***Jan. 24, 2021***

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

**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME**

**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** – (732) 507-2274; 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

***NOTE: The Annual Parish Meeting, originally scheduled for Sunday, January 31, will be postponed until further notice due to Covid precautions.***

**Attendance at any Liturgy: If you wish to attend a liturgy, you must sign up by 7:00 PM the evening before the liturgy. Currently, registration is limited to 40 participants. NOTE:  If you have signed up but cannot attend the service, please edit your sign up so the slot will be open for someone else.**

[**Sign up here to be on a list of people who will be allowed in our church to attend a liturgy on the specified date**](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548ADAC29A1F85-assumption)

**Tune in to our news, announcements, and online Facebook Livestream Liturgies** [**HERE!**](https://www.facebook.com/Assumption-of-the-Virgin-Mary-Ukrainian-Orthodox-Church-113456096722198)

**Great Vespers: If you wish to attend a Vespers service you must sign up by 7:00 PM Friday. Currently, registration is limited to 40 participants.**

[**Sign up here to be on a list of people who will be allowed in our church to attend a Vespers service on the specified date**](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548adac29a1f85-vespers)

**Holy Confession: Our Heirarchs have indicated that all parishioners must receive the sacrament of Holy Confession prior to receiving Holy Communion. Father Oleg has scheduled general confessions immediately after Vespers on the first Saturday of each month. Father will also hear confession by appointment on Saturdays.**

[**Sign up here for a Saturday appointment for Holy Confession**](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548ADAC29A1F85-confession1)

**Sun. 24 Jan. (Jan. 11th) 33rd SUNDAY after PENTECOST. Tone 8. AFTERFEAST OF THEOPHANY. Ven. THEODOSIUS the GREAT, CENOBIARCH (529). Ven. THEODOSIUS of Antioch (412)**

**Ephesians 4: 7-13 Matthew 4: 12-17**

**2 Corinthians 4: 6-15 Matthew 11: 27-30**

**The bulletin is sponsored by Karen and Jim Osmun in Memory of her father George Kulchycki.**

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings For The Next Week**

**Mon. 25 Jan.** Martyr Tatiana of Rome (226-235).

**Heb. 8:7-13 Mk. 8:11-21**

**Tue. 26 Jan.** Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus at Belgrade (315).

**Heb. 9:8-10;15-23 Mk.8:22-26**

**Wed. 27 Jan.** The Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raithu.

**Heb. 10:1-18 Mk. 8:30-34**

**Thu. 28 Jan.** Venn. Paul of Thebes (341), and John Calabytes (450).

**Heb. 10:35–11:7 Mk. 9:10-16**

**Fri. 29 Jan.** Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Apostle Peter.

**Heb. 11:8, 11-16 Mk. 9:33-41**

**Sat. 30 Jan.** Ven. Anthony the Great (356).

**Heb. 13:17-21 Lk. 6:17-23**

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

**Sun. 31 Jan. Col. 3:12-16 Lk. 18:18-27 Heb. 13:7-16 Mt. 5:14-19**

***8:30 AM Third & Sixth Hours***

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (restriction of 40 people; Also available Online)***

**CHRIST IS BAPTIZED!**

**IN THE RIVER OF JORDAN!**

**Darkness and Light!** The Bible tells us that God made us to know Him, and to live with Him in heaven forever. But we sinned, and our sin brought darkness into our lives, and into the whole world. As a result, this world can be a dark, dark place, because all of us in our world — ALL of us — have sinned. And it’s dark:

There is the darkness of selfishness

The darkness of greed

The darkness of murder

The darkness of every kind of immorality, multiplying all around us

The darkness of addiction to what will never really satisfy you

The darkness of discouragement, and depression, and despair, having no hope.

That is our world isn’t it? It can be a dark, dark place. Many of us know that very well. And it’s because of sin, because we have neglected God’s word, the Bible. But into this world of darkness, God’s LIGHT shined one night in Bethlehem: the angels sang, and the sky lit up — God’s light had come! And His light had a name: the angel said “You shall call His name JESUS.” Jesus was God Himself who came to earth to give us light for how to live — but more than that, He came to die on the cross and pay for our sins, to “buy us out” of our darkness and sin back to God if we’d be willing to come back to Him. And He came to send His Spirit into our hearts to give us the power to turn from the darkness and follow His light. But all of this only happens if you turn to follow Jesus. He is God’s light.

The light is coming

it will shine everywhere

it will shine in darkness

it will restore hope

it will shine forever

So my dear brothers in sisters in Christ-  
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Repent, for Christ came into the world for the salvation of all men as a little child.  
Repent, for Christ was baptized by John in the Jordan that the Trinity was made manifest.  
Repent, for Christ came to those that sat in darkness that they might see a great light.  
Repent, for Christ is going to his voluntary Life Saving Passion.  
Repent, for Christ is crucified for us men and our salvation.  
Repent, for Christ is risen to grant us eternal life.  
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Amen.

*(By Fr. Milan Medakovic)*

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY of JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 8**

You descended from on high, Merciful One. You accepted the three-day burial to free us from our passions. Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to You.

**Tropar of Theophany, Tone 1**

At Your Baptism in the Jordan, Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness and called You His Beloved Son. The Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truth of His word. Christ our God, Who has revealed Yourself and enlightened the world, Glory to You.

**Tropar of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, 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 Venerable Theodosius, Tone 8**

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe. Our Father Theodosius, pray to Christ God to save our souls.

**Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 8**

By rising from the tomb, You raised up the dead. Adam is risen and Eve exults in Your Resurrection. The entire world celebrates Your rising from the dead, Greatly Merciful One.

**Kondak of Theophany, Tone 4**

Today, Lord, You have appeared to the universe and Your Light has shone on us who with understanding praise You. You have come, Unapproachable Light, and revealed Yourself to us.

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

**Kondak to Theodosius the Great, Tone 8**

Planted in the courts of your Lord, you blossomed beautifully with virtue, and increased your children in the desert, showering them with streams of your tears, O chief shepherd of the divine flock of God, therefore, we cry to You: “Rejoice, Father Theodosius.”

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

**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 Sunday after Theophany, Tone 1**

Let Your mercy, Lord, be upon us as we have put our hope in You.**Verse:** Rejoice in the Lord, you Righteous. Praise befits the upright.

**Prokimen to the Venerable Theodosius, Tone 7**

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

**Readings: Ephesians 4: 7-13 & 2 Corinthians 4:6-15**

**Alleluia Verses:** Lord, I will chant of Your mercies forever: with my mouth I will proclaim Your Truth from generation to generation.**Verse:** Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

**Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-17 & Matthew 11: 27-30**

**In place of “It is right in truth…”**

Magnify, my soul, the Most pure Virgin Birth-Giver of God who is greater in honor than the Hosts on High.

**Irmos, Tone 2:** No tongue is capable of praising you worthily. The angelic mind is overawed in exalting you, Birth-Giver of God. But, accept our faith since you are good and know our divinely inspired love. You are the Protectress of Christians and we magnify you.

**Communion Hymn:**

The grace of God that brings salvation to all has appeared.

The Righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. They shall not be afraid of any evil report. Alleluia (3X)

**The Annual Parish Meeting,** originally scheduled for Sunday, January 31, **will be postponed** until further notice due to Covid precautions.

If you would like Fr. Oleg to come and **bless your house** at a specific time, text or call him. Please have a bowl, candle and icon on the table and a list of names you wish to be commemorated (living and deceased).

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

**25 Jan…Dennis & Linda Schmall**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**28 Jan…Karen Seremula**

**30 Jan…Stephen Burk, John Yost**

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**25 Jan… George Kulchycki ’89, Dmytro Czuba ’91**

**27 Jan…Izzat Azar, Mercelene Azar, Gracielly Azar ’06**

**28 Jan…John Bochnock ’89, Sephania Broda ’31**

**29 Jan…Anna Karpenko ’06**

**31 Jan…Zachary Kuts ’37**

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**WE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** of the ill-afflicted: Gabriel Sawarynski**,** Catherine Kochenash, Joan Molnar, Richard Stetch, Fr. Stephen Hutnick, Fr. John & Panimatka Anne Haluszczak, Fr. Victor and Panimatka Ivanka Wronskyj, Evan, Brandon and Stacy Snyder, Aaliyah Osmun, Olga Dorosh, Michael Mack, Allan Bach, Ihor Broda, James Osmun, Matthew, Tom, William Savitz, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Betty Hendrickson, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous, Luba Walker.

**That’s what we should do if we are Christians.** And now Jesus comes to begin His ministry in Galilee, and it says: “This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet.” And it quotes Isaiah 9:2, that the people in darkness in Galilee would see a great light come upon them.

One of the things this tells us is that Jesus spent His whole life fulfilling scripture. Everything He did was based on the word of God.

If we are Christians, OUR LIVES are to be the same way? Just as Jesus’ whole life was based on fulfilling the word of God, so OUR lives are to be based on the word of God as well.

Now a person may rightly say: “But pastor, my life is not prophesied event by event and step by step, just like Jesus’ was in the Old Testament, is it?” And that’s true, it’s NOT. But your life should not be any less BASED on the word of God than Jesus’ was! God’s word should give guidance and direction to everything you do in your life:

— Do you want to know what kind of employee you are to be? Look to the word of God: Ephesians 6:7-8 says “With good will render service, as to the Lord and not to men”

* Do you want to know what kind of wife you should be? Look to the word of God, where I Peter 3 tells you to be submissive to your own husband, with chaste and respectful behavior, and that your beauty is not just to be external only, but the hidden person of the heart, with a quiet and gentle spirit which is precious in the sight of God!
* Do you want to know what kind of husband you should be? Men, look to the word of God, where Ephesians 5:28 tells you “So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies” and be willing to sacrifice for her.
* Do you want what your attitude should be towards lost people? Look to the word of God, where Paul says in Romans 10:1, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.”
* Do you want to know how you should respond to your enemies? Look to the word of God, where Jesus commanded you in Matthew 5: “Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.”
* Do you want to know what your life mission statement is? Look to the word of God, where Jesus told us in Matthew 28:18-20, “Go therefore and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you.”
* Do you want to know what your purpose is in life, for everything you do? Look to the word of God, where I Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whether then you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
* Do you want to know what you are supposed to believe about all the contemporary issues: abortion, homosexuality, whatever? It’s not “follow the crowd”; it’s not “just follow your heart”; it’s “What does God’s word say about it?” As a follower of Jesus Christ, that’s all you need to know: what does the scripture say?

If we say that we are Christians, then EVERYTHING we do in our lives are to be based on the word of God, just like Jesus. I don’t know where we have gotten the idea that we can call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ, and just flat out IGNORE what He tells us to do in His word in whole areas of our lives. Do we understand that this church is not a “nice social club” that we come to one or two times a week to be entertained, but that a church is a gathering of people who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ as LORD, which means that we are to base our whole lives on His word? The Bible is not just “some book” we get nice lessons out of once a week. It is the rule book for our lives. If this Book says do it — we are to do it. If this Book says don’t do it; we are not to do it. If this Book says believe it, we believe it. This Book is what our lives are built on, if we are truly Christians.