***April 11, 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

**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. 11 Apr. (Mar. 22) FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST. TONE 3. Venerable JOHN CLIMACUS (“The Ladder”). Martyr MARK, Bishop of Arethusa, CIRIL and others (364). Venerable JOHN the Anchorite of Egypt (4th C.). EUSTATHIUS the Confessor, Bishop of Kios Bithynia (9th C.)**

**Hebrews 5:13-20 Ephesians 5:9-19**

**Mark 9:17-31 Matthew 4:24-5:12**

***5:00 PM Passia or the Divine Suffering of Christ*** (***Allentown)***

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings**

**Mon. 12 Apr.** Ven. John (Climacus) of Sinai, author of The Ladder (649). Prophet Joad.

**Is. 37:33–38:6 Gen. 13:12-18 Prov. 14:27–15:4**

**Tue. 13 Apr.** St. Hypatius the Wonderworker, bishop of Gangra (ca. 360).

**Is. 40:18-31 Gen. 15:1-15 Prov. 15:7-19**

**Wed. 14 Apr.** Ven. Mary the Egyptian (522).

**Is. 41:4-14 Gen. 17:1-9 Prov. 15:20–16:9**

***6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts***

**Thu. 15 Apr.** Ven. Titus the Wonderworker (9th c.).

**Is. 42:5-16 Gen. 18:20-33 Prov. 16:17–17:17**

***6:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew of Crete***

**Fri. 16 Apr.** Ven. Nicetas the Confessor, abbot of Medikion (824).

**Is. 45:11-17 Gen. 22:1-18 Prov. 17:17–18:5**

**Sat. 17 Apr. Glorification of the Birth-Giver of God (Akafist Saturday).**

**Heb. 9:24-28 Mk. 8:27-31**

***9:00 AM Akathist to our Most Holy Lady Birth giver of God***

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

**Sun. 18 Apr. Fifth Sunday of the Great Lent. Venerable Mary of Egypt.**

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. (40 people; available Online)***

***5:00 PM Passia or the Divine Suffering of Christ* (*our church)***

**The Four Faiths.** Right after the Transfiguration, between it and the Passion, part of the movement toward Jerusalem, Christ comes down the mountain with Sts. Peter, James, and John. Quite a scene meets them: a crowd of Pharisees and others surrounds the remaining disciples. Christ question the scribes, but the only reply given is from the father of the sick boy. He entreats Christ to heal his son. After a short dialogue with the man, Christ heals the boy. Then takes his disciples aside to teach them.

**The Faith of the Pharisees** (Blessed Theophylact).they saw the sheep without their master and used the opportunity to challenge their faith. They believed that the disciple’s faith in their Master was misplaced, sought to correct them. They could not recognize Christ for who he was, so they attacked him and sought to undermine the faith of those who were beginning to understand Him and His desire for our salvation. Who else is like that, like wolves seeking stray sheep? Who is the most vulnerable? Our youth. They are young in their faith, often just beginning to understand. Then, just as the young disciples were attacked by wolves as soon as they were separated from Christ (and his teaching and protection), we send our youth out amongst the modern Pharisees at our universities and in the world (we must give serious attention to this and how to prepare and protect ourselves from their predations). In short, the Pharisees have no faith, and it is their desire to destroy the faith of others.

**The Faith of the Father.** He is looking for someone to help his son. He has come to a necessary fact: that he needs help (would that everyone were so wise). He has probably looked many places. The disciples (and Pharisees) could not help him. Christ wants to help the man, not just by saving his son, but by teaching about the true source of power and healing: faith in the Son of God.

**The Faith of the Disciples.** Three years of learning from the ultimate Rabbi. But still weak (who is the greatest? Even St. Peter had challenged Christ’s fundamental teaching about His coming Passion.).

**The "Faith" of Christ.** We are to be perfect as He is perfect. How do we get there? Believe in Him as the Son of God. As the great Healer, Teacher, and (most importantly) Savior. Grow in His Love and Knowledge. This does not happen by itself. Like everything Good, perfection must be worked for.

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY of BASIL the GREAT**

**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 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 to St. John Climacus, Tone 1**

Dweller of the Wilderness and Angel in the Flesh; you were shown to be a wonderworker, O our God-Bearing Father John. You received Heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer. You heal the bodies and souls of those who approach you in faith. Glory to the One Who gave you strength. Glory to the One Who crowned you. Glory to the One, Who through you grants healing to all.

**Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 3**

On this day You rose from the tomb, Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices. With the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your Power.

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

Kondak to St. John Climacus, Tone 4

On the height of abstinence did the Lord place you, O our Father and Teacher John, as an unerring star which enlightens the ends of the earth.

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

**Kondak of the Dormition, Tone 2**

Neither the tomb nor death has 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 Resurrection, Tone 3**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

**Verse:** Clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with a joyful voice.

**Prokimen to St. John Climacus, Tone 4**

The saints shall rejoice in glory and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

**Epistles:** Hebrews 6:13-20 & Ephesians 5:9-19

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 3**

Lord, in You have I hoped; let me never be put to shame.

**Verse:** They who are planted in the House of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**Gospels:** Mark 9:17-31 & Matthew 4:25-5:12

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

All of creation rejoices in you, Lady, Full of Grace, the assembly of angels and the human race, Sanctified Temple and Spiritual Paradise, the Glory of Virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child; our God before the ages. He made your Body into a throne, and your womb more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, Lady Full of Grace. Glory to you.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. The righteous man shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of any evil report. Alleluia (3X).

**Donations in Memory of Olga Dorosh – Michael Hnatow $25.**

**SR UOL Cheesecake Sale for PASCHA.** Order by Sunday, April 18 for delivery on Sunday, April 25. Cost is $20. Please place orders with Linda Winters.

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

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

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

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**April 12:** Lesya Semonovych, Janelle Kroboth

**April 17:** Martha Sawarynski

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**April 11:** Katherine Bochnoch ’70, Wasyl Sawka ‘93

**April 12:** John Roman ‘33

**April 13:** Theodosia Gontar ‘83

**April 14:** John Shushinsky ’52, Nicholas Gill ’67, Harry Kowalchuk ’83,

 George Kowalchuk, ’95, Paul Kochenash ’99, Volodymyr Pypiuk ‘73

**April 15:** Anne Yaremchuk ‘01

**April 17:** Joakim Krawchuk ’30, Russell Kowalyshyn ’88,

 Anna Yost ’03, Yaroslava Zawierucha ‘12

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**WE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** of the ill-afflicted: Michael, Raisa, child Oleksandra, child Alexandria, Elizabeth, Daria, Catherine Kochenash, Joan Molnar, Bill Ketterer, Paul, Richard Stetch, Evan, Brandon and Stacy Snyder, Aaliyah Osmun, Michael Mack, 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.

**It’s a conversation between a recent convert and an unbelieving friend:**

*"So you have been converted to Christ?"
"Yes."
"Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me what country was he born in?"
"I don’t know."
"What was his age when he died?"
"I don’t know."
"How many sermons did he preach?"
"I don’t know."
"You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ!"
"You are right. I am ashamed at how little I know about him. But this much I do know: Three years ago I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling to pieces. My wife and children would dread my return home each evening. But now I have given up drink; we are out of debt; ours is now a happy home. All this Christ has done for me. This much I know of him!"*

To really know Christ is to be transformed by him.

To really pray is to find ourselves in Christ’s mind and heart. To really pray is to surrender ourselves to His love for us. To fast is to empty ourselves and make room for Christ! We say we pray. We ask, but we really don’t do it with conviction. When we say the Our Father, there is always this introduction: And make us worthy O Lord that we may with confidence and without condemnation call upon you and say. When we pray with confidence things happen in our lives. When we surrender our own will and our own desires and our own ideas about how things should be done, we make room for God to act. When we really fast and pray we make room for transformation in our lives. To really know Christ is to be transformed by Him. To really pray is to let Christ be the center of our lives. To really fast is to make room in our will and in our hearts for God because we are emptied of ourselves. We are heading to the Cross. We are making that journey to our salvation. We are walking with the Savior. Jesus is leading us to the Cross. Let us walk with Him. Let Him lead the way. Let us surrender our fears and our weakness to his grace and mercy. Then we will rise with Him and be transformed by Him.

When I fail, He lifts me up!
When I fail, He forgives!
When I am weak, He is strong!
When I am lost, He is the way!
When I am afraid, He is my courage!
When I stumble, He steadies me!
When I am hurt, He heals me!
When I am broken, He mends me!
When I am blind, He leads me!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!
When I face trials, He is with me!
When I face persecution, He shields me!
When I face problems, He comforts me!
When I face loss, He provides for me!
When I face Death, He carries me Home!
He is everything for everybody, everywhere!
He is God, He is faithful.
I am His and he is mine!