

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

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**CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!**

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Greek Mythology made the curiosity of Pandora the primary cause of suffering in the world. She fails to resist the lure of finding out what is in a box she is told to leave closed. Opening the box, she unleashes sorrow and suffering into the world. We humans are a curious lot. We want to know everything about our business and much about what is not our business. In a world that has deeply internalized the notion that everything is a democracy, we cannot bear hearing that not all knowledge is meant for us...

We fail to understand that knowledge is an act of communion. In some measure, everything we “know” becomes a part of us, and in becoming a part of us, we are changed. We are injured not only through the experience in which we gain knowledge but through the continuing burden of the knowledge that now lives in us. Such knowledge often leaves us broken and burdened in need of healing and relief. The change wrought by some knowledge can come close to destroying the one who knows it.

We love knowledge. To be excluded from being “in the know” often leaves us feeling ashamed and angry. We trust ourselves with everything and find out to our dismay that somebody else’s business can be a terrible thing...

Over the years I’ve become convinced that knowing a little is a good thing, if what you know is the right thing and in the right measure. I read less than I once did, and I read with far more selectiveness. I’ve noticed that some few books I read repeatedly with good effect.

Give thought to knowledge as communion. To what do you wish to unite yourself? What do you want to avoid? Alarmingly, you can have communion with television and movies – a very sobering thought. What have you read that has fed your soul more than any other? Why was that so? Are there patterns in your reading?

Knowledge is a terrible thing – in the original sense of the word.

From Fr. Stephen Freeman, “A Terrible Knowledge” at Glory to God for All Things

Theophany & Pre-Lenten Worship Schedule

Sunday	1/15	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour
Wednesday	1/18	9:00AM	Royal Hours of Theophany (Church)
		10:30AM	Vesperal Liturgy of Theophany (Church)
		7:00PM	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 of Zacchaeus, Coffee Hour
Saturday	2/4	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	2/5	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of Publican and Pharisee Coffee Hour, Education
Saturday	2/11	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	2/12	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of Prodigal Son, Coffee Hour
Tuesday	2/14	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil of the Meeting of our Lord
Wednesday	2/15	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy of the Meeting of our Lord
Saturday	2/18	4:00PM	Panakhida for Soul Saturday (Chapel)
		4:30PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	2/19	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of Last Judgment Son, Meatfare!!!

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

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Adult Education

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

Wednesdays (7PM). We will resume our journey through the Old Testament on 1/25. It will meet every Wednesday.

Saturdays (3:30PM). We will begin chanting practice on 1/28. It will meet each Saturday. We will work on basic skills and music for upcoming (non-choir) services. Come early (3PM) to help prepare the Vigil books and bulletins!

Thursdays (10AM). On 2/2 we will begin a weekly discussion group. Everyone is invited for coffee, tea, a light breakfast, and a discussion on what we can learn from the upcoming Sunday Epistle and Gospel readings. It will meet at the Perkins house at 819 Fernwood St., Emmaus PA. Over time (and there is no rush!), it is my hope to add more small group meal/discussion groups at homes throughout the Valley!

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 before Theophany

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 5 Tropar (*Resurrection*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead //
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 Tropar (*Forefeast of Theophany*)

Prepare, O Zebulon, / and adorn yourself, O Naphtali! / River Jordan, cease flowing, / and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! / Adam, rejoice with our First Mother, / and do not hide yourself as you did of old in Paradise; / for having seen you naked, / He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. // Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

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 5 Kondak (*Resurrection*)

You descended into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, // and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

Tone 4 Kondak (*Forefeast of Theophany*)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: / “Do not be afraid to baptize me! // For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

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!

Epistle: Second Epistle of Saint Paul to Timothy (4:5-8; Sunday before Theophany)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalm 65:2,3*)

v: O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!

v: That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all nations.

Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8 (*Sunday before Theophany*). 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. We

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

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Jr. UOL Food Drive! Items were taken to the Allentown Rescue Mission on Sunday, 8 January 2017.

The St. Mary Seniors' next hoagie session is 1/25. In February, they will meet on 2/6 (Old Country Buffet 11AM), prepare hoagies on 2/22, and have their Pre-Lenten Luncheon on 2/26 (Red Lobster, 11AM).

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 meets at 6:30PM on Tuesdays in the Hall. See Joe Truchan or Vera Muzychka for details.

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!

As noted in the schedule, we will be starting a small groups discussion group meeting at the Perkins house (819 Fernwood St., Emmaus) on Thursdays from 10-11AM. The format will include coffee, a light breakfast and discussion (i.e. unlike the Wednesday evening Bible Study, it's a discussion, not a class or lecture). The first meeting will be on 2/2. We'll have a sign up sheet in the parish hall. This is the first of what we hope will be several small groups we will be starting this year.

Reading and Greeter Schedule

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
1/15	John Sokalsky	Eleanor Fox
1/22	Robert Noecker	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
1/29	Alex Mackiewicz	Richard Rosko
2/5	Richard Bodnar	Eleanor Fox
2/12	Robin Bodnar	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: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets:

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.”

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.’”

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”