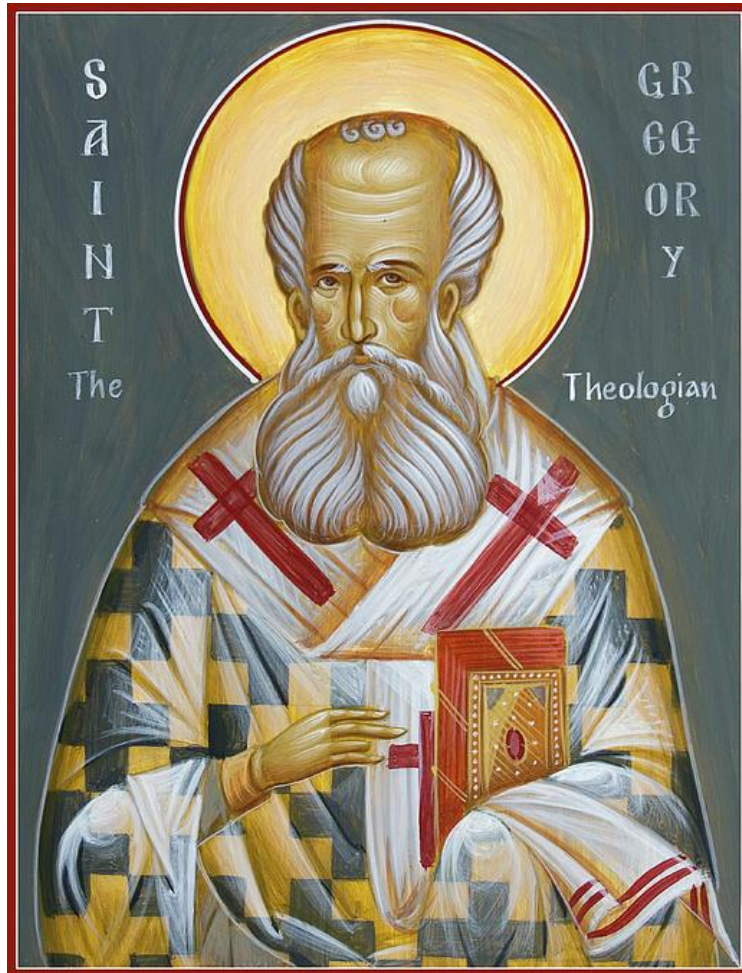


Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
Weekly Bulletin January 25, 2026



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW  
ROME

We are on the New Calendar  
1301 Newport Avenue,  
Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067  
Rev. Fr. Oleg Kravchenko, Rector,  
Protodeacon Mikhail Sawarynski,  
Attached

**Websites:** holyassumption.org  
and ukrainianorthodoxchurchusa.org

**Facebook:** Assumption of the  
Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox  
Church

**YouTube:** AVM UOC Church

**Contacts: Fr. Oleg Kravchenko**

– (484) 834-7261;

olegkravchenko2212@gmail.com

**Protodeacon Mikhail** – (H) (610)

262-3876; pravoslavni@rcn.com

**Office** – (610) 262-2882;

avmuoc@gmail.com

**Webmaster, John Hnatow** –

[john.hnatow@gmail.com](mailto:john.hnatow@gmail.com)

**- 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.

**- Make a list of living and deceased and bring it to the Altar.** We'll pray for them during a Liturgy.

**- For pastoral visits** at home or hospital or special prayer requests ask Fr. Oleg.

**- A directory of parishioners' names and addresses** is available (vestibule) for those who would like to send cards or good wishes.

**- Follow us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/avmuocoftheus>

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Christ is Baptized! In the River of Jordan!  
Молимоь за мир в Україні!

Христос Хрестився! В Річці Йордані!  
Let us pray for peace in Ukraine!

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**Sun. 25 Jan. 33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY after PENTECOST. SUNDAY OF ZACHAEUS. TONE 8. GREGORY the THEOLOGIAN, Archbishop of Constantinople (389) Martyrs FELICTAS of Rome and her 7 sons (164) Ven. PUBLIUS the ascetic of Syria (380) Ven. MARES the Singer of Syria (430).**

**Epistles: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 & 1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

**Gospels: Luke 19:1-10 & John 10:9-16**

**Welcome all for the Coffee Hour after the Liturgy – Запрошуємо на каву після Літургії**

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**LITURGICAL MENEION & SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Mon. 26 Jan.** Ven. Xenophon and his wife, St. Mary, and their sons, Sts. Arcadius and John  
**1 Pet. 2:21 – 3:9** **Mk. 12:13-17**

**Tue. 27 Jan.** Translation of the relics of St. John Chrysostom (438).  
**1 Pet. 3:10-22** **Mk. 12:18-27**

**06:30 PM** **Moleben for Peace in Ukraine (Holy Ghost, Easton).**

**Wed. 28 Jan.** St. Ephraim the Syrian (373). St. Isaac the Syrian, bishop of Nineveh (7 c.).  
**1 Pet. 4:1-11** **Mk. 12:28-37**

**Thu. 29 Jan.** Martyrs Romanus, James, Philotheus, Hyperechius, Abibus, Julian (297)  
**1 Pet. 4:12-5:5** **Mk. 12:38-44**

**Fri. 30 Jan.** *Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom.*

**Heb. 13:7-16** **Mt. 5:14-19**

**Sat. 31 Jan.** Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John (311)  
**1 Tim. 2:11-19** **Lk. 18:2-8**

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

**12:00 PM** **Sacrament of Matrimony of Anthony Sawarynski and Jenna Rogers.**

**Sun. 01 Feb.** **09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING following Liturgy.**  
**Coffee/breakfast hour sponsored by the UOL to benefit St. Andrew's Society.**

**03:00 PM** **Annual Water Blessing sponsored by the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood at Jordan Creek (1001 N 6th Ext. 1 Whitehall).**

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**PROPERS for DIVINE LITURGY**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 8:** You descended from on high, Merciful One/ You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings/ Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You.

**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 to St. Gregory, Tone 1:** The sweet sounding shepherd's pipe of your theology/ overpowered the trumpeting of the orators/ for eloquence was also bestowed on you/ as on one searching the depths of the Spirit/ Pray to Christ our God, Father Gregory/ that our souls may be saved.

**Kondak of Resurrection, Tone 8:** By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam/ Eve exults in Your Resurrection/ and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, Greatly Merciful One.

**Glory... Kondak to St. Gregory, Tone 3:** By words of theology you unraveled the complex webs of the orators/ O glorious Gregory/ and adorned the Church with the robe of Orthodoxy woven from on high/ wearing it, she cries out with us, her children/ “Rejoice, O Father, supreme mind of theology.”

**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 8:** Pray and make your vows/ before the Lord, our God.

**Verse:** In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

**Prokimen to St. Gregory, Tone 1:** My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

**Epistles: 1 Timothy, 4:9-15 & 1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 8.** Come let us rejoice in the Lord. Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

Let us come before His Face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Give heed, O my people, to my law; incline your ear to the words of my mouth.

**Gospels: Luke 19:1-10 & John 10:9-16**

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. **Alleluia (3X)**

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**The story of Zacchaeus** in Luke 19:1–10 shows how a sincere desire for Jesus can overcome obstacles, excuses, and social expectations. Zacchaeus was a wealthy and despised chief tax collector, yet Jesus chose him out of the entire crowd. His story offers eight practical lessons for spiritual growth.

1. Overcoming excuses. Zacchaeus had many limitations—he was short, disliked, and blocked by the crowd. Yet he didn’t let any of these stop him. Instead of giving up, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. This challenges us to examine the excuses we make for not seeking God: being too busy, too tired, too distracted, or intimidated by Scripture. Excuses keep us from the blessings God wants to give. If we truly want to know Him, we must take action, just as Zacchaeus did.
2. Breaking social norms to seek Jesus. In Zacchaeus’ culture, grown men did not run or climb trees—doing so was considered shameful. Yet Zacchaeus cared more about seeing Jesus than protecting his dignity. Sometimes following God requires stepping outside what is comfortable or socially expected. Like Zacchaeus, we may need to do what others won’t: wake early to pray, say

no to peer pressure, or give sacrificially. The blind beggar in the previous chapter also broke norms by shouting for Jesus despite being told to be quiet. Jesus consistently responds to those who stand out from the crowd.

3. Jesus responds to sincere seekers. Zacchaeus climbed the tree, and Jesus matched his action by stopping, calling him by name, and choosing to stay in his home. This was shocking, because tax collectors were considered traitors and sinners. Yet Jesus overlooked the religious crowd and chose the one whose heart was seeking Him. Scripture teaches that God draws near to those who draw near to Him. When we take steps toward God, He responds with grace and presence.

4. Welcoming the unwanted. Jesus publicly honored Zacchaeus, a man everyone else rejected. This challenges us to welcome those who are overlooked or excluded. A simple act of acceptance—inviting someone into your group, noticing someone who feels alone—can change a life. The real test is whether we will show this kindness even when others disapprove.

5. Avoiding spiritual blindness. The crowd around Jesus was so focused on themselves that they didn't notice Zacchaeus in the tree. Jesus, however, moved with awareness and compassion. We often rush through life distracted or preoccupied with our own tasks. When we live with "blinders on," we miss opportunities to see what God is doing around us. Zacchaeus' story calls us to slow down and pay attention.

6. Your response to Jesus reveals your heart. Zacchaeus responded to Jesus immediately and joyfully. He came down quickly when called, welcomed Jesus with excitement, and offered generous restitution for his past wrongs. A genuine encounter with God produces urgency, joy, and generosity.

7. Complaining blinds you to miracles. The crowd grumbled when Jesus chose Zacchaeus, and their complaining hearts caused them to miss the miracle of his transformation. Complaining and gratitude cannot coexist. Gratitude opens our eyes to God's work; complaining closes them.

8. Jesus came for the wealthy too. Zacchaeus' story shows that Jesus seeks not only the poor but also the wealthy, powerful, and morally compromised. His mission is to save the lost—regardless of social class. This challenges us to avoid gossip and judgment toward the rich and famous, remembering that they too need God's grace.

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- **Ukrainian Cultural Celebration.** Sun., Feb. 8. Transfiguration Ukr.-Cathol. church(near Wilkes Barre). Ukie food, dances and items sail. Flyer downstairs. Transportation provided. Ask Fr. Oleg.

- **Pyrohy schedule: Feb. 5, 19; Mar. 5, 19.** First come, first served (until we reach 250 doz.). Please volunteer for peeling, running, cooking/mashing, pinching and clean-up.

- **Loving Waters Campaign** for the **All-Saints Camp Water System Repair** (Emlenton, PA). The camp is facing a **large bill** for its water system. Let's help! Envelopes are near entrance.

-**Sunday School Schedule: Every Sunday right after the Communion. Welcome.**

- **Please turn in Redner's save a tape.** The receipt must show the Save-A-Tape amount. Thanks!

- **Virtual Bible Study Day.** Check the information on the board downstairs.

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

**25 Jan... Jerald & Elizabeth Zurat, Dennis & Linda Schmall**

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

**30 Jan...Stephen Burk, John Yost**

**МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! MANY YEARS!**

## **NECROLOGY:**

**Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, killed in the Russian invasion.**

**Newly departed Jalal Bashour**

**25 Jan...Dmytro Czuba '91, George Kulchyski '89**

**27 Jan...Izzat, Marcelene, & Gracejelly Azar '06**

**28 Jan...John Bochnock '89, Stephania Broda '31**

**29 Jan...Anna Karpenko '06**

**31 Jan...Zachary Kuts '37**

**ВІЧНАЯ ПАМ'ЯТЬ! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**Євангеліє.** Потім Ісус увійшов до Єрихона і проходив через нього. 2 І ось один муж на ім'я Закхей, він був старший над митарями і чоловік був багатий, 3 бажав бачити Ісуса, хто Він; але не міг за народом, бо був малий на зріст. 4 І, забігши наперед, виліз на смоковницю, щоб побачити Його, бо Він мав проходити біля неї. 5 Коли Ісус прийшов на те місце і, глянувши, побачив його, сказав йому: Закхею, злізь скоріше, бо сьогодні Мені належить бути в тебе в домі. 6 І він поспішно зліз і прийняв Його з радістю. 7 І всі, побачивши те, почали нарікати, що Він зайшов гостити до грішного чоловіка. 8 Закхей, вставши, сказав Господеві: Господи, половину добра мого я віддам убогим і, якщо кого скривдив чим, поверну вчетверо. 9 Ісус сказав йому: нині прийшло спасіння дому цьому, бо і він син Авраамів. 10 Прийшов бо Син Людський знайти і спасти, що загинуло.

**Prayer for the health & salvation of the afflicted:** Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, wounded during the Russian aggression, Helen Crayosky, Caroline Hallman, Joseph Killino, Barbara Grason, Sandra Miller, John Vitushinski, Raisa Bakalets, Karen Yurconic, Tom, Sylvia Petro, priest Demetrius Nicoloudakis, Martha Dowling, Michael Szymonifka, Karen Kankula, Evelyn Kankula, Russel Kerick, Christina Truss, Matthew Vitushinsky, Nadine Savitz, William Savitz, William Leszczuk, Mary Berger, Jessica Meashock, Ray Stoner, Zachary Y. Siyufy, soldier Oleh, 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, MaryAnn Ramaley, Aaliyah Osmun, Brendan Phillips, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Joann Hoodmaker, Norman Betrous, Robert Zarayko, Lisa Kulhanek, Esther Wilt, Benjamin Tomeo, Olena Kalichenko, Robert, Marybeth Smith.

**Saint Gregory the Theologian** (also called Gregory of Nazianzus) was born in 329 in Arianzos, Cappadocia, into a devout Christian family. His father, Gregory, later became Bishop of Nazianzus, and his mother, Nonna, dedicated him to God from birth. Gregory received an extensive education in rhetoric, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and poetry, studying in

Caesarea, Alexandria, and Athens, where he formed a lifelong friendship with Saint Basil the Great. He was baptized at age 33 and reluctantly ordained as a priest. Gregory lived an ascetic life, sometimes retreating to monasteries, and labored to combat heresies, particularly Arianism, throughout his ministry. In 379, he served in Constantinople, preaching from house chapels when heretics occupied the churches. He delivered five famous sermons, known as the Triadica, on the Trinity. Later, he was elected Archbishop of Constantinople, presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council in 381, but he resigned to maintain peace within the Church. He spent his final years in Nazianzus and died in 389, renowned for his eloquence and theological insight.

### **Selected Quotes and Teachings**

On living faith: “Grace is given not to them who speak [their faith] but to those who live their faith.” – Emphasizes that authentic spirituality requires action, not mere words.

On the theologian’s character: “Only those who are experienced can properly reason about God, those who are successful at contemplation and, most importantly, who are pure in soul and body, and utterly selfless.” – Highlights that understanding God demands both intellectual rigor and moral purity.

On humility and dedication: “I offer this gift to my God, I dedicate this gift to Him... Only in words do I master it, as a servant of the Word.” – Shows his devotion to using talent for divine purposes rather than personal gain.

On discernment and scripture: “In reading Holy Scripture, it is necessary to reject blind literalism and to try and understand its spiritual sense.” – Encourages reflective and contextual engagement with sacred texts.

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## **ORTHODOX NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE**

On the Feast of Theophany Patriarch Daniel of Bulgaria served the Great Blessing of Waters at Lake Druzhiba near Sofia.

Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia led Christmas celebrations at St. Sava’s Cathedral in Vracra on the Julian Calendar.



15 catechumens were baptized at St. Joseph’s Orthodox Church in Houston, Texas by Fr. Joseph Honeycutt with another 56 catechumens in the parish studying the faith and preparing for the Sacraments.

The Mission of St. John of Shanghai in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, led by Fr. Daniel Valle, distributed aid of food and gifts to 300 people for the Feast of the Nativity.

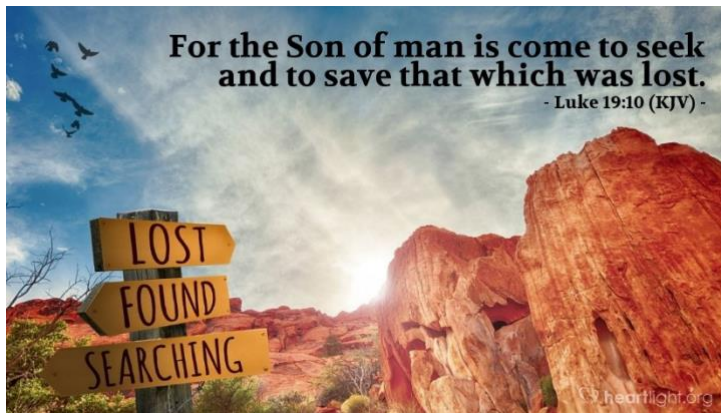
Christmas celebrations on the O.S. calendar were led by Metropolitan Onuphriy at the Dormition Pecherska Lavra in Kyiv.

Thousands of Ethiopian Orthodox gathered outside the main Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Addis Ababa for Christmas celebrations.



Orthodox Christians took part in the Christmas Liturgy in the Church of Archangel Michael in Cairo, Egypt.

Metropolitan Sava of Poland presided over the Christmas Liturgy in the Cathedral of St. Mary Magdalene in Warsaw.



## **BLESSING OF HOMES SCHEDULE**

### **Jan. 23-27 (Allentown & areas West)**

Dowling	Fedetz	Ketterer
Osmun	Schmall	

### **Jan. 28-30 (Hellertown & Easton)**

Kuchinos	Kankula	Lelo
Park,Sandra	Woyewoda	

**You will get a call before the visit. To reschedule, add names to the list or cancel, please text or call Fr. Oleg at 484-834-7261. Thank you.**

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