

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

Pokrova-allentown.org 1031 Fullerton Ave, Allentown PA 18102
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CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!

ВОІСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС!



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

Saturday 4/30 10:00PM Paschal Nocturnes, Matins, & Divine Liturgy
PASCHA 5/1 8:00AM Paschal Matins and Typika w/Communion
11:00AM Agape Vespers

Note: The 8:00AM Matins and Typika repeat much of the “midnight” services for those that could not make them the previous night.

Monday 5/2 9:00AM Bright Monday Divine Liturgy
Saturday 5/7 10:00AM Divine Liturgy (**South Bound Brook**)
6:00PM Vespers (**South Bound Brook**)
Sunday 5/8 9:00AM Divine Liturgy – St. Thomas Sunday;
Easter Egg Hunt; Mother’s Day
Wednesday 5/11 7:00PM Daily Vespers
Saturday 5/14 *** NO MORNING SERVICE***
6:00PM Cathedral Vigil
Sunday 5/15 9:00AM Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Wednesday 5/18 7:00PM Daily Vespers
Saturday 5/21 9:00AM Divine Liturgy
6:00PM Cathedral Vigil
Sunday 5/22 9:00AM Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Wednesday 5/25 7:00PM Daily Vespers
Saturday 5/28 NO SERVICES (Fr. Anthony will be at SVS)
Sunday 5/29 9:00AM Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Wednesday 6/1 7:00PM Daily Vespers
Saturday 6/4 6:00PM Cathedral Vigil
Sunday 6/5 9:00AM Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Wednesday 6/8 7:00PM Cathedral Vigil of the Ascension
Thursday 6/9 9:00AM Festal Liturgy of the Ascension
Saturday 6/11 6:00PM Cathedral Vigil
Sunday 6/12 9:00AM Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education

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

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Cathedral

Катедра Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці

Pokrova-allentown.org

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V. Rev. Anthony Perkins

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The Paschal Epistle

of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine in the Year of our Lord 2016

To the Reverend Clergy, the Deaconate in Christ, Venerable Monastics, and all the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the borders of Ukraine and on her native soil,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

There is no event and no greater news that is more joyful in the life of the Christian than the news of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ for the Orthodox Church is the Feast of Feasts and the Festival of Festivals because the Resurrection of our Lord is the victory of life over death, of love over hatred, of truth over falsehood, of good over evil, of humility over pride, of faith over hopelessness, and of holiness over sin.

St. Paul says: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and our faith is in vain." (1 Cor 15:14).

The Lord's Resurrection fills our lives with meaning and purpose for which we can even forsake all that is temporary so that we may attain that which is eternal. Whatever we are suffering, whatever illness and misfortune we endure, whatever cross we bear to our personal Golgotha, we must know that our resurrection awaits us if we believe in the Lord, if we love Him, and if we hope in Him. He rose from death for us. With His death, He conquered death for each of us. He opened the way to eternal life for each of us by His Resurrection.

The darkness of the tomb is illuminated, and in the words of Saint John Chrysostom: "...for pardon has shone forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. Death, where is thy sting? Christ is Risen, and life reigns. Christ is Risen, and no dead remain in the grave." (Paschal Epistle of St. John Chrysostom).

God not only grants us a life here on earth, but today we celebrate and praise God's unfathomable grace and love for us all, because through the power of the Risen Lord "corruptible mortality has put on incorruption and mortality has put on immortality" (1 Cor 15:54). Immortality is granted to us by the Lord, the source of the boundless joy of our faith because no one in our life can grant us anything more valuable and more important than the immortality given to us by the Risen Lord.

We live in the 21st century. It would seem that humanity has achieved much and has actually made great strides in scientific and technical progress. Many people and nations live in material abundance. And the world should have also become wiser based

on its historical experience. Unfortunately, war, hatred, and violence continue. Those with greater strength dominate over those who are weaker. Individuals and entire nations ignore God and His Commandments and show that we are living in eschatological times.

Material wealth or the desire to acquire material wealth does not always provide a guarantee for people that they will have a quiet and happy life. Instead, these can often cause troubles for others, and may even lead to self-destruction. The loss of a sense of sin and holiness leads to tragedies in people's personal and public life. People do not know what they live for and often do not see the meaning of life.

The meaning of life for every Christian is found in the words contained in the joy of Pascha: "Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life." (Paschal Tropar). The Risen Lord is the way, the truth, and the life for all of us (Jn 14:6). God has granted us the right to choose to live with Him or without Him. He is the way. Let us not doubt for a second, but choose the road that leads to Him. He is the Truth. Let us know that our heart can find peace only in Him. He is the life. Let us know that through His death on the Cross and His Resurrection, He grants immortality to all of us.

We, the episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Beyond the Borders of Ukraine, pray-erfully appeal to the Risen Lord that He grant peace, joy and spiritual renewal to our God-loving people in Ukraine, in the North and South Americas, in Western Europe, and in Australia and New Zealand. Beloved in the Risen Christ "on this chosen and holy day, the Feast of Feasts, and the Festival of Festivals, we bless Christ to all the ages." (Paschal Matins, Canticle 8).

TRULY, CHRIST IS RISEN!

With Archpastoral Blessings,

✠ **YURIJ**, Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

✠ **ANTONY**, Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA & Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

✠ **IOAN**, Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

✠ **JEREMIAH**, Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America

✠ **ILARION**, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

✠ **ANDRIY**, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

✠ **DANIEL**, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

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Parish News and Events

Next Sunday is Mother's Day; let's celebrate it together! After Liturgy, we will have a meal of hot turkey sandwiches, ham, mashed potatoes, corn, & salad. There is no charge, although a free will offering will be collected (Contact Chris Zimmerman for details). Please plan on attending!

Easter Egg Hunt!!! May 8th after the Divine Liturgy!

Our visiting seminarians are Vasyl (he was here at Nativity) and Gregory. They will be with us through Pascha. **Please give them a big St. Mary's welcome!**

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. **Please spread the word!**

St. Mary's Seniors: 5/3. Meeting and Paschal Lunch!; 5/25. Hoagie Making

St. Mary's Ukrainian Dance Group: Classes resume this week. Ukrainian Dance Camp in Lehighton: 6/27 – 7/1 (performance 7/2 @7PM)

Upcoming Spiritually Speaking (& Singing!) Classes (after Coffee Hour)

- 5/8 "Congregational Singing: The Divine Liturgy (as on Saturday mornings)"
- 5/15 "Chanting the Cathedral Vigil w/Tones 1 & 2 (as on Saturday Evenings)"
- 5/27 "Chanting the Cathedral Vigil w/Tones 3 & 4 (as on Saturday Evenings)"
- 6/5 "Chanting the Cathedral Vigil w/Tones 5 & 6 (as on Saturday Evenings)"
- 6/12 "Chanting the Cathedral Vigil w/Tones 7 & 8 (as on Saturday Evenings)"
- 6/19 "Chanting the Funeral Service"

Reading and Greeter Schedule

Today's Epistle Reader: John Sokalsky; Next Week: Robert Noecker

Today's Greeters: Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka;

Next Week: Richard and Carolyn Rosko

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

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!

Today's Scripture Readings

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Gospel: John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.