



**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

December 12, 2021

Sunday, December 12, 2021 Sunday of the Forefathers

08:00 – Confession/Mattins; 08:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

Sunday, December 12, 2021 Sunday before Christmas – of the Holy Fathers

08:00 – Confession/Mattins; 08:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

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Sunday of the Forefathers

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers



We all understand very well that there are some dates and events that should not be neglected, if we cherish – at least a little bit – the friendship with those who invite us and want to share with us the delight of the feast. Such refusal, whatever the reasons for it might be, would necessarily be interpreted as very offensive, and consequently harm existing good relations.

Why does Christ give a parable about the attachment of mankind to the earthly things which inevitably decay? Why is this story recollected in our Church at the time of the anticipation of the Birth of Jesus Christ, two weeks before the Great Feast of His Nativity? God became a man in order to teach people that all their aspirations should be directed toward Heaven, and not toward material possessions. But we, demonstrating an outstanding stubbornness, do anything possible to leave a material legacy on this earth. We make great efforts to invest our unspent energy and funds into something that we call “eternal”, but what in reality is very materialistic: our house, our career, our social status and our reputation. We still rely on our lands, on our possessions, and on our heirs, completely forgetting that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither

does corruption inherit incorruption" (Cor.1:15). In other words, even the best things in life, if they are put in the place of God, in a vain attempt to substitute for Him, cease to be good and kind... Possibly, that is the motive why the Almighty God, while being eternally indulging towards us, the fallen and stubborn humankind, and loving us, his creatures, immensely, breaks often our so-called "achievements" that obscure the light of Heaven from us...

When the people that were called by God, do not go to the feast, the new guests are invited. They are called two times: first, from "the streets and lanes of the city" are brought "the poor and the maimed, and the lame, and the blind", or, according to the interpreters of the Holy Bible, publicans and sinners, and then from "the highways and hedges" the people that are situated even lower – and interpreted as the pagans – are also "compelled to come..." (Luke, 14:23).

It always somehow escapes our mind that the real "eternal memory" was earned by those who abandoned the insane pursuit of earthly fame, wealth, and consolation of earthly passions. "The poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind" through their "poverty in spirit" (Math.5; 3) acquired the right to enter and fill the Kingdom of Our Heavenly Father. They deserved it only because they were not tied by any type of bond to the earthly kingdom...They were not ensnared either by oxen, or by lands, or by the embraces of their beloved – by nothing...

And being called through the Holy Mystery of Baptism to eternal bliss with our God, we constantly refuse it in our everyday life...We refuse it ourselves, according to our own will and not being forced by anyone or anything...

While going "to see the land", "to test the oxen" and declining the Vesper Supper of our Lord "for the sake of the family and the kids," we, the contemporary Christians, place ourselves in the position of those traitors, about whom the exasperated Master of the House said directly: "None of those men who were invited shall taste of my supper" (Luke 14:24). For "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Math. 22:14). The Heavenly Kingdom, the Wedding Feast, The Holy Eucharist – God's Vesper Supper – are already offered to us, we have already been called. Let us try to live and pray in a way to become worthy to enter The House of God, Our Lord!

Source:orthodox-canada.com

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

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): Through faith, O Christ, You justified the Patriarchs; for through them You made a commitment to a Church with Gentiles. These Saints are glorified, because from them descends the Virgin who gave You birth. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (6): You did not worship a man-made image, O thrice-

blessed Youths, but were glorified in the test of fire, protected by a power beyond description. From the searing flames you cried out to God, saying: Hasten to help us, O merciful Lord, for in Your greatness You can do whatever You will.

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

Epistle: Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (Col 3,4-11) Brethren: When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Because of these the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient. By these you too once conducted yourselves, when you lived in that way. But now you must put them all away: anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out of your mouths. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all. **Alleluia Verses:** Verse: Among his priests were Moses and Aaron; among those who invoked His name was Samuel. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: They invoked the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: (Lk 14,16-24) The Lord told this parable: "A man gave a great dinner to which he invited many. When the time for the dinner came, he dispatched his servant to say to those invited, 'Come, everything is now ready' But one by one, they all began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have purchased a field and must go to examine it; I ask you, consider me excused.' And another said, 'I have purchased five yoke of oxen and am on my way to evaluate them; I ask you, consider me excused.' And another said, 'I have just married a woman, and therefore I cannot come.' The servant went and reported this to his master. Then the master of the house in a rage commanded his servant, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.' The servant reported, 'Sir, your orders have been carried out and still there is room.' The master then ordered the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in that my home may be filled. For, I tell you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

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.

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.

Come Back to Church. The Eucharist is our life-line, without it we cannot live. The Sunday Divine Liturgy is the community celebration of Christ in our midst, the event that unites us all together as the Body of Christ. Celebrating the Eucharist is not just a commandment of the Church, but an inner necessity. Christ sustains us, and, without Him, our lives are empty. It is time to return to full parish life, with precautions, and to come back to church weekly to participate in the Lord's banquet and receive Him in Holy Communion, by which we become the Body of Christ. Now, as we trust in the Lord, and with great confidence in the vaccines, our lives are opening up to more activity. It is time to return to the obligation of Sunday Divine Liturgy. Our obligation to participate in worship at the Divine Liturgy is an obligation of love as well as a command of the Lord.

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!

Christmas Food Drive: Our parish is collecting non-perishable food, toiletries, and monetary contributions for area food banks. December 19, 2021 all collected items will be delivered to Sacred Heart Church. Please leave donated items in the designated boxes in the back of the church. Thank you!

Christmas Preparations! The church will be decorated for Christmas this Sunday, December 12, 2021. Please remain in the church after Liturgy to help. Thank you!

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

YOUR OFFERINGS Collection: December 05, 2021 - 

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Friday, December 24, 2021, Christmas Eve

7:30 PM – Great Compline

NATIVITY OF OUR

LORD

8:00 PM – Divine Liturgy

