



**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**

**MARCH 14, 2021**

**Sunday, March 14, 2021 4th Sunday of Great Fast**

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular  
For God's Blessing & the health of Jude & Patricia Dougherty from Ann Woroniak  
**Sorokousty Service (Commemoration of all the faithful departed)**

**Sunday, March 21, 2021 5th Sunday of Great Fast**

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular  
For +Leonard Cain from Ann Woroniak  
**Sorokousty Service (Commemoration of all the faithful departed)**

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## **4th Sunday of Lent-**

“O Lord, I believe; Help my unbelief.” (Mark 9: 24), prays the man in today's Gospel who had asked Jesus to heal his son possessed by a demon. The Apostles, too, ask Jesus to help their unbelief “Lord, Increase our faith.” (Luke 17:5)

To both Jesus responds that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed (about half the size of a poppy seed) you can accomplish miraculous results with only a word, even moving mountains or pulling a huge tree out by its roots and tossing it into the sea. It might seem normal for people today to doubt that this is/was possible,; however, the people at that time had witnessed even greater miracles themselves, the blind having their sight restored, the lame walking, and many others including today's Gospel account of demons being expelled. So it might be expected that these marvels and Jesus' promise of the power to perform them to those with faith, would inspire all to great faith, but in the next chapter of St Luke's

Gospel, Jesus wonders “when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8), and declares “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?” when He is told that His disciples could not drive the demon out of the boy.

Man has always believed that there was something else (i.e., spirits) beside himself and the visible in the world, and generally divided the spirits into good ones and bad ones. Over time man has ascribed greater power to the evil ones; deifying them, building temples to them, looking to them for help in all things, fearing their wrath, bringing them sacrifices and prayers. It is shown today in the many pagan cults thriving thorough out the world, and we see this at the time of Christ, when Christ’s great power was attributed to Satan, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.” (Matthew 9:34 also in Luke and Mark). Jesus came to show us that the opposite is true.

In today’s reading, the possessed boy’s father points out the disciple’s lack of power to Jesus. “I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He also exposes his own contribution (lack of faith) to the disciple’s failure when he says to Jesus “if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus doesn’t put the blame specifically on anyone (“O faithless generation”). Even those in the crowd are accused of the lack of faith (for Jesus acknowledged the faith of the four who lowered the paralytic to Him as the reason of his cure). How would we have reacted if this was our child? What kind of faith would Christ find in each us if He would appear today? What evidence of faith would He see in our everyday actions? Would He see us trying to deal with everything, both the blessings and that which require us to show patience and humility, with the faith that God has sent them to us for our own benefit - “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes” (Psalm 119:71)? Do we have the faith to act according to His will? Do we act as though this world is only a passing phase and that His obedience (and therefore ours too) to the Father, even to death on the cross is the source of eternal life? Do we ask Him in prayer to strengthen our faith and use it in all our decisions and judgments?

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us focus our efforts on increasing our faith to the size of a mustard seed keeping in mind the words of Jesus “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”

Let us accept Christ’s power as supreme in our lives and allow Him to take the spirit of despair from us.

*Fr. John Haluszczak*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**  
**(Commemoration of St. John Climacus)**

**Troparion and Kontakion:**

**Troparion (8):** You came down from on high, O Merciful One, and accepted three days of burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory be to You.

**Troparion (1):** O John, our father, Godbearer, hermit of the desert and angel in the flesh, you received heavenly gifts by your fasting, vigils, and prayers; You healed the sick and those coming to you with faith. Glory be to Him Who gives you strength; glory be to Him Who crowned you; glory be to the Lord Who heals all through your intercession.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (4):**

O John, our leader and father, the Lord has placed you on high as a true guiding star lighting the ends of the earth with the truth of your virtue.

**Prokimenon (8):** Pray and give praise to the Lord our God. **Verse:** In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. **Prokimenon of a**

**Venerable (8):** Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy and take their rest. Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God. **Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St.**

**Paul to the Hebrews** (Heb 6,13-20) When God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, "he swore by himself," and said, "I will indeed bless you and multiply you." And so, after patient waiting, he obtained the promise. Human beings swear by someone greater than themselves; for them an oath serves as a guarantee and puts an end to all argument. So when God wanted to give the heirs of his promise an even clearer demonstration of the immutability of his purpose, he intervened with an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Alleluia Verses:** Verse (8): Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (8): Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (Of the Venerable): Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God. Alleluia,

Alleluia, Alleluia. **Gospel:** (Mk 9,17-31) At that time, someone in the crowd came to Jesus and said, "Teacher I have brought to you my son possessed by a mute spirit. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable to do so." He said to them in reply, "O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him to me." They brought the boy to him. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground, he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then he questioned his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "Since childhood. It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can! Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, rebuked the unclean spirit and said to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out. He became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up. When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not drive it out?" He said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer and through fasting."

**Instead of It is truly right...** (Or the Hirmos of the Feast):

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. The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report he will not fear. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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**The Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian.**

*In the Eastern Catholic Church, this prayer is added to church services during the Lenten season. Add it to your daily prayers!*



- Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power and idle chatter. (Prostration)
- Instead, grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. (Prostration)

• Yes, O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brothers and sisters; for You are blessed now and ever and forever. Amen. (Prostration)

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**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.

**Sorokousty Memorial Services** During Great Lent there are special services held for the deceased members of a parish. These requiem services, known as “Sorokousty”, involve the reading of the individual names of deceased family members of parishioners. Sorokousty are celebrated on Sundays during Great Lent. Thank you!

**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 March 7, 2021**

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



## **EASTER SCHEDULE 2021**

**GREAT THURSDAY, APRIL 01 6:00PM**

- MATINS OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST  
(Reading of Twelve Gospels)

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 02 3:00PM**

- VESPERS & PROCESSION WITH THE HOLY SHROUD

**SUNDAY, APRIL 04, EASTER SUNDAY –**

**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

8:00AM - NADHROBNE. PROCESSION.  
RESURRECTION MATINS.

DIVINE LITURGY - BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS.

