



**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**

**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 09-16, 2018**

**Sunday December 09 29th Sunday after Pentecost**

**EPISTLE COL. 3:12-16; GOSPEL: LK.17:12-19 TONE 4**

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

**Sunday, December 16 Sunday of the Forefathers**

**EPISTLE COL. 3:4-17; GOSPEL: LK.14:16-24 TONE 5**

8:00 a.m. – Confession 8:30 a.m. – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular for Amy (good health) from Martha & John Stine

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**The 29th Sunday after Pentecost**



*The Lord expressed love for the one who was thankful, but He was angry with the ungrateful ones because they did not acknowledge their Deliverer. The one who returned to give thanks was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you." St. Athanasius the Great*

In today's Gospel reading, we see that there were ten lepers who were cured of their disease by Our Lord. But only one, a Samaritan, came to praise and thank God for his cure. Our Lord says to him: "Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they?" It seems that these individuals used Our Lord. They greatly desired to be cured, but they did not show any desire to thank Christ the Divine Physician. They committed the sin of

ingratitude. Many of us have been touched and healed and helped by Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Yet we do not turn to Him in praise, glorifying God, thanking Jesus, and letting the world know what the Lord has done for us. If you read the Gospels you see the blind man became His disciple; the penitent woman wept at His feet to show her love and gratitude. Too often, we accept what He has done for us but we fail to respond appropriately. Because of that our faith and our healing remain immature. If we wish to receive the full measure of all that God has for us; if we wish to know the totality of the blessings that He destines for us; then we must first acknowledge that we have been healed. We must confess how much the Cross of Our Lord has done for us and realize where we would be without it. What then? We must praise God, thank the Lord, delight in His presence, be grateful to Him, and express this gratitude by telling others. The Gospels were not written only to tell us what happened in the past but to explain to us what is happening now. Today is the time to allow the work of faith to begin to come to fruition. This is the time to turn from sin, trusting the Lord that He will not let it dominate you any longer. Reach out to the Lord. Call upon His Name. Let Him be in a personal relationship with you. Open your eyes so that you too can have the joy of following Christ Our Savior.

• **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: [mcafona@yahoo.com](mailto:mcafona@yahoo.com) no later than Wednesdays by 5:00PM

### Announcements

• **CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE:** Our parish is collecting non-perishable food, toiletries, and monetary donations for local food banks. Please leave donated items in the designated boxes in the back of the church. The last day we will be collecting for this food drive is 16 December. Thank you!

• **SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CARTERET, NJ** Bishop Andriy has asked that a special collection be taken up in all of our parishes, at the Divine Liturgies the weekend of December 8 and 9, 2018 for St. Mary's parish in Carteret, NJ. During this season of giving, please encourage your parishioners to be generous in their offerings to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ during this time when they are suffering from the loss of their beloved spiritual home in Carteret.

• **2019 ENVELOPES & CALENDARS** are available. Please pick them up in our church hall and use so that your membership and contributions may be recorded properly. **Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year 2018. May Our Lord reward you with good health and many happy and blessed years!**

• **SAINT NICHOLAS VISIT** This Sunday, December 09, 2018 at the end of the Divine Liturgy. St. Nicholas will be here to visit the children of our parish. All children are to come forward to welcome St. Nicholas to our parish (parents may accompany the smaller children). As St. Nicholas enters our Church let us all sing together that beautiful hymn "O khto, khto Nikolaya lyubit-Those who love Nicholas the Saintly". Following that let us all gather together in our Church hall to enjoy refreshments and a good time with St. Nick.

Church Income: Collection: 12/02 –

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



### St. Nicholas and the Spirit of Charity and Giving

St. Nicholas is undoubtedly one of the most well-known and beloved Christian saints. Universally venerated among traditional Christian denominations, one would be hard pressed to find a city that doesn't have a church named after the 4th-century Bishop of Myra. He is known as Nicholas the Wonderworker because of the many miracles and stories attributed to him both during his life and after his repose. One of the greatest was when St. Nicholas interceded on behalf of three innocent men condemned to death by a corrupt governor. He is said to have boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, which was already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The governor, denounced by St. Nicholas for his

wrongdoing, repented and begged for forgiveness. Famously, St. Nicholas is also said to have aided a poor man who had three daughters but no dowry for them. At the time, remaining unmarried meant that the daughters would have fallen into lives of poverty and public ridicule, and so Nicholas decided to secretly help them. He went to their house under the cover of night and tossed three purses filled with gold coins through the window. These are only two of the many great stories credited to St. Nicholas, but nearly all of them have to do with his devotion to charity and sacrifice. Because of the saint's habit of secret gift-giving, the diminutive "Saint Nick" is one of the many names given to Santa Claus, the legendary Western character who gives gifts to children on Christmas eve and is thought to be a combination of several figures, including the real St. Nicholas and several pagan winter characters. As the weeks leading up to Christmas mark the proverbial "Season of Giving," St. Nicholas serves as a reminder to embody a spirit of charity both during the holiday season and far beyond it.