, rice, cleaning products, personal care items.

**Catechetical materials** Dear Parishioners & Friends, please take the time to review the materials by using the link below, which includes catechetical materials for this Sunday, October 04. Hopefully you will be pleased with the resources you be directed to including the Trisagion prayers, the Sunday Epistle and Gospel readings together with the troparia, which you can also listen to as they are sung in Tone 1 for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost. You will also find introductory God With Us Series online resources for teachers and parents for kindergarten through the eighth grades. Thank you for your dedication in sharing the faith and Good News of Jesus Christ with the youth of our parishes. May Our Lord, the Supreme Teacher, bestow His blessings upon you and your catechetical ministry.

<https://godwithusonline.org/reflections/the-eighteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-ukrainian/>

### **TRANSFORMING CALAMITY INTO UNITY DIGNITY & HEALING**

A virtual conference, sponsored by the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America and the Mothers in Prayer, together with the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, will be held Saturday, October 10, 2020. There is no doubt that the events of this pandemic year have been emotionally and physically exhausting. Through this conference, our hierarchs will attempt to help the faithful experience healing, spiritual growth and transformation from this unprecedented chaos. All registrants will receive a link to the program by email. The video presentations will be in English and Ukrainian. Register at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdD2W8Pc-HN7yr96rDkJtFk6HTsl9aBb\\_mex9nyN2fciH2WRQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR3ny8W9Antl2ApANF0lv8PwrSucx1OTUqCMEExSGQMdxztDwA9IcCzAWwWQ](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdD2W8Pc-HN7yr96rDkJtFk6HTsl9aBb_mex9nyN2fciH2WRQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR3ny8W9Antl2ApANF0lv8PwrSucx1OTUqCMEExSGQMdxztDwA9IcCzAWwWQ)

Everyone will benefit from Unity, Dignity & Healing. The event is free, registration is short and simple. You can view the conference when suitable for you on Saturday, October 10th. Please share with your family and friends and become spiritually enriched by participating in this virtual program.

### **Collection: September 27, 2020 =**

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