

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

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GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORIFY FOREVER!

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Pan-Orthodox Happenings in the Lehigh Valley

One of many blessings that we have in the Lehigh Valley is how well the various Orthodox Christian parishes work together. Here are some upcoming events that are open to all.

St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir Concert. The Lehigh Valley Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will host a benefit concert by the St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA on Sunday, February 19 at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit the seminarians of Saint Tikhon's Seminary. Tickets will be available at the door and are \$10.00. A reception in the church hall will follow the performance.

Sunday of Orthodoxy. St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (us!) will host the **Sunday of Orthodoxy** service on Sunday March 5th at 4PM with the St. Nicholas OCA parish choir leading the music and Fr. Alexander Goussetis giving the message. St. Mary's will host a Lenten meal afterwards.

Sunday Lenten Vespers

- Sun., Mar. 12, 4pm Lenten Vespers St. Nicholas OCA, Bethlehem
- Sun., Mar. 19, 4pm Lenten Vespers Assumption UOC, Northampton
- Sun., Mar. 26, 4pm Lenten Vespers St. Paul AOC, Emmaus
- Sun., Apr. 2, 4pm Lenten Vespers St. Nicholas GOC, Bethlehem

UOC Lenten Retreat. April 1st at the St. Francis Center for Renewal (395 Bridal Path Road in Bethlehem). In the morning, Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha and Fr. Anthony Perkins will demonstrate and discuss the various aspects of the Divine Liturgy (with props!). In the afternoon Fr. Taras Naumenko will give a hands-on class on chanting, to include the tones. Contact Natalie or Oleh Bilynsky (610-892-7315 or nsufler@aol.com) for more information.

Hierarchical Liturgy & Miraculous Taylor Icon of the Mother of God. St. Andrew's Memorial Church in S. Bound Brook. February 25th at 9:45AM (Not LHV, but still good!).

Theophany & Pre-Lenten Worship Schedule

Sunday	2/5	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of Publican and Pharisee Coffee Hour, Adult Education
*** FAST FREE WEEK ***			
Saturday	2/11	10:00AM	Hierarchical Liturgy (at Seminary ... Feast Day)
		4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	2/12	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of Prodigal Son, Coffee Hour
*** REGULAR FASTING WEEK ***			
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)
*** FASTING FROM MEAT WEEK ***			
Saturday	2/25	4:00PM	Cathedral Vigil (Chapel)
Sunday	2/26	9:00AM	Divine Liturgy of Forgiveness (Cheesefare); Service of Forgiveness

***** GREAT LENT BEGINS *****

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. The topic will be the Journey of Great Lent!

Wednesdays (7PM). We are continuing our journey through the Old Testament. Last week, we talked about the first Passover. This week, we will talk about the escape from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea.

Saturdays (3:30PM). We are working on basic skills and music for upcoming (non-choir) services (to include Lenten & Holy Week music). Come early (3PM) and you can 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!

February 5th; Sunday of the Publican and Prodigal

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 8 Tropar (Resurrection)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One! / You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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 4 Kondak (Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! /

Let us cry to our Savior: / “Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!”

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 8 (Psalm 75:11,1)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Psalm 94:1,2)

v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14. 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 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. We either stand or, as is customary among many Ukrainian Orthodox, kneel during this portion of the service.

Hymn to the Birthgiver of God, Mary. Along with all the saints, we remember the Mother of God after the *Epiclesis* (calling of the Holy Spirit).

Litany of Preparation. Lord’s Prayer. Please join us as we pray together the prayer that Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught us.

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.

After the service, please join us for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall!

Parish News and Events

Al Mackiewicz has agreed to be St. Mary's "Parish Champion" for the UOC-USA Strategic Plan, a set of projects that are designed to reinvigorate our parishes and Orthodoxy in America. If you would like to assist him in this important work, please see him!

Parishioner end of the year statements of donations/contributions and dues owed are completed for you to pick up from Judy Miller.

The **St. Mary's Seniors** 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).

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

If you are ill and could use some help or a visit (or know someone else who could), please contact the parish care group leader, Robin Bodnar.

The St. Michael's Men's Auxiliary is looking for work! Its main goal is to help parishioners with things around their homes. If you have something you could use help with (or know of someone who does), please contact the group leader, Joe Zimmerman.

The Men's Auxiliary would also like to **arrange rides** to and from church for folks who could use them (and to make carpooling/parking easier). Please see Joe if you would like a ride or if you are willing to pick people up and/or drop people off.

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.

For your calendar: we are hosting the **Sunday of Orthodoxy** on 3/5!

We would like to make more of our services and classes available beyond the walls of our church (e.g. through recording and posting and/or livestreaming). If you are good with technology and would like to help make this happen, please see Fr. Anthony.

Reading and Greeter Schedule

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
2/5	Robin Bodnar	Eleanor Fox
2/12	Richard Bodnar	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
2/19	Dennis Ritter	Richard Rosko
2/26	Joseph Truchan	Eleanor Fox

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 3:10-15. TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10. Then the Lord gave this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

From Vassilios Papavassiliou (Meditations for Great Lent)

[Today] the Church reminds us that it is better not to fast and to be humble than it is to fast and be proud. Thus the Sunday of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee gives us the first lesson of Lent: Physical fasting is a means to an end, not the end in itself. If our fasting makes us prideful, we are better off not fasting at all. Lent is thus announced as a quest for humility, which is the beginning of true repentance and the root and strength of the Lenten effort.