***ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

***ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME***

***A street sign in front of a building

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***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***

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**Sun. 02 Jan. 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 3. SUNDAY of the HOLY FATHERS. Hieromartyr IGNATIUS the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch (107). PHILOGONIUS, Bishop of Antioch (323). DANIEL II, Archbishop of Serbia (1338). Ven. IGNATIUS, Archimandrite of the Kyiv Caves.**

**Epistles: Hebrews 11: 9-10, 17-23, 32-40 & Hebrews 4:14-5, 6**

**Gospels: Matthew 1: 1-25 & Mark 9: 33-41**

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings (Nativity Fast)**

**Mon. 03 Jan.** Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 500 men and 130 women. **Heb. 3:5-11, 17-19 Mk. 9:42-10:1**

**Tue. 04 Jan.** Great-martyr Anastasia of Rome, and her teacher Martyr Chrysogonus.

**Heb. 4:1-13 Mk. 10:2-12**

**Wed. 05 Jan.** Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (250). Ven. Niphon, bishop of Cyprus (4th c.).

**Heb. 5:11–6:8 Mk. 10:11-16**

**Thu. 06 Jan. The Eve Of The Nativity Of Christ.**

**Heb. 1:1-12 Lk. 2:1-20**

***4:30 PM Holy Supper***

***6:00 PM Great Compline***

**Fri. 07 Jan.** **THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.**

**Gal. 4:4-7 Mt. 2:1-12**

***9:00 AM Festal Divine Liturgy.***

***6:30 PM Christmas Carol Flashmob (Bethlehem City Hall Christmas Tree)***

**Sat. 08 Jan.** Synaxis of the Theotokos.

**1 Tim. 6:11-16 Mt. 12:15-21**

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.***

***5:00 PM Great Vespers.***

**Sun. 09 Jan. *9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.***

**For reflection:** Can I see God working out a perfect plan through the ups and downs of my life? Where do I observe God acting in this imperfect world? How could I profit from Joseph’s example?

'Twas the week before Christmas, and the family so busy   
Just watching them move would make one feel dizzy.

Wrapped packages were stacked almost over your head   
Big ones and small ones, with labels that said,   
"To Johnny, to Mary, to Susan and Tom,   
To Billy, to Freddie, to Daddy and Mom..."

The kitchen was filled with cookies and savors,   
And cakes and pies of all sizes and flavors.

The family was ready to honor Christ's birth,   
And the whole house shook with holiday mirth.   
Grandparents, nieces, nephews and cousins   
Had arrived at the house--it seemed there were dozens.

Carols were playing on stereo loud speakers,   
Grandkids, poking the gifts, were all "peekers."   
How delightful to be with friends so dear,   
Sad Christmas comes but once in each year.

Then someone asked, "What about church? A service tonight?   
Where hymns will be sung and scriptures delight,   
And we can honor this day Jesus was born?"   
And the family grew quiet, withdrawn and forlorn.

None planned to go to the House of our Lord   
to worship Him - the thought was deplored!

Why, there were games to watch on the color TV,   
And gifts to unwrap and neighbors to see.   
There was food to digest and so much to sample;   
There wasn't any time to go to God's Temple.

Why, God won't care that we haven't the time   
When there's guests in our house and a chance to unwind.   
So what if it's His birthday? We need this rest!   
Why should we celebrate God's giving His Best?

So none of them went to church on that day   
This was the time to stay home and to play.   
The One Christmas honored, Who gave of Himself,   
They quietly dismissed and put on the shelf.

**Are You Ready?** Ready to get down on your knees before the manger, ready to stoop down to the level of a child so you can have the proper perspective from which alone you can see this miracle in a manger? In most any fast food store children now have playgrounds, two floors of tunneled mazes. Admittance to these tunnels depends on the ability of the child to pass the height test. They can be no taller than 48 inches. In other words, their size is their ticket. And so, your size, too, determines whether or not you can have Christmas--and the kingdom of heaven this lowly Baby would bring you. "Remember this!" Jesus said. "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it" (Luke 18:17). This is the only way. (Adapted from Donald Deffner)

**Mary, Let's Go To The Barn**. A grade school class was putting on a Christmas play which included the story of Mary and Joseph coming to the inn. In that class was one little boy who wanted very much to be Joseph. But when the parts were handed out, his biggest rival was given that part, and he was assigned to be the innkeeper instead. He was really bitter about this.

So during all the rehearsals he kept plotting in his mind what he might do the night of performance to get even with his rival who was Joseph. Finally, the night of the performance, Mary and Joseph came walking across the stage. They knocked on the door of the inn, and the innkeeper opened the door and asked them gruffly what they wanted.

Joseph answered, "We'd like to have a room for the night." Suddenly the inn-keeper threw the door open wide and said, "Great, come on in and I'll give you the best room in the house."

For a few seconds poor little Joseph didn't know what to do, and a long silence ensued. Finally though, thinking quickly on his feet, Joseph looked in past the innkeeper, first to the left and then to the right and said, "No wife of mine is going to stay in a dump like this. Come on, Mary, let's go to the barn." And once again the play was back on course.

It is obvious that Joseph cared deeply for Mary. He would not have risked his own reputation and protected hers if he did not. But his love was deeper and grounded on more than love for his bride to be. For you see he understood that obedience to God, even in the most dire of circumstances creates a life of substance and character. (Brett Blair)

**The Meaning of Christmas**. A television interviewer was walking the streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?" Laughing, she responded, "I don't know. Is that the day that Jesus died?" There was some truth in her answer. (Donald L. Deffner)

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**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 to the Holy Fathers, Tone 2**

The great pillars of faith; the Three Holy Children, rejoice in the flames as if they had been in refreshing water and Daniel in the midst of lions is like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their prayers, 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 on the likeness of our nature, deifying the body. Therefore, Adam and Eve are renewed crying out: “God’s mercy has appeared on earth to save the human race.

**Tropar to Hieromartyr Ignatius, Tone 4**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, you became a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God. By teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood, Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

**Kondak to the Holy Fathers, Tone 6**

Thrice-Blessed Ones, you did not worship the man made idol, but armed with the invisible power of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of the unbearable flames, you called on God crying: “Hasten Compassionate One. Come quickly to our defense, for You are merciful and able to accomplish all that You will.”

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Kondak to Hieromartyr Ignatius, Tone 3**

The stirring celebration of your victorious fight is an announcement of the One Who is to be born of the Virgin. In your eagerness to possess Him forever, you hastened to be devoured by the wild beasts. Therefore, O glorious Ignatius, you were called the bearer of God.

**Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Kondak of the Forefeast, Tone 3**

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Word, Who existed before the ages. Rejoice, all the earth, at this news. With the angels and the shepherds glorify the soon to be born Child, the Ever-Eternal God.

**Prokimen of 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.

**Prokimen to St. Ignatius, Tone 7.**

The Righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and hope in Him.

**Epistles: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 & Hebrews 4:14-5, 6**

**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.

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

**Verse:** The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree and like a cedar of Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

**Gospels: Matthew 1:1-25 & Mark 9: 33-41**

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. The Righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. They shall not be afraid of any evil report. Alleluia (3X).

**Council meeting for Wednesday, January 5 at 6:30 PM.**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022, after Liturgy. Liturgy will be held at 8:30 AM on that day.

**Everyone is invited to HOLY SUPPER on January 6.** Please sign up so we can plan and prepare. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule and in church hall.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**  The Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy in the Lehigh Valley is sponsoring a **"Synchronized Ukrainian Christmas Carol Flashmob"** on the evening of Christmas Day - January 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Bethlehem City Hall Christmas Tree. It is open to all! No previous experience needed! Just show up! Songs sheets will be provided. Come out and sing the Birth of our Savior in true Ukrainian style.

The senior UOL is collecting **GLOVES, SCARVES AND HATS FOR THE FOOD BANK.** Collection box is in the hall. Thank you.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE:** Mrs. Mary Ost (Preschool/ Elementary) Sundays 8:55-9:20 AM. Mrs. Karen Osmun (Secondary) Sundays at 8:45-9:15 AM.

**FOR THE FOOD BANK**: We were assigned baby foods, but they also need cans of potatoes, tuna fish, canned meats, pasta, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese.

**VARENYKY SCHEDULE:**  February 3, 17. 300 dozen limit. We strongly need your help as a volunteer. Please call Helen: 610-261-4575.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**04 Jan…John Grason**

**06 Jan…Justin Ost**

**08 Jan…Daniel Pypiuk**

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**02 Jan…Paul Luhacz ’46, Allek Schur -74, Mary van Kirk ‘08**

**04 Jan…Theodora Sheska ’76, John Lelo ’74**

**05 Jan…Anna Fanok ’77, Mary Lubenesky ’57**

**06 Jan…Robet Ziatyk (infant) ’38, Anna Boyko ’61, John Sobchak ’57, Andriy Broda ’18**

**07 Jan…John Bluder ’82**

**08 Jan…Catherine Tumpey ’83, Bohdan Hewko ‘08**

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED:** child Charlie,priest Vasyl Dovgan, Rosemarie Pypiuk, Kirk Swauger, Azarah Nehmeh, Oleksandr Syvolob, Stephanie Donnelly, Nicholas Alexander, Danny Berro, Paulette Mecherly, Steve Sivulich, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Philippe Chasseuil, Halyna Kucharchuk, Joan Molnar, Bill Ketterer, Brandon and Stacy Snyder, Aaliyah Osmun, Ihor Broda, James Osmun, William Savitz, Vladimir Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous, Justine Schubert.