

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

Pokrova-allentown.org 1031 Fullerton Ave, Allentown PA 18102
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**CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!**

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IT IS SUCH A BLESSING TO HAVE YOU HERE WITH US!

Do you love God and desire a deeper union in Him through Christ?

Are you moved by the beauty of traditional architecture, iconography, and liturgy?

Do you love to experience warm, family-friendly fellowship, to hear good music and Christ-centered preaching, to participate in enriching adult education and to offer the same to your children?

If so, then you may well have found your spiritual home! 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!

Our Sunday services are beautiful, but this is far more than a Sunday-only parish!

Looking for fun and safe educational, athletic, or cultural activities for your children or youth? Our **Ukrainian Dance Group** meets every Wednesday at 6:30PM in the Hall and our children and youth education classes (to include our youth service group) meet at 11AM on Sundays.

Over 60 and looking for a warm and active group to meet with for regular fellowship, food, games, and service projects? Our **St. Mary Seniors** meet twice a month (an early Monday at 12:30PM and a later Wednesday at 8AM; see the calendar for exact dates).

Interested in learning more about scripture, Holy Orthodoxy, or chanting? **Adult Education Classes** meet on Wednesday evenings (7PM), Saturday afternoons (3:30PM), and Sunday afternoons (11AM). Fr. Anthony is a seminary professor and former college instructor who loves teaching.

Feel called to help the sick and infirm (Visitation and Support Ministry) or those who are grieving the loss of loved ones (Griefshare)? We have groups that do those things, too!

We would love to have you as members, but there is no obligation to worship with us or participate in our programs – we would love to have you join us for whatever you can!

Christmas & Theophany Worship Schedule

Saturday	1/7	9:00AM 4:00PM	Divine Liturgy of the NATIVITY (Church) Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	1/8	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour
Monday	1/9	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy (**In Northampton**)
Friday	1/13	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil - St.Basil & Circumcision (Chapel)
Saturday	1/14	9:00AM 4:00PM	Divine Liturgy - St.Basil & Circumcision (Chapel) Cathedral Vigil of the Sunday Between (Chapel)
Sunday	1/15	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour
Wednesday	1/18	9:00AM 10:30AM 7:00PM	Royal Hours of Theophany (Church) Vesperal Liturgy of Theophany (Church) Great Compline of the Theophany w/Litya and Blessing of Water (Church)
Thursday	1/19	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy of THEOPHANY (Church) *** SIGN-UP FOR HOUSE BLESSINGS ***
Saturday	1/21	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	1/22	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour
Saturday	1/28	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	1/29	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour
Saturday	2/4	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	2/5	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Education

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

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Adult Education

Sunday (11AM). Lord willing, we will resume our “Spiritually Speaking” series on 2/5. It will meet the first Sunday of each month.

Wednesday (7PM). Lord willing, we will resume our journey through the Old Testament on 1/25. It will meet every Wednesday.

Saturday (3:30PM). Lord willing, we will begin chanting practice at the end of January. It will meet each Saturday. Come early (3PM) to help prepare the Vigil books and bulletins!



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!

January 8th ; Sunday after Nativity

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 4 Tropar (*Resurrection*)

When the women Disciples of the Lord / learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the Apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 Tropar (*Nativity*)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / were taught by a star to adore You, / the Sun of righteousness, / and to know You, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to You!

Tone 2 Tropar (*Of the Righteous Ones*)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / you saw a Virgin great with child; / you gave glory with the shepherds; / you worshipped with the Magi; / you received the news from the Angel. / Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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 3 Kondak (*Of the Righteous Ones*)

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!”

Tone 3 Kondak (*Of the Nativity*)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

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 4** (*Psalm 103:24,1*)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!

Prokimen **Tone 4** (*of the Forefathers*)

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle: Galatians 1:11–19

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalm 44: 5,8*)

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

v: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

v: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13–23. (*Sunday before Nativity*). 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 to “put aside all earthly cares!”

The Great Entrance. The priest brings out the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood 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.

Hymn to the Birthgiver of God, Mary. This is a special song for the feast.

Litany of Preparation. Lord’s Prayer. Please join us as we pray together.

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

You are invited to break the fast with us downstairs after service with **meat**!

The St. Mary Seniors are meeting on 1/9. The next hoagie session is 1/25.

We will have a Kitchen Session on Saturday 1/28! Come for fellowship, lunch, and the opportunity to help raise money for the parish.

The Grief Support Group's next 13 week session starts on 1/10.

Thanks to everyone who made our 2nd annual Ukrainian **Holy Supper** possible!

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.

The next **Parish Board Meeting** will be on 1/23 6:30.

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

We will put out sign-up sheets starting on 1/19 for the **blessing of homes**. It would be wonderful to be able to visit and bless everyone's house this year!

In Honor of the Upcoming Blessing of Our Homes

The priest was doing his rounds to bless all the homes of the faithful after Theophany.

At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, after blessing the front door, he took out a card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."

Reading and Greeter Schedule

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
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: Galatians 1:11–19.

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13–23.

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

*"A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."* (Jeremiah 31:15)

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."