

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Nativity Bulletin Dec. 25, 2025



Nativity Bulletin

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Христос Народився! Славимо Його!

Welcome all to the Parish Holy Supper before the Feast of Christ's Baptism. Monday, January 5. Begins with Great Compline Service at 4 PM. Sign up downstairs.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME

We are on the New Calendar

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Facebook: Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church

YouTube: AVM UOC Church

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

09:00 AM FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY AND CAROLING.

Fri. 26 Dec. Synaxis of Theotokos.
09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY.

Sat. 27 Dec. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34).
04:00 PM GREAT VESPERS.

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

BLESSED NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN FAMILY, TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS, PARISH BOARD, SISTERHOOD AND UOL MEMBERS, CHOIR, CHURCH SCHOOL, ALTAR SERVERS, ALL WHO DONATE THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES TO OUR CHURCH. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

- **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.**
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PROPERS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ANTIPHON ONE, TONE 2

VERSE: I will praise You, Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Your marvelous works.

REFRAIN: Through the prayers of the Birth-Giver of God, Savior, save us.

VERSE: In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation: The works of the Lord are great.

REFRAIN

VERSE: Great are the works of the Lord; precious to those who love them. **REFRAIN**

VERSE: His work is honorable and glorious: And His righteousness endures forever. **REFRAIN**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Amen. **REFRAIN**

ANTIPHON TWO, TONE 2

VERSE: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord: Who delights greatly in His commandments.

REFRAIN: Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

VERSE: His seed shall be mighty upon the earth: The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

REFRAIN

VERSE: Abundance and riches shall be in His house; and His righteousness endures forever.

REFRAIN

VERSE: To the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, full of compassion and righteousness. **REFRAIN**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Only Begotten Son and Word of God...

ANTIPHON THREE, TONE 4

VERSE: The Lord said to my Lord; sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.

TROPAR: Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of Wisdom. For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of Righteousness and to know You the Orient from on High. Lord, glory to You.

VERSE: The Lord shall send you a rod of strength out of Zion, rule in the midst of your enemies.

TROPAR

VERSE: With You is dominion in the day of Your Power; in the splendor of Your saints. **TROPAR**

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE HYMN: From the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. The Lord has sworn and will not repent; You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

TROPAR, TONE 4: Your Nativity, O Christ our God... Glory... now and ever. Amen.

KONDAK, TONE 3: Today, the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable God. Angels with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi journey with the star. Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a little Child.

IN PLACE OF THE THRICE-HOLY HYMN: As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

PROKIMEN, TONE 8: Let all the earth worship You and sing to You. Let them sing to Your Name.

VERSE: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Sing forth the glory of His Name; make His praise glorious.

EPISTLE READING: GALATIANS 4: 4-7

ALLELUIA VERSES, TONE 1: The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork.

VERSE: Day speaks to the day and night shows knowledge to the night.

HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 2: 1-12

IN PLACE OF "IT IS RIGHT IN TRUTH": Magnify, my soul, the most pure Virgin Birth-Giver of God, who is greater in honor and more glorious than the hosts on high.

IRMOS, TONE 1: A strange and wonderful mystery do I see. The cave is heaven, the Virgin and the Throne of the Cherubim and the manger a room in which Christ, the Uncontainable God, is laid. Him do we praise and magnify.

COMMUNION VERSE: The Lord has sent deliverance to His people. (Alleluia 3X)

Nativity of our Lord Greeting of the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA and Diaspora

Beloved Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful Children in the Lord: Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

In the stillness of the holy night of Bethlehem, heaven bent toward the earth, and the Infinite became an Infant. The Creator of the universe took on flesh and was laid not in a palace, but in a humble manger. The One whom all the angels adore came to us clothed not in majesty, but in meekness. This is the great wonder of Christmas: God becomes man so that humanity may become radiant with God. In a world intoxicated by noise, power, and pride, the Nativity proclaims a truth that overturns every human expectation: The Almighty enters history not with armies, but with the cry of a newborn Child! The King of Glory comes not to be served, but to serve! The Lord of Hosts conquers not by the sword, but by sacrificial love. The cave of Bethlehem becomes the throne of humility. The manger becomes the altar of hope. The light of the Star becomes the path that leads the searching heart to God. This year, the message of Christmas is especially urgent. Across the world - and most painfully in Ukraine - darkness seeks to choke the human spirit. War, violence, injustice, and fear tear at the fabric of daily life. Families are separated. Homes destroyed. Children endure trauma and terror. Innocent lives are lost. Yet on this day, the Church proclaims the eternal Gospel: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) Christ comes precisely into such places - into the brokenness of human history, into the wounded corners of the human heart. He is Emmanuel, God with us - not far, not distant, not indifferent, but present in every tear, every prayer, every struggle, and every act of mercy.

Beloved, Christmas is not merely a feast we remember - it is a mystery we live. Every act of compassion becomes a Bethlehem. Every word of forgiveness becomes a star over the manger. Every gift to the poor becomes gold, frankincense, and myrrh offered to Christ. Our parishes, clergy,

faithful, youth, and children have responded with extraordinary generosity during these years of hardship: supporting orphanages and hospitals, feeding the hungry, assisting refugees, comforting soldiers, and sustaining the wounded people of Ukraine through compassionate action. As your archpastors, we behold in your kindness the living continuation of the miracle of Bethlehem. For truly, as St. John Chrysostom teaches: “If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice.” And as St. Basil the Great reminds us: “The bread you store belongs to the hungry; the cloak in your closet belongs to the naked.”

The way of Christ is the way of humility. He calls us to descend, not to rise; to serve, not to be served; to bring peace, not division; to bear one another’s burdens, not to ignore them. Let us remember that the true Christmas gift is the offering of ourselves in love. For the Child born in Bethlehem will one day stretch His arms upon the Cross - and His manger and Cross together reveal the full measure of God’s infinite love. To our beloved clergy: May the Christ Child renew your strength, deepen your compassion, and fill your ministry with the joy of His presence. To our faithful families: May your homes be warmed by the peace of the newborn Messiah and strengthened by prayer, unity, and love. To those who are suffering, lonely, or grieving: The Child of Bethlehem enters your sorrow with tenderness. You are not forgotten. God is with you. To the defenders of Ukraine, the wounded, the displaced, and the grieving: We lift you before Christ, the Prince of Peace, with love, respect, and unceasing prayer. To the children - the joy of the Church: May the Star of Bethlehem shine upon your hearts, guiding you always toward Christ.

Beloved in Christ, let the Holy Nativity fill your hearts with awe, your homes with peace, and your lives with the light that no darkness can overcome. May the humility of Bethlehem inspire you. May the peace of the angels strengthen you. May the love of Christ transform you.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

With Archpastoral Blessings and Love in the Newborn Savior,

†Antony, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

†Jeremiah, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

†Daniel, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Western Europe

Patriarchal Proclamation for the Nativity of Christ + B A R T H O L O M E W

Beloved children in the Lord, Having once again been found worthy of reaching the great feast of the Nativity in the flesh of the Son and Word of God, we glorify the “inexpressible and incomprehensible condescension” of the Savior of the human race and Redeemer of all creation from corruption, even as we proclaim with the angels “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to all people.” Christ was revealed as “Emmanuel,” as “God with us” and “for us”, as God beside each of us and “closer to us than ourselves.” The pre-eternal Word of God, who is “consubstantial with the Father,” as formulated in doctrine by the First Ecumenical Council, whose 1700th anniversary was appropriately celebrated by the Christian world over this year, “becomes like His own creature,” being incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary “in order to render human beings into gods.” The

Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) for Christmas declares that the Nativity of Christ “has shone to the world the Light of knowledge” and revealed “the transcendent and universal meaning” of life and history, namely the truth that only the Christian faith can fully satisfy the deeper pursuit of the mind and thirst of the heart, that “salvation is found in no one else” but Christ. Thenceforth, the “knowledge” that “puffs up” is being judged by the words of the Lord, that “You will come to know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.”

The suprarational event of the Incarnation is experienced and repeated spiritually in the life of the faithful, who love the epiphany of the Savior Christ. As St. Maximus the Confessor writes: “The Word of God was once born in the flesh, but desires always to be born in the spirit out of love for those who desire it.” In this sense, the Feast of the Nativity, of the divine Incarnation and the deification of humankind by grace, does not direct us to an event of the past, but guides us to the “future city,” to the heavenly kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In a world, where the echo of war and noise of weapons prevail, the angelic “peace in the world” is resounded and the Lord’s voice blesses “the peacemakers” while His Holy Church prays during the Divine Liturgy “for the peace from above” and “for the peace of the whole world.” Genuine faith in the living God strengthens our struggle for peace and righteousness, even when we are faced with humanly insurmountable impediments. As the Message of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church—whose tenth anniversary we shall celebrate next year—inspiringly states: “the oil of religious experience must be used to heal wounds and not to rekindle the fire of military conflicts.” The Gospel of peace especially concerns us Christians. We consider it impermissible to remain indifferent before the fragmentation of Christendom, particularly when this attitude is accompanied by fundamentalism and explicit rejection of inter-Christian dialogue that ultimately aims at transcending division and achieving unity. The obligation of striving for Christian unity is non-negotiable. The responsibility to continue the efforts of the pioneers of the Ecumenical Movement along with the justification of their vision and labor rest on the younger generation of Christians. We belong to Christ, who is “our peace” and “the fulfilment of joy” in our life, the “goodwill” that springs from the conviction that “the truth has arrived” and “the shadow has passed,” that love is stronger than hatred and life stronger than death, that evil does not have the final word in the life of the world, which is directed by Christ, who is “the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.” This faith must shine and be revealed in the way we honor Christmas and the other feasts of the Church. The joyous celebration of the faithful should bear witness to the transformative power of our faith in Christ. It should be a time of goodwill and spiritual delight, the experience of that ineffable “great joy” that is “synonymous with the Gospel.” In 2026, the Holy Great Church of Christ will honor the completion of 1400 years since August 7, 626, when the Akathist Hymn was chanted “upstanding” during the Sacred Vigil in the Church of Panagia Vlachernae, as an expression of gratitude to the All-Holy Mother of God, for the safeguarding of the City of Constantinople from the attack of hostile forces. On the occasion of this historic milestone, the 2026 Yearbook of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be dedicated to the commemoration of this important event for our tradition and identity, which are inseparably and profoundly associated with

the honor reserved for our ever-blessed and most pure Mother of God, the defender and protector of our people. In this spirit, as we bow before Mary who holds the infant Jesus in her arms, and as we worship the Divine Word who assumed our form, we wish upon all of you a blessed Holy Twelvetide, and a fruitful in good deeds and filled with divine gifts new year of the Lord's favor, to Whom belong all glory, honor and worship, now and always, and to the ages of ages. Amen.