



**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 12, 2021**

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

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

& in particular for Jacinta Watts from Martha Stine

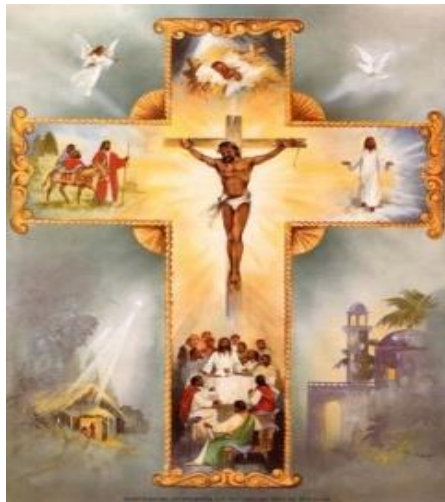
**Sunday, September 19, 2021 Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

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

& in particular for Ann Benkoski from Martha Stine

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**Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**



Today we heard the Gospel where Jesus Christ says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3, 16). We hear this Gospel today for a good reason. In a couple of days we will be celebrating one of the greatest feasts of our liturgical year: the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of our Lord. This Sunday is called the Sunday before Exaltation. When we are preparing for the feast we reflect on the Lord's Cross. We will

celebrate the feast of the solemn exaltation of the instrument on which our Saviour died... died for our sins... died to give us life, which never ends. And all that we need to get this life is to believe in Him. To believe so much that we can see this love that He grants us.

We heard that Jesus said: "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up" (John 3, 14). Jesus talked about events that happened to the Israelite people when they sinned in the wilderness and God sent among them fiery serpents (Num. 21, 4-9). And when Moses prayed and asked God to have mercy on them, God said to Moses to make a fiery serpent and put in on a pole, so if someone was bitten to look on it and they will be saved. And

it worked... when someone was bitten they looked on the bronze serpent and was saved, because they believed that God grants them health. The serpent wasn't an idol, but it was the visible sign that God takes care of his people. That serpent gave an opportunity for people to focus on God, who alone grants life... grants love.

In our lives, unfortunately we are very often preoccupied by many things and forget that the centre of our life should be God. We forget that only He is the one who gives life to us. We forget that He is the one who looks after us. We forget that He gave His life so that we could have eternal life.

Today's Sunday and this feast – which we will be celebrating shortly – puts before us the Cross, so that at least at the beginning of the new church year we again realize, think about and see what is going on in our lives. Jesus says: "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life". Today's Gospel encourages us to review again our faith.

I think all of us would like to get eternal life. We are born to the eternal life. God grants us this eternal life. But do we believe in it? We say that there is something after death... but do we realize what? Eternal life with God or without Him is not a temporary thing, it's not an attempt, it is eternity! And the life that we have here is our choice. God gives us time to make a decision on how we would like to spend eternity. Our lives shows this decision. Also our lives are a time when we can "taste" the Heavenly Kingdom when we live with God and in God. When our faith won't just be words and fulfilling some external ceremonies, but when our faith will be the faith of living hearts. When we will see God in the middle of our lives, be focused on Him and build our lives around Him. When we go to church to use every chance to be with God, and do not think "why this feast falls during weekdays and why not move it to a Sunday?". When we will go to Confession, because we offended God and would like to apologize for it. When we will approach the Holy Eucharist every time during the Liturgy to be participants of Divine life, God's life.

So I wish for each of us that by preparing for the feast of Exaltation and seeing before us the crucified Christ, who gave His life for us, we look on our faith and understand for ourselves whether we really believe that only God can grant us eternal life. And if we do believe, I wish for us to live by this faith every day of our lives here on Earth and then for ever in Heaven. *Source: ucoz.org*

## **SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

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

**Troparion (4):** Your nativity, O Mother of God, has made joy known to all the world, for from you dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He abolished the curse and gave the blessing; and by making death of no effect He bestowed on us eternal life.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Kontakion (7):** No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity, for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound. The prophets exult with one voice: The Savior has come for those with faith, saying: Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!

**Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (4):** By your birth, O immaculate one, Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And your people, redeemed from the guilt of their sins, celebrate as they cry out to you: The barren one gives birth to the Mother of God and nourisher of our life.

**Prokimenon (6):** Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance. **Verse:** To You, O Lord, I call; my God, be not deaf to me. **Prokimenon (3):** My soul extols the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. **Verse:** Because He has looked upon His lowly servant; from this day forward, all generations shall call me blessed.

**Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians.** (Gal 6,11-18) Brethren: See with what large letters I am writing to you in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good appearance in the flesh who are trying to compel you to have yourselves circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted

for the cross of Christ. Not even those having themselves circumcised observe the law themselves; they only want you to be circumcised so that they may boast of your flesh. But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

**Alleluia Verses:** Verse: I have exalted one chosen from the people; and with My holy oil, I have anointed him. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: My hand shall always be with him, and My arm shall make him strong. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Listen, O Daughter, give ear to my words. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: The richest of people shall seek your favor. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Gospel:** (Jn 3,13-17) The Lord said, "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

**It is truly right...** (Or the Hirmos of the Feast): O my soul, extol the Virgin Mary, wondrously born. **Hirmos:** Mothers cannot be virgins, nor virgins be mothers; but in you, O Mother of God, both virginity and motherhood were present. Therefore, all the people of the earth unceasingly extol you.

**Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. I shall raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. 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: August 29, 2021                      September 5, 2021 -

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





## METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA

### Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

On September 11, 2001, the United States of America experienced the darkest hour in its recent history — the deadly terrorist attack that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people.

Twenty years have passed, but we still feel the consequences of the tragedy that shook the world and caused profound trauma in the global community. In one day we lost our sense of invulnerability. After September 11, we — our nation and all humanity — became a deeply wounded people.

But this is not where the story ends. After September 11, 2001 we saw suffering and death, pain and sorrow but also courage, sacrifice, unity, and resurrection. During the attacks, evil manifested itself to be conquered by heroic love.

“Here in New York, we just don’t remember 9/11 — we celebrate 9/12,” commented Cardinal Timothy Dolan quoting one of the New York priests. This is our most precious memory — we remember the unspeakable tragedy and we remember what happened next. We remember solidarity, witness, prayer, service, and hope. In his appeal issued right after the attacks Metropolitan Stefan Soroka focuses on hope. “Christians are called to be primary instruments of hope and comfort to our fellow brothers and sisters... as opposed to be avenues of despair”. “Choose to be messengers of compassion and hope,” he asked our fellow faithful of Philadelphia Metropolia. We believe that this call is relevant today. The world has changed but many challenges remained, particularly the struggle for basic human rights and human dignity.

Just as 20 years ago, we need peace and justice, which cannot be attained without repentance and forgiveness, faith and sacrifice.

Today the whole world is united in prayer for those who lost their lives during the attacks. We join the global supplication remembering in a special way before God twelve 9/11 victims of Ukrainian descent.

We encourage our priests and faithful to join together in prayer to remember those who died, were injured, or lost loved ones. Let us pray for strength, healing, and consolation. Let us pray for hope that conquers despair, peace that overcomes war, good that is stronger than evil, love that lives longer than hatred, life that triumphs over death. Let us put our hope and faith in Him who trampled death by death and gave eternal life to those in the tombs.

Eternal memory!

+ **Borys Gudziak**

Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians  
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+ **Paul Chomnycky, OSBM**

Eparch of Stamford

+ **Benedict Aleksiychuk**

Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+ **Bohdan J. Danylo**

Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

+ **Andriy Rabyi**

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia



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