



**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

August 29, 2021

Sunday, August 29, 2021 14th Sunday after Pentecost,

Beheding of St. John the Baptist

08:30AM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for our country and its leaders from Ann Woroniak

Sunday, September 05, 2021 15th Sunday after Pentecost

08:30AM – For God’s Blessings on Our Parishioners in particular for our Church and its pastors from Ann Woroniak

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14th Sunday after Pentecost

Today’s Gospel tells us the Lord’s parable about a wedding feast. This



parable is about the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a wedding which the Heavenly Father gives to his Son.

And the Church is the King of Heaven on the earth. And our Divine Service with Liturgy is the Kingdom of Heaven in its power. Here we are standing before Christ Saviour Himself.

We have all come to this

feast, but each of us has his particular attitude to it. Many are invited – the Lord calls to His Kingdom of heaven not only all of us, but the whole world through the Word of God.

Marriage is joining of two human beings, bodily and spiritually, therefore the Holy Scripture says that a husband and a wife is one flesh. The same joining of Christian soul and Christ takes place at this wedding feast; they are joined not only into one spirit, but in one body. The flesh of Christ dissolves in our body, and His Blood dissolves in our blood. What more abundant grace can we imagine? What can be more desired for a person than such fellowship with Christ? What can be more joyful

and abundant? If a person really loves Christ, he will strive here, on the earth, for joining Christ.

The source of our purification is Christ's Communion Cup. If we take away Christ's Cup from the church, it will be already not the church because the centre of our spiritual life is this Divine Service – the Holy Communion, thanksgiving. Some people say – “I go to church very seldom, but I pray at home”. Yes, you can pray at home, and it's good that a person prays at home, but to receive Communion, to join Christ not only spiritually through a prayer, but bodily can only be in the church. The Holy Communion is the most abundant form of fellowship with the Lord, without it there can be neither a prayer nor kind deeds Christian life, but only the illusion of it. Therefore, the aim of our life must be constant receiving the Holy Communion. The Holy Communion is the Kingdom of Heaven. When we receive the Holy Communion, we, thus, ascend to God's throne and sit at the right hand of the Father. Some people say that they don't feel it. Yes, you don't feel because you are dead. When a person loses consciousness, he is also insensitive. When he regains consciousness, he is already in hospital or at home, or somewhere on the road. Thus irrespective of the fact if we feel it or not; this is the fact of spiritual life.

But striving for the Communion we must try to receive it properly. We must examine our soul and see by what we insulted God, what we neglected, how we violate His commandments. We must repent sincerely and begin a new life. If we see any imperfection in ourselves, we must restrain our feelings, get rid of our sin to be worthy ones. We must work to get a wedding garment constantly.

Sometimes it turns out to be formality for us because after the Communion we don't join Christ, but on the contrary, here on the earth, we receive the Communion but in heaven we don't receive it, because we aren't worthy of it. Therefore our spiritual life must, if one can say, follow two directions: we must strive for Christ's Cup, at any price constantly receive the Holy communion, and at the same time not for a second forget who we are, always remember that we aren't absolutely worthy of it, and constantly, with all our might, work at our soul, purify it from sin, as far as it is possible for us, so that the Holy Communion wouldn't be harmful but useful to us. Amen.

By Rev. George Sergeev

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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): The remembrance of the just is worthy of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for it has shown that you are indeed more worthy of honor than the Prophets. You were found worthy to baptize the Lord Whom you foretold. Thereafter, you suffered for the truth and, rejoicing, also announced the good news to those in the Abyss that God had appeared as man, taking away the sins of the world and granting to all of us the abundance of mercy.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion (5): You, my Savior, descended to Hades, and as the Almighty, You shattered its gates. With Yourself You, as Creator, raised the dead and shattered the sting of death, and delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Mankind. And so we cry out: Save us, O Lord.

Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (5): The glorious beheading of the Forerunner was part of Gods saving plan that the coming of the Savior might be announced even to those in the Abyss. Weep then, Herodias, that you asked for a wicked murder, because you loved neither God's law nor eternal life, but only the passing pleasure of life.

Prokimenon (5): You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us from this generation, and for ever.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man.

Prokimenon (7): The just man is glad in the Lord and takes refuge in Him.

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

Epistle: Reading of the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (2Cor 1,21-24;2,1-4) Brethren: The one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God; he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment. But I call upon God as witness, on my life, that it is to spare you that I have not yet gone to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; rather, we work together for your joy, for you stand firm in the faith. For I decided not to come to you again in painful circumstances. For if I inflict pain upon you, then who is there to cheer me except the one pained by me? And I wrote as I did so that when I came I might not be pained by those in whom I should have rejoiced, confident about all of you that my joy is that of all of you. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not that you might be pained but that you might know the abundant love I have for you.

Alleluia Verses: Verse (5): Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing for ever; from generation to generation I will announce Your truth with my mouth. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (5): For You have said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens Your truth shall be prepared. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse:

The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. **Gospel:** (Mt 22,2-14) The Lord told this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.'" Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Our warmest greetings are extended once again to all visitors and guests who are participating in Divine Liturgy. It is always a joy to have you praying with us. After the service please do not hesitate to introduce yourself to Fr. Alexander and our parishioners and find out more about our faith and our parish.

2022 Donation Envelopes It is that time of year when we prepare a list for next year's church donation envelopes. If there are any changes or corrections to your name or address, or if you do not have envelopes and wish to be considered an active registered parishioner please contact Fr. Alexander or Helen Troy.

Sunday Coffee Hour! We invite everyone to come to the church hall for refreshment after the service, and we encourage you to participate by bringing pastries/sandwiches for coffee hour on Sunday. May God bless us all!

Support your Church You may send your donations to PO Box 2735, Manassas VA 20108

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YOUR OFFERINGS Collection: Sunday, August 22, 2021 -

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