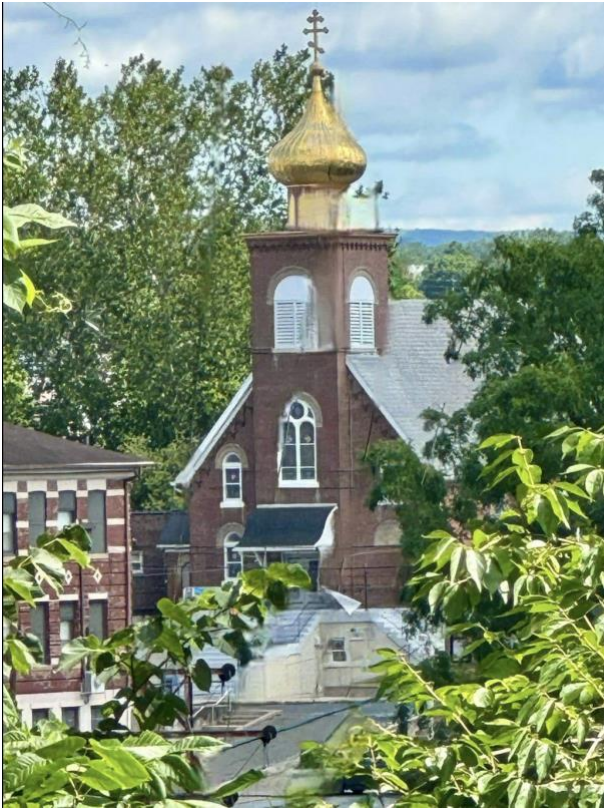


ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME



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 - (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

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 recycle the bulletin 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>

**Слава Ісусу Христу! Навіки Слава!
Молімося за мир в Україні.**

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
Let us pray for peace in Ukraine**

Sun. 02 Feb. 32th SUNDAY after PENTECOST. TONE 7. MEETING of our LORD, GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST in the TEMPLE. ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY.

Epistles: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 & Hebrews 7:7-17 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10 & Luke 2:22-40

Induction of the new Parish Board Members and Blessing of the Candles

Welcome all for the Coffee Hour – Запрошуємо на каву.

During the coffee hour: “Journey to Fullness” – 20-minute episodes about Orthodox Faith.

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

MENEION & SCRIPTURES

Mon. 03 Feb. Holy and Righteous Symeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess (1c.).

1 Pet. 2:21-3:9 Mk. 12:13-17

07:00 PM. Akathist in South Bound Brook, reception in Seminary. Welcome to go w/ Fr. Oleg.

Tue. 04 Feb. Hieromartyr Abramius, bishop of Arbela in Assyria (ca. 344-347).

1 Pet. 3:10-22 Mk. 12:18-27

06:30 PM MOLEBEN FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE (HOLY GHOST, EASTON).

Wed. 05 Feb. Holy Martyr Agatha (251). Martyr Theodoula (304).

1 Pet. 4:1-11 Mk. 12:28-37

Thu. 06 Feb. Virgin-martyr Dorothea (288). Martyr Julian (312).

1 Pet. 4:12-5:5 Mk. 12:38-44

Fri. 07 Feb. 1,003 martyrs of Nicomedia.

2 Pet. 1:1-10 Mk. 13:1-8

Sat. 08 Feb. Great-martyr Theodore Stratelates (319). Prophet Zechariah (520 BC).

2 Tim. 2:11-19 Lk. 18:2-8

04:00 PM GREAT VESPERS.

Sun. 09 Feb. 09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY.

PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Tropar Resurrection, Tone 7: By Your Cross You destroyed death/ To the thief You opened Paradise/ For the Myrrh-bearers You changed weeping into joy/ And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God/ to proclaim that You are risen/ granting the world great mercy.

Tropar of the Meeting, Tone 1: Rejoice, O Virgin Birth-Giver of God, Full of Grace/ From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God/ enlightening those who sat in darkness/ Rejoice and be glad, O Righteous Elder/ You accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls/ Who grants us the Resurrection.

Glory... Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 7: The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive/ for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers/ Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:/ The Savior has come to those in faith/ enter, you faithful into the Resurrection.

Now and ever... Kondak of the Meeting, Tone 1: By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb/ and blessed Simeon's hands, O Christ God/ Now You have come and save us through love/ Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians/ O only Lover of Mankind.

1st Prokimen in Tone 7: The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God. Offer young rams to the Lord.

2nd Prokimen(Song of Virgin Mary) in Tone 3: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistles: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 & Hebrews 7:7-17

Alleluia Verses, Tone 7: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation.

Gospels: Luke 19:1-10 & Luke 2:22-40

Instead of "It is right in truth..." O Virgin Birth-Giver of God, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve and save those who hope in you. **Irmos, Tone 3:** In the shadow and letter of the Law/ let us the faithful discern a figure/ every male child that opens the womb is holy to God/ Therefore, we magnify the first-born Word of the Father Who has no beginning/ the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. **Alleluia (3X)**

- Lunch and fellowship will be held at the historical Oscar Stine House (231 Bridge Street, Catasauqua) on March 2, the day before Great Lent, from 12:00 to 5:00 PM. See the flyer. Thanks to Leo Anicola for hosting.

-A pysanky workshop will be held on March 22, 2025. See flyer below and on website.

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

- 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.

- 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.

- **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:

03 Feb...Reader Maximos (Meashock)

05 Feb...George Alexander

МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! MANY YEARS!

NECROLOGY: Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, killed in the Russian invasion.

02 Feb...Maxim Lubianecky '33, Jennifer Melton '88

03 Feb...Ostap Hewko '28, Daniel Kereb '97, Catherine Huzela '10, Fedir Parchomenko'00

05 Feb...Anna Hewko '82 06 Feb...Slavka Werbicky (2 yrs. old) '26, Anna Piatok '42

07 Feb...Elizabeth Fedko '73, Pauline Ziatyk '83

08 Feb...John Woyewoda '82

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.

The Candle Blessing on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (Presentation of Christ in the Temple) in Orthodox Christianity is a sacred tradition that symbolizes Christ as the Light of the World and the illumination of humanity by His divine presence.

Meaning of the Candle Blessing: Christ as the Light of the World – The feast commemorates the moment when the righteous Elder Simeon met the infant Jesus Christ in the Temple and recognized Him as the Messiah, calling Him "a light to enlighten the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32). The blessing of candles reflects this theme of Christ bringing divine light into the world.

Spiritual Illumination – Candles are a symbol of faith, hope, and God's presence in the life of believers. When lit, they remind us to seek the spiritual light of Christ, which dispels the darkness of sin.

Protection and Blessing – Blessed candles are often taken home and used throughout the year during prayer, times of distress, or natural calamities, as they are believed to bring God's protection and grace into homes.

Purpose of the Candle Blessing: Liturgical Significance – The blessing occurs as part of the Divine Liturgy or a special service on the feast, reinforcing the connection between Christ's Presentation and the theme of divine light.

Personal and Family Use – we take the blessed candles home and light them during prayers, storms, illnesses, or important events, invoking God's protection and grace.

Communal Tradition – The blessing serves as a reminder to the faithful to carry the light of Christ in their daily lives and to live as "children of the light" (Ephesians 5:8).

This tradition aligns with the overall purpose of the feast: celebrating the revelation of Christ as the Light of the world and encouraging the faithful to welcome Him into their lives with faith and reverence.

Fr. Anthony Coniaris, a well-known Orthodox theologian and writer, often emphasized **the symbolic meaning of candles** in Orthodox Christianity. According to his teachings, candles hold deep spiritual significance, reflecting several key aspects of faith and worship. Some of the main symbolic meanings include:

1. Christ as the Light of the World. Candles symbolize Jesus Christ, who is the "Light of the World" (John 8:12). Just as a candle dispels darkness, Christ dispels the darkness of sin and ignorance.
2. The Presence of the Holy Spirit. The flame represents the Holy Spirit, as seen in the form of tongues of fire at Pentecost (Acts 2:3). Lighting a candle is a way of invoking God's presence in prayer.
3. The Faithful as the Light of the World. Christ calls His followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16).

The candle reminds believers to live in righteousness, shining with God's love and truth.

4. Sacrificial Love and Self-Giving. A candle gives light by burning itself, symbolizing self-sacrifice and love. Just as the candle melts away, Christians are called to give of themselves in service to God and others.

5. Prayer and the Ascension of the Soul. The rising flame symbolizes prayer ascending to God, just as incense rises in worship. It represents the believer's desire to be lifted up toward God in holiness.

6. Spiritual Purification. Fire is often associated with purification and divine presence (e.g., the Burning Bush in Exodus 3:2). The candle flame reminds the faithful of the refining power of God's grace.

7. Victory Over Darkness and Evil. The light of a candle is a symbol of victory over darkness, sin, and death. This is especially evident in Pascha (Easter), when the Resurrection is proclaimed with lighted candles.

In summary, according to Fr. Anthony Coniaris, candles in Orthodox worship are not just decorative but deeply theological symbols, reflecting Christ's light, prayer, sacrifice, and spiritual purification. Lighting a candle is an act of faith and devotion, reminding believers of their calling to live as bearers of divine light in the world.

We recommend to read the book "Sacred Symbols that Speak" by Fr. Antony Coniaris to learn more about the major symbols of the Orthodox Church.

ORTHODOX WORLD NEWS



Metropolitan Benjamin presided over the consecration of the restored Church of the

Transfiguration at the 900 year old Polotsk Monastery built during the lifetime of St. Euphrosynia of Polotsk.

Metropolitan Tikhon of the Orthodox Church of America made a pastoral visit to the Diocese of Mexico in January.

Download Ukrainian Orthodox Word using your cellphone camera:



UOC of the USA Honors Metropolitan Antony as He Celebrates Birthday, Names Day and Anniversary of Enthronement

УПЦ США Вшановує митрополита Антонія з нагоди іменин, дня народження та річниці інтронізації



During the Nativity season, 10 catechumens were baptized at Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Kodiak, Alaska.

Archbishop Anastasios, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Albania, fell asleep in the Lord, Jan. 25th at the age of 95. He was responsible for the restoration of the Church from its ruins after 50 years of ruthless atheistic communist rule.



Pysanky Workshops



Saturday, March 22, 2025

9 a.m.–12 noon **-OR-** 1:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church
1301 Newport Avenue
Northampton, PA 18067

\$40 per person

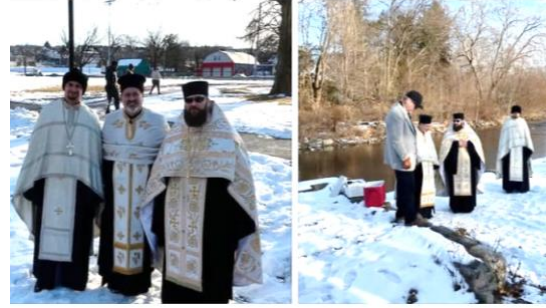
(\$5 non-refundable registration fee + \$35 @ the door)

- ✦ Each participant starts with an emptied, pre-marked egg ready to start creating your design.
- ✦ All materials, including kistka, wax, dyes, etc. are provided.
- ✦ A gloss coating will be added to the finished egg making your pysanky ready to take home and display.
- ✦ Workshops are for beginners or more experienced writers who wish to use the available materials to write on their own.
- ✦ Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Register: Contact **Jessie Hnatow** at jessie.hnatow@gmail.com or **610-428-8389** (text only) by **March 8** for registration information. Class sizes are limited.

Instructors – Christina Deutsch and Jessie Hnatow

Water Blessing on the Jordan creek:



Additions in Ukrainian

Євангеліє дня: 22 І коли настали дні очищення за законом Мойсеєвим, то принесли Його до Єрусалима, щоб поставити перед Господом, 23 як написано в законі Господньому, щоб усяка дитина чоловічої статі, яка розкриває утробу, була посвячена Господеві. 24 І щоб принести в жертву, як сказано в законі Господньому, дві горлиці або двоє голуб'ят. 25 Був тоді в Єрусалимі чоловік на ім'я Симеон. Він був муж праведний та благочестивий, що чекав утіхи Ізраїлевої, і Дух Святий був на ньому. 26 Йому було провіщено Духом Святим, що він не побачить смерти, доки не побачить Христа Господнього. 27 І був він приведений Духом у храм. І коли батьки принесли Немовля Ісуса, щоб зробити з Ним за законним звичаєм, 28 він взяв Його на руки, благословив Бога і сказав: 29 нині відпускаєш раба Твого, Владико, за словом Твоїм, з миром, 30 бо бачили очі мої спасіння Твоє, 31 яке Ти приготував перед лицем усіх народів, 32 світло на просвітлення язичників і славу народу Твого Ізраїля. 33 Йосиф же і Мати Його дивувалися сказаному про Нього. 34 І благословив їх Симеон і сказав Марії, Матері Його: ось лежить Цей на падіння і на піднесення багатьох в Ізраїлі і на знак сперечання, — 35 і Тобі Самій душу пройме меч, — щоб відкрилися помисли багатьох сердець. 36 Тут була й Анна-пророчиця, дочка Фануїлова, з коліна Асирова, яка досягла глибокої старости, проживши з чоловіком сім років від дівочтва свого; 37 вдова вісімдесяти чотирьох років, яка не відходила від храму, постом і молитвою служачи день і ніч. 38 Прийшовши тієї години, вона славилася Господа і говорила про Нього всім, хто чекав спасіння в Єрусалимі. 39 І коли виконали все за законом Господнім, повернулися до Галилеї, до міста свого Назарета. 40 Дитя зростало і міцніло духом, сповнюючись премудрости, і благодать Божя була на Ньому.