

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin Dec. 21, 2025



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

- 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>

- We kindly ask that our conversations in church remain centered on prayer and fellowship, rather than politics.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
Молімося за мир в Україні!

Слава Ісусу Христу! Навіки Слава!
Let us pray for peace in Ukraine!

Sun. 21 Dec. 28th SUNDAY after PENTECOST. SUNDAY before the NATIVITY of CHRIST. HOLY FATHERS. TONE 3. Virgin Martyr JULIANA of Nico-media, and 630 victims (304) Martyr THEOMSIOTOCLES of Myra (251)

Epistle: Hebrews 11: 9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

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

Gingerbread cookies baking/decorating Workshop during the coffee hour.

THE BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY DARRYL MEASHOCK IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER ANNA, AUNT HELEN AND BROTHER DAVID.

LITURGICAL MENEION & SCRIPTURE READINGS (Dec. 25th till Jan. 5th is a Fast-free period).

Mon. 22 Dec. Great-martyr Anastasia of Rome. Martyr Chrysogonus (304).
Heb. 3:5-11, 17-19 **Lk. 20:27-44**

Tue. 23 Dec. Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (250). Ven. Niphon, bishop of Cyprus (4th c.).
Heb. 4:1-13 **Lk. 21:12-19**

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

Wed. 24 Dec. The Eve of the Nativity of Christ. Nun-martyr Eugenia (262).
Gal. 3:15-22 **Mt. 13:31-36**

04:00 PM **GREAT COMPLINE.**

Thu. 25 Dec. **THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.**

Gal. 4:4-7

Mt. 2:1-12

09:00 AM **DIVINE LITURGY.**

Fri. 26 Dec. Synaxis of Theotokos.
Heb. 7:18-25

Lk. 21:37 - 22:8

09:00 AM **DIVINE LITURGY.**

Sat. 27 Dec. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34).
1Tim. 6:11-16 **Mt. 12:15-21**

04:00 PM **GREAT VESPERS.**

Sun. 28 Dec. **09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY.**

PROPERs for DIVINE LITURGY

Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 3: Let the heavens rejoice/ Let the earth be glad/ For the Lord has shown strength with His Arm/ He has trampled down death by death/ He has become the First Born of the Dead/ He has delivered us from the depths of Hell/ and has granted the world great mercy.

Tropar of Holy Fathers, Tone 2: Great are the accomplishments of faith/ for the Three Holy Children rejoiced in the flames, as if they had been in refreshing waters/ and the Prophet Daniel appeared in the midst of lions, as a shepherd among his sheep/ By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Tropar of the Forefeast, Tone 4: Bethlehem, prepare yourself/ Adorn yourself manger/ Cave make ready to welcome/ The Truth has come and the shadow has passed/ God as man, is born of the Virgin/ taking the likeness of our nature, deifying the body/ Therefore, Adam and Eve are renewed calling out:/ "God's mercy has appeared on earth to save the human race."

Glory...Kondak of the Fathers, Tone 1: Rejoice, O Bethlehem. Prepare yourself, O Ephrata/ The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb/ The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice beholding Him/ and with the shepherds they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Now and ever... Kondak of the Forefeast, Tone 2: He Who holds the earth in the hollow of His hand/ now is beheld in Bethlehem wrapped in swaddling clothes/ We offer prefestal hymns to His Mother, who maternally rejoices/ having held in her bosom the Son of God.

Prokimen to the Holy Fathers, Tone 4: Blessed are You, Lord, God of our Fathers/ praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages.

Verse: For You are Righteous in all that You have accomplished for us.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Alleluia Verses, Tone 4. We have heard with our ears, God; our fathers have told us what deeds You performed in their days, in the days of old.

You have saved us from our foes and have put those who hate us to confusion.

Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. Rejoice in the Lord, O you Righteous; praise befits the just.

Alleluia (3X)



-
- **Please take the envelopes and calendars downstairs.**
 - **Snow Tubing: UOL Fellowship Saturday, January 3, 2026. Youth are free. All are welcome! Sign up list and flyer downstairs. RSVP by December 15.**
 - **Collecting can goods for Food Bank in memory of victims of artificial famine in Ukraine 1932-33. Box downstairs** (canned potatoes, and meats, tuna, pasta, sauces, mac. & cheese).
 - **Sisterhood meeting: January 18 after the Liturgy.**
 - **Pyrohy schedule: Jan. 8, 22.** 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.

BIRTHDAYS:

22 Dec...Father Oleg Kravchenko

23 Dec...Reader James McKeown

24 Dec...Michael Hnatow

26 Dec... Mary Ost, Sylvia Petro, Amanda Pypiuk

27 Dec...Linda Vitushinsky

MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!

NECROLOGY:

Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, killed in the Russian invasion.

21 Dec...Theodore Mazepa '42

22 Dec...Antin Micio '46, Nicholas Chuyko '72, Maria Semenovych '25, Martha Marakovits
 24 Dec...George Zaoba '27, Adomer Dzicz '48, Aksenty Hewko '53, Marcella Zyrebecky '76,
 David Kuba '21
 25 Dec...Anna Yacur '85, Mary Stupcryski '95, Anna Voronkevich '97, Anna Meashock '97,
 Helen Meshock '06
 27 Dec...Tessie Zazworskey '97
VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!

Prayer for the health & salvation of the afflicted: Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, wounded during the Russian aggression, Helen Crayosky, Rosemarie Pypiuk, Caroline Hallman, Joseph Killino, Reader Maximos(Meashock), 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, Walter & Mary Ann Dworakivsky, 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.

ORTHODOX NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church glorified the 20th C. Saint John the Wanderer, a “Fool for Christ”, killed by the Nazis in 1943 in Plaske.

The 72nd mass baptism of 700 children was held in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Tblisi, Georgia. The Primate of 40 years, Patriarch Illia II, served as the Godfather, now having well over 50,000 Godchildren.



Annunciation Orthodox Church in Bergen, Norway founded in 2017 by Archpriest Theodor Svane, who studied in the U.S., returned home to serve a multinational parish using the Norwegian language, is seeking to build a new church.



Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv consecrated the new Church of the Holy Trinity in Pishchane of the Cherkasy region.



John X of Antioch and Pope Leo XIV plan an olive tree, symbol of peace, in Martyr's Square, Beirut, Lebanon.

Japanese-American actor, Hiroyuki Tagawa, 75, who converted to Orthodoxy in 2015 reposed in the Lord in Santa Barbara, California.



Approaching Nativity Celebrations. "The people who walk in darkness will see a great Light; upon those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a Light will shine upon them!" (Isaiah 9:1) Long ago, these words were spoken to people who lived in anxiety, fear, and despair—people deprived of confidence, safety, and the presence of God. We hear these words at the beginning of Christmas, forgetting that they were first proclaimed hundreds of years before we began celebrating the Nativity. Even today, humanity across the world still fails to recognize this clear and active truth of God. The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ—or as we also call it, the Christmas celebrations—is once again approaching! This season has come again, bringing joyful moments with it. But in reality, what is Christmas? Is it gifts under the tree, Christmas lights in the windows, greeting cards, dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, or cheerful “Happy Holidays” greetings from

those passing by on the street? For many people, the Christmas Fast is a time of sadness, because they lack the means to buy gifts for their children, relatives, and friends. At the same time, the Christmas Fast can be a season of great joy, especially if we remember that through it God shows His Love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewal of strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Child Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth so that He might take on flesh—becoming one of us. His birth brought great joy to this world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels rejoiced together in sharing the good news. They knew this was no ordinary child. Prophets had spoken of His coming for thousands of years. A star shone over Bethlehem to guide those who sought this extraordinary Child. Christmas is also a time for reflection. What is so special about the Christmas season that it brings people together? Why do we go to our grandmother's, relatives', or friends' homes for a great dinner and exchange gifts? Why do we attend Christmas gatherings with people we may not even know? Whatever the reason, we must reflect on the fact that no one wants to be alone at Christmas. The season has become a time when we give gifts as signs of love and friendship among people. Yet the giving and receiving of gifts can go beyond what is proper. The desire to wear the most stylish clothes or to own the latest technology can become more important than the friendship the gift is meant to symbolize. Too often, people judge friendship by the value of a gift rather than by the good character of the one who gives it—a dangerous path that can lead to broken friendships and loneliness, which none of us desire. Jesus Christ, as Savior, comes for all—not only for the chosen few. His Nativity is a sign of God's love and care for us, and of the truth that we belong to Him and to one another. The news of His birth was first proclaimed to shepherds—people of the lowest class in society, often distrusted. The angels declared: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men," calling strangers to become friends and enemies to reconcile. On the path toward friendship and recognition of our shared humanity, we find the will that enables us to live in harmony with one another and to respect each person individually. Our Savior teaches us that mercy, forgiveness, joy, peace, and justice truly exist—they are not merely dreams. They are real, because Christ, born in Bethlehem, is the true embodiment of mercy, forgiveness, joy, peace, and justice. These are the genuine Christmas gifts, freely given to us by the One whose birth we humbly and joyfully celebrate.

Євангеліє. 18 Різдва Ісуса Христа було так: по зарученні Матері Його Марії з Йосифом, перш ніж зійтися їм, виявилось, що Вона має в утробі від Духа Святого. 19 Йосиф же, чоловік її, будучи праведним і не бажаючи ославити її, хотів потай відпустити її. 20 Та щиро він помислив це, як ось ангел Господній з'явився йому уві сні, промовляючи: Йосифе, сину Давидів! Не бійся прийняти Марію, жону твою, бо зачате в Ній є від Духа Святого. 21 Народить же Вона Сина, і наречеш Йому ім'я Ісус, бо Він спасе людей Своїх від гріхів їхніх. 22 Це ж усе сталося, щоб збулося сказане Господом через пророка, який говорить: 23 ось Діва в утробі прийме й народить Сина, і наречуть ім'я Йому Еммануїл, що означає: з нами Бог. 24 Прокинувшись, Йосиф зробив, як звелів йому ангел Господній, і прийняв жону свою. 25 І не знав її, поки й породила Сина Свого первістка, і він нарід ім'я Йому: Ісус.