



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

OCTOBER 14-21, 2018

Sunday, October 14 Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

EPISTLE GAL. 2:16-20; GOSPEL: LK.8:5-15 TONE 4

8:00 a.m. – Confession 8:30 a.m. – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
 for good health for Elodie & David Faulkner from Ann Woroniak

Sunday, October 21 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE GAL. 6:11-18; GOSPEL: LK.16:19-31 TONE 5

8:00 a.m. – Confession 8:30 a.m. – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular
 In memory of +Arthur O'Connell from Fr. Alexander & his family

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The 21st Sunday after Pentecost



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ today we heard the familiar parable of the sower in the Gospel. When our Lord concludes this parable He says "he that has ears to hear, let him hear." (Luke 8:8) Jesus says this to indicate to those present that there is a deeper meaning to the story than what is on the surface; just seed being scattered and sprouting. The disciples realize this and ask "What might this parable be?" (Luke 8:9) The Lord replies to this question with "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." (Luke 8:10)

In this response our Lord Jesus Christ makes a distinction between His followers and those that just hear His words and see His works. God bestows His grace upon those that choose to follow Him. When we choose to follow Him our spiritual eyes are opened so that we may know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. As followers of Christ our God, He may at times speak to us in very direct terms. The Gospel of Saint John reminds us of this in Christ's last conversation with His disciples before His death; "These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time comes, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs." (John 16:25) What is the deeper meaning of this parable?

"A sower went out to sow his seed" (Luke 8:5) is the start of the parable. The sower is Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ who left His eternal existence with the Father and Holy Spirit to enter into time. The incarnate Word of God, Jesus Christ, went out into His world. The world that He created out of nothingness as described in the Book of Genesis. The field that our Lord went out to is that of human souls. He went out into the field of human souls to sow the seed of salvation. God desires our salvation as it says in Saint Paul's first epistle to Timothy; He "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4) Additionally, God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9) The seed of salvation is sown into the souls of men through Christ's teachings. The parable tells us that three parts of the seed is lost. The parable makes it clear that the failure of this seed is not the fault of sower or the seed but of the ground upon which it fell. We need to be willing to cooperate with God in order to receive salvation. This means that we must abandon our self will and follow Christ in order to receive salvation. We are given an example of this when our Lord calls His disciples James and John. They leave their work and their father for Christ when He says the words "Follow Me." (Matthew 8:22)

The lost seed in the parable does not mean that God will not benefit from making His word known to those that will not receive it. We only need to look to the parable of talents to see that even in the case of the servant that made no use of the talent given to him that the Lord still received that talent back. This is further demonstrated for us when Jesus sends His disciples out to teach giving them the following instructions "And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you." (Matthew 10:13)

So my dear brothers and sisters in Christ be the good soil that receives the seed of God's salvation so that you may have the ears to hear and the eyes to see the mysteries of the Kingdom of God.

by Fr. Milan Medakovic

• **BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY** St Mary's Parish provides for the spiritual needs of Eastern Christians in the Manassas area. All are welcome to worship with us without regard to ethnic heritage or ecclesial ascription. As members of the same parish, not only do we worship God together, but we strive to help one another in other ways, both spiritually and practically. Please practice stewardship by giving of your Time, Talent, and Treasure. Your voluntary service and financial support are essential!

• **Worship:** The Divine Liturgy is celebrated every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in English/Ukrainian. Fulfills Sunday obligation of all. • **Confessions:** The Holy Mystery of Reconciliation is available before the Divine Liturgy at 8:00 a.m. in the Confession Room.

• **Emergencies:** In the event of an emergency or death, when a priest is needed, please ask the hospital to contact the local Catholic priest responsible for the hospital or call Fr. Alexander at 301-421-1739

• **Bulletin Information:** In order to add items to the bulletin, please send the info with details to Mark Scafona: mscafona@yahoo.com no later than Wednesdays by 5:00PM

Announcements

• **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** :The Parish Finance/Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Sunday, October 28, 2018 after Liturgy, which will be served at 8:00AM. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Church Income: Collection: 10/07 -

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

Food for Thought: *God places many of his blessings outside of our comfort zones and then asks us to come get them.*

❖ *Plant a little gossip and you will reap a harvest of regret.*

❖ *If you want God's fire to burn brightly in your heart, take out yesterday's ashes.*

Knock the "t" Off the "Can't"

by: Neil Eskelin, *Daily Jump Start*

Recently I took a sheet of paper and divided it into two columns: "Yes People," and "No People." Then I thought about individuals I knew and wrote their names in the appropriate column. What a shock it was to see the length of the "No" list. These were the people who heard someone say, "You can't do that!" and they believed it. Now they were saying, "It can't be done!" and their negativity was affecting the lives of others. If your friends made such a list right now, under which heading would they write your name? Do they see you as enthusiastic, affirmative and optimistic? Or do they believe you see more problems than solutions? It's time to knock the "t" off the "can't." I like the words of author Frank Hughes: "I will say this about being an optimist; even when things don't turn out well, you are certain they will get better." You are only a decision away from responding with hope instead of fear, with encouragement instead of criticism, with belief instead of despair. It's your choice!