Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Weekly Bulletin October 25, 2026

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME

We are on the New Calendar
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- Communion is only for Orthodox Christians.
- Preparation for Communion: going for Confession, praying, and fasting.
- Confessions: Vespers-first Saturday of the month, Sun. before Liturgy, or by appointment.
-Bring a list of living and deceased to the Altar. We'll pray for them during Liturgy.
- For pastoral visits at home or hospital or special prayer requests ask Fr. Oleg.
- Follow us on Facebook Click HERE

Christ is among us! Is and Shall Be! **Христос посеред нас! Є і Буде!**
Молімось за мир в Україні! **Let us pray for peace in Ukraine!**

Sun. 25 Oct. 21st SUNDAY after PENTECOST. TONE 4. Martyrs MARCIAN and MARTYRIUS of Constantinople (355) Righteous TABITHA (1st C) Ven. Bishop FRONT of Perigueux (2nd C) Martyr MINIATUS of Florence (251) Martyrs CRISPINUS & CRISPINIANUS of Soissons (285) Martyr ANASTASIUS of Salona (3rd C) Bishop GAUDENTIUS of Brescia (410) Venerable MARTYRIUS the Deacon and MARTYRIUS the Recluse of Kyiv Caves (14th C)
Epistle: Galatians 2: 16-20 **Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31**
Welcome all for the Coffee Hour after the Liturgy – Запрошуємо на каву після Літургії
During the Coffee – short videos (20 min) on Incense; Memory of Departed; Halloween

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LITURGICAL MENEION & SCRIPTURE READINGS.

Mon. 26 Oct. Holy Great-martyr Demetrius the Myrrh gusher of Thessalonica (306).
Col. 2:13-20 **Lk. 9:18-22**

Tue. 27 Oct. St. Nestor the Chronicler of the Kyiv Caves (1114). Martyr Mark of Thasos.
Col. 2:20–3:3 **Lk. 9:23-27**

06:30 PM MOLEBEN FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORTHAMPTON).

Wed. 28 Oct. Great-martyr Parasceva of Iconium (3rd c.). Repose of Ven. Job of Pochaiv.
Col. 3:17–4:1 **Lk. 9:44-50**

Thu. 29 Oct. Virgin-martyr Anastasia the Roman (256). Ven. Anna of Constantinople.
Col. 4:2-9 **Lk. 9:49-56**

6:00 PM Akathist to the Patron Saints of our Sisterhood, Faith, Hope, and Love, marking the beginning of our Parish Pyrohy-Making Ministry.

Fri. 30 Oct. Hieromartyr Marcian, bishop of Syracuse (2nd c.). Martyr Eutropia.
Col. 4:10-18 **Lk. 10:1-15**

Sat. 31 Oct. Venn. Spyridon and Nicodemus the Prosphorabakers of the Kyiv Caves.
2 Cor. 5:1-10 **Lk. 7:1-10**

04:00 PM GREAT VESPERS. Examination of Conscience and Confessions.

Sun. 01 Nov. ***08:30 AM Hours and Confessions. 09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY.***

- Daylight Saving Time ends next Sunday. Turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night.

- Welcome for the wine tasting: please check below.

- We collect non-perishable food items to support humanitarian aid for Ukraine. Donations of rice, pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, canned meats and fish, cereal, oatmeal, protein bars, coffee, tea, and other shelf-stable foods are greatly appreciated. Please place your donations downstairs. Thank you for your generosity and support of those in need.

- NUTROLL sale: Saturday December 12th, 10 AM-12 PM. Fillings: Apricot, Lekvar(Prune), Nut, Poppyseed, Pumpkin/Cheese, Red Raspberry. For orders, call: Marty 610-682-4458.

- **PYROHY schedule: November 5(sold out) and 19; December 3 and 17.** First come, first served (until we reach 250 doz.). To place an order please call Martha Dowling 610-682-4458. Please volunteer for peeling, running, cooking/mashing, pinching and clean-up.

- Church School. Ms. Mary Ost (Preschool/ Elementary). Ms. Karen Osmun (Secondary) right after the Holy Communion. Welcome all children and youth.

- Virtual Bible Study Day. Check the information on the board downstairs or ask Fr. Oleg.

ANNIVERSARIES:
26 Oct…Michael & Linda Tilson (30th)
28 Oct…Howard & Linda Winters, John & Jennifer Grason
31 Oct…Joseph & Diane Seremula

BIRTHDAYS:
26 Oct…Howard Winters
28 Oct…Sandra Park
МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! MANY YEARS!

NECROLOGY:

Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, killed in the Russian invasion.
25 Oct…Vladimir Zarayko ’16
26 Oct…Mary Krill ‘97
27 Oct…Wasyl Kochenash ’37, Janice Svauger ’13
30 Oct…John Vitushinsky ’96
31 Oct…Panteleimon Pokotello ’59

ВІЧНАЯ ПАМ’ЯТЬ! MEMORY ETERNAL!

Євангеліє: 19 Один чоловік був багатий, одягався в порфиру і висон** і щодня розкішно бенкетував. 20 Був же один убогий на ім’я Лазар, що лежав біля воріт його весь у струпах 21 і бажав насититися крихтами, що падали зі столу багача; пси, приходячи, лизали струпи його. 22 Прийшло вмерти вбогому, і віднесений був ангелами на лоно Авраамове. Помер же і багатий, і поховали його. 23 І в пеклі, будучи в муках, він підняв очі свої, побачив здалеку Авраама і Лазаря на лоні його. 24 І,голосно закричавши, сказав: отче Авраме, змилосердься наді мною і пошли Лазаря, нехай умочить кінець пальця свого у воду та прохолодить язик мій, бо я мучусь у полум’ї цьому. 25 Але Авраам сказав: чадо! Згадай, що ти одержав уже блага твої за життя твого, а Лазар — тільки зло; отже, тепер він тут тішиться, а ти страждаєш. 26 І, крім усього того, між нами і вами утверджена велика безодня, так що ті, які хочуть перейти звідси до вас, не зможуть, так само звідти до нас не переходять. 27 Тоді він сказав: так благаю тебе, отче, пошли його в дім батька мого. 28 Маю бо п’ятьох братів, нехай засвідчить їм, щоб і вони не прийшли в це місце муки. 29 Авраам сказав йому: у них є Мойсей і пророки; нехай слухають їх. 30 Він же сказав: ні, отче Авраме! Але коли хто з мертвих прийде до них, покаються. 31 Тоді Авраам сказав йому: якщо Мойсея і пророків не слухають, то хоч би хто і з мертвих воскрес, не повірять.

Prayer for the health & salvation of the afflicted: Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, wounded during the Russian aggression, Metropolitan Antony, Sherri Fedetz, Irene Alexander, Helen Crayosky, Caroline Hallman, Joseph Killino, Barbara Grason, Sandra Miller, Raisa Bakalets, Don Yurkonik, Karen Yurconic, Martha Dowling, Michael Szymonifka, Karen Kankula, Evelyn Kankula, Russel Kerick, Christina Truss, John Vitushinski, Matthew Vitushinsky, Luke Vitushinski, Nadine Savitz, William Savitz, William Leszczuk, Mary Berger, Jessica Meashock, Zachary Y. Siyufy, soldiers Oleh, and Volodymyr, Raisa Melnychuk, Vasyl Beizyn, Lubov Shevchuk, Volodymyr Hranat, Ihor Broda, Gary Lelo, Debi Hutnick, Eric Hewko, Phil O’Brien, child Charlie, Juliana, Shirl Merolli, Stephanie Donnelly, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Elena Iaroshenko, MaryAnn Ramaley, Joshua Osmun, Aaliyah Osmun, Brendan Phillips, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous, Lisa Kulhanek, Esther Wilt, Benjamin Tomeo, Olena Kalichenko, Robert, Marybeth Smith, Charles Ermert, Susan Grofic, Pauline Keresstus.

Sts. Spyridon and Nicodemus the Prosphora Bakers of the Kyiv Caves

Saint Spyridon lived as a monk in the Kyiv Caves Monastery and was known for preparing prosphora, the bread offered for the Divine Liturgy. Though not highly educated, he possessed sincere faith, humility, obedience, and diligence in his work. Tradition recalls that when a fire broke out in the monastery bakery, he helped extinguish it without harm, revealing God's protection and grace. Yet the true lesson of his life is not the miracle itself, but his faithfulness in ordinary service. His holiness was expressed through something very simple: making bread for the worship of God.

Saint Nicodemus was Spyridon's fellow monk and companion in this obedience. Together they baked prosphora for many years, offering their labor to God with prayer and humility. Nicodemus did not seek recognition for himself. He faithfully worked beside his brother monk, reminding us that holiness is often found in quiet cooperation, perseverance, and service.

The Church venerates both saints, whose relics rest in the Near Caves of the Kyiv Caves Monastery.

How can we apply their example?

Begin every task with prayer.

Do small things faithfully and well.

Avoid seeking praise and recognition.
Persevere when work becomes tiring.
Support one another in a common purpose.
Imagine Saint Spyridon kneading dough while chanting the Psalms. His hands were busy with work, but his heart remained with God. We may not be monastics, and we may not bake prosphora, but we can bring the same spirit into our homes, workplaces, and parish life. When we serve patiently, help others, and fulfill humble responsibilities with love, we follow the path these saints showed us.

The example of Saints Spyridon and Nicodemus is especially meaningful for our parish as we prepare to begin another season of making pierogies. Like the saints, we gather not simply to prepare food, but to offer our time, talents, and fellowship for the good of the Church. Every potato peeled, every dough batch mixed, every pierogi pinched by hand can become an offering to God when done with gratitude and love. The saints remind us that great things are often accomplished through many small acts of faithful service. No task is too humble when it helps build up the parish and strengthens our community.
Let us begin this season with the virtues represented by our Sisterhood patron saints: Faith in God's blessings, Hope in His guidance, Love for one another, and the Wisdom to work together in peace and unity. May this year's labor bring not only successful pierogi sales, but also deeper friendships, joyful fellowship, and spiritual growth. Following the example of Saints Spyridon and Nicodemus, let us work with willing hands and prayerful hearts, remembering that even the simplest work can become holy when offered to God.
Holy Martyrs Faith, Hope, Love, and their mother Sophia, pray for us! Saints Spyridon and Nicodemus of the Kyiv Caves, pray for us!

PROPERS for the DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHYRSTOM

Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 4: When the women disciples of the Lord/ learned from the angel of the joyous message of Your Resurrection/ they cast away the ancestral curse/ and elatedly told the Apostles/ “Death is overthrown/ Christ God is risen// granting the world great mercy.”

Tropar of the Dormition, Tone 1: In giving birth/ you preserved your virginity/ In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, Birth-Giver of God/ you were translated to life, Mother of Life/ and through your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Tropar of the Holy Martyrs, Tone 3: In holy zeal you dispelled the error of Arius/ and proclaimed the Trinity, one in essence/ Holy Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius/ unshaken bulwarks of Orthodoxy// entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Kondak of Resurrection, Tone 4: My Savior and Redeemer as God/ rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains/He has shattered the gates of Hell/and as Master//He has risen on the third day.

Glory… Kondak of the Martyrs, Tone 4: From your youth you were good athletes, wise Marcian and Martyrius/ vanquishing the Arian heretics/ you kept the faith perfect by following in the footsteps of your bishop and teacher Paul/ therefore, you are worthy to be with him in eternal life// as respected defenders of the Holy Trinity.

Now and ever… Kondak of the Dormition, Tone 2: Neither the tomb nor death had power over the Birth-Giver of God/ she is ever watchful in her prayers and in her intercession lies unfailing hope/ For as the Mother of Life/ she has been translated to life by the One/ Who dwelt within her ever-virginal womb.

Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 4: O Lord, how manifold are Your works/ in wisdom You have made them all.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord, my God, You are very great.

Epistle: Galatians 2: 16-20

Alleluia Verses, Tone 4. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth.

For You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. **Alleluia (3X)**

A point of view of Halloween, by Fr. Evagoras Constantinides.

For many years, I accepted the common Orthodox argument that Halloween was incompatible with our faith. The reasoning seemed straightforward: Halloween appeared to glorify darkness, evil, and the devil, and therefore faithful Orthodox Christians should avoid it altogether. Some Orthodox families respond by creating church alternatives, while others simply close their doors, turn off the porch lights, and ignore the holiday completely.

As I grew older and became involved in youth ministry, however, I began to question whether this negative view of Halloween was entirely accurate. I came to believe that the issue is more complicated than many people assume and that rejecting Halloween outright may not always be the most effective Christian response.

A turning point for me came while watching an episode of Duck Dynasty. The Robertson family is well known for openly living out their Christian faith. In the Halloween-themed episode, the family participated in activities commonly associated with the holiday: costumes, scares, and a haunted house. Yet, as always, the episode ended with the family gathering together for prayer. Phil Robertson thanked God for another day and then expressed gratitude for the ability to know the difference between make-believe and true faith. Those words struck me. In the midst of all the debates about whether Christians should celebrate Halloween, I suddenly realized that this distinction was essential. Most Halloween activities belong to the realm of imagination and entertainment. They are not serious religious statements. The real challenge is teaching our children how to recognize the difference between fantasy and genuine spiritual life.

As Orthodox Christians, we often worry about the influences our children encounter in society. Yet our children will always live in a world that contains ideas, customs, and values that differ from the teachings of the Church. We cannot protect them simply by pretending those influences do not exist. Turning off the lights and hiding behind closed doors may avoid a conversation, but it does not prepare our children for life.

Instead, we should help young people engage the world through a prayerful and faithful perspective. The goal is not to teach them to fear culture but to teach them how to evaluate it wisely. If we help them learn how to process what they see around them, they will be better prepared to live as Orthodox Christians in modern society.

The Robertson family provides an example of this approach. Phil Robertson may not personally care much about Halloween, but he recognizes something more important than the holiday itself. His family is together, his children are happy, and everything ultimately ends with gratitude to God and prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. He is able to look beyond the surface of the celebration and focus on what truly matters. When working with children and young people, we should strive to do the same. Rather than teaching them that every aspect of culture is dangerous, we should teach them how to encounter the world while remaining grounded in their faith. This requires more effort than simple avoidance. It involves discussion, explanation, prayer, and ongoing guidance. Yet it also helps children develop a mature and personal commitment to Orthodoxy.

It is possible to acknowledge that Halloween may have historical connections to pagan customs while also recognizing that, for most people today, it is simply a cultural event. A child who dresses as a favorite movie character, goes trick-or-treating, says thank you, avoids greed, and then comes home to pray with the family is not necessarily participating in something opposed to Christianity.

In fact, such moments can become opportunities for teaching gratitude, generosity, and faith. Parents can use them to remind their children of God's blessings and to cultivate compassion for those who have less.

Ultimately, raising Orthodox children is not about hiding from the world. It is about preparing them to live faithfully within it. This path is more demanding because it requires thoughtful parenting, prayer, and trust in God. Yet by helping our children think independently, love deeply, and truly embrace their faith, we equip them for the future and help them pursue the ultimate goal of every Christian life: to become people worthy of Jesus Christ.

ORTHODOX NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

Six Orthodox hierarchs led by Metropolitan Joseph of So. Europe consecrated the new Church of Prophet Elijah in Verona, Italy, under construction since 2015. Italy has more than 300 Orthodox parishes.

28 catechumens were baptized and chrismated at St. Nicholas Shrine (Ground Zero) in NYC by Archbishop Elpidophoros and Archimandrite Onyekakeyah, of the Apostolic Mission to Africa Diaspora.

Noble Joseph House, run by St. Silouan the Athonite Orthodox Church in Toronto, Canada was visited by Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa recently. The charity, staffed by 27 volunteers, provides home-cooked meals, a medical clinic, counselling and tutoring to the city’s needy.

10 members of one family were baptized and chrismated at St. Mary’s Orthodox Church in Austin, Texas after a year of catechisis.

Metopolitan Vladmir of Moldova had lunch with the needy at the Grand Dutchess Elizabeth Almshouse in Chisindu. Open since 2016 the charity center has served more than 400,000 meals to the poor.

The 19th C. Church of St. Charalambos, Bebek, Turkey, was returned to the Orthodox community, restored and consecrated by Patriarch Bartholomew.

30,000 pilgrims filled the streets of Iasi, Romania in the annual “Way of Saints” procession behind the relics of Ss. Paraskeva and Paisie.

Relics of New Martyr St. Chryse, who suffered martyrdom at the hands of Turkish forces in 1795 were returned to her hometown in Greece.

Come Taste the Wine!

Wine Tasting Social

Sponsored by the

Assumption of the Virgin Mary

UOL Chapter

1301 Newport Avenue

Northampton, PA 18067

Saturday, November 7, 2026

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Wine and complements will be served

Donation $35

Reservations: Call Mike - 610-262-5292