

St. Mary Protection of the Theotokos Parish

Pokrova-allentown.org 1031 Fullerton Ave, Allentown PA 18102
V. Rev. Anthony Perkins; father.anthony@yahoo.com | 484-232-9423

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

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Poetry from the Great Canon of St. Andrew

Ode 9

Therefore, O my soul, I will remind you of examples from the New Testament to lead you to contrition. Imitate the righteous and shun the ways of sinners that through prayer, fasting, purity, and reverence you may obtain the mercy of Christ.

Christ became a man, taking our flesh and of His own free will enduring everything which pertains to human nature (except sin). He has shown you an image of His own condescension.

Christ became a man and called both robbers and prostitutes to repentance. Return, therefore, O my soul, to Him. For the doors of the kingdom now stand open and the Pharisees, tax collectors and adulterers who have changed their ways are entering ahead of you!

Marriage is honourable and the marriage bed undefiled, for Christ blessed both by His presence at the marriage in Cana. He ate and transformed water into wine, thus performing His first miracle, that you, my soul, might be transformed.

Christ strengthened a paralytic, enabling him to rise and walk. He raised from death a widow's son, and healed the servant of a Roman officer. By revealing Himself to the woman in Samaria, he made clear to you, O my soul, how to worship God in Spirit.

Two thieves were crucified beside You, O Christ. The one abused You while the other confessed You to be God. O most merciful Lord open to me the doors of Your glorious kingdom as You did to the believing thief.



Upcoming Worship Schedule

Sunday	4/2	9:00AM 4:00PM	Divine Liturgy, St. Mary of Egypt Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Meal, St. Paul AOC 156 E Main St, Emmaus
Wednesday	4/5	5:30PM 6:00PM	Repentance (Northampton) (*Note Change*) Holy Unction (Northampton) (*Note Change*) ** No service this evening at St. Mary's **
Friday	4/7	10:00AM	Vesperal Liturgy of the Annunciation
Saturday	4/8	10:00AM	Divine Liturgy – Lazarus Saturday! (Late vocations seminarians will be joining us!) Parish Vigil of Palm Sunday
Sunday	4/9	4:00PM 8:45AM 9:00AM	Blessing of Willows and Palms Divine Liturgy (Palm/Willow Sunday)
Monday	4/10	7:00PM 4:00PM	Bridegroom Matins Presanctified Liturgy
Tuesday	4/11	7:00PM 4:00PM	Bridegroom Matins Presanctified Liturgy
Wednesday	4/12	7:00PM 10:00AM 4:00PM	Bridegroom Matins Holy Unction (Healing Service) Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday	4/13	7:00PM 10:00AM	Bridegroom Matins Mystical Supper Twelve Gospels

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

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Adult Education

Sundays (11AM). Our “Spiritually Speaking” series meets the first Sunday of each month after coffee hour. Today? Some of the beautiful sounds of Holy Week!

Wednesdays (7PM). This Old Testament Bible Study will resume after Pascha.

Saturdays (5:00PM). Chanting class. We are working on Lenten music. Note the change in time; this is so that Rdr. Nicholas can lead it.

Thursdays (10AM). The next meeting will be on 4/6 at the Perkins house (819 Fernwood St., Emmaus PA). This will be the last meeting in April; meetings will resume in May.

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!

April 2nd ; St. Mary of Egypt (Last Sunday of Great Lent)

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 Budei*”

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 8 Tropar (*St Mary of Egypt*)

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.

By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;

but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//

Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

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 (*St Mary of Egypt*)

Having been a sinful woman,

you became through repentance a bride of Christ.

Having attained angelic life,

you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.//

Therefore O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

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.

The Trisagion: At one time, this marked the beginning of the service!

Tone 8 Prokimen (*Resurrection*)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! (Ps 75/76:11)

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)

Tone 4 Prokimen (*St. Mary of Egypt*)

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. (Ps 67/68:35)

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29 (*St Mary of Egypt*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Ps 94/95:1,2*)

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: Mark 10:32-45; Luke 7:36-50 (*St Mary of Egypt*) . 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.

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.

The Last Supper and Consecration of 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. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, / from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – / our God before the ages. / He made your body into a throne, / and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. / Glory to you!

Litany of Preparation. Lord’s Prayer. The prayer Jesus Christ taught us to pray.

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 Blessed Bread. Everyone is invited to come forward, greet the priest, have some of the blessed bread, and then join us for our agape meal (coffee hour) in the fellowship hall.

***** Please join us after the service downstairs for coffee hour! *****

Parish News and Events

A Reminder: our main Pascha service will start at 7:30AM on Sunday. We will be able to park at St. George's. Please spread the word!

Basket Blessings will be after the 3PM Saturday "First Resurrection Service" (i.e. at 5:30PM), after the Sunday morning Paschal Liturgy (i.e. at 10:30AM), and after the 1PM Agape Vespers service (i.e. at 1:45PM).

Today we will install our new parish board. May God grant them discernment and strength!

The Grief Support Group meets at 6:30PM on Tuesdays in the Hall. See Joe Truchan 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. If you know of anyone that could use a visit from Fr. Anthony, please tell him.

Charity Opportunities:

- Lord willing, another soup kitchen will be starting up within a few months. Let's see if we can't help. The commitment would be to serve food one Saturday afternoon a month. If you are interested, please see Joe Truchan.
- Zoe for Life, an Orthodox ministry that helps mothers in need, is in need of new blankets. If you would like to help, please leave new blankets in the parish office or mark your monetary donation for this purpose and put it in the collection.

The next **Parish Board Meeting** will be on 4/24 at 6:30.

Fr. Bazyl will be recovering from an operation (this week) for several weeks. Please pray for him, his family, and Holy Assumption parish.

Reading and Greeter Schedule

Date	Epistle Schedule	Greeters
4/2/2017	Robert Noecker	Richard Rosko
4/9/2017	Alex Mackiewicz	Eleanor Fox
4/16/2017	Richard Bodnar	Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka
4/23/2017	Robin Bodnar	Richard Rosko

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:

Hebrews 9:11-14 (RSV)

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come,[a] then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Galatians 3:23-29 (RSV)

23 Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. 24 So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Gospels:

Mark 10:32-45 (RSV; summary and excerpt)

Jesus foretells His death and resurrection. Then James and John got uppity, asking for a special place ahead of the others. Jesus responded by saying;

"You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Luke 7:36-50 (RSV; excerpt and summary)

36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and took his place at table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment... The Pharisee complained and Jesus set him (and us) straight.