

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

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GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!

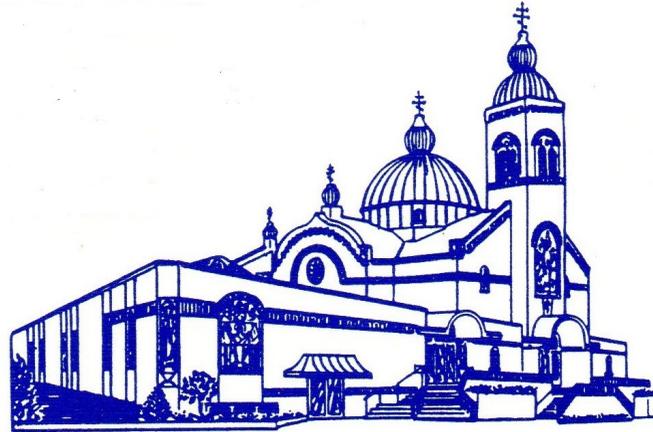
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Ecclesiastical Hierarchy

WE must, then, most pious of pious sons, demonstrate from the supermundane and most sacred Oracles and traditions, that ours is a Hierarchy of the inspired and Divine and Deifying science, and of operation, and of consecration, for those who have been initiated with the initiation of the sacred revelation derived from the hierarchical mysteries. See, however, that you do not put to scorn things most holy (Holy of Holies); but rather treat them reverently, and you will honour the things of the hidden God by intellectual and obscure researches, carefully guarding them from the participation and defilement of the uninitiated, and reverently sharing holy things with the holy alone, by a holy enlightenment. For thus, as the Word of God has taught us who feast at His Banquet, even Jesus Himself—the most supremely Divine Mind and superessential, the Source and Essence, and most supremely Divine Power of every Hierarchy and Sanctification and Divine operation—illuminates the blessed Beings who are superior to us, in a manner more clear, and at the same time more intellectual, and assimilates them to His own Light, as far as possible; and by our love of things beautiful elevated to Him, and which elevates us, folds together our many diversities, and after perfecting into a uniform and Divine life and habit and operation, holily bequeaths the power of the Divine Priesthood; from which by approaching to the holy exercise of the priestly office, we ourselves become nearer to the Beings above us, by assimilation, according to our power, to their abiding and unchangeable holy steadfastness; and thus by looking upwards to the blessed and supremely Divine self of Jesus, and reverently gazing upon whatever we are permitted to see, and illuminated with the knowledge of the visions, we shall be able to become, as regards the science of Divine mysteries, purified and purifiers; images of Light, and workers with God, perfected and perfecting. [Note: he is talking about the Royal Priesthood, not just ordained priests.]

St. Dionysius the Areopagite, 1:1.



October Worship Schedule

Sunday	10/16	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
*** There are no services or Bible study this week due to the Sobor ***			
Sunday	10/23	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Wednesday	10/26	7:00PM	Bible Study (Church)
Saturday	10/29	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	10/30	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education

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

Adult Education

Each Sunday (11AM). For our Fall “Spiritually Speaking” series I will be offering a weekly series on the “tough questions” people ask. I will spend the first 20 minutes of each 30 minute session answering a (preselected) “tough question”; then we will spend the final 10 minutes in Q&A. If you have a question, get it to me and I will put it into the queue; this is your chance to stump the priest (and find out why we do what we do)!

Today's Topic at Spiritually Speaking will be “Why do we have bishops? Do we really need them?” Please come – and bring your questions (and love)!

Each Wednesday (7PM). Bible Study. We spend the first 45 minutes of these hour-long sessions working through the selected scripture, trying to understand the text as its authors did, and how it has been illumined by the Light of Christ and the Holy Spirit. The final few minutes will be spent in Q & A.

This past week's Bible Study covered the fifth and sixth days of creation, to include the creation of humanity. Here are some highlights:

What does “according to its kind” mean? It is not an attack on science. The point being made is that 1) there is a logical order to creation and 2) the multitude of creation reflects God's glory and purpose. God led the Hebrews to make seeing things “according to their kind” a virtuous instinct. What do we lose when we don't?

Who is God talking to when He says “Let US make humanity...”? Different explanations. Could be the “Royal We” (not likely). Could be the Heavenly Hosts (i.e. the Divine Council). Could be the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; One God).

What is “The Image of God”? Lots of good answers (ask for some). At the very least, it means that we re-present God in creation (just as Christ does as the New Adam; “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” Colossians 1:15).

What is the “Likeness of God”? Again, many good answers. The usual one is that it is His purity and holiness. This is something we have to grow into (and require Christ for).

Adam is Male AND Female? Yes, they are both required to make humanity (Adam is the Hebrew word for humanity). Also not that procreative sex is built into mankind from the beginning. Sex is not a consequence of the Fall (although some disagree), but part of the glory of being human.

Welcome to the God-loving and God-protected Orthodox Christian parish of *Pokrova* (“St. Mary 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 (and a wonderful home, it is)!

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, your family, and your friends!

October 16th; Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Order of Worship

(A more complete version is found in the black prayer book in the pews)

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. It is followed by a Small Litany (“Again and again...”).

Psalm 145 & “Only Begotten Son”. This psalm and song remind us why we are here. It is followed by a Small Litany (“Again and again...”)

The Beatitudes. The wisdom of the Logos offered in song – beautiful consolation. We take on the virtues of and in Christ to become “blessed.”

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*”

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

Tone 8 Tropar (*Resurrection*)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One! / You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 Tropar (*St. Dionysius the Areopagite*)

Having learned goodness and maintaining continence in all things, / you were arrayed with a good conscience as befits a priest. / From the chosen Vessel you drew ineffable mysteries; / you kept the faith, and finished a course equal to His. / Bishop martyr Dionysius, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Tone 4 Tropar (*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 8 Kondak (*Resurrection*)

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Your Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 8 Kondak (*St. Dionesius the Areopagite*)

As a disciple of the apostle caught up to the third heaven, / you spiritually entered the gate of heaven, Dionysius. / You were enriched with understanding of ineffable mysteries / and enlightened those who sat in the darkness of ignorance. / Therefore we cry to you: Rejoice, universal Father!

Tone 2 Kondak (*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 (Holy God, Holy Immortal...)!

Prokimen Tone 8 (*Resurrection; Psalm 75 11, 1*)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalm 94:1, 2*)

v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36. Children are encouraged to come up front; “Let the little children come unto me.” (Matthew 19:14)

Litanies for the Faithful and for the Catechumens. Catechumens are Christians preparing to enter into the Mysteries of the Orthodox Church.

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. The ritual reminds us of Palm Sunday... and the Passion of Christ. The children are welcome and encouraged to line the aisle.

Commemoration of the Last Supper and Consecration of the Gifts. This is when the Holy Spirit comes down and changes the gifts. Ukrainian Orthodox often kneel during this part of the liturgy, but standing is also welcome.

Hymn to the Birthgiver of God, Mary. We praise her among the saints because God became incarnate through her; she is the mother of our salvation!

Litany of Preparation. Lord’s Prayer. Please join us as pray together using the words Jesus the Messiah taught us during His earthly ministry.

“Holy Things for the Holy”. We enter into the greatest Mystery of Communion.

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! See Fr. Anthony if you would like to learn more.

Post-Communion Prayers, 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

It is with sorrow transformed into the joy of resurrection that I share the **news of the repose of our sister Katherine Schultz** this past week. Her funeral and internment were on Saturday. May her memory be eternal!

We are planning on purchasing **new vestments for our altar servers** (blue and gold to honor our patron, the Mother of God). Donations for this purpose would be welcomed and blessed!

The Jr. UOL field trip to Holy Protection Women's Monastery on Monday was a great success. What a beautiful and holy place! Stay tuned for the details of next month's field trip!

The UOC-USA Sobor will be held this week. Vera Muzychka, Alex Mackiewicz, Robert Neubauer (alternate), and Fr. Anthony (priest) will be representing St. Mary's. **EVERYONE is invited to Friday's session (10/21) to learn about the Strategic Plan and how it can reinvigorate our Church and parishes.** See one of the above for more information (Note: there is a fee that covers materials & food). You can read and download a copy of the plan at stewardshipcalling.org (look under the "Church Strategic Planning" tab).

On Friday, October 28th at 10AM we will celebrate a Panakhida up at St. Peter and Paul's in Freeland (the parish is closed, but they have asked for a memorial service there). This was rescheduled from the 7th.

Our **Ukrainian Dance Group** continues to meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00PM. It's a great (and growing) group of dancers and a fantastic set of teachers.

An Opportunity to Clothe the Naked! Vera Myzychka is collecting coats, jackets, gloves, mittens, and scarves to distribute at the soup kitchen. Please see her for details.

The **Grief Support Group** is offering everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one special one-session classes on "Surviving the Holidays"! Thanksgiving and Christmas bring a special kind of stress to the lives of the heartbroken. This excellent program is designed to help real people (i.e. US!) find peace and a renewed confidence in Christ. This is a non-denominational Christian program and everyone – to include the non-Orthodox – is invited. Dates are: 11/15, 11/22, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20.

Our next **Parish Board Meeting** is at 6:30PM on 10/24.

Please let me know if you would like something put into the bulletin/announced in church.

Reading and Greeter Schedule (October)

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
10/16/2016	Joseph Truchan	Richard Rosko
10/23/2016	Nik Fartuch	Eleanor Fox
10/30/2016	Rdr. Nicholas Perkins	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka

Let Fr. Anthony know if you will not be able to greet/read and cannot find a replacement. Also let him know if you would like to be added to the schedule!

Today's Scripture Readings

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 (NKJV)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you[a] are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them

And walk among them.

I will be their God,

And they shall be My people."

Therefore;

"Come out from among them

And be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean,

And I will receive you."

"I will be a Father to you,

And you shall be My sons and daughters,

Says the Lord Almighty."

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36 (NKJV)

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.