

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

Pokrova-allentown.org 1031 Fullerton Ave, Allentown PA 18102
V. Rev. Anthony Perkins; father.anthony@yahoo.com | 484-232-9423

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER TO GOD!

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СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ!

СЛАВА НАВІКИ БОГУ!



Welcome to the God-loving and God-protected Orthodox Christian parish of *Pokrova* (Protection of the Holy Theotokos or “St. Mary’s”)!

It is a blessing to have you with us today and we encourage you to come back as often as you are able. Like us, you may find that you have found your spiritual home here!

We are a parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA under the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and our doors and hearts are open to you and your family!

Please visit our website: pokrova-allentown.org and help yourself to the many pamphlets located on the literature racks outside the church. Fr. Anthony would love answering your questions; you can reach him at 484-232- 9423, father.anthony@yahoo.com, on Facebook (Douglas Anthony Perkins or facebook.com/pokrova.allentown), or face to face after services.

Handicap parking is available behind the church; regular parking is available on the street and (on Sundays) at Kohut Funeral Home.

Upcoming Services

Sunday	12/27	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy; Coffee, School, Spiritually Speaking
Wednesday	12/30	7:00PM	Akathist (CHURCH)
Saturday	1/2	9:00AM	Liturgy -Forefeast (CHAPEL); Greening
		6:00PM	Great Vespers w/Litya (CHAPEL)
Sunday	1/3	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy; Coffee, School;
Wednesday	1/6	9:00AM	Royal Hours of Nativity (CHAPEL)
		10:30AM	Vesperal Liturgy of Nativity (CHAPEL)
		8:00PM	Great Compline w/Litya (CHURCH)
Thursday	1/7	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy - Nativity!!! (CHURCH)
Friday	1/8	9:00AM	Div. Liturgy - Holy Theotokos (CHAPEL)
Saturday	1/9	9:00AM	Div. Liturgy – St. Stephen (CHAPEL)
		6:00PM	Great Vespers w/Litya (CHAPEL)
Sunday	1/10	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy; Coffee, School, Spiritually Speaking
Wednesday	1/13	7:00PM	Parish Vigil – Circumcision of Christ (CHAPEL)
Thursday	1/14	9:00AM	Festal Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)
Saturday	1/16	9:00AM	Div. Liturgy – Forefeast of Jordan (CHAPEL)
		6:00PM	Great Vespers w/Litya (CHAPEL)
Sunday	1/17	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy; Coffee, School,
Monday	1/18	9:00AM	Royal Hours of Theophany/Jordan (CHAPEL)
		10:30AM	Vesperal Liturgy of Theophany (CHAPEL)
		7:00PM	Great Vigil w/Blessing of Water (CHURCH)
Tuesday	1/19	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy–Theophany/Jordan (CHURCH)
Wednesday	1/20		** NO SERVICE **
Saturday	1/23	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)
		6:00PM	Great Vespers w/Litya

Check our website for the full listing of services & activities!!

December 27th; Gone 5; 29th Forefathers

Tone 5 (Tropar, Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 2 (Tropar, Forefathers)

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed. //
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Tone 6 (Kondak, Forefathers)

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid, //
for You are merciful and able to do as You will!”

Tone 5 (Kondak, Resurrection)

You descended into hell, my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty;
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death,
You have delivered Adam from the curse, Lover of mankind, //
and we all cry to You: Lord, save us!

Prokimen (Tone 4; Song of our Fathers)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is
Your name forever! (Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3)

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle. Colossians 3:4-11. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Tone 4; Psalm 99:6)

v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.

v: They called to the Lord and He answered them.

Gospel. St. Luke 17:12-19. Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’”

Jesus as King

Jesus is our King and Lord. We are called to follow Him and obey His rules. Unlike tyrannical and unjust kings, He doesn't have us do bad things, and never asks us to do anything He hasn't done Himself. He clearly communicates what He wants us to do through His Scripture and His Church. He is a merciful ruler who forgives and shares His wealth with everyone.

December is a month when we occupy ourselves with preparing for and celebrating the birth of our King, Jesus Christ. We spend a lot of time shopping, wrapping gifts, making food, attending holiday parties, etc. Our focus tends to be on indulging ourselves instead of focusing on the One who was born our eternal King. Jesus Christ never declared outright, "I am a King." Instead of using words, which in many cases are just empty expressions, Jesus proved that He was a King concerned for the well-being of His subjects with His actions. What are some of the things that He did to prove that He was King?

As our King, He transformed the lives of sinners into lives of sanctity. As our King, He restored to health those who were physically and spiritually sick, raising the dead to life. As our King, He set us free from the bondage of Satan and sin, making us free to serve Him as servants of God. As our King, He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. As our King, He humbly and powerfully served us. As our King, what does He want from us, His royal subjects?

As King, Jesus Christ wants followers who are committed to Him. As we approach our Lord's Nativity, let us look at our commitment to the King, Jesus Christ, and the responsibilities of being His loyal subjects. Let us renew ourselves in faith and live up to the expectations of the King. Remember that His birth was the greatest gift ever given: the opportunity of life and eternity with our King, Jesus Christ.

At Christmas we focus on giving gifts, when actually we are exchanging gifts with loved ones and friends. The true Christmas focus is on the love of God Who magnanimously gives His unbounded love to all humankind, not just once, but forevermore. If we are to exchange anything, we should acknowledge our acceptance of God's magnanimous love and return it to Him as generously as our hearts allow.

http://www.goarch.org/special/advent/pfn_session4_king.pdf

Parish News and Events

The sign-up list for coffee hour is in the hall – an opportunity to serve!

Don't have a place to celebrate Holy Supper? Celebrate it with your St. Mary's family! We will enjoy fellowship and twelve traditional dishes together in the parish hall before Great Compline. See Chris Z. for details (and if you want to request or sign-up for a dish – although this is optional). **All are invited!!!**

It's Caroling Season! We will be joining other groups to carol for His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony on Saturday 16 January 2016 at 1:00 PM in South Bound Brook! We will also be caroling after the Nativity Divine Liturgy on 1/7.

Greening the Church: Saturday, Jan. 2nd 10AM-Noon (after the Liturgy of the Forefeast of the Nativity at 9AM). Help us decorate for the Nativity!

Spiritually Speaking (every other Sunday after Coffee Hour in the Social Hall): This Sunday: The Harmony of God: the salvific beauty of liturgy and music.

St. Mary's Seniors

1/11 at 12:30PM: Seniors' Meeting; 1/27 at 8:00AM: Hoagie Sale

St. Mary's Ukrainian Dance Group: Every Wednesday @6:30 in the Social Hall

Educational Series: Saturdays, 12/5-1/2 @ 5:00 in the Chapel (before Vespers) Next Saturday's lesson will explore the themes of the Nativity hymnography.

Seminarian Yuri Bobko is staying with Fr. Anthony and Pani Tina throughout the Advent/Pilipivka and Christmas/Nativity seasons so he can experience life in our UOC-USA families and parishes. Let them know if you would like to host him for a day trip, special event, or dinner!

Reading and Greeter Schedule

Today's Epistle Reader: Alex Mackiewicz; Next Week: Richard Bodner

Today's Communion Prayers: Rdr. Nicholas Perkins.; Next Week: Michael Hutzayluk

Today's Greeters: Richard Rosko; Next Week: Eleanor Fox & Katherine Kramer

In Orthodoxy, communion is reserved for those who are members of an Orthodox parish and who have prepared themselves through prayer and fasting. We would love to have you as a member and communicant here at St. Mary's - See Fr. Anthony if you would like to join our parish!