

# St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

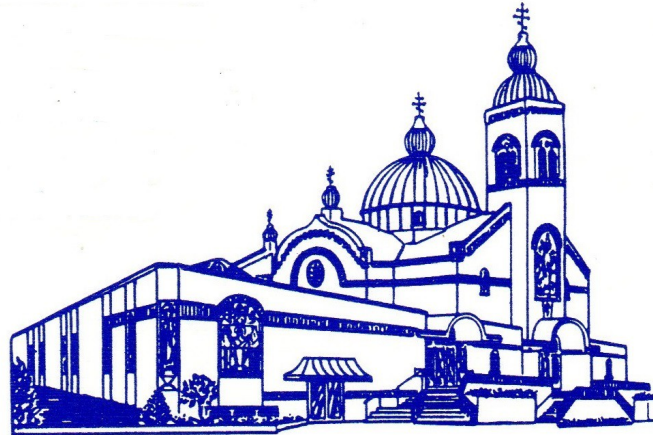
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**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!**

**GLORY FOREVER!**

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## Repentance and Confession.

The Orthodox Church strictly adheres to the teaching of the Bible that only God can forgive sins, that He does so through Christ in the Church, that his conditions are genuine repentance and the promise of change which are witnessed by confession; and that confession, by definition, is the open and public acknowledgment of sin before God and all mankind.

Not every sin requires the necessity of formal penance through sacramental ritual [*immediate and daily repentance through contrition, prayer, and restitution & reconciliation (whenever possible) is required for every sin. - Fr. Anthony*]. This is obvious because Christians are never completely without sin. Certain grave sins or the prolonged separation from Holy Communion, however, do call for the act of sacramental penance. Also, Christians living in communion with Christ are expected to make use of this sacrament periodically in order to humble themselves consciously before God and to receive guidance in the Christian life from their pastor in the Church [*Note: the guidance from our bishops is that those who commune regularly should take confession once a month – or at least once a quarter. The absolute minimum required to be a member of the UOC-USA – and thus a member in good standing of this parish – is once a year. - Fr. Anthony*].

There are three main elements to the act of formal penance. The first is a sincere sorrow for sins and for the breaking of communion with God. The second is an open and heartfelt confession of sins. At one time this confession was done publicly before all men in the midst of the Church, but in recent times it is usually done only in the presence of the pastor of the Church who stands in behalf of all. The third element of penance is the formal prayer of absolution through which the forgiveness of God through Christ is sacramentally bestowed upon the repentant sinner.

[excerpted from the OCA book *Worship*]

# October Worship Schedule

<b>Sunday</b>	10/2	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
<b>Wednesday</b>	10/5	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy (Chapel)
		7:00PM	Bible Study (Church)
<b>Saturday</b>	10/8	2:30PM	Wedding of Stephanie and Michael
			***NO VIGIL SERVICE TODAY***
<b>Sunday</b>	10/9	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
<b>Wednesday</b>	10/12	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy (Chapel)
		7:00PM	Bible Study (Church)
<b>Thursday</b>	10/13	4:00PM	PATRONAL VIGIL ( ) (Church)
<b>Friday</b>	10/14	10:00AM	PATRONAL LITURGY ( ) (Church)
<b>Saturday</b>	10/15	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
<b>Sunday</b>	10/16	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
			*** There are no services or Bible study this week due to the Sobor ***
<b>Sunday</b>	10/23	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
<b>Wednesday</b>	10/26	7:00PM	Bible Study (Church)
<b>Saturday</b>	10/29	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
<b>Sunday</b>	10/30	10:00AM	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 I have to Confess to a Priest?” We'll look at the Bible, the texts, and the earliest extra-biblical sources to figure it out. Next week's topic will be even more fun; It's the response to the wonderful (and challenging) question: “Why can't women go into the altar?!” Please come – and bring your curiosity (and love)!

**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 few minutes will be spent in Q & A.

This past week's Bible Study addressed where/how we got the Old Testament. This week, we'll finally open our Bibles and talk about the intent and message of Genesis One (it's not what most people think). One of the main lessons is that we cannot let fundamentalists define our approach to Genesis (or anything else)!

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 2<sup>nd</sup>; Fourteenth 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 6 Tropar (Resurrection)**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Your grave, / seeking Your most pure body. / You took captive hell, / not being tempted by it. / You came to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

### **Tone 1 Tropar (Cross)**

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

### **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 6 Kondak (Resurrection)**

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

### **Tone 4 Kondak (Cross)**

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by your power, / granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

### **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 6** (*Psalm 27:9,1*)

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

*v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

**Prokimen Tone 7** (*of the Cross; Psalm 98:5*)

Extol the Lord your God, worship at His footstool for He is holy.

**Epistle:** Galatians 2:16-20 (*of the Cross*)

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!** (*Ps 73:2,12;90:1*)

*v. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!*

*v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.*

*v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.*

**Gospel:** Matthew 22:35-46 (*Resurrection*); Mark 8:34-9:1 (*Cross*) 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

**Richard Rosko** and his family thank everyone for all your support during this incredibly difficult time. They ask that you continue this support in the form of patience. Writing thank you notes is painful, but they are working on them as quickly as they are able. Please forgive the delay and continue to support them with your love, prayers, and friendship.

**You can thank your parish board** for the better sound this morning. The old wireless microphones and transmitters were top of the line, but were just plumb wore-out. We now have a new one (Glory to God!). Next up? New vestments for the altar services (they are pretty wore-out, too). Donations for this purpose would be welcomed and blessed!

**God bless your generosity!** The new dishwasher is fantastic. We are using the money left over from its purchase and installation to purchase a new ice maker. As with the dishwasher, this will greatly facilitate our kitchen operations. Glory to God!

**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. **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](http://stewardshipcalling.org) (look under the "Church Strategic Planning" tab).

**Our St. Mary Seniors** are having their Anniversary Lunch and meeting on 10/3 at 12:30PM.

**This Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 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).

**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.

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.

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### Reading and Greeter Schedule (October)

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
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:** Galatians 2:16-20 (NKJV)

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Gospel:** Matthew 22:35-46 (NKJV)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?"

They said to Him, "The Son of David."

He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying:

'The Lord said to my Lord,

'Sit at My right hand,

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool'?"

If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

**Gospel:** Mark 8:34-9:1 (NKJV)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."