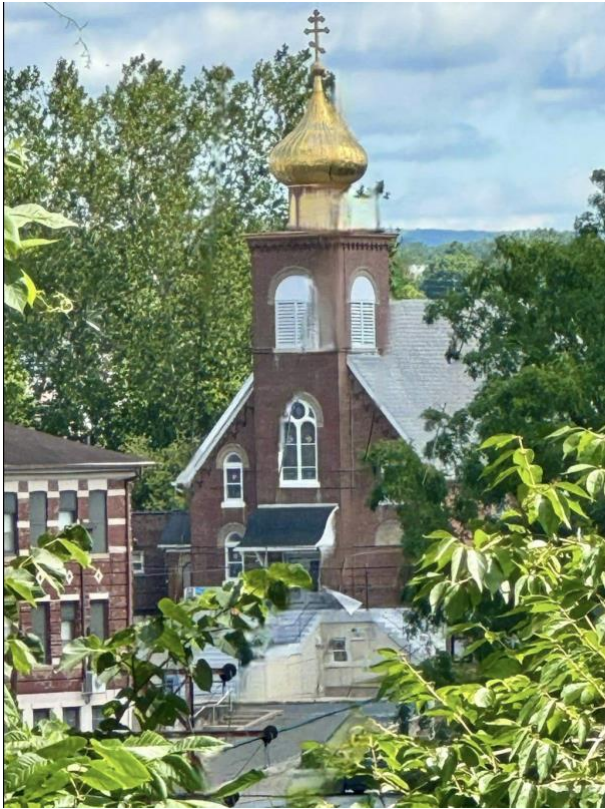


ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME



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

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Confessions: Vespers on the first Saturday of the month, Sundays before Liturgies, 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 for those who would like to send cards or good wishes

Please, don't throw away the bulletin. Recycle it or bring it back to the church. Thank you.

You are welcome to contribute articles or pictures to the bulletin. Let's make bulletins together! - Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avmuocoftheusa>

**Христос Хрещається! У Річці Йордані!
Молімося за мир в Україні**

**Christ Is Baptized! In the River of Jordan!
Let us pray for peace in Ukraine**

Sun. 26 Jan. 31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 6. Ven. XENOPHON and his wife, MARY and sons ARCADIUS & JOHN of Constantinople (6 C). Martyrs Presbyter ANANIAS, PETER & the 7 soldiers in Phoenicia (295) Ven. SYMEON the Ancient of Mt. Sinai Translation of the Relics of Abbot THEODORE of the Studion. Bishop JOSEPH of Thessalonica.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1: 15-17

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28

Welcome all for the breakfast. All collections will be sent to the St. Andrew Society charities (soup kitchens in Ukraine)

Annual Parish Meeting after the service. Reviewing the state of our Parish during the past year, discussion and possible amendments to our Constitution regarding membership eligibility.

03:00 PM Annual Water Blessing in Jordan Creek(1001 N 6th Ext. 1 Whitehall)

MENEION & SCRIPTURES

Mon. 27 Jan. Translation of the relics of St. John Chrysostom (438).

Eph. 4:25-32 Lk. 3:19-22

Tue. 28 Jan. St. Ephraim the Syrian (373). St. Isaac the Syrian, bishop of Nineveh (7 c.).

Eph. 5:20-26 Lk. 3:23-4:1

06:30 PM MOLEBEN FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE (ST. JOSAPHAT, BETHLEHEM).

Wed. 29 Jan. St. Laurence, recluse of the Kyiv Caves and bishop of Turov (1194).

Eph. 5:25-33 Lk. 4:1-15

Thu. 30 Jan. Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: St. Basil, St. Gregory, St. John Chrysostom.

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

Celebration of St. Anthony Feast in South Bound Brook (Welcome to go with Fr. Oleg)

Fri. 31 Jan. Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John (311).

Eph. 6:18-24 Lk. 4:22-30

Sat. 01 Feb. Martyr Tryphon of Campsada near Apamea in Syria (250).

1 Cor. 15:39-45 Lk. 4:31-36

04:00 PM GREAT VESPERS. EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE AND CONFESSIONS.

Sun. 02 Feb. THE MEETING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY. Blessing of candles.

12:00 PM Christmas Dinner at Prime for the Sisterhood and Varenyky makers (by sign up).

PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 6: The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb/ the guards became as dead men/ Mary stood by Your grave/ seeking Your Most Pure Body/ You captured Hell not being tempted by it/ You came to the Virgin granting life/ O Lord, Who rose from the dead/ 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 Ven. Xenophon, Tone 4: O God of our Fathers/ always act with kindness towards us/ take not Your mercy from us/ but guide our lives in peace/ through the prayers of Venerable Xenophon and his family.

Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 6: When Christ God, the Giver of Life/ raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery and with His mighty hand/ He bestowed resurrection on the human race/ He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all.

Glory... Kondak to Ven. Xenophon, Tone 4: You kept the commandments of the Master vigilantly,/ together with your wife and children/ and gladly distributed your wealth to the poor, O blessed one/ Therefore, you have inherited divine joy.

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 the life by the One/ Who dwelt within her ever-virginal womb.

Prokimen, Tone 6: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.

Verse: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God be not silent to me.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1: 15-17

Alleluia Verses, Tone 6. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and My Refuge, My God, in Whom I trust."

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. **Alleluia (3X)**

- Akathist in South Bound Brook and reception in the Seminary. Feb. 3, 7:00 PM. Welcome to go with Fr. Oleg.

-A new pysanky workshop will be held on March 22, 2025. Stay tuned for details!

-New candle prices: Large – \$4; Medium – \$3; Small – \$2. Thanks for the donations.

- If you are a living veteran or a surviving spouse of a veteran who served in the US Armed forces, regardless of location, during the period of Nov 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 you are eligible to receive a Vietnam Era lapel pin and commemorative certificate. On the approaching 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, Post 42 of the Ukrainian American Veterans, in cooperation with the Department of Defense, will be presenting commemorative pins at a ceremony in late March 2025. Please call Jerry Kindrachuk at 610-730-3265, or send your name, address, telephone, branch and term of service to

uavpost42@gmail.com. Please send the information by February 15, 2025 so that we can adequately plan the event.

- **Pyrohy schedule: Feb. 6**, 20. Mar. 6, 20. First come, first served (until we reach 250 doz.). Please volunteer for peeling, running, cooking/mashing, pinching and clean-up.

- **Church School.** Mrs. Mary Ost (Preschool/ Elementary) 8:55-9:20 AM. Ms. Karen Kankula (Secondary) at 8:45-9:15 AM. Fr. Oleg occasionally. **Welcome all children and youth.**

- **For Food Bank:** baby foods, canned potatoes, and meats, tuna, pasta, sauces, mac. & cheese.

- **Virtual Bible Study Day** - Wednesdays via Zoom: Pan-Orthodox at 12 PM. Meeting ID: 576 301 6482. Passcode: 238492. Tuesdays: with Fr. Demetrios at 7 PM. Ask Fr. Oleg for the link.

BIRTHDAYS:

30 Jan...Stephen Burk, John Yost

МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! MANY YEARS!

NECROLOGY:

Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, killed in the Russian invasion.

27 Jan...Izzat, Marcelene, & Graceielly Azar '06

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

29 Jan...Anna Karpenko '06

31 Jan...Zachary Kuts '37

01 Feb...Michael Plotsko '59, Stephen Kotoris '88

ВІЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ! MEMORY ETERNAL!

PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED: Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, wounded during the Russian aggression, Joseph Killino, Barbara Grason, Helen Crayosky, Rosemarie Pypiuk, Sandra Miller, Tom Petro Jr., priest Demetrius Nicoloudakis, priest Vasyl Dovgan, Martha Dowling, Michael Szymonifka Karen Kankula, Russel Kerick, Christina Truss, Jon Hewko, Matthew Vitushinsky, Nadine Savitz, William Savitz, Nicholas Alexander, William Leszczuk, Mary Berger, Jessica Meashock, Maria Joseph, Zachary Y. Siyufy, Raisa Melnychuk, Vasyl Beizyn, Lubov Shevchuk, Volodymyr Hranat, Ihor Broda, Steve Lelo, Gary Lelo, Debi Hutnick, Eric Hewko, Phil O'Brien, child Charlie, Juliana, Shirl Merolli, Kirk Swauger, Stephanie Donnelly, Danny Berro, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, 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, Ron Moser, Benjamin Tomeo, Olena Kalichenko.

We use **candles** in our prayers as a deeply symbolic practice that reflects our faith and devotion. Candles are often lit both for the living and the departed, signifying different spiritual intentions. Lighting a candle represents Jesus Christ, who is described in the Bible as the "light of the world" (John 8:12). The candle reminds believers of His presence and guidance in their lives.

When a candle is lit for the living, it is an act of intercession. The person lighting the candle prays for God's protection, blessings, and guidance upon those individuals.

It also reflects unity within the Church, symbolizing the collective prayers of the faithful.

For the departed, candles signify a prayer for their souls, asking God to grant them rest and peace in His eternal presence.

Orthodox Christians believe in the communion of saints, meaning the living and departed are spiritually connected. Lighting a candle for the dead is an expression of love, remembrance, and hope for their salvation.

The act of lighting a candle is a small offering to God, symbolizing selflessness and devotion. The melting wax represents the believer's prayer and sacrifice being offered to God.

The steady flame of a candle also represents eternal life and the soul's journey toward God.

Lighting a candle is an act of personal devotion and a symbolic offering to God. The candle represents the person's prayer, faith, and sacrifice, and the donation reflects their willingness to contribute to the Church as an act of love and gratitude.

By lighting a candle, individuals engage actively in worship and connect their personal intentions—whether for the living, the departed, or their own spiritual growth—with the communal life of the Church. In Orthodox Christianity, giving to the Church is seen as a way of expressing gratitude to God and contributing to the life of the Church community. Lighting a candle with a donation aligns with this principle, as it integrates prayer with material support for the faith.

In summary, lighting a candle in an Orthodox Church is both a spiritual practice and an opportunity to support the Church materially. It embodies the faithful's prayerful intentions while helping sustain the sacred space where the community gathers to worship God.

Reflection on the Gospel. The story is told that one day a beggar by the roadside asked for alms from Alexander the Great as he passed by. The man was poor and wretched and had no claim upon the ruler, no right even to lift a solicitous hand. Yet the emperor threw him several gold coins. A courtier was astonished at his generosity and commented, "Sir, copper coins would adequately meet a beggar's need. Why give him gold?" Alexander responded in royal fashion, "Copper coins would suit the beggar's need, but gold coins suit Alexander's giving:"

Let it not be said that Alexander's generosity exceeded that of our generous God. This week's readings make the point that God reads and responds generously to what is in a person's heart - regardless of where that person comes from.

Jesus is hanging out in Gentile territory when he encounters the Canaanite woman. She is doubly disqualified from asking Jesus for help, as she is an unclean Gentile and is an unaccompanied woman. Yet she clearly hopes Jesus can and will do something for her daughter who is tormented by a demon, so she dares to approach him with her request.

Initially, Jesus remains silent in the face of her question, but when his disciples urge him to get rid of the woman, Jesus says, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt 15:24). But perhaps even Jesus was impressed by the tenacity of this mother. She charges ahead, saying, "Lord, help me:" Jesus makes his refusal more pointed: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs" (Mt 15:26). But the quick-witted woman doesn't miss a beat.

"Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters" (Mt 15:27). Because of her faith, he heals her daughter.

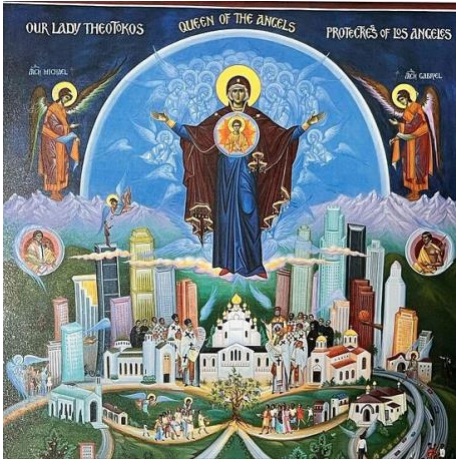
This is the kind of largesse which "suits" God's giving. But can we muster faith like that of the Canaanite woman? Christian journalist Philip Yancey writes: "Unlike the Canaanite woman, I am easily discouraged by the silence of God. When my prayers are not soon answered, I am tempted to give up and not ask

again. ... All too often I find myself ... dangling somewhere between belief and unbelief, wondering how much I miss out on by my lack of faith:'

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Are you persistent in prayer, even in the face of God's (apparent) silence?
- Do you believe that God reads and responds to what is in a person's heart, regardless of race, creed, gender, age, status and so on?
- Have you experienced the kind of generosity that "suits God's giving"? Do you try to extend that same kind of generosity to others?

ORTHODOX WORLD NEWS



Bucharest's National Cathedral will be consecrated in October 2025 by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Patriarch Daniel of Romania.

Archbishop Makarios of Australia led the Great Blessing of Waters of the Pacific Ocean on Sydney's coastal area.

Orthodox jurisdictions in America have mobilized emergency relief and financial aid to victims of the devastating fires in Los Angeles county.

Bishop Elpidios of Perth, Australia baptized 12 people at the Church of the Annunciation.

Bishop Nectarie (Petre) was enthroned at St. Columba's Church in Dublin Jan. 11th and will minister to the Romanian diaspora in Ireland and Iceland.

Feast of Theophany was observed by Patriarch Theodore II at Annunciation Cathedral in Alexandria followed by the Great Blessing of the Mediterranean Sea.



OVC SUNDAY - JANUARY 26



**LIVE YOUR FAITH.
SERVE FOR A YEAR.**

Orthodox Volunteer Corps (OVC) is a yearlong domestic service program for Orthodox young adults and an official Agency of the Assembly of Bishops. We offer young adults from across the country an immersive year of service in Pittsburgh and Boston, working at homeless shelters, after-school programs, free medical clinics, and more. In addition, Corps Members receive weekly formation & training in Orthodoxy and community-based leadership development, live in community with other Orthodox young adults, and engage local parishes. Housing, transportation, and food are 100% covered.

For more info email OVC staff Michael Sider-Rose and Kyra Limberakis at:

info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org



www.orthodoxvolunteercorps.org

OVC began in Pittsburgh in 2022 and expanded to Boston in 2024. To learn more, scan the QR code. Application deadline for Fall 2025 is February 20. Applicants must be 21-29 years old.

Nominate a young adult or apply yourself today!

Additions in Ukrainian

Євангеліє дня: 21 І, вийшовши звідти, Ісус пішов у землі Тирські і Сидонські. 22 І ось жінка-хананеянка, вийшовши з тих місць, закричала Йому: помилуй мене, Господи, Сину Давидів, дочка моя тяжко біснується. 23 Але Він не відповідав їй ні слова. І підійшли ученики Його і благали Його: відпусти її, бо кричить нам услід. 24 Він же сказав у відповідь: Я посланий лише до загинувших овець дому Ізраїлевого. 25 А вона, підійшовши, вклонилася Йому і каже: Господи, допоможи мені. 26 Він же сказав у відповідь: недобре взяти хліб у дітей і кинути псам. 27 Вона сказала: так, Господи! Але і пси їдять крихти, що падають зі столу господарів їхніх. 28 Тоді Ісус сказав їй у відповідь: о жінко! Велика віра твоя; нехай буде тобі, як ти хочеш. І зцілилася дочка її у ту ж мить.