

# St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

Pokrova-allentown.org 1031 Fullerton Ave, Allentown PA 18102  
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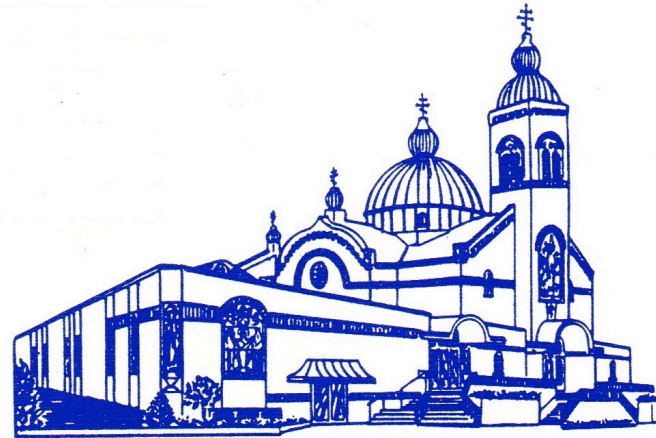
**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!**

**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

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|--------------------------|------|--|
| <b>Sunday (Ladder)</b>   | 4/10 | 9:00AM Divine Liturgy; Coffee, Church School.<br>4:00PM Pan-Orthodox Service (GOC, Blandon)      |
| <b>Wednesday</b>         | 4/13 | 9:00AM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  |
| <b>Thursday</b>          | 4/14 | 7:00PM Great Canon w/Life of St. Mary  |
| <b>Friday</b>            | 4/15 | 7:00PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  |
| <b>Saturday</b>          | 4/16 | 9:00AM Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)<br>6:00PM Parish Vigil (CHAPEL)                                   |
| <b>Sunday (St. Mary)</b> | 4/17 | 9:00AM Divine Liturgy, Coffee & Church School. SS<br>4:00PM Pan-Orthodox Service (St. Mary’s!!!) |
| <b>Wednesday</b>         | 4/20 | 4:00PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts<br>6:00PM Holy Unction (joint, in Northampton)         |
| <b>Friday</b>            | 4/22 | 7:00PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  |
| <b>Saturday</b>          | 4/23 | 9:00AM Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy (CHAPEL)<br>6:00PM Parish Vigil of Palm Sunday (CHAPEL)   |
| <b>Sunday</b>            | 4/24 | 8:50AM Blessing of Willows/Palms<br>9:00AM Palm Sunday Liturgy (youth participate!)              |

**NOTE:** I will bless willows and palm fronds at 8:50 so that everyone can have them during the service (i.e. to celebrate Christ’s Entrance into Jerusalem while He is in our midst!). This is also an opportunity to get our children and youth more involved in the service (and no, not just in hitting one another with the willows!). The Great Entrance (i.e. the time in the Liturgy that is evocative of the Entrance into Jerusalem) will go out of the altar, along the north wall, then back into the altar by way of the central aisle. The children and youth with their willows/palms will join the adults with their white candles in lining the central aisle. The Entrance will go between them.

**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!

**St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Cathedral**

**Катедра Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці**

Pokrova-allentown.org

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V. Rev. Anthony Perkins

father.anthony@yahoo.com | 484-232-9423

# April 10<sup>th</sup> ; Gone 4, St. John of the Ladder

## The Order of Worship

**Censing of the Altar, Iconostasis, Nave/Sanctuary, & People.**

**Blessed is the Kingdom ... Amen.** Heaven and earth are joined in praise of God.

**Great Litany.** Prayers of supplication to God w/ refrain "Lord have mercy!"

**Psalm 102.** The Psalms are the greatest hymns of the Church.

**The Little Litany.** "Again and again" we lift up our praises and prayers to God.

**Psalm 145 & "Only Begotten Son".** This psalm and song remind us why we are here.

**The Little Litany.** "Again and again" ... we are learning to pray continuously.

**The Beatitudes.** The wisdom of the Logos offered in song – beautiful consolation.

**The Little Entrance/Gospel Entrance.** This symbolizes Christ coming from heaven into the world. We can kiss the Gospel (an icon of "The Word") in celebration saying; "Christ is in our midst" "He is and shall be!" "*Khristos Posered Nas*" "*I Ye I Budet*"

**Come Let Us Worship.** An invitation to enter into deeper worship of Jesus Christ.

**Hymns for Today.** As with all the music, everyone is encouraged to sing along!

### **Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)**

When the women Disciples of the Lord / learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,/ they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the Apostles: / "Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

### **Tone 1 Troparion (for St John Climacus)**

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer,/ healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave you strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

### **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 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)**

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

### **Tone 4 Kontakion (for St John Climacus)**

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

### **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.

**Trisagion:** We join the angels in proclaiming God's glory!

**Prokeimenon Tone 4** (Psalm 103: 24, 1)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!

**Prokeimenon Tone 7** (St John Climacus; Psalm 149:5)

Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches! (Ps 149:5)

**Epistle:** Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:9-19 (St John Climacus). See below for text.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Psalms 44:5,8; 91:13)**

v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

v. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

v: They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**Gospel:** St. Mark 9:17-31; St. Matthew 4:25-5:12. See below for summaries of the texts.

**Litanies for the Faithful and for the Catachumens.** Catachumens are Christians preparing to enter into the Mysteries of the Orthodox Church (e.g. Communion).

**Cherubic Hymn.** This song reminds us that we must "put aside all earthly cares" so that we can join the angels in worshiping God in fullness and in truth.

**The Great Entrance.** The priest brings out the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Christ. ***This ritual act symbolizes Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem... and His sacrifice on the Altar of the Cross.***

**Litany of the Sacrifice.** The work of the people is to enter into Communion with God.

**Deacon's exhortation: "Let us love one another...."** We answer by proclaiming our faith in the Trinity and Holy Orthodoxy through reciting the Profession of Faith.

**Commemoration of the Last Supper** (also known as the Mystical Supper).

**The Consecration of the Gifts.**

**Hymn to the Birthgiver of God, Mary. Litany of Preparation.**

**Lord's Prayer.** We join together praying the "Our Father", the prayer Jesus taught us.

**"Holy Things for the Holy".** We now enter into the greatest Mystery of Communion.

**Pre-Communion Prayer.** Reminds us of our need for the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Communion of the Faithful.** Communion is reserved for those who are members of an Orthodox parish and have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and regular confession. All are invited to join this parish and commune with us!

**Post-Communion Prayers and Dismissal**

**Distribution of the Antidoron.** At this point everyone is invited forward to kiss the cross and receive the blessed bread cut from the Eucharistic loaf before the service.

## Parish News and Events

**God bless everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting last Sunday!** Lord willing, we will “swear in” our new parish board next Sunday.

**St. Mary’s now sponsors a Grief Support Group.** Tuesdays. 6:30PM – 8:00PM in the Library. The cost is free. For more information or registration, please call Joe Truchan at 610-262-3251. **We ask for your prayers for this important ministry.** Please spread the word!

**Back to the Future:** Yes, the rumor is true: we are planning on attaching the steps to the raised pulpit in time for the reading of St. John Chrysostom’s Paschal Homily! This is the amazing homily that is offered between Paschal Matins and the Divine Liturgy.

**One More Note on the Blessing of Pussy Willows/Palms:** If you want your willows/palms blessed and are too late to have them blessed with the others, just bring them up when you kiss the cross and we will bless them then ... without any fuss or trouble!

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

**Spiritually Speaking** (every other Sunday after Coffee Hour in the Social Hall): 4/17 “Q & A on Lent, Life, and Everything” Bring your questions!

**St. Mary’s Seniors:** 4/20. Hoagie making!

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

**Please Plan on Attending:** we are hosting the Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Service on 4/17 at 4PM.

As I discussed at the Annual Meeting, **I will be starting chanting classes soon** (i.e. to teach the mechanics of chanting, the structure of the relevant services, and the tones). Please spread the word to everyone who may be interested let me know if you would like to attend, and the days/times that would be most convenient for you.

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### Reading and Greeter Schedule

Today’s Epistle Reader: Michael Truchan; Next Week: Nik Fartuch

Today’s Greeters: Richard and Carolyn Rosko;

Next Week: Eleanor Fox & Katherine Kramer

**Let Fr. Anthony know if you would like to be added to the schedule!**

## Today’s Scripture Readings

**Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20;** For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham,[a] having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchiz’edek.

**Ephesians 5:9-19.** (For the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.”

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart,

**Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1.** [A man brought his possessed son to Jesus]. And Jesus said to him... “All things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” [Then Jesus healed the boy and told of His coming Passion and Resurrection).

**Matthew 4:25-5:12.** And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decap’olis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan. Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven ... Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.”