

# St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

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**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!  
GLORY FOREVER!**

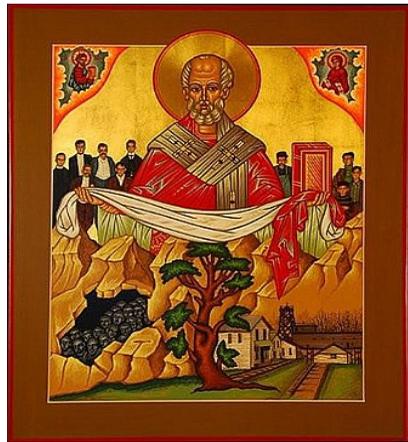
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## Miracles of St. Nicholas in Our Times

December 19, 2007, the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra according to the Julian Calendar, marked the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine Disaster and the Miracle of St. Nicholas in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania. This was Pennsylvania's worst mining disaster and one of the worst in the United States. When the Darr Mine exploded, 239 men and boys lost their lives. Only two escaped.



That day Carpatho-Rusyn miners gave up a day's wage to attend a morning Divine Liturgy, as December 19 is the feast day of St. Nicholas, their patron saint. Many newspapers, including the New York Times, reported the miraculous events. One Pittsburgh paper stated:

*Religious fervor is due to sweep through the Youghiogheny Valley as never before as a consequence of the Darr disaster. Today was a holiday of the Greek Catholic Church, and as such it was observed by many of the men*

*who usually work in the Darr mines. Usually about 400 men toil within the mine. On account of the religious holiday—it was the Feast of St. Nicholas—this number was nearly cut in half, and these, almost two hundred men, who were saved by religious devotion, will certainly be more devout than ever, after the extent of the mine's horror is fully realized.*

This was the second miracle of St. Nicholas and miners in 1907. Earlier on December 6, Nicholas' feast day in the Gregorian Calendar, the worst mining disaster in United States history took place in Monongah, West Virginia. Nearly 400 men lost their lives that day. However, 60–100 Italian Roman Catholic and Carpatho-Rusyn Greek Catholic miners were spared as they attended a Roman Catholic St. Nicholas feast day observance. After the Darr Mine reopened in 1910, Carpatho-Rusyns on both sides of the Youghiogheny River built churches dedicated to Saint Nicholas in gratitude for his miraculous protection.

# December Worship Schedule

<b>Sunday</b>	12/18	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
<b>Monday</b>	12/19	10:00AM	St. Nicholas; Divine Liturgy
<b>Wednesday</b>	12/21	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Conception of St. Mary
<b>Thursday</b>	12/22	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy of the Conception of St. Mary
<b>Saturday</b>	12/24	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Holy Forefathers
<b>Sunday</b>	12/25	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
<b>Saturday</b>	12/31	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Saturday before Nativity
<b>Sunday</b>	1/1	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education, Greening of the Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	1/6	9:00AM	Royal Hours of Nativity (Church)
		8:00PM	Great Compline of the Nativity w/Litya (Church)
<b>Saturday</b>	1/7	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of the NATIVITY

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

## Adult Education

**Sunday (11AM).** We will resume our “Spiritually Speaking” series after Theophany Nativity.

**Wednesday (7PM).** Bible Study. This week will will continue the story of Moses and the Israelites, focusing on the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea.

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St. Mary's has a website (that includes weekly bulletins and an up to date calendar), a Facebook page, and an e-mail list (let Judy know if you would like to be added!); now the parish board, in an attempt to further improve our communication with parishioners and the community, **we are starting a phone text messaging service.** This will include reminders about services and events, funerals, and (should the need arise) cancelations and reschedulings. If you would like to be added to the St. Mary's text messaging list, please give your cell phone number to Fr. Anthony.



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!**

## December 18<sup>th</sup>; 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Bude!*”

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

**Tone 1 Tropar** (*Resurrection*)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure ^body, / You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Your Kingdom! // Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

**Tone 8 Tropar** (*for Ven Sabbas*)

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, / and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe. // Our Father Sabbas, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

**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 1 Kondak** (*Resurrection*)

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Yourself. / Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You: // “You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

**Tone 8 Kondak** (*for Ven Sabbas*)

From your youth you offered yourself to God as a blameless sacrifice, / having been dedicated to Him before your birth, blessed Sabbas. / You were an adornment of the righteous and a praiseworthy citizen of the desert. / Therefore, we cry to you: “Rejoice, ever-glorious 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...)!

**Tone 1 Prokimen** (*Ps 32:22,1*)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!

*v: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just!*

**Tone 7 Prokimen** (*Venerable Sabbas; Ps 115:15*)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

**Epistle:** Ephesians 5:9-19 (*Sunday*), Galatians 5:22-6:2 (*Venerable Sabbas*)

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.** (*Ps 17:47,50; 111:1*)

*v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.*

*v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.*

*v. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.*

**Gospel:** Luke 17:12-19 (*Sunday*); Matthew 11:27-30 (*Venerable Sabbas*). Children are encouraged to come up front; “Let the little children come unto me.” (Matthew 19:14)

**Litanies for the Faithful and for the Catachumens.** Catachumens 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

**The Grief Support Group** is offering everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one special one-session classes on “Surviving the Holidays”! Christmas brings a special kind of stress to the lives of the heartbroken. Dates are 12/20, 12/27. The next 13 week session starts on 1/10.

**Please plan to attend** our special St. Mary's “Holy Supper” on 1/6 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 both are optional). **All are invited!!!**

Members of St. Mary's have been invited to join **St. Elizabeth's Credit Union** in Northampton. If you are interested, see Fr. Anthony for more information and a letter confirming your membership.

Our **Ukrainian Dance Group** meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00PM.

Come to the **Fisher House at the Consistory in S. Bound Brook** today from 12-3PM to meet St. Nicholas and make Christmas Tree decorations! \$15 covers ornament, picture, and refreshments.



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### Reading and Greeter Schedule (December & January)

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
12/18	Joseph Truchan	Richard Rosko
12/25	Nik Fartuch	Eleanor Fox
1/1	Reader Nicholas	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
1/8	Reader James	Richard Rosko
1/15	John Sokalsky	Eleanor Fox
1/22	Robert Noecker	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
1/29	Alex Mackiewicz	Richard Rosko
2/5	Richard Bodner	Eleanor Fox
2/12	Robin Bodner	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka

**Please 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:

**Ephesians 5:9-19.** (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

### Galatians 5:22-6:2

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

### Gospel:

### Luke 17:12-19

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

### Matthew 11:27-30

All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.