

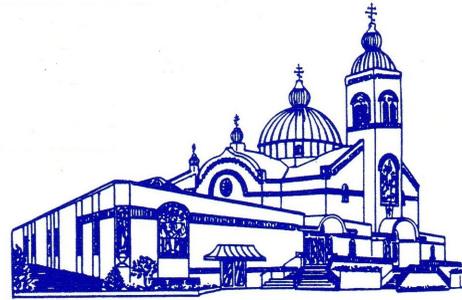
St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

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

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From our bishops:

All great things in life must be prepared for—we human beings can't just casually “walk up to” significant events without readying ourselves for them. In the Secular world the Shopping Seasons is at hand. Some people will spend it jostling for bargains; others will pass the time lamenting the commercialization of Christmas. The Orthodox Church, on the other hand, encourages her faithful to prepare for the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord by fasting during this serious but joyful preparation season...

For those of us who adhere to the Orthodox faith and Order embraced by the Blessed Ol'ha and the Venerable Prince Volodymyr of Kyiv and who appreciate the richness of the heritage, which binds us to Kyivan Rus' – Ukraine's venerable past and challenging present, Pylypivka 2016 is the time to stand up among those who seek and proclaim Christ, as did our forefathers... For us, Pylypivka 2016 is the time to “let our light so shine before men, that they might see the good works and give glory to our Father Who is in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16). This is the Father, Whose Beloved Son “loves those who are just and shows mercy to those who are hardened in sin.” (Prayer of the First Hours)

May He, who so loved the world that He sent His Only-Begotten Son to be our Lord and Savior, assist us in our resolve to mature and be nourished by the word of Truth and by the Life-giving mysteries.

May we grow and mature in faith as Ukrainian Orthodox Christians so that others, having witnessed the faith manifested in our personal lives and in our parish communities, will be drawn to Christ and, like the shepherds of Bethlehem, will glorify and praise God for all that they have seen and heard through us.

Assuring you of our prayers and love and requesting yours, we remain your servants in the Lord, [signed, the bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church outside the borders of Ukraine]

Excerpted from the Epistle for the Nativity Fast sent to us from the Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the Borders of Ukraine.

December Worship Schedule

Sunday	12/4	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entry Coffee Hour, Education
Saturday	12/10	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	12/11	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Saturday	12/17	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	12/18	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Monday	12/19	10:00AM	St. Nicholas; Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	12/21	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Conception of St. Mary
Thursday	12/22	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy of the Conception of St. Mary
Saturday	12/24	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Holy Forefathers
Sunday	12/25	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education
Saturday	12/31	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Saturday before Nativity
Sunday	1/1	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education, Greening of the Sanctuary
Friday	1/6	9:00AM	Royal Hours of Nativity (Church)
		8:00PM	Great Compline of the Nativity w/Litya (Church)
Saturday	1/7	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of the NATIVITY

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

Adult Education

Sunday (11AM). This week we are starting a new Advent “Spiritually Speaking” series on the geography, prophesies, and hymns/poetry of the Nativity. This week Fr. Anthony will give a presentation on the geography of the Nativity.

Wednesday (7PM). Bible Study. This past week we went over the life of Joseph. This took us up to the point in the Old Testament where the people of God (the Israelites) were in Egypt. This sets us up for a study of Moses and the Exodus. This week Fr. Anthony has a special presentation for the class.

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 would 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 4th; The Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple The Order of Worship

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 7 Tropar (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death. / To the thief You opened Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy. / And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that You are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Tone 4 Tropar (Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple)

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice and sing to her: // “Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

Tone 4 Tropar (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 7 Kondak (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 4 Kondak (Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple)

The most pure Temple of the Savior; / the precious Chamber and Virgin; / the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, / is presented today to the house of the Lord. / She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, / therefore, the Angels of God praise her: // “Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

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.

Tone 7 Prokimen (Ps 28/29:11,1)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Tone 3 Prokimen (Song of the Theotokos; Lk 1:46-47)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk 1:46-47)

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 (*Sunday*); Hebrews 9:1-7 (*Theotokos*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Ps 91/92:1,2; 44/45:10*)

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.

v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

v: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear!

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (*Sunday*); Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (*Theotokos*) 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. “Put aside all earthly cares” and join the angels in adoration of God.

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!

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 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12/27. The next 13 week session starts on 1/10.

GOD BLESS OUR BAKERS AND WORKERS!!! Our Fundraising Committee and workers had been busy for weeks (months!) preparing for yesterday's kitchen and it paid off. God bless all those who sacrifice in support of the Church and the spreading of the Gospel!

The St. Mary Seniors Christmas Luncheon is tomorrow!

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!!!**

Chris Zimmerman is offering to give parishioners the flu shot here at church. If you are interested in this wonderful service, please see Judy for details.

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.

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church (OCA) in Bethlehem (980 Bridle Path Road) is having their **Christmas Concert** on 12/11 at 3:30.

Reading and Greeter Schedule (December & January)

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
12/4	Reader James	Eleanor Fox
12/11	Dennis Ritter	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
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

Epistles:

Ephesians 2:14-22 (for the Sunday)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Hebrews 9:1-7 (for the Feast)

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

Gospels:

Luke 12:16-21 (for the Sunday)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

The One Thing Needful and the Blessing of the Theotokos — and Us!