



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

**6719 Token Valley Road  
Manassas, VA 20112  
(703) – 791 – 6635**

**www.stmarysbyz.com**

**Reverend Alexander Dumenko — Pastor (301) – 421 – 1739**

**Sunday Divine Liturgies: 8:30 a.m.**

**Holy Days as scheduled in the Bulletin**

**DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**September 05, 2021**

**Sunday, September 05, 2021 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Sunday, September 12, 2021 Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross**

08:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

+++++

## **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

In today's Gospel we heard the words about mystery of love. On



the eve of Christ's suffering the high-priests, the Scribes and Pharisees, experts of the Holy Scripture come up to the lord trying to expose Him that He doesn't know the law. One of these teachers of the law asks the Lord which commandment is the greatest one. He

teachers of the law taught that if you studied the Old Testament thoughtfully, you would count 613 commandments. 248 of them are affirmative, that is, they say what you must do, and the rest 365 are negative warning what you mustn't do.

What does Christ think about it? He professor of theology addressers Him, and we don't hear the intonation of his voice – if he addressers Christ with respect or triumphant ridicule. Hey say that if the lord singles out one commandment, He will

underestimate the others, but all commandments are equal for God. And Christ speaks about love not because this commandment excludes others but because it includes all commandments.

Christ doesn't oppose love to the Law but shows what great commandment is inside the Law, what treasure is in its depth. He says that the Law and the prophets are founded on these two commandments. It means that the whole Scripture, all commandments have no sense if there is no love in them, at least, aspiration to it.

If there is God's love in soul, heart, mind and body of a person, it means that a person is on the way to holiness. Why could many saints reach such state when their bodies changed, transformed, and after death their remains were undecayed, imperishable, moreover they became fragrant? It is because the bodies of the saints were penetrated by God's love when they were still alive. And we, as far as possible for us, must strive for our body becoming the Church of God, the Church of the Holy Spirit.

He first commandment is connected with the second one – “you must love your neighbour as yourself”. One commandment can't be without the other one. We can't love God with all our heart, all soul, all mind and all power without loving our neighbour, But we won't be able to love our neighbours in the right way if we don't learn to love God. It's impossible to love your neighbour violating at the same time the seventh commandment. Lust has nothing in common with love. Outwardly it can resemble love but its essence is quite opposite because true love to the neighbour is sacrificial love but not attraction directed to satisfying fleshly lusts.

The Lord says, “you must love your neighbour as yourself”. His is also means that we must love ourselves – not in the sense that we must indulge all our wishes, weakness, vice and passion but in the sense that we must take care of our mind, heart, body so that the love of God could reign inside us. If we don't love ourselves by Christian love, we won't be able to love either God or the neighbour, we won't be able to fulfil the Commandment which is the greatest of the Law and on which hang the law and the Prophets. Amen

*By Rev. George Sergeev*

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Troparion (6):** Angelic powers were upon Your tomb and the guards became like dead men; Mary stood before Your tomb seeking Your most pure body. You captured Hades without being overcome by it. You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord risen from the dead, glory be to You!

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

**Kontakion (6):** With His life-giving hand, Christ our God, the Giver of life, raised all the dead from the murky abyss and bestowed resurrection upon humanity. He is for all, the Savior, the Resurrection and the Life, and the God of all.

**Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Theotokion (6):** Undaunted patroness of Christians! O steadfast intermediary with the Creator, turn not away from the suppliant voices of sinners, but in your kindness come to help us who cry out to you in faith. Be quick to intercede, make haste to plead, for you are ever the patroness of those who honor you, O Mother of God.

**Prokimenon (6):** Save, Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

**Verse:** Unto You I will cry, O Lord, my God, lest You turn from me in silence. **Prokimenon (6):** Save, Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

**Epistle: Reading of the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.** (2Cor 4,6-15) Brethren: God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of [Jesus] Christ. But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to

death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

**Alleluia Verses:** Verse (6): He who lives in the aid of the Most High, shall dwell under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (6): He says to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God; in Whom I hope. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Gospel:** (Mt 22,35-46) At that time, a scholar of the law tested Jesus by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them, saying, "What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They replied, "David's." He said to them, "How, then, does David, inspired by the Spirit, call him 'lord,' saying, 'The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your feet?"' If David calls him 'lord', how can he be his son?" No one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. **Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. 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.



### **2021-2022 Religious classes**

Please register your children for the 2021-2022 First Confession and Solemn Holy Communion classes using the following form and email to [alexanderd715@aol.com](mailto:alexanderd715@aol.com) no later than by October 3, 2021. The Catechetical classes will be starting SUNDAY, October 10, 2021 for our parish children (8-9 years old).

**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

**YOUR OFFERINGS Collection:**

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

