

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Cathedral

Катедрa Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці

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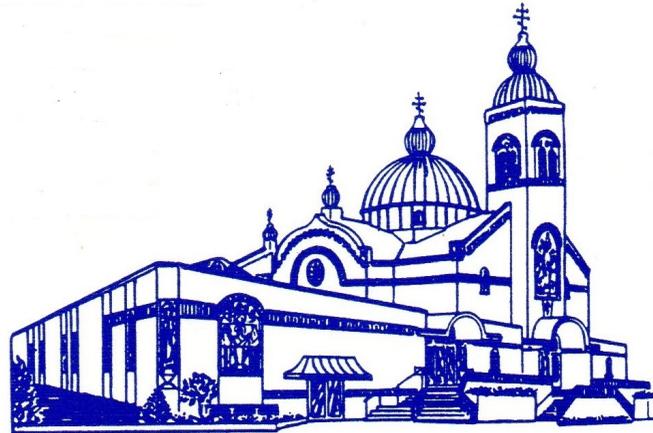
GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!

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СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ!

СЛАВА НАВІКИ!



15 Years of War: Some observations

I lieu of an essay, I just want to share some brief observations with you. I'd love to hear your comments (coffee hour?).

As with you, my life changed at 9/11. I was soon mobilized for two years to provide intelligence support to the war on terror. It was this move that brought my family into the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and eventually led me into the priesthood.

Those who think that theology doesn't matter haven't been paying attention. Anyone whose faith allows them to kill innocent people while saying a prayer to God is doing pretty much everything wrong (to include religion/theology). THAT is blasphemy.

Orthodox Christianity and Islam (that is to say, Orthodox Christians and Muslims) have co-existed since the rise of Islam. No one is more aware of how dangerous this can be than our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East who currently suffer from ISIS, al Qaeda, etc. It is interesting to see how they diagnose the problem.

Christ really is the ultimate answer to this problem. Our faith doesn't require pacifism or preclude military action, but it does require that we work to bring the peace of Christ (not just the peace of power) to bear on our problems. What should this look like in this case? Reasonable people (and devoted Christians) can differ on this.

No one can defeat the one who lives in Christ. In Him even death brings victory.

Worship Schedule

9/11 IS A SOLEMN FAST DAY

Sunday	9/11	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour
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Wednesday	9/14	10:00AM	Hierarchical Liturgy (at Seminary in S. Bound Brook)
Saturday	9/17	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	9/18	9:00AM	Teaching Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Church School Year (and start of Fall Schedule) Coffee Hour
Wednesday	9/21	10:00AM 7:00PM	Divine Liturgy: Nativity of Our Lady (Chapel) Bible Study & Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	9/24	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	9/25	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Monday	9/26	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Cross (Chapel)
Tuesday	9/27	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy: Exaltation of the Cross (Chapel)
Wednesday	9/28	7:00PM	Bible Study & Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	10/1	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	10/2	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Wednesday	10/5	10:00AM 7:00PM	Divine Liturgy (Chapel) Bible Study & Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	10/8	2:30PM	Wedding of Stephanie and Michael (no Vigil)
Sunday	10/9	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)!

Each Wednesday (7PM). Bible Study. We will 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 15 minutes will be spent offering up our praise and prayer concerns to the Lord.

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!

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!

September 11th: The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

The Order of Worship

Blessed is the Kingdom ... Amen. Heaven and earth are joined in praise of God. We join the cosmos in praise of God and do our most Holy Work: The Divine Liturgy!

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

Psalm 102. This sung Psalm is followed by a Small Litany ("Again and again...").

Psalm 145 & "Only Begotten Son". These are also followed by a Small Litany.

The Beatitudes. God's wisdom offered in song – beautiful consolation.

The Little Entrance/Gospel Entrance. This symbolizes Christ coming from heaven into the world. Everyone is welcome to line up and kiss the Gospel.

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

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

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 Troparion *(John the Baptist)*

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. / You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, / for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. / Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, / you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, // Who takes away the sin of the world and grants us great mercy.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

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 5 Kontakion *(John the Baptist)*

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner / became an act of divine dispensation, / for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. / Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, / loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, // but that which is false and temporal.

Trisagion: We join the angels in proclaiming God's glory (Holy God, Holy Immortal...)

Prokimen *(Resurrection, Tone 3; Psalm 46:6,1)*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Prokimen *(Forerunner, Tone 7; Psalm 63:10)*

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him. *(Ps 63/64:10)*

Epistle; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Acts 13:25-32 *(Forerunner)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Tone 3; Psalms 30:1,2; 91:12)

v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!

v: The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26 (Sunday); Mark 6:14-30 (Forerunner). 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. We "put aside all earthly cares" and join the angels in worship.

The Great Entrance. This 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. During this time we ask the Holy Spirit to come and sanctify us and the gifts we have presented according to Christ's command (i.e. the bread and wine) Please kneel or stand as we pray (either is fine). The prayers of the anaphora are available in the new Service Books. These prayers summarize the economy of our salvation and the role of the Last Supper and Eucharist in it.

Hymn to the Birthgiver of God, Mary. This prayer comes at the end of the Anaphora. We are "remembering" her along with all the saints. As the choir sings this hymn, the priest prays for for the needy, the departed, and the civil authorities.

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. See Fr. Anthony if you would like to learn more about joining this parish!

Post-Communion Prayers, Dismissal & Distribution of the Antidoron. Everyone can come forward, kiss the cross, and receive some homemade blessed bread.

Parish News and Events

Next Week marks the beginning of the school year. We will kick off the school year with a “Teaching” Divine Liturgy. At the end of the service, we will bless our students and teachers.

The UOC-USA Sobor will be held October 19-22. Vera Muzychka, Alex Mackiewicz, Robert Neubauer (alternate), and Fr. Anthony (priest) will be representing St. Mary's. The most important thing planned for the Sobor is the presentation and (Lord willing!) approval of the UOC-USA Strategic Plan. You can read and download a copy of the plan at stewardshipcalling.org (look under the “Church Strategic Planning” tab at the top).

God bless everyone who worked at the perohi kitchen session yesterday (and special thanks to all those who organized it and stayed to clean up).

Grief Support Group. Tuesdays. 6:30PM – 8:00PM in the Library. For more information or registration, please call Joe Truchan at 610-262-3251. We will offer special “stand-alone” sessions during the Thanksgiving and Christmas/Nativity seasons.

Fr. Anthony's Seminary Schedule: this semester I am teaching on Monday mornings (Dogmatic Theology) and Tuesday evenings (Old Testament).

Fall Weekday Liturgies: will be every Wednesday except 9/28, 10/19, 10/26, 11/16 & 12/7. These are offered in place of the Saturday liturgies.

The Scholarship Committee is looking to restart the Golf Tournament (beginning in 2017)! See Joe Zimmerman if you are interested in helping!

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

Reading and Greeter Schedule (through September)

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
9/11/2016	Robert Noecker	Eleanor Fox
9/18/2016	Alex Mackiewicz	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
9/25/2016	Richard Bodner	Richard Rosko
10/2/2016	Robin Bodner	Eleanor Fox
10/9/2016	Dennis Ritter	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
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: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. ... For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. ...

Acts 13:25-32. And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.' "Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26. Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions...

Mark 6:14-30. Now King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well known. And he said, "John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him." Others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets." But when Herod heard, he said, "This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!" [The Gospel then goes on to describe how Herod had John beheaded].