

# 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

- Sun Prdgl** 2/28 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Coffee, Church School  
**\*\*\* Last Week of Meat (Normal Fasting)\*\*\***
- Wednesday** 3/2 **\*\*\*NO SERVICE\*\*\***
- Saturday** 3/5 9:00AM Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)  
6:00PM Great Vespers (CHAPEL)
- Sun of LJ** 3/6 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Coffee, Church School  
Spiritually Speaking  
**\*\*\* Last Week of Cheese (Dairy & Eggs every day!) \*\*\***
- Wednesday** 3/9 **\*\*\*NO SERVICE\*\*\***
- Saturday** 3/12 9:00AM Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)  
6:00PM Great Vespers (CHAPEL)
- Forg. Sunday** 3/13 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Forgiveness Service  
Coffee, Church School  
5:00PM Forgiveness Vespers (Northampton)  
**\*\*\* Clean Week (simple Lenten food) \*\*\***
- Monday** 3/14 7:00PM Great Canon of St. Andrew
- Tuesday** 3/15 6:15PM Great Canon (at St Nicholas GOC, Bethlehem)
- Wednesday** 3/16 9:00AM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
7:00PM Great Canon of St. Andrew
- Thursday** 3/17 7:00 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew
- Friday** 3/18 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Saturday** 3/19 9:00AM Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)  
6:00PM Great Vespers (CHAPEL)
- Sunday of Orthodoxy** 3/20 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; ,Coffee & Church School.  
4:00PM Pan-Orthodox Service (GOC in Bethlehem)

**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 28<sup>th</sup>; Tone 6, Prodigal (and Elder) Son

### Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Your grave, / seeking Your most pure body. / You took hell captive, / not being tempted by it. / You came to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

### 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, thy 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 (Prodigal Son)

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me. / And now I cry to You as the Prodigal: / "I have sinned before You, O merciful Father; / receive me a penitent, // and make me as one of Your hired servants!"

### Prokeimenon Tone 6 (Psalm 27:9.1)

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Summary: In liberty, make sacrifices to be holy.

### Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Ps. 90:1, 2)

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."

**Gospel:** St. Luke 15:11-32. Summary: Be humble and repentant when you're wrong; don't be a self-righteous and unforgiving jerk when people come home.

## The Sacrament of Love: Marriage & Remarriage in the Orthodox Church

Carrie Frederick Frost, February 10, 2016 (Commonweal Magazine)

A Byzantine marriage ring from the fifth century shows a couple in profile in front of a cross: their gazes are locked, their noses nearly touching. On another ring Christ himself stands between the two spouses and joins their hands. Such marriage rings are small but powerful examples of the ancient and enduring Christian esteem for marriage, even in the early church, which often ranked marriage second to consecrated virginity. They show that marriage was already woven deeply into the fabric of Christianity. The fact that each ring is unique—each a singular variation on a few basic themes—is also suggestive. It prefigures the diversity of theological and pastoral approaches to marriage within Orthodox Christianity. There is no one Orthodox Christian theology of marriage. Nor are there many universal rules when it comes to divorce and remarriage....

Properly understood, Orthodoxy's theological diversity does not make it capricious or flaky. The solid basis of doctrine affirmed in the ecumenical councils, the dedication to the liturgy, and the continuous theological tradition and presence of the saints all attest to the solidity of Orthodox theology. Orthodoxy's freedom of theological thinking and pastoral care is built on the bedrock of its spirituality. Orthodoxy's pastoral flexibility has a word: *economia*, which can be roughly defined as a principle of mercy employed when a norm is not met. This concept can be difficult to get a handle on—and not only for those outside Orthodoxy. Different Orthodox theologians have understood it in different ways, and its application to particular cases is not systematic. This is partly because it begins with the recognition that God's grace exceeds even the most comprehensive moral system.

IT WAS ONLY AFTER the marriage rite settled into the form known today [around the 15<sup>th</sup> Century -ed] that Orthodox theologies of marriage began to be formulated. This is not to suggest that no one in the Orthodox Church thought theologically about marriage before the past few centuries. As noted above, the Eastern church fathers had quite a bit to say on the subject. But it is only recently that the Orthodox began to construct comprehensive theologies of marriage. These theologies vary from one another in important ways, but they also have important things in common: the understanding of marriage as a sacrament or

mystery, the significance of the Eucharist to marriage, and the eternal dimension of marriage....

As each of the other ritual sacraments has its own telos, so also does marriage. The Orthodox theologian Paul Evdokimov is known for calling marriage “the sacrament of love.” For the Orthodox Church, the love union—not consent or consummation or procreation—is the heart of Christian marriage. This is prayed for in the Betrothal: “That He will send down upon them perfect and peaceful love...let us pray to the Lord.” This perfect and peaceful love is not the stuff of troubadours or rom-coms; it is rather a reflection of the love among the three persons of the Trinity. This love is a communion rather than just an expression of desire....

**The full article is available at:**

**<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/sacrament-love>**

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### **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS 4PM on 3/20**

As an expression of our love and unity, the Orthodox Christians of the Lehigh Valley will gather for a Pan-Orthodox Vespers service marking the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Bethlehem. Our special speaker will be the V. Rev. Archpriest Anthony Perkins; "THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY: ICONS AS THE ANTIDOTE TO ICONOCLASTIC SECULARISM". A Lenten Potluck in the parish hall will follow (please consider bringing a dish to share).

(Choir practice for the service will be held Mar. 6 at 2pm at the same church. All singers are welcome!)

### **PAN-ORTHODOX LENTEN VESPERS/DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE**

- 3/27 4PM** Assumption of Virgin Mary, 1301 Newport Ave, Northampton, PA
- 4/3 4PM** LOCATION TBD
- 4/9 9AM** All Souls Divine Liturgy, St. Paul AOC in Emmaus, PA
- 4/10 4PM** St Matthew's Greek Orthodox Church, Allentown Pike, Blandon, PA
- 4/17 4PM** St Mary's Protection Ukranian, Fullerton Avenue, Allentown!

## **Parish News and Events**

**Richard and Carolyn Rosko** share the difficult news of the repose of Carolyn's daughter **Connie Hunsberger** on January 30th. **May her memory be eternal!**

**ANNUAL MEETING: 4/3 AFTER DIVINE LITURGY**

**Flash Frozen Potato Perohi** are available for purchase in our kitchen!

**Assumption UOC (Northampton) has invited us to their Lenten Retreat on 3/13.** Fr. Anthony will speak on “The Spirituality of the Book of Revelation”. Retreat 2-4PM; Forgiveness Vespers 5PM; Repentance Service 6PM.

**We've scheduled morning (9AM, W's) and evening (7PM, F's) Presanctified Liturgies** throughout Lent in order to give more opportunities to participate. The Holy Week and Paschal schedule will reflect that same pastoral approach.

**UOL Lenten Retreat, Saturday 4/2, 395 Bridle Path Road.** This year Dr. Natalie Bilynsky and Fr. Anthony Perkins will talk about the challenges we all face throughout life and how Orthodoxy can help us respond to them. Fr. Mark Leasure will be bringing the myrrh-streaming Icon of the *Karidiotissa* for participants to venerate. Registration forms are available in the hall.

Wolodymyr Katolik (from Phily) is organizing a **Paschal trip to the Holy Land to experience the miraculous Paschal fire.** 215-531-0538.

**Spiritually Speaking** (every other Sunday after Coffee Hour in the Social Hall):  
3/6 Carrie Frost, PhD “Women and Motherhood in Orthodoxy”  
3/20 “The Structure and Beauty of the Presanctified Liturgy”  
4/17 “Q & A on Lent, Life, and Everything”

**St. Mary's Seniors:** Lunch Meeting; 2/24, 8AM Hoagie Making  
Pre-Lenten Lunch; 3/13, 11AM Red Lobster

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

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### **Reading and Greeter Schedule**

Today's Epistle Reader: Robert Noecker; Next Week: Alex Mackiewicz

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

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