



**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**

**JANUARY 03, 2021**

**Sunday, January 03, 2021 Sunday before Theophany**

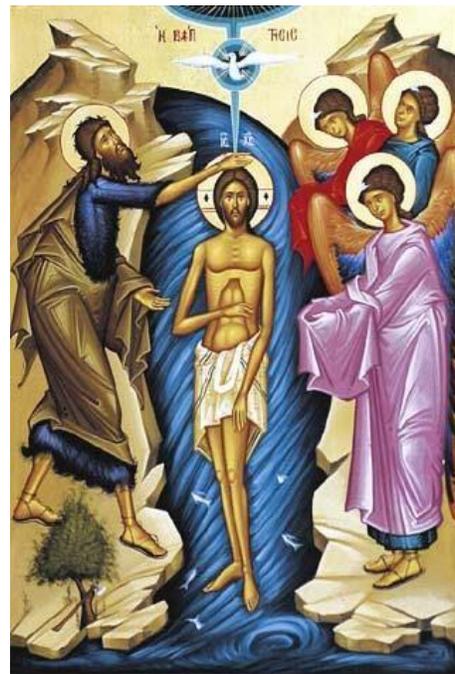
8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular  
In memory of +Mary Stine from Martha & John Stine

**Sunday, January 10, 2021 Sunday after Theophany**

8:00AM – Confession, 8:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular  
In memory of +Mary Louise Byrd from Martha & John Stine

+++++

**Sunday before Theophany**



In order to begin his work, Christ prepares the ground with the preaching of St. John the Baptist. Without preparation, nothing that ought to happen is able to happen, in anything. The same occurs even with the work of Christ. St. John the Forerunner comes and urges men to prepare themselves, because the kingdom of God is approaching: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". He calls them to repentance, and in this way prepares them to receive Christ the Saviour, to listen to his word, and to believe it. If even for the work of Christ certain preparation is needed, how much more is needed for the spiritual work in our own souls? Many Christians seek to spiritually build up their souls, but do this without

preparation. They prefer things a bit casual and superficial. And because of this they become tired and are not benefitted. The hour in which you stand in the presence of God – either to pray or to confess or whatever else – you need to prepare yourself a little: you can read or listen to something, so as to warm, to sweeten, your soul and for you to be humbled a bit, to see yourself, to see your sin, and to repent. Then, you will talk to God differently, will communicate with him differently. God will hear you, differently. So why do we flee this preparation? Because it grieves the old man that we carry around within us. However, if we seriously consider this theme, the road of authentic life in Christ will open.

*by Archimandrite Symeon Kragiopoulos*

## SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

**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!

**Troparion (4):** Make ready, O Zabulon, and prepare yourself, O Nephtali; O river Jordan, stop and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. O Adam, rejoice with the first mother, Eve, and do not hide yourselves as before in paradise. For, having seen you unclothed, Christ has appeared to clothe you with the first robe: He has appeared to renew all creation.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (4):** Today the Lord stood in Jordan's current telling John: Do not be afraid to baptize Me, for I have come to save Adam, the first man.

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

**Epistle:** Reading of the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy. (2Tim 4,5-8) Timothy, my son, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on, the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

**Alleluia Verses:** Verse: O God, be gracious to us and bless us. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: May Your face shed its light upon us and have mercy on us. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Gospel:** (Mk 1,1-8) The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."

**Communion Verse:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

