

# Annunciation Orthodox Church

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America  
Orthodox Church in America

37 Washington Street  
Natick, MA 01760

Website: [www.aocnatick.org](http://www.aocnatick.org)

The Rev. Fr. Gregory Harrigle, Priest-in-Charge

Church Hall: (508) 655-7927  
Father Gregory (508) 397-1322

## December 2025 Bulletin & Holiday Services



**Divine Liturgy: Sundays at 9:30 am**

Please note that Feast Day Liturgies are typically held at different times throughout the year depending on the specific Holy Day

**+++ Sunday December 7, 2025 – Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost (11th of Luke)**

St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

**9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 1)**

Epistle Lesson Ephesians 5: 8 - 19

Gospel Lesson Luke 13: 10 - 17

**Please join the Vetetima for its 90th Anniversary Luncheon in the church hall after Divine Liturgy!**

**+++ Sunday December 14, 2025 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)**

Sunday of the Forefathers

**9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 2)**

Epistle Lesson Colossians 3: 4 - 11

Gospel Lesson Luke 14: 16 – 24; Matthew 22:14

**Please join us for Fellowship in the church hall after Divine Liturgy**

**+++ Sunday December 21, 2025 – Twenty-Eighth Sunday After Pentecost (13th of Luke)**

Sunday before the Nativity; Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; Sunday of the Holy Fathers

**9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 3)**

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 11: 9 – 10, 32-40

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1: 1-25

**Please join us for Fellowship in the church hall after Divine Liturgy**

**+++ Wednesday December 24, 2025 - Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ**

**5:00 PM – Matins of Christmas, Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Traditional Choral Hymns**

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 1: 1 - 12

Gospel Lesson Luke 2: 1 - 20

**Please join us for our annual Christmas Pot-Luck Supper in the church hall after Divine Liturgy**

**+++ Sunday December 28, 2025 – Twenty-Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

Holy Righteous Ones – Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

**9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom (Tone 4)**

Epistle Lesson Galatians 1: 11 - 19

Gospel Lesson Matthew 2: 13 - 23

**Please join us for Fellowship in the church hall after Divine Liturgy**

## **PRAYER FOR AN ENDING TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE**

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who now suffer from the destructive acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Thy peace and mercy in the midst of the great suffering inflicted upon Thy faithful people. Vouchsafe to accept the earnest prayers of Thy holy Church, so that by Thy goodness, all hostility, confusion and hatred would be removed, that all may be led to a path of true reconciliation, and lasting peace may be granted to all peoples; hear us and have mercy. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Amen.

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## **IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**General Confession** – Will take place at 9:15 am on Sunday December 7, 2025, as preparation for the reception of Our Lord's Nativity.

**Help the Vetetima Celebrate Its 90th Anniversary** – 2025 is the 90th anniversary of the Vetetima Women's Society! A celebration luncheon will be held in the Church Hall following Liturgy on Sunday December 7, 2025 – please join the Vetetima to celebrate this momentous occasion!

**Annual Holiday Donation Drive for the Natick Service Council** – We are continuing our annual practice of collecting voluntary donations for the Natick Service Council / Vi Tutuny Food Pantry. Once again, we are blessed to have a generous (anonymous) parishioner offering to match all contributions up to \$2,000! We are collecting cash donations every Sunday through December 14th during Liturgy. In addition, anyone can also donate at any time by making a check out to our church and including “**NSC**” or “**Food Pantry**” in the memo line. After December 14, the Parish Council will make out one check to the NSC reflecting all contributions plus the matching donation. Please consider giving to this worthy cause at Christmastime!

**Annual Parish Meeting** – Our Annual Member Meeting will be held following Liturgy on Sunday January 25, 2026 (snow date is Sunday February 1, 2026). Please join us for this important meeting where we will elect officers for the coming year and share progress on church projects. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for 2026 Council; if you are interested, please contact Father Gregory and John Fedak (Nominating Committee Co-Chairs) via email at [harriglegreg1@yahoo.com](mailto:harriglegreg1@yahoo.com) and [johnfedak@comcast.net](mailto:johnfedak@comcast.net). Thank you.

**Steps to Request a Memorial Litany** – Please see an important note at the end of this Bulletin.

**Bathroom Renovation Construction** – The work on renovating our church bathrooms continues in Fellowship Hall. Please be aware of this disruption in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Council.

**Parish Council Meeting** – Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday December 16, 2025, **STARTING at 6:30 pm for anyone interested in attending; we will meet in executive session beginning at 6:00 pm for Officers only.**

**November Fundraising Dinner** – A big thank you to the extended Pisuk Family for a wonderful fundraising evening of great food and wine! In addition, thank you to Tracy Fedak and Emily Peters for decorating the Church Hall and organizing all the games! We raised over \$1,200 for our Church.

**Bulletin Self-Service Contact Info** – Parishioners and friends can add or update their contact information at any time to receive the Monthly Bulletin via email. You can make changes at the following web address >> <http://new.aocnatick.org/contact-us/>.

**Church Elevator** – Please be aware that the church elevator is out of order. We are attempting to engage an appropriate professional to repair it.

**Optional Collection During Liturgy** – as Father Gregory has been announcing over the past few months, we have restarted the process of having our Sunday School children pass offering baskets following the sermon each week. This is an OPTIONAL collection that allows visitors and others to make contributions to our church. For parish members who are already contributing regular pledges via mail or other methods, you can continue in your chosen method of participation; at the same time, members may also use this new weekly collection to submit their pledges.

**Fellowship Sign-Up** – Please consider volunteering for weekly fellowship using the sign-up sheet on the candle stand to help support our church. One or more families or members may jointly sponsor fellowship meals. Thank you.

**Sunday School** – We encourage all families with school age children to join us every Sunday for fun and basic Orthodox Christian education.

**Baptism and Chrismation – A note from Father Gregory:** It is incumbent upon all Orthodox Christian parents to have their children Baptized, Chrismated, and Communed at the earliest opportunity. It is essential that children ‘come to the Lord’ as soon as possible to begin their spiritual life into adulthood and to lead a life in the Church, bequeathing the treasures of Orthodox Christian faith into the future.

**Reminder: Priest’s Visitation for Holy Unction / Communion:** Father Gregory encourages all members and friends of Annunciation Orthodox Church to contact him at their earliest convenience if you or a family member are ever admitted to a hospital, respite care, rehabilitation, hospice or who may be experiencing a sudden or chronic change in their health and medical condition. The visitation of the parish priest is vital to the overall sacramental, spiritual, and bodily health and the continuity of their piety, practice and reception of God’s grace or counsel, especially, in times of sickness, need, or personal trauma. It is the tradition of the Holy Church as established in Holy Scripture that the Church is available to you when you are unavailable to the Church. In such circumstances, please reach out to Father Gregory as follows:

**Father Gregory Contact Info:** 508-397-1322 or by email at: [harriglegreg1@yahoo.com](mailto:harriglegreg1@yahoo.com).

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#### **On Receiving Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church:**

All Orthodox Christians who are spiritually prepared are invited to receive the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. To partake in Holy Communion, please abstain from eating and drinking beginning at midnight (unless advised otherwise by your physician). If you are an Orthodox Christian visiting with us, please say your name or Chrismation name at time of reception. Non-Orthodox Christians, if they desire, may approach during Communion for a blessing and take a piece of the Antidoron (blessed bread) from the silver bowl.

**Welcome** to all visitors joining our church community for Divine Liturgy. Father Gregory and the members of our church community wish to thank you for praying with us and hope you will return soon. Please speak with a member of the Parish Council or Father Gregory if you are interested in becoming a member of our parish.

**Saint / Chrismation Name Days & Birthdays** – Congratulations to our church members who are celebrating their Birthdays, Chrismation Days, and/or Patronal Saint Name Day this month. Please come forward at the end of Divine Liturgy for a blessing while we sing “God grant you many years!”

#### **Meditation on the Nativity Season and the Miracle of Christmas:**

“Christ is Born: Glorify Him. Christ comes down from heaven: Let us go out and meet Him. Christ descends to Earth; Let us be raised on high. Let all the world sing to the Lord: Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for His Sake.” -*St. Irenaeus of Lyons*

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#### **Guidelines for Parishioners to Follow When Requesting a Memorial Litany**

Father Gregory and the Parish Council have received requests for clarification of the process parishioners should follow to request a Memorial Litany (with or without hosting fellowship). The most important consideration for parishioners is to remember that both advanced planning and proactive communication are critical. With that in mind, here are the steps and timing that are necessary to ensure a smooth Memorial:

1. Approximately one month before a planned **Memorial Litany**, please communicate your request via email to both Father Gregory and any member of the Parish Council. Please also add your request on the sign-up sheet at the candle stand in the Narthex. Let us know if you plan to host fellowship as well in conjunction with the Memorial.
2. If you would like your Memorial Litany to be included in the monthly Bulletin, you need to complete step one above no later than the 15th of the month before you plan to have it.
3. If you would like a **Memorial Service (Litany)** that occurs immediately following Divine Liturgy for a loved one, family member, or relative, you should indicate specifically that this is the service you desire. Ideally, this service is designed as a Memorial for one person, prayed during the months after they have died, or on the first anniversary of their passing. A Memorial Litany may be requested up to the third anniversary of an individual's passing.
4. If you provide a **Prayer List of Names** consisting of “**Living**” and “**Deceased**” these names will **ONLY** be prayed for during the Divine Liturgy immediately following the Gospel or priest's Sermon. These should be on a single sheet, designating Living and Deceased, respectively.
5. If you provide the small sheets from the table in the Vestibule, typically these have been for the priest to read silently during the preparation of the Holy Gifts in the Altar, before the Divine Liturgy begins.
6. Of course, if you have any questions about this process, please speak directly with Father Gregory.