



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

DECEMBER 13, 2020

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

Sunday, December 20, 2020 Sunday before Christmas

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
 For +Leon Byrd from Martha & John Stine

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The Sunday of the Forefathers



On this Sunday the Church commemorates the Holy Forefathers, i.e. the earthly ancestors of our Lord Jesus Christ, beginning with the first man, Adam, and on through Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, and others. These ancient people, separated from us by millennia, nevertheless have a direct and close bearing upon us, contemporary Orthodox Christians.

What connection is there between them and us? In general, the Church brings them to our attention now, right before Christmas, largely because of their faith – their belief in the promise given by God to Adam during his expulsion from the garden of Eden, that in the end a Saviour will come into the world and will redeem mankind from original sin. All the forefathers – who lived on earth long before the birth of Christ – lived and burned with this faith, never allowing it to be extinguished. They are a shining example to us, who are living on earth after the incarnation of our Lord. Just like those ancient people we, too, have never actually seen Christ: they only knew that He **would come** into

the world, while we know that He **did come** into the world. But they firmly believed in His coming and their faith was justified.

We are expected to have even greater faith. We must believe that the Lord was, and is, and will be; that He lived on earth as a man; that through His Church He remains with us constantly; and that He will again return to earth to judge mankind. But for such a faith the Lord Himself promises us eternal bliss. When Jesus Christ appeared before the doubting Apostle Thomas, who could not believe in the Lord's resurrection unless he actually touched Christ's wounds, and upon touching them cried out: "My Lord and my God!", then the Lord said to the apostle: "Because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed; but blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

But apart from faith there is something else that binds us closely with the ancient forefathers – and that is their faithfulness to the awaited Messiah. They lived surrounded by a pagan world – a world which did not yet know Christ, but which had already rejected God. We too, dear brethren, live in a similar and even worse situation. For nineteen centuries after the birth of Christ the world lived with Christ and the Christian culture, but in the 20th century an abrupt change took place. We now live in a post-Christian era, in a world that has once again become totally immersed in paganism.

We often hear mention of the arrival of a "new age." However, there is nothing new in this "new age" except for its more modern form. It is the same old rejection of God and even negation of God, and moreover – a complete rejection of Christ and profanation of Christ. Most Christians do not even see how they are perverting their Christian faith in trying to modernize it, and how they are betraying Christ in attempting to unite with the religions of His persecutors and abusers.

And so, dear brethren, against the background of this horrifying world, let us remember not only the faith of the Holy Forefathers, but also their faithfulness to Christ the Saviour; and as we prepare very soon to celebrate His Nativity, let us turn away from the paganism that surrounds us, and let us witness our total devotion and loyalty to the One Who said: "Lo, I am with you until the end of time."

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

Troparion and Kontakion:

Troparion (3): Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm. He trampled death by death; He became the firstborn of the dead; He saved us from the abyss of Hades and granted great mercy to the world. **Troparion (1):** Be swayed by the pains that the saints have suffered for you, O Lord, and heal all our pains, O Lover of mankind; for this we pray.

Troparion (2): Through faith, O Christ, You justified the Patriarchs; for through them You made a commitment to a Church with Gentiles. These Saints are glorified, because from them descends the Virgin who gave You birth. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (6):

You did not worship a man-made image, O thrice-blessed Youths, but were glorified in the test of fire, protected by a power beyond description. From the searing flames you cried out to God, saying: Hasten to help us, O merciful Lord, for in Your greatness You can do whatever You will.

Prokimenon (4): Blessed are You, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is Your name.

Verse: In all that You have done Your justice is apparent.

Prokimenon (4): Blessed are You, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is Your name.

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (Col 3,4-11) Brethren: When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Because of these the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient. By these you too once conducted yourselves, when you lived in that way. But now you must put them all away: anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out

of your mouths. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

Alleluia Verses: Verse: Among his priests were Moses and Aaron; among those who invoked His name was Samuel. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: They invoked the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: (Lk 14,16-24) The Lord told this parable: “A man gave a great dinner to which he invited many. When the time for the dinner came, he dispatched his servant to say to those invited, ‘Come, everything is now ready’ But one by one, they all began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, ‘I have purchased a field and must go to examine it; I ask you, consider me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have purchased five yoke of oxen and am on my way to evaluate them; I ask you, consider me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have just married a woman, and therefore I cannot come.’ The servant went and reported this to his master. Then the master of the house in a rage commanded his servant, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ The servant reported, ‘Sir, your orders have been carried out and still there is room.’ The master then ordered the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in that my home may be filled. For, I tell you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

Communion Verse: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Exult, you just, in the Lord: praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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 this Sunday, December 13, 2020. Please remain in the church after Liturgy to help. Thank you!

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, manwhich, chili/stew, miscellaneous dressings, mixes, pasta and sauces, powdered milk, rice, cleaning products, and personal care items. All collected items will be delivered to the food pantry after Sunday, December 20.

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

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YOUR OFFERINGS

Collection: -12/06-

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

