



**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 Divine Liturgies: 8:30 a.m.

Holy Days as scheduled in the Bulletin

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 06, 2020

Sunday December 06, 2020 27th Sunday after Pentecost-St. Nicholas-Wonderworker

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
For +Patricia Fallon from Martha & John Stine

Sunday, December 13, 2020 Sunday of the Forefathers

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
For +Phyllis Thompson from Martha & John Stine

+++++

The 27th Sunday after Pentecost



In today’s Gospel Reading we have heard the story about a sick woman who was healed by Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Sabbath Day. We may ask ourselves a question: what was the fault of “a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years?” (Luke, 13. 10-17) Our Church offers us to put it in another, more soul-

saving way and instead of asking: “For which fault?” and “Why?” – inquire ourselves: “For what purpose?”

Being still in Eden, the humans turned around from God, from His Divine Joy and eternal Life, and, consequently, as a result, had to face sufferings and death. In this sense, of cause, every infirmity, every suffering comes from satan, who deceived people. “Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward,” – says Saint Iov, the Long-Suffering (Iov 5.7).

Jesus Christ calls us to repent in order to save our souls and not to perish... He calls us to “change our mind”, to make an effort and

choose Life and not death! But how hard it is for us, who “have been snared by satan for many years”, to start this struggle! Our Lord cures the suffering woman and He forgives our sins not because we deserve this forgiveness, but because He is Love and His love embraces all of us!

It is very hard for a man, who is experiencing misery from his own sins, to perceive this ultimate goodness of God. The ruler of the synagogue from today’s reading, for example, is trying to defend and endorse the literal execution of the law. He does not even realize that by doing that he calls to obey not the God’s law, but his own personal understanding of this law... Being so deeply mistaken, the head of the synagogue in reality demands everyone to comply and adhere to the law of his own...

The meaning of one of the Commandments of the Old Testament is in the fact, that it is essential to give people one Day as the Day of God’s Remembrance. People need to have the ability to live at least one day a week not for themselves, but for God, and in the long run – for other people, for God’s love towards others... Jesus Christ came to this world not to trespass the law, but to fulfill it (Mat.5.17). He calls us to repentance and to the change of our way of thinking. He wants us to see the true meaning of the Commandment about the Sabbath, answering thus to the reproaches for healing on the Consecrate Day: “Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?” (Luke 13.15-16)

The woman, who was cured from her infirmity, received from Jesus Christ not only alleviation of the sufferings of her body, but also, as the gift of Faith, redemption from the sufferings of her soul. “He laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God” (Luke 13.13).

Let us, brothers and sisters in Christ, always remember that only Jesus Christ is able to free our souls from the burden of sins and from the devil’s ensnarement; only God possesses power to liberate and make us strait! *Source: orthodox-canada.com*

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

Troparion and Kontakion:

Troparion (2): When You went down to death, O Life Immortal, You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity. When You raised the dead from the nether world, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You!

Troparion (4): The sincerity of your deeds has revealed you to your people as a teacher of moderation, a model of faith, and an example of virtue. Therefore, you attained greatness through humility and wealth through poverty. O father and archbishop Nicholas, ask Christ our God to save our souls. **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

Kontakion (2): You rose from the tomb, O Almighty Savior, and Hades, seeing this wonder, was stricken with fear; and the dead arose. Creation saw and rejoices with You, and Adam exults. And the world, my Savior, sings Your praises for ever.

Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (3): You were truly a priestly worker in Myra, O holy Nicholas; for zealously living the gospel of Christ, you dedicated your life to your people; you saved the innocent from death. Therefore, you have been sanctified as one who has entered the mystery of God's grace.

Prokimenon (2): The Lord is my strength and my song of praise, and He has become my salvation.

Verse: The Lord has indeed chastised me, but He has not delivered me to death.

Prokimenon (7): The just man will rejoice in the Lord and will put his trust in Him.

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to You.

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

(Eph 6,10-17) Brethren: Draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold

your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Alleluia Verses: Verse (2): The Lord will hear you in the day of tribulation; the name of the God of Jacob will shield you. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (2): Lord, grant victory to the king, and hear us in the day that we shall call upon You. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Your priests shall be clothed with holiness; Your faithful shall ring out their joy. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord, who takes delight in all His commands. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: (Lk 13,10-17) At that time, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue on the sabbath. And a woman was there who for eighteen years had been crippled by a spirit; she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect. When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are set free of your infirmity." He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the sabbath, said to the crowd in reply, "There are six days when work should be done. Come on those days to be cured, not on the sabbath day." The Lord said to him in reply, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering? This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now, ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day from this bondage?" When he said this, all his adversaries were humiliated; and the whole crowd rejoiced at all the splendid deeds done by him. **Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

Ukrainian Catholic

810 North Franklin Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123-2005

Phone (215) 627-0143 Fax (215) 627-0377

ukrmet@ukrcap.org

No. 521/2020 O

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE USA

TO OUR CLERGY, RELIGIOUS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL,

Christ is born!

“...all at once with the angel there appeared a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’ (Luke 2:13-14)

This was the joyous proclamation of the angels at the most significant event in human history to that point: the birth of the Messiah, the Son of God, in a stable in Bethlehem.

This intrusion of God into the world of men was something that was totally unexpected; it caught everyone off guard. In fact, we can say that, in sending his Son to us, God interrupted the normal course of events in the lives of many people. In the Gospel narrative, we see this clearly in those most closely associated with the Nativity of Christ.

Mary and Joseph were a typical young couple of the time, betrothed to each other in anticipation of a formal marriage that would take place some time in the future. That is, until the angel of the Lord appeared to them both, leaving their plans in shambles.

The shepherds were settling in for a long, uneventful night tending their sheep. That is, until the angels suddenly filled the sky and sent them hurrying in search of a poor stable.

The Magi were esteemed and established scholars in far-off Persia. That is, until a mysterious star compelled them to make a long and arduous journey to Palestine.

And Herod sat contentedly on his throne in Jerusalem. That is, until the Magi brought him the astonishing news of the birth of a would be pretender to his throne that shook him to his core. Indeed, the news of Jesus’ birth not only interrupted the lives of these people, it totally upended them.

It is more important for us however, to observe how God’s interruption changed these people, for better or worse.

We see that Mary and Joseph did not fall into anger or despair at the predicament they found themselves in. Rather, they embraced in obedience, the news brought by the Archangel Gabriel, as the will of God for them. “Let it be done according to your word” said Mary to Gabriel, while Joseph “did what the angel of the Lord told him to do”.

The shepherds were rewarded for their sleepless night with the honor of being first to worship the Son of God in the flesh. The Magi were privileged with being the first to bring gifts to the newborn King. Only King Herod did not embrace God’s intrusion into his life as a blessing, unleashing rather, a violent wave of terror and bloodshed upon the innocent citizens of Bethlehem.

Dearly beloved in Christ! Each of our lives is filled with interruptions, inconveniences, and unexpected intrusions. Though these are unexpected, they are not random, meaningless events. In fact, these interruptions are divinely placed by God in our path for a reason. Like Herod, we do not always react as we should when these interruptions occur. So, God uses these interruptions to teach us patience and to transform us into better and more Christ-like Christians. The small frustrations, the little interruptions in our life, in reality present opportunities for us to rely on God, to obey Him and to embrace His will for us.

A contemporary spiritual writer puts it this way: "You and I don't live in a series of big dramatic moments. We don't run from one big decision to the next. Rather, we all live in an endless series of little every day moments that shape our life. And the struggles that emerge from these little moments when things don't go our way, when our plans fail and our life is interrupted, reveal the character of our heart."

Perhaps, we can view the pandemic that is spreading throughout the world at the present time as one of these unexpected and unwanted intrusions into our life. It has certainly interrupted our celebration of Our Lord's Nativity in a dramatic fashion.

Because of it, our ability to travel and visit friends and family with the joy of Christmas has been greatly restricted. Caroling concerts and Christmas plays have been cancelled. Even worse, our ability to come together in our parish churches to worship Christ in His Nativity in the divine services is diminished as well. Perhaps we have ourselves been sickened with the virus or have lost friends or family to it. And because of this we have become embittered, sad and depressed. When will it finally end?

Dear brothers and sisters! Instead of falling into despair, let us resolve to look upon this interruption in our life through the eyes of faith and as a God-given opportunity to grow in grace, in spiritual peace, and in love for each other. At this time when most of us are more homebound, let us devote more time to personal and family prayer, spiritual reading and meditation upon the miracle of Christ's Incarnation and His coming to us as a helpless baby. And let us be true neighbors and stretch our helping hands and hearts to those in our communities who are suffering both spiritually and physically during these difficult days.

And remember that with the Birth of Christ all fear and doubt are conquered, all darkness and chill are banished, leaving only the light, warmth and love of the newborn Emanuel - God With Us! May the blessing of the newborn Christ be with all of you!

Christ is Born! - Glorify Him!

+Borys Gudziak

Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians

Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (author)

Eparch of Stamford

+Benedict Aleksiychuk

Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+Bohdan J. Danylo

Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

+Andriy Rabiy

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

Christmas 2020

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 the Liturgy is mandatory to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Covid-19 Due to increased Coronavirus infections in our area and seasonal flu which will come with cold weather, and out of Christian love and care for the safety and health of our faithful and people around them, our Archbishop requires all who come to church for worship to wear a mask. The old instructions including social distancing in church are still in effect. If any of our faithful do not feel safe and/or are not healthy, please stay home. During the service singers, chanters and cantors are required to wear a mask. Hand sanitizer is available in several areas in our church. You are always welcome to come and pray in our church, light candles, and receive the Holy Mysteries at any time!

Christmas Preparations! The church will be decorated for Christmas next Sunday, December 13, 2020. Philip's Fast-Advent began on November 15th! In addition to fasting on Fridays, please consider fasting on Wednesdays as well during the Pre-nativity season!

Prepare faithfully for the Birth of Our Lord! Due to COVID-19 St. Nicholas celebration is canceled this year.

Food Pantry: Many food banks need donations more than ever during the current COVID-19 crisis. We are collecting food and non-perishable donations for Christmas, and taking donations to a food bank. The collection box is 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, and personal care items.

We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail their donations when they are 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

+++++

YOUR OFFERINGS

Collection: -11/29-

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE:

**Thursday, December 24, 2020, Christmas Eve
7:30 PM – Great Compline**

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 8:00 PM – Divine Liturgy

