Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
(St. Mary's)
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Mr. Ronald Bodnar — Cantor (703) – 670 – 6740

Sunday Divine Liturgies: 8:30 a.m. Holy Days as scheduled in the Bulletin

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE **JULY 21-28, 2019**

Sunday, July 21 6th Sunday after Pentecost
EPISTLE ROM.12:6-14; GOSPEL: MT. 9:1-8 TONE 5
8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for healing of Joe Parisi from Martha & John Stine
Sunday, July 28 7th Sunday after Pentecost
EPISTLE ROM.15:11-7; GOSPEL: MT. 9:27-35 TONE 6
8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for +Mary Louise Byrd & +Mary B. Stine from Martha & John Stine

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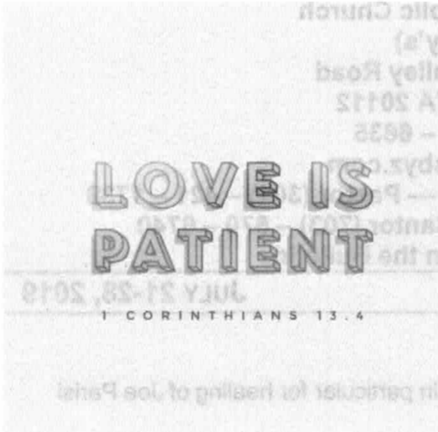
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Gospel reading talks about the forgiveness of sins and about healing. After being rejected in the land of Gergesenes, Christ comes to another place, to His city. Evangelist Mathew calls Capernaum 'His city' because the Lord lived there. He was born in Bethlehem, and brought up in Nazareth, but Capernaum was His permanent residence, where He spent much time. Today, we find ourselves in His house, in which Christ is always found, in His temple, which after a fresh coat of paint, has again become clean and wonderful. The walls again resemble a person who came to Confession and whom the Lord forgave all his sins. Our soul becomes as clean as our temple is today, after it has repented.

Christ has come into our world, which happens to be 'His city', in order to do good. If He is rejected in one place, He hurries to other people. There are people who do not wish to hear anything about Him, and there are people who very much wish to know something about Him and to touch the edge of His garment. One can come to Christ in different ways. In today's Gospel we heard about one unique and recently more travelled path to Christ. This is the path of the person who is weakened by his sinful past life and illness, and is paralyzed by sin. He could not move on his own, yet on his path to Christ he passed many healthy people. Real friends of the paralytic brought him into the house, where the Lord was, lowering him through the roof. What was so unusual about their deed? Not having access to Christ, because of the multitude of people, they broke down the side door of the house and passed through the roof carrying their friend. They used a brave and desperate way to get their friend close to Christ. Their legs became his legs. Their faith became his faith. The friendship of kind people helped the miracle happening! The difficult effort of friends, while sweating from the weight of carrying the paralytic on a stretcher, bore fruit and brought their friend back to normal life. When a person is unable to come to Christ, on his own, then other people can bring him to Him. The Lord does not reject this kind of conversion to Him. For many contemporary faithful the encounter with Christ often happens on a hospital bed. It is often the faith of relatives or friends who call a priest to the bedside of the person who is ill. Infants also cannot, on their own, come to Christ. The Lord accepts and blesses the parents who bring their children to the temple for them to be in communion with Christ. Today the Lord mercifully tells each one of us: «Dare, my child, your sins are forgiven on account of your friends faith, whom you befriend in your prayers — The Theotokos and Saints; rise from the bed in which your sins have laid you; take your already not needed bedding and go home to begin a new life!».



PRAYING FOR PATIENCE

There are many situations in life in which we need patience. We need it in our relationships, in various life's circumstances and in many different places. And we need it very much when we look around the world that we live in and see chaos abounding. Life is not always easy. Sometimes there are moments when it feels like you cannot possibly move forward in life. You are beset by struggles and challenges in every direction. Whether you have crying children that you are losing patience with, a problem at work or problems dealing with old age – each situation calls for prayers. During the trying times in life place your problems at the Lord's feet and find in Him a place of sanctuary. He understands all of our weaknesses and challenges in this life. Through his strength and mercy we can discover the courage we need to face each obstacle, to remain patient and to conquer adversity. O God, may You make us kinder and more forgiving. May you guide us to be loving and generous in our lives. We know that these qualities wear thin as we feel impatience and resentment rising within our souls. We desire revenge when we should seek to find understanding and compassion. You have given us the chance to develop character and hope. We only pray that You will guide us and give us strength as we persevere through our trials and tribulations. Show Your love in our lives by helping us to be tolerant toward each other. You have said that we should love one another as Jesus loves us. Help us to remember what love really is and to follow Your example in all of the things that we do. We ask that You help us to accept and be at peace with all of the things that we cannot change in our lives. Give us the strength and courage to change the things that we can. We place before You our fatigue and ask that You give us renewed strength. We place before You our frustrations and ask that You give us peace and tranquility. We place before You our disappointment and ask for more patience. We place before You all of our criticisms and ask for Your understanding. We place before you our anger and ask You to teach us forgiveness. Please help us to be patient, Lord, and to grow in Your wisdom and compassion. Teach us, Lord, to be sweet and gentle in all the events of our lives: in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those we trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom we relied. Let us forget ourselves so that we may enjoy the happiness of others. Let us always hide our little pains and heartaches so that we may be the only ones to suffer from them. Teach us to profit by the suffering that comes across our paths. Let us use it that it may mellow us, not harden or embitter us; that it may make us patient, not irritable; that it may make us broad in our forgiveness, not narrow or proud or overbearing. May no one be less good for having come within our influence; no one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble, for having been a fellow traveler with us on our journey towards eternal life.

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YOUR OFFERINGS: Collection: – 07/14 - 07/07 - 06/30 - 06/23 -

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

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