

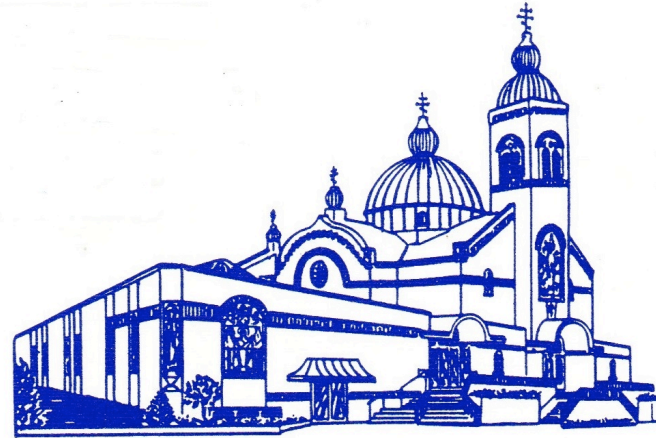
# St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

Pokrova-allentown.org 1031 Fullerton Ave, Allentown PA 18102  
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**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

**Sign-up for House Blessings!!!**

**The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church.**

- Sunday** 2/7 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Coffee, Church School Spiritually Speaking
- Wednesday** 2/10 7:00PM Moleban (CHURCH)
- Friday** 2/12 10:00AM Hierarchical Liturgy (at St. Sophia Seminary)
- Saturday** 2/13 9:00AM Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)  
6:00PM Great Vespers w/Litya (CHAPEL)
- Sunday** 2/14 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Coffee, Church School
- Monday** 2/15 9:00AM Festal Divine Liturgy; Candlemass (Meeting)
- Wednesday** 2/17 7:00PM Moleban (CHURCH)
- Saturday** 2/20 9:00AM Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)  
6:00PM Great Vespers w/Litya (CHAPEL)
- Sunday** 2/21 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Coffee, Church School Spiritually Speaking
- Wednesday** 2/25 7:00PM Moleban (CHURCH)
- Friday** 2/27 10:00AM Hierarchical Liturgy (at St. Sophia Seminary)
- Saturday** 2/28 9:00AM Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)  
6:00PM Great Vespers w/Litya (CHAPEL)

### Start of Lenten Triodion

- Sunday** 2/14 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Coffee, Church School

**\*\*\* Fast Free Week: 22-28 February !!! \*\*\***

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

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**In Orthodoxy**, communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing 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!

## February 7<sup>th</sup> ; Gone 3; 36<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

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 to the world // great mercy.

### Tone 4 Troparion (Parish Patron/Pokrova)

O Mother of God, sheltered by thy coming / we faithful people today keep feast in joy, / and looking at thy most pure image, / moved to the depths. Of our hearts, we say: / "Protect us with thy precious veil / and deliver us from every ill, / by entreating Christ, they Son and our God, // to save our souls.

### Tone 2 Kontakion (Parish Patron/Pokrova)

The Choirs of Saints and the Virgin / stand in church praying to God for us. / Angels and hierarchs bow in adoration, / Apostles and Prophets all rejoice / in thee, O Mother of God, // who for us prays to God Eternal.

### Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O 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.

### Prokeimenon in Tone 3 (Ps 46:6, 1)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

### The First Epistle of Saint Paul to Timothy (1:15-17)

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps 30:1)

v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! (Ps 30:2)

### Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27

**Summary** A blind man's faith and persistence won him sight and showed all of us how to live.

## The Unsettling of America, by Wendell Berry

The disease of the modern character is specialization. Looked at from the standpoint of the social system, the aim of specialization may seem desirable enough. The aim is to see that the responsibilities of government, law, medicine, engineering, agriculture, education, [**and religion!**; - **Fr. Anthony**] etc., are given into the hands of the most skilled, best prepared people.

A system of specialization requires the abdication to specialists of various competences and responsibilities that were once personal and universal. Thus, the average – one is tempted to say, the ideal – American citizen now consigns the problem of food production to agriculturalists and 'agribusinessmen,' the problems of health to doctors and sanitation experts, the problems of education to school teachers and educators, the problems of conservation to conservationists, [**and the problem of their spiritual health and development to clergy**; - **Fr. Anthony**] and so on. This supposedly fortunate citizen is therefore left with only two concerns: making money and entertaining himself. He earns money, typically, as a specialist, working an eight-hour day at a job for the quality or consequences of which somebody else – or, perhaps more typically, nobody else – will be responsible. And not surprisingly, since he can do so little else for himself, he is even unable to entertain himself, for there exists an enormous industry of exorbitantly expensive specialists whose purpose is to entertain him...

The beneficiary of this regime of specialists ought to be the happiest of mortals – or so we are expected to believe. **All of his vital concerns are in the hands of certified experts.** He is a certified expert himself and as such he earns more money in a year than all his great-grandparents put together. Between stints at his job he has nothing to do but mow his lawn with a sit-down lawn mower, or watch other certified experts on television. At suppertime he may eat a tray of ready-prepared food, which he and his wife (also a certified expert) procure at the cost only of money, transportation, and the pushing of a button. For a few minutes between supper and sleep he may catch a glimpse of his children, who since breakfast have been in the care of education experts, basketball or marching-band experts, or perhaps legal experts...

**The fact is, however, that this is probably the most unhappy average citizen in the history of the world.** He has not the power to provide himself with

anything but money, and his money is inflating like a balloon and drifting away, subject to historical circumstances and the power of other people. From morning to night he does not touch anything that he has produced himself, in which he can take pride. For all his leisure and recreation, he feels bad, he looks bad, he is overweight, his health is poor. His air, water, and food are all known to contain poisons. There is a fair chance that he will die of suffocation. He suspects that his love life is not as fulfilling as other people's. He wishes that he had been born sooner, or later. He does not know why his children are the way they are. He does not understand what they say. He does not care much and does not know why he does not care. He does not know what his wife wants or what he wants. Certain advertisements and pictures in magazines make him suspect that he is basically unattractive. He feels that all his possessions are under threat of pillage. He does not know what he would do if he lost his job, if the economy failed, if the utility companies failed, if the police went on strike, if the truckers went on strike, if his wife left him, if his children ran away, if he should be found to be incurably ill. And for these anxieties, of course, he consults certified experts, who in turn consult certified experts about their anxieties...

**It is rarely considered that this average citizen is anxious because he ought to be... He ought to be anxious, because he is helpless [but need not be! – Fr. Anthony].** That he is dependent upon so many specialists, the beneficiary of so much expert help, can only mean that he is a captive, a potential victim **[because he has delegated important facets of his life to others – Fr. Anthony].**

*Excerpted from <http://www.intellectualtakeout.org/blog/wendell-berrys-unsettling-description-modern-life>*

***One of the problems of modern religion – to include Orthodoxy – is clericalism, the idea that religious experts are responsible for our spiritual needs. We are all members of the royal priesthood! Bishops and priests provide necessary sacramental services, grace, and guidance ... but we are all responsible for the state of our souls and the health of our families! Please don't take Mr. Berry's lament of specialization too far: we meant to live in community (a fact that Mr. Berry celebrates in other essays); but we need to stop being observers in this life of wonder and preparation, roll up our sleeves, and get busy!***

**– Fr. Anthony**

## **Parish News and Events**

**God bless our scouts!** We will be honoring our scouts today at the end of service – may God grant them, their parents, and their leaders many blessed years.

**Start the new year right!** I will be blessing homes until the beginning of Great Lent. The sign-up list is on the table in the narthex (or you can call me).

**Please help with this need!** Our 1980's snow blower broke we bought a new one. For the next three weeks we will be taking a second collection so that we can pay for it; please consider supporting this effort

**Membership envelopes are available;** please pick yours up in the office.

**Spiritually Speaking** (every other Sunday after Coffee Hour in the Social Hall):

2/7 "The Deeper Magic: A Spiritual History of Humanity"

2/21 "The Word Made Flesh Into A Book; Islam as a Christian Heresy"

3/6 "The Beauty of Creation: Why science and Orthodoxy work well together"

3/20 "Finding Objectivity: science, Orthodoxy, and overcoming our biases"

4/3 "Becoming What We Do: Moral psychology and the rituals of Orthodoxy"

4/17 "Who Are We And Why Are We Here? The royal priesthood & parish life"

**St. Mary's Seniors:** 2/1, 11:00AM: Lunch Meeting; 2/24, 8AM Hoagie Making

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

**You are invited!** St. Sophia Seminary will be celebrating its chapel feast (Three Holy Hierarchs) this Friday with a Hierarchical Liturgy (sung by our seminarians), followed by a free lunch (yes, there is such a thing!!!).

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### **Reading and Greeter Schedule**

Today's Epistle Reader: Nik Fartuch; Next Week: Rdr. Nicholas Perkins

Today's Communion Prayers: Joseph Hutzalyuk ; Next Week: Marianne Schrantz

Today's Greeters: Richard Rosko;

Next Week: Eleanor Fox & Katherine Kramer

**Let me know if you would like to be added to the schedule!**