



**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
(St. Mary's)**

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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

JANUARY 10, 2021

Sunday, January 10, 2021 Sunday after Theophany

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

Sunday, January 17, 2021 Sunday of Zachaeus

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
For special intention of Fr. Ed Guilloux from Martha & John Stine

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Sunday after the Theophany



In the Gospel reading today, on this Sunday after Theophany, we hear the very first sermon that Christ ever gave in his public ministry: “Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!” With just these few short words, Christ begins His earthly ministry, and he summarizes all of the

Gospel that is to come. Yet the first word He says is “repent.” “Repent” in the original Greek literally means to “change one’s mind – to change one’s heart” and to “turn God-ward.” In order to see Christ and to believe in Him, we must repent. In order to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, we must repent. In order to take even the first step, we must repent. Repentance is not a one-time thing, or some grand, romantic gesture. We who sin almost continually – if not in our actions, then in our thoughts – must constantly turn back to God and repent. To repent, we must die to ourselves and live to God. And we must die daily. And many times daily. Maybe thousands of little

deaths each and every day – but death to sin and death to death. Repentance is a death that brings life! This sense of paradox is captured quite wonderfully in a quote written on a wall in St. Paul's Monastery on Mt. Athos which says: "If you die before you die, then when you die, you will not die." This is a constant battle from the moment we are born until our very last breath. Repentance is not simply an emotional state. It isn't simply feeling sorry, although this is part of it. Repentance is a turning from darkness to the light of Christ. It is about moving away from selfishness to selflessness, moving away from death to life. It is not some protracted, morose state of being. Instead, repentance brings true joy. When we truly repent and truly turn to God, then we receive the grace of God and we are joyful! When we turn to Christ in repentance, this turning brings life, light, joy and peace – the very fruits of the Holy Spirit. Our lives are new and different – full of joy. Full of life and vigor. This is what it means to repent. This is what Christ is saying when He says, "the Kingdom of God is at hand." This Kingdom can be experienced here and now, if we repent and turn to God. Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life – the Living Kingdom. Christ sets for us a banquet table, and He calls us together with Him and to dine with Him. He feeds us with His own self – His own sacrifice – the Body and Blood of our Lord.

And why are these two statements linked together: "Repent" and "the Kingdom of God is at hand"? It is this way because Christ is "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). He has accomplished everything for us and for our salvation. He has reconciled us to God and has prepared and acquired for us the Heavenly Kingdom. All God requires of us is that we accept it. Our salvation is given to us by God free and complete, but we must accept it.

On this first Sunday after Theophany, let us recall our own baptism, and our own baptismal promises. Let us turn from our sins and fix our gaze on Christ. Through a true repentance let us open wide the doors of our heart to Christ and to the Kingdom of Heaven as we look ahead towards Lent – that great season of repentance. "Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" *source:holycross.org*

SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY

First Antiphon:

When Israel came forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of alien tongue.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us. Judah became His sanctuary, Israel His domain.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us. Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Third Antiphon:

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God, our Savior. Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms. Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth. Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Entrance Hymn: Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Son of God, baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Troparion (7): By Your cross You destroyed death; You opened Paradise to the thief; You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy, and charged the apostles to proclaim that You are risen, O Christ our God, offering great mercy to the world.

Troparion (1): At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed, for the Fathers voice bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, Who appeared and enlightened the world, glory be to You! **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen.**

Kontakion (4): You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has shined upon us. We recognize You and exclaim to You: You have come and revealed Yourself, O Inaccessible Light!

Prokimenon (1): May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have put our hope in You.

Verse: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Prokimenon (1): May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have put our hope in You.

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (Eph 4,7-13) Brethren: Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it says: "He ascended on high and took prisoners captive; he gave gifts to men." What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended into the lower [regions] of the earth? The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ. Alleluia Verses: Verse: I shall sing forever of Your love, O Lord, through all ages my mouth will proclaim Your truth. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Of this I am sure, that Your love lasts forever, that Your truth is as firmly established as the heavens. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: (Mt 4,12-17) At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in the land overshadowed by death light has arisen." From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Instead of It is truly right... (Or the Hirmos of the Feast): O my soul, extol Him Who was baptized in the Jordan, Christ the King. **Hirmos:** No tongue has the power to fittingly extol you; and even a supernatural mind is powerless to glorify you, O Mother of God. But in your graciousness, accept our ambition; for you are the Protectress of Christians, and we extol you. **Communion Verse:** The grace of God has appeared to all men. Praise you the Lord of heaven. Praise Him in the highest.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

