

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



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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.

- Please, don't throw away the bulletin. Bring it back to the church. Thank you.

- Welcome to contribute articles or pictures to the bulletin. Let's make bulletins together!

- Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avmuocoftheusa>



Christ is Among us! He is and always will be!

Христос Посеред Нас! Є і Буде!

Let's pray for peace in Ukraine

Моли́мось за мир в Україні

Sun. 10 27th Sunday after PENTECOST. TONE 2. Great Martyr JAMES the Persian (421) Ven. PALLADIUS of Thessaloniki. 17 Monk-Martyrs in India (4th C.) Ven. ROMANUS the Wonderworker of Cilicia (5th C.)

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

DURING THE COFFEE HOUR: Presentation on Isaiah 44 Project – Making Wells in Africa

LITURGICAL MENEION & SCRIPTURE READINGS (NATIVITY FAST-ADVENT)

Mon. 11 Dec. Martyr Stephen the New of Mt. St. Auxentius (767).
2 Tim. 2:20-26 Lk. 19:37-44

Tue. 12 Dec. Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs (250). Martyr Philumenus (274).
2 Tim. 3:16–4:4 Lk. 19:45-48
06:30 PM ***MOLEBEN FOR UKRAINE (Holy Ghost, Easton)***

Wed. 13 Dec. Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (62).
1 Cor. 4:9-16 Jn. 1:35-51
05:00 PM ***AKATHIST to the Holy Apostle Andrew.***

Thu. 14 Dec. Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor (792).
Titus 1:5–2:1 Lk. 20:9-18
05:00 PM ***AKATHIST TO THE ICON OF MOTHER OF GOD “Pantanassa – Queen of all” with the anointing of the Holy Oil from a Miraculous Icon.***

Fri. 15 Dec. Prophet Habakkuk (7th c. B.C.). Martyr Myrope of Chios (251).
Titus 1:15–2:10 Lk. 20:19-26

Sat. 16 Dec. Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas’ monastery (558).
Eph. 1:16-23 Lk. 12:32-40
02:00 PM Christmas at the Seminary – caroling of seminarians.
GREAT VESPERS CANCELED

Sun. 17 Dec. ***09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY. St. Nicholas program upstairs after the Liturgy(welcome kids and youth)***

PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 2: When You descended to death, Life Immortal, You slayed Hell with the splendor of Your Divinity. And when from the depths, You raised the dead, all the Powers of Heaven cried out: Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You.

Tropar of the Dormition of the Mother of God, 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 Great Martyr James Tone 4: You astounded all, long-suffering James, by enduring horrible tortures with great patience. As the evil assembly performed the slaughter, you uttered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord. Through your sufferings you received your crown, and came to the throne of the heavenly King, Christ God. Entreat Him to save our souls.

Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 2: Hell became fearful, Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose and all creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You, and the world my Savior, praises You forever.

Glory... Kondak to James the Persian, Tone 2: You listened to your faithful wife and contemplated the judgment of God, holy James; you despised the threats and commands of the Persians, accepting the cutting of your body as though you were a vine. Therefore, you were revealed as a martyr worthy of honor.

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 Life, by the One Who dwelt within her ever-virginal womb.

Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 2: The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Epistle: St. Paul to the Ephesians 6:10-17

Alleluia Verses, Tone 2: May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble. May the Name of the God of Jacob protect you.

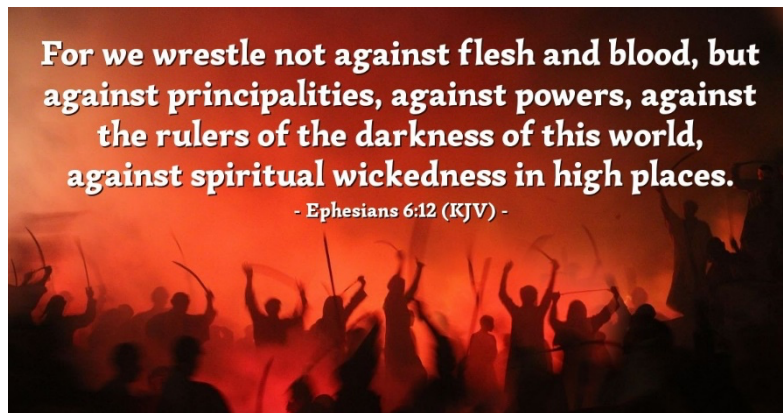
Lord, save the king and hear us, on the day we call out to You.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

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

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- Ephesians 6:12 (KJV) -



- We thank our Dean Father Robert for visiting us and making the meeting, presentations and teaching Liturgy. Thank you all who participated!
- Christmas concert at St. Nicholas OCA. Tonight 3:30 PM. 980 BridlePath Rd, Bethlehem.
- Please bring new warm clothing. It will be donated to the needy people in Ukraine.
- Exhibition of rag dolls made by Oleksandra Garnago. Saturday, Dec. 23 (1:00-4:00 PM) Sunday, December 24 At the Church hall
- Pyrohy schedule: December 21. First come, first served (until we reach 300 doz.). Please volunteer for peeling, running, cooking/mashing, pinching and clean-up.
- Church School is every Sunday: Mrs. Mary Ost (Preschool/ Elementary) 8:55-9:20 AM. Mrs. Karen Osmun (Secondary) at 8:45-9:15 AM. **Welcome all children and youth.**
- **For Food Bank:** baby foods, canned potatoes, and meats, tuna, pasta, sauces, mac. & cheese.
- **Virtual Bible Study Day** - every Wednesday via Zoom: No1 Pan-Orthodox at 12 PM. Meeting ID: 576 301 6482. Passcode: 238492. No2 with a professor of Saint Sophia Seminary Fr. Demetrios at 7 PM. Ask Fr. Oleg for the link.

BIRTHDAYS:

12 Dec...Samuel Scioscia, Maria Sawarynski, Jennifer Grason

15 Dec...Kathleen Kuchinos

MHOГAЯ ЛИТА! MANY YEARS!

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

10 Dec...Charles Schmall '62, Anna Kochenash '08

11 Dec...Anna Lukar '21, Pauline Dumiak (infant) '26

12 Dec...Marta Stadnyk '98, Anastasiya Paraskiva '96

14 Dec...Peter Sawka '49

15 Dec...Eva Lubenesky '77, Michael Dorosh '17

16 Dec...Archbishop Vsevolod (Majdansky) '07

ВІЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ! MEMORY ETERNAL!

PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED: Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, wounded during the Russian aggression, Paul Kochenash, Helen Crayosky, Barbara Grason, Rosemarie Pypiuk, priest Demetrius Nicoloudakis, priest Vasyl Dovgan, Matthew Vitushinsky, Nadine Savitz, William Savitz, Nicholas Alexander, Vladimir Krasnopera, Tom Petro Jr., William Leszczuk, Mary Berger, Jessica Meashock, James Osmun, Zachary Y. Siyufy, Ruslana Reznik, Lubov Slonova, Raisa Melnychuk, Vasyl Beizyn, Volodymyr Hranat, Ihor Broda, Matthew Barber, Debi Hutnick, Eric Hewko, Phil O'Brien, child Charlie, Juliana, Shirl Merolli, Kirk Swauger, Stephanie Donnelly, Danny Berro, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Philippe Chasseuil, Aaliyah Osmun, Brendan Phillips, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Joann Hoodmaker, Norman Betrous, Robert Zarayko Jr.

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE WORLD



Archbishop Damianos of Mt. Sinai & Abbot of St. Catherine's Monastery made an official visit to the USA attending Liturgy at St. Nicholas Shrine at Ground Zero in NYC.

Olympic wrestler, Luka Kurtanidze of Georgia, two time winner of bronze at the summer Olympics has become a priest in the Georgian Orthodox Church.



The Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America is raising funds for an infant orphanage in Mexico. St. Innocent Orphanage, founded in 1996 on a 16 acre ranch in Rosarito, has been operating for boys only and will now care for 12 infants per year.



Patriarch Theodore II of Africa visited Burundi where he was greeted by Metropolitan Innocent of Burundi & Rwanda. He also consecrated the new Church of Ss. Athanasius & John Theologian in Gihunge.



Недільне Євангеліє: Луки 13:10-17. 10 В одній із синагог Він навчав у суботу. 11 Там була жінка, що мала духа немочі років вісімнадцять: вона була скорчена і ніяк не могла

випростатись. 12 Ісус, побачивши її, покликав і сказав їй: жінко, ти звільнена від твоєї недуги. 13 І поклав на неї руки; і вона зараз же випросталась і почала славити Бога. 14 При цьому начальник синагоги, обурюючись, що Ісус зцілив її в суботу, сказав народові: є шість днів, в які дозволено робити; в ті і приходьте зцілятися, а не в день суботній. 15 Господь сказав йому у відповідь: лицеміре, чи не відв'язує кожний з вас у суботу вола свого або осла від ясел і не веде напувати? 16 А цю дочку Авраамову, яку зв'язав сатана ось уже вісімнадцятий рік, чи не належало визволити від цих пут у день суботній? 17 І коли Він говорив це, усі, що противилися Йому, засоромились; і всі люди раділи всім славним ділам Його.

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath. The Gospel lesson today recalls Jesus healing a woman who suffered from an infirmity for a lengthy time. At the word of command the woman is healed, and stands erect for the first time in eighteen years. Yet, this marvelous work of Jesus was the object not of praise and wonder but of criticism and indignation. The chief of the synagogue declared to the congregation that Jesus had broken Jewish law by healing the woman on the Sabbath, which was understood to be a day of rest in the most literal sense.

Jesus countered this accusation by explaining that if, out of necessity, a straying oxen would be sought out on the Sabbath or beasts given food and drink, then how much more righteous was it to restore to health a child of Abraham. Hearing this, the opponents of Jesus were filled with confusion and His followers rejoiced.

We, too, as followers of Jesus, can rejoice with His disciples at the marvelous deed performed on this occasion. We can see the hypocrisy of the synagogue chiefs attitude. Yet, we can also be guilty of the same type of hypocrisy and self-righteousness when we find ourselves lacking in the humility to admit when we are wrong, or that the viewpoint of another might have more merit than our own. May this Gospel lesson enlighten our minds and hearts to always be open to true humility, which both admits mistakes and acknowledges the good in others.

Ephesians 6:12 is a verse that describes the spiritual warfare that Christians face in their lives. This verse means that the real enemies of the Christian are not other human beings, but the demonic forces that influence them and the world. These forces are organized in a hierarchy of evil, from the lower-level demons to the higher-level principalities and powers. They operate in the realm of the air, which is the space between the earth and the heaven, where Satan and his angels were cast out after their rebellion against God (Rev 12:7-9). The orthodox christian tradition teaches that the Christian must be vigilant and prepared to resist these evil forces, by putting on the full armor of God, as described in the following verses of Ephesians 6:13-17.

This armor consists of the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Each of these elements represents a spiritual virtue or weapon that the Christian must cultivate and use in the battle against the enemy. Also crucial is prayer as a way of communicating with God and receiving His strength and guidance in the spiritual warfare. Ephesians 6:18 says: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of

prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Proskomedia. Before every Divine Liturgy, the priest prepares gifts of bread and wine to be used during the Eucharist. The preparation ritual is called the Liturgy of Preparation, or proskomedia. The meaning in Greek is “offering”, indicating that it is our offering to God. God has blessed us with wheat and grapes, and we transform it into bread and wine, offering it back to God in thanksgiving. God then consecrates the bread and wine during the Divine Liturgy, returning it to us transformed.

The bread that is offered in the Eucharist is called prosphora, a special loaf whose preparation itself is filled with meaning. It is created using only wheat, yeast, water, and salt and is composed of two layers, representing the two natures of Christ, divine and human. It has a square seal on the top with the Greek letters IC XC (an abbreviation in Greek for Jesus Christ) and NIKA (meaning “conquers”).

During the proskomedia, a portion of the loaf is cut out into a cube, and it is this inner part of the loaf, called the lamb, that is consecrated during the Divine Liturgy, and together with the red wine, will become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Liturgy of Preparation includes blessing the prosphoron, cutting it on four sides to form a cube, piercing it with a spear, and reciting two verses from St. John's Gospel (John 19:34-35). The wine is mixed with water in a chalice and blessed by the priest. The priest then cuts triangular particles from a second prosphoron in commemoration of the Theotokos, from a third prosphoron to commemorate the ranks of saints, from a fourth prosphoron for the living, and from a fifth prosphoron for the departed. Finally, the censer is blessed, the cover for the gifts is blessed, and then the gifts are covered. (essentialbeliefs.org)

Недільне Євангеліє: Луки 12:16-21. 16 І сказав їм притчу: в одного багатого чоловіка добре вродила нива. 17 І міркував він сам собі: що мені робити? Немає куди мені зібрати плодів моїх. 18 І сказав: ось що зроблю — зруйную житниці мої та збудую більші, і зберу туди весь хліб мій і все добро моє. 19 І скажу душі моїй: душе, багато маєш добра, що лежить у тебе на багато років: спочивай, їж, пий, веселись. 20 Але Бог сказав йому: нерозумний! Цієї ночі душу твою візьмуть у тебе; кому ж дістанеться те, що ти наготував? 21 Так буває з тим, хто збирає скарби для себе, а не в Бога багатіє.