



**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

February 13, 2022

Sunday, February 13, 2022 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

08:00 – Confession; 08:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
for special intention of Rev. Fr. Luis Quinones from Martha & John Stine

Sunday, February 20, 2022 Sunday of Meatfare

08:00 – Confession; 08:30AM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
for special intention of Rev. Deacon Jim Van de Voorde from Martha & John Stine

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Of the four Sundays preceding Great Lent, none is more full of hope than that of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the two brothers are poised at the crossroads of their adulthood. It is the realization point for the younger and perhaps the older that there is something more out there

besides hearth and home. It is the realization and dream of every young person when attaining maturity to be set free from parental bonds, no matter how loving. For the older brother, the reason that he did not venture out may have been out of fear, a sense of duty to his father, contentment, or wisdom and understanding for his purpose in life. For the younger it may have been wanderlust, frustrated restlessness, anxiety, rebellion, or the understanding that his father's fortune would be lost in death and controlled by his elder brother.

Whatever we conjecture, the fact is that a decision was made by the son and accepted by the father. The father respected the free will of the son, however unlike the perfect Son, did not do the will of the father. The younger brother would take what was coming to him in terms of money and venture off on his own. Whatsoever the younger brother's original intent, he ended up leading a lascivious lifestyle, living in the present moment alone, ending up in dire poverty, and finally utter despair. When the Prodigal Son became desperate enough, he

took the most menial of jobs to survive and did not even have enough food to fill his empty belly. When he believed all was lost, he remembered that the servants of his father knew not hunger. He surmised that his father would have pity on him and although would not take him back as a true son, would allow him to serve him as a slave. Much to his surprise his father not only allowed him back onto the land of his birth, he welcomed him as a repentant son and restored his inheritance.

The first part of the parable represents us when we fall out of God's Grace. We are children of a loving father, the Father who created us, not only of flesh but of spirit and soul. We believe as the Prodigal Son that what is given to us belongs to us and we are allowed to have these gifts without being loyal to the One who bestowed them; the great sin of being God without God. We face a world of lewdness, a world of lust, a world of artificial friendships, and falsehoods. Without the support of Our Father we are left unprotected and alone, with no one to pick up the pieces when we fail and fall. When all is lost, we turn to God and say that we have sinned against Him and ask for His help and forgiveness. Like the father of the Prodigal Son, Our Father in heaven forgives us and rejoices in our repentance.

The second part of the parable represents those who keep the faith in His Church. Those who are always there with the Father, who see Him, rejoice for our brothers and sisters who repent and return and yet are bewildered at His love and understanding. God speaks the same as the father in the parable tells the older brother,

"Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

The Church is God's Kingdom on Earth. All the graces of God are contained within her in the Sacraments and Holy Tradition. As faithful Orthodox Christians we already enjoy the delight of Heaven, yet we need to rejoice when fallen persons come back to the Church truly repentant, confess, and are absolved. As we enter the final weeks before the Great Fast let us examine how we sinned against Heaven and sinned against Our Father. Like the Prodigal Son, let us expect nothing but a life of servitude as we toil in the vineyard, but we are not without hope. For as Saint John writes that it is Christ that prepares our final reward.

"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. Source: uocofusa.org"

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (3): When I foolishly separated myself from your Fatherly glory, I squandered, in wickedness, the riches You had given me. So now I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal Son, saying: I have sinned before You, O merciful Father; receive me, repentant, and make me as one of Your hired servants.

Prokimenon (5): You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us from this generation, and for ever. **Verse:** Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man. **Prokimenon (5):** You, O Lord, will guard us and will keep us from this generation, and for ever.

Epistle: Reading of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1Cor 6,12-20) Brethren: "Everything is lawful for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is lawful for me," but I will not let myself be dominated by anything. "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food," but God will do away with both the one and the other. The body, however, is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take Christ's members and make them the members of a prostitute? of course not! [or] do you not know that anyone who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, "the two," it says, "will become one flesh." But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.

Alleluia Verses: Verse (5): Your mercies, O Lord, I will sing for ever; from generation to generation I will announce Your truth with my mouth. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse (5): For You have said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens Your truth shall be prepared. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: (Lk 15,11-32) The Lord told this parable, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How

many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all of these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come back to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

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.

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!

PRAY FOR UKRAINE! At this difficult time for Ukraine and for the whole world, I ask everyone to pray for peace and aversion of the war in Ukraine. May the All-Merciful Lord God and the Blessed Virgin Mary accept our prayers and help us to resolve this difficult situation.

Support your Church You may send your donations to PO Box 2735, Manassas VA 20108 **YOUR OFFERINGS Collection: February 06, 2022 -** 
Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

The Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family will present a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Thursday March 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Father Carlos Martins, a Vatican-appointed expert on relics will be here with an extraordinary Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. Throughout history, many healings have been worked in the presence of relics; and thousands have occurred through this ministry. Do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please spread the word. Confession will be available and a special plenary indulgence is also available under the usual conditions.

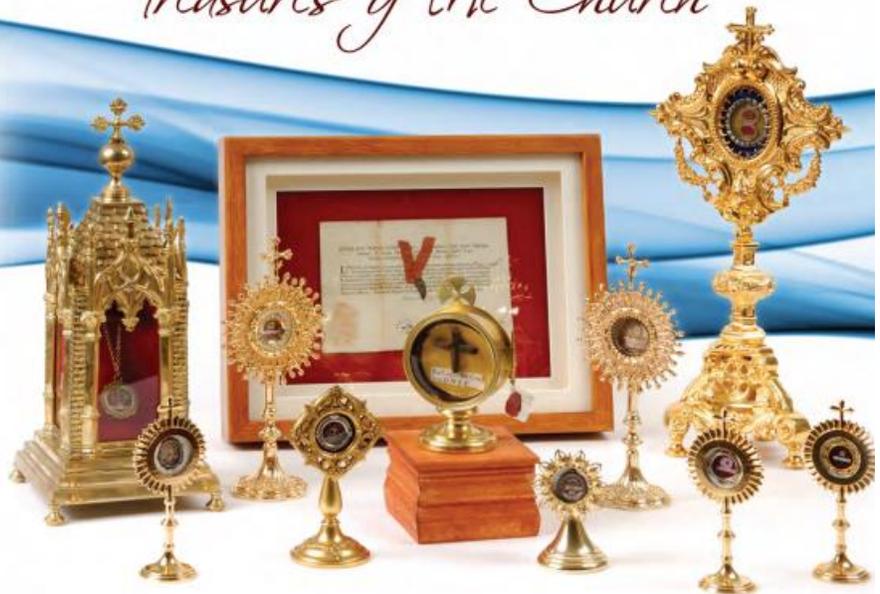
EXPOSITION OF SACRED RELICS

Treasures of the Church

The Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family welcomes you to a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics. Over 150 relics will be shown, some as old as 2,000 years.

Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Maria Goretti, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska.

There will also be a fragment of the Veil that belonged to Our Lady and some of the largest remaining pieces of the Wood of the True Cross in the world.



presented by Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON

THURSDAY MARCH 3 AT 7:00 PM

See www.treasuresofthechurch.com for more information

Address:
4250 Harewood Rd NE
Washington DC 20017
(202) 526-3737