



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

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Sunday, February 21, 2021 1st Sunday of Great Fast

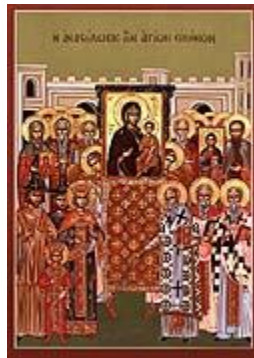
8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
 For comfort – healing of Thomas Gallagher from Martha & John Stine
Sorokousty Service (Commemoration of all the faithful departed)

Sunday, February 28, 2021 2nd Sunday of Great Fast

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
 In memory of +Reed Armstrong from Ann Woroniak
Sorokousty Service (Commemoration of all the faithful departed)

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Sundays of Lent



Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. The first Sunday is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. “This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith” (1 Jn 5.4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, “created in the image and likeness of God” (Gen 1.26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God’s living image.



The Second Sunday of Lent is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that men can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit; and that even in this life, by prayer and fasting, human beings can become participants of the uncreated light of God’s divine glory.



The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10.38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor 1.24).



The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt 10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against . . . the rulers of the present darkness . . . the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places . . ." (Eph 6.12). St John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt 24.13).



The Fifth Sunday recalls the memory of Saint Mary of Egypt, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents. Christ himself has come "to call sinners to repentance" and to save them from their sins (Lk 5.32). In addition, Saint Mary tells us that it is never too late in life—or in Lent—to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

Source: OCA.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

(Commemoration of Holy Images)

Troparion (5): Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection. **Troparion (2):**

We bow before Your sacred image, O gracious Lord, and beg forgiveness for our offenses, O Christ our God; for You, of Your own will, deigned to ascend the cross in Your human nature to deliver from bondage under the enemy, those whom You created. Therefore, we gratefully cry out to You: Through Your coming to save the world, O Savior, You have filled all with joy. **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen.**

Kontakion (8): O Mother of God, through you, in the incarnation, the indescribable Word of God became describable; for through the divine goodness, the Word spoken from eternity became an image. May we, who believe in salvation, clothe ourselves in the same image both in word and deed.

Prokimenon (4): Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our fathers. Your Name is praised and glorified forever.

Verse: In all that You have done Your justice is apparent. **Prokimenon (4):** Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our fathers. Your Name is praised and glorified forever.

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (Heb 11,24-40;12,1-2) Brethren: By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. He considered the reproach of the Anointed greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the recompense. What more shall I say? I have not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; out of weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Some were tortured and would not accept deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about in skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The

world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, in caves and in crevices in the earth. Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

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

Gospel: (Jn 1,43-51) At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Instead of It is truly right... In you, O Woman Full of Grace, the angelic choirs and the human race - all creation - rejoices. O Sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise, and Glory of Virgins! He, Who is our God from before all ages took flesh from you and became a child. He made your womb a throne, and greater than the heavens. In you, O Woman Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. All praise be to you!

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.

