***Feb. 21, 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**

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**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. 21 Feb. (Feb. 8th) SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and PHARISEE. AFTERFEAST of the MEETING of the LORD in the TEMPLE. Tone 4. Great Martyr THEODORE STRATELATES (319). Prophet ZACHARIAH of the 12 minor prophets (520 B.C.) SAVA II, Archbishop of Serbia.**

**2 Timothy 3:10-15 Luke 18:10-14**

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

**Mon. 22 Feb.** Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch (ca. 257). Hieromartyrs Marcellus, of Sicily.

**2 Pet. 1:20–2:9 Mk. 13:9-13**

**Tue. 23 Feb.** Ven. Prochorus of the Kyiv Caves (1107). St. Anna, wife of prince Yaroslav.

**2 Pet. 2:9-22 Mk. 13:14-23**

**Wed. 24 Feb.** St. Theodora, wife of Emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast (867).

**2 Pet. 3:1-18 Mk. 13:24-31**

**Thu. 25 Feb.** St. Meletius, archbishop of Antioch (381).

**1 Jn. 1:8–2:6 Mk. 13:31–14:2**

**Fri. 26 Feb.** St. Martinian (422). Venn. Zoe of Bethlehem and Virgin Photina

**1 Jn. 2:7-17 Mk. 14:3-9**

**Sat. 27 Feb.** St. Auxentius, monk of Bithynia (470). St. Maron, hermit of Syria (423).

**2 Tim. 3:1-9 Lk. 20:45–21:4**

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

**Sun. 28 Feb. Sunday of Prodigal Son.**

**1 Cor. 6:12-20 Lk. 15:11-32**

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

**Humility.** Our Lord teaches us in today's Gospel parable that humility Is a fundamental requirement for all of us. "For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18: 14). He also taught by His own example when He said, "Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (Matthew 11:29).

Humility is advised in many books of the Old and New Testament. In the Book of Proverbs we read: "The scoffers He scorns but to the humble He shows favor" (3:34). "When pride comes, scorn comes, but with the modest is wisdom" (11:2).

The Book of Sirach tells us, "My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts" (3:17). "The greater you are, the more you must practice humility, and you will find favor with the Lord" (3:18). "Humble your heart exceedingly, for fire and worms are the punishment of the ungodly" (7:17). "Pride is detested in the sight of the Lord and of men, and injustice is wrong in the sight of both" (10:7). "A man begins to be proud when he departs from the Lord and his heart forsakes his creator. For pride begins with sin and the man who clings to it will rain down abominations. For this reason the Lord brings unheard of cala­mities upon them and overturns them utterly" (10:12-13).

St. James the Apostle adds his advice. "God opposes the proud but He gives generously to the humble" (4:6). "Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up" (4:10). We must remember as gold is tested in fire, we are tested in the furnace of humility.

**Exalted – humbled (illustration).** A brilliant seminary student from New England was full of pride in his accomplishments. He had received perfect grades in all his theology subjects. Because of his superior academic standing. He was chosen to be the guest preacher one Sunday at a large New York City church. Later that Sunday morning, he found himself running late, and he almost missed his train. With his suitcase of books clutched to his chest, he ran down the platform and jumped on board.only to discover that all the seats were taken. He began to walk from one car to the next until, at last, he reached an empty car. With a sigh of relief he sat down, spread his books out and began putting the finishing touches on his sermon. At that moment, the porter came through and said, "I'm sorry, sir, but this car has been reserved for a group of mental patients we're picking up at the next stop." The student replied, "That's all right. I'll take full responsibility. I'm on my way to preach in one of the biggest churches in New York."

When the train stopped at the next station, the mental patients boarded the car and began milling around the student. They were escorted by an attendant wearing a white jacket and holding a clipboard in his hand. The attendant said in a loud voice, "All right. Everyone, sit down and be quiet while I make my count." After they had settled down, the man with the clipboard began to count the occupants in the car, pointing his finger at each person: "One. Two. Three, four, five. Six..."until he came to the seminary student. "Who are you?" the man asked. The student replied, "I'm a divinity student and I'm being rewarded for my theological expertise. I suppose one could say that I'm a neo-kierkegaardian existentialist. Actually, I'm just now preparing an address on 'the eschatological implications and general efficacy of the redemption as expressed in the atonement.'" Whereupon, the man in the white jacket pointed his finger directly at the young man and continued: "...seven, eight, nine, ten..." "For everyone who humbles himself will be exalted, and he who exalts himself will be humbled" (lk.14:11).

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY of JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and with gladness told the Apostles: death is over thrown. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Tropar of the Feast of the Meeting, Tone 1**

Rejoice, 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, Righteous Elder Simeon; you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us Resurrection.

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

**Kondak of the Triodion, Tone 4**

Let us flee from the proud boasting of the Pharisee and learn the humility of the Publican. With groaning let us cry out to the Savior: Be merciful to us, for You alone are always ready to forgive.

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

**Kondak of the Feast, Tone 1**

By Your birth, Christ our God, You sanctified the Virgin’s womb and blessed Simeon’s hands; and now You have come and saved us. Grant peace in the midst of aggression to Your community and strengthen the people embraced by Your Love, Only Lover of all Mankind.

**Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 4.** How marvelous are Your works, O Lord. In wisdom You have made them all.

**Verse:** Bless the Lord, my soul. O Lord my God, You are very great.

**Prokimen of the Feast, Tone 3.** My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 4.** Bend Your bow and proceed prosperously and reign because of truth, meekness and righteousness.

Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word. A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of Your people, Israel.

**Gospel: Luke 18:10-14**

**Instead of “It is right in truth…”**

Virgin Birth-Giver of God, Hope of all Christians; Protect, preserve and save all who hope in you.

**Irmos: Tone 1**

In the shadow and letter of the law, let us, the faithful discern a prototype. Every male child who opens the womb shall be sanctified to God. Therefore, the First-Born Word and Son of the Father without beginning and the First-Born Child of an Unwedded Mother, we magnify.

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia (3X)

**2021 Spring pierogi schedule:** March 18; April 1, 15; May 6, 13, 20. For orders or volunteers please call Helen: 610-261-4575.

SR UOL – Since we have not held our annual **“Souper Bowl Continental Breakfast”** – you can still make a contribution to St. Andrew’s Society. St. Andrew’s Society has been using our annual donations to do good for the needy in Ukraine and we want to continue supporting this cause. If you are interested in donating, checks should be made to the **SR UOL of the USA** – mailed to Joseph Goodge, 1924 State Route 208, Pulaski, PA 16143. Thank you!

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**: Every Wednesday evening, the Office of Youth Ministry holds 30 minute sessions, with a different theme for each week of the month via Zoom! For details, go to <https://www.uocyouth.org/faithhopeandlovehomeedition>.

**For the food banks**: We were assigned baby foods, but they also needed cans of potatoes, tuna fish, canned meats, pasta, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**24 Feb…Alexander Grason**

**26 Feb…Pani Matushka Olha Kravchenko**

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**22 Feb… Tyler Pavlinski, ‘16Mary Plaska ’58, Sophie Fedko ’61, Paul Reznick ’86**

**23 Feb…Alexander Chuhij ’30, Fenny Magerka ’56, John Fedko ’58,**

**Bishop Joseph (Zhuk) ‘34**

**24 Feb…Nancy Fogel (infant) ‘39**

**26 Feb…Priest Michael Zemlachenko ‘13**

**27 Feb…Anna Kowalyshyn ‘91**

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**WE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** of the ill-afflicted: Walter, Mary Ann Dworakivsky, child Oleksandra, Fr. George and Pani Oksana Bazylevsky, Michael Hnatow, Catherine Kochenash, Joan Molnar, Bill Ketterer, Paul, Richard Stetch, 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.

**St. Theophan the Recluse**: If a man is humble he never thinks that he has been treated worse than he deserves. He stands so low in his own estimation that no one however hard he may try can think more poorly of him than he thinks of himself. This is the whole secret of the matter.

What is a publican? A political office created by the Romans to help collect taxes in the provinces. Actually, the title “tax collector” is more correct than the older term “publican” in referring to the lowest rank in the structure. Zacchaeus is called a “chief among the publicans” ([Luke 19:2](file:////desk/%3Fpassage%3Dlu%2B19%3A2)), probably indicating one who contracted with the government to collect taxes, and who in turn hired others to do the actual work. In New Testament times people bid for the job of chief tax collector and then exacted the tax plus a profit from the citizens. Most of the offices were filled by Romans, although some natives got the bids. Publicans were held in the lowest esteem because of their excessive profits, being placed in the same category as harlots ([Matthew 21:32](file:////desk/%3Fpassage%3Dmt%2B21%3A32)). Jesus was accused of eating with and befriending them ([Matthew 9:11](file:////desk/%3Fpassage%3Dmt%2B9%3A11)).

**If You Think You are Humble that Means You are Not.** A monk said: 'Every time you feel a sense of superiority or a touch of vanity, examine your conscience. Ask yourself if you are keeping all the commandments, if you are loving your enemies and weeping for their faults, if you consider yourself an unprofitable servant and the worst sinner in the world. But even after this examination of conscience, do not take too high an opinion of yourself as if you were perfect: such an idea would wreck everything!'Another monk said: 'Whoever is praised and honored more than is deserved suffers a great loss, while the one who does not receive honors from others will be glorified in heaven.'

People asked a monk: 'What is humility?' He replied: 'Humility is if a brother or sister sins against you and you forgive them before they come to ask you to.'

A brother asked a monk: 'What is humility?' The monk said: 'To do good to whoever does evil to us.' The brother insisted: 'And if one does not achieve as much?' The monk's reply was: 'Then go away and try to keep your mouth shut.' (Sayings of the Desert Fathers**)**

**Pride**
Pride is the first of the seven deadly sins. One falls into
pride when one lacks trust in God and his mercy and becomes
arrogant, hypocritical, and self-centered. Reinhold Neibuhr, who
has been referred to as the twentieth-century theologian of sin,
summed up humanity's basic sin - our unwillingness to acknowledge
our creatureliness, our self-elevation - in one word, PRIDE.

Neibuhr described the four types of pride:

**1. The pride of power wants power to gain security for self or
to maintain a power position considered to be secure.
2. Intellectual pride rises from human knowledge that pretends
to be ultimate knowledge. It presumes to be final truth.
3. Moral pride claims that it's standards for virtue test and
measure all righteousness. Neibuhr observed that most evil is
done by "good" people who do not know that they are not good.
4. Spiritual pride is self-glorification. It claims that "self's
righteousness" conforms to God's righteousness.**