



**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
(St. Mary's)
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Reverend Alexander Dumenko — Pastor (301) – 421 – 1739

Mr. Ronald Bodnar — Cantor (703) – 670 – 6740

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

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 31, 2017 – JANUARY 07, 2018

Sunday, December 31 Sunday after Christmas

EPISTLE GAL.1:11-19; GOSPEL: MT.2:13-23 TONE 5 & Festal

8:00 a.m. Confession 8:30 a.m. – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

Sunday, January 07 Sunday after Theophany

EPISTLE EPH4:7-13; GOSPEL: MT.4:12-17 TONE 6 & Festal

8:00 a.m. – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

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SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



On this Sunday our Holy Church commemorates three people who were close to Our Lord Jesus Christ. First of all, His ancestor, the holy King and Prophet David, who foresaw the Coming of Christ in his Psalms. Secondly, we recall the Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, who protected the Mother of God and her Child before, during and after His birth. Thirdly, we remember the son of Joseph, James, who accompanied the Mother of God, Christ and Joseph on the flight into

Egypt, and later became one of the Apostles and indeed was martyred as James the Righteous, the first Bishop of Jerusalem. It is interesting to recall to Non-Believers the words of the Gospel regarding this Flight into Egypt, and how Joseph was commanded to “take the young child and his mother into Egypt”. We note how the Scriptures clearly do not call Christ, “Joseph’s son”, or his mother, “your wife”. Again the Scriptures say that all this was to fulfill the words of the Scriptures: “Out of Egypt have I called my son”, and not, “out of Egypt have I called Joseph’s son”. As we see in Holy Scripture Joseph is bewildered both by the message of the Angel and by what is happening; bewildered - at time in wonder, and at time in doubt. Isn’t this an image of many of us? But how did he face his doubt and still remain in wonder? Because he believed; because he accepted the fact that there are many things which cannot be understood with the intellect, but can be perceived, which can be experienced. And he did, indeed, experienced what was going on. He saw the Virgin birth, he saw the presence of the God Who have become man. And what is our way, how can we find our way towards God? On this Sunday let us think of Righteous Joseph between wonder and doubt; and when we are in the same position, let us not only concentrate on our doubt, but look with wonder at the impossible, unthinkable that is God’s way in our midst.

