

December 9th ; Second Sunday of Advent

Opening Censing, “Blessed is the Kingdom”, Great Litany, First Antiphon, Little Litany, Second Antiphon, Little Litany, Beatitudes and Little Entrance.

Tone 3 Tropar (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Tone 4 Tropar (for the Pokrova/Temple)

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 (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 2 Kondak (for the Pokrova/Temple)

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 3 Prokimen (Resurrection; Psalm 46:6,1)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18. Beloved in Christ: giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (Resurrection; Psalm 30:1,2)

v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!

Gospel: St. Luke 13:10-17. Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.” Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?” As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Litany of Fervent Supplication. Litany for the Catachumens.

First and Second Litanies of the Faithful.

Cherubic Hymn and the Great Entrance.

Litany of the Offering. Kiss of Peace. The Creed (“I believe”).

The Anaphora (Prayers of Changing the Bread and Wine).

Litany of the Lord's Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (“Our Father”).

Holy Communion. Final Litany. Prayer at the Amvon. Dismissal.

*** Please join us in the hall for coffee and fellowship after the service. ***

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CHRISTMAS AT THE SEMINARY
РІЗДВО В СЕМІНАРІ

SATURDAY - СУБОТА
DECEMBER 15 - 2018 - 15 ГРУДНЯ
1PM to 5 PM

Free admission
with a gift to the
St. Sophia Seminary

Festive cheer, caroling, cookies, ornaments and more!

Announcements

It is with sorrow transformed into the “alleluia” of the Resurrection that I share the news of the passing of our brother in Christ, **Gregory Pesty** on 12/1. His funeral was at St. Mary's on Friday (12/7). **May his memory be eternal!**

On 12/16 our children will be presenting our St. Nicholas program after Liturgy!

On 12/30 after Divine Liturgy we will be “**Greening the Church**”, putting up our wreaths and the like. Please see Vera if you would like to help.

Dear Parishioners: **the Jr UOL is having a food drive from now to February 3, 2018** which is also the date of the Super Bowl of Caring. Please contribute to these great events with your donations of non perishable food items and Contribution of your favorite soup to support this great cause.

Our **St Mary's Seniors:** Next meeting – 1/8. Hoagies 1/23. Join us!

The last meetings of the **Fall Bible Study** will be on 12/6, & 12/13 (7PM in the chapel). We are working our way through the Old Testament. Come and join us!

We are offering **special one-time “Surviving the Holiday” sessions** to help people who are dealing with the loss of loved ones deal with the special grief that comes during the holidays: 12/17 at 10AM, 12/18 at 6:30PM, & 12/31 at 10AM.

We have two regular Grief Share groups: Mondays at 10AM and Tuesday at 6:30PM. Both meet in the Library. See Joe Truchan for details.

For more information on the “**Cloud of Witnesses” Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Group**, see the group's Facebook page (Cloud of Witnesses (Lehigh Valley)), e-mail ambermetz92@gmail.com, or talk to Stephanie or Roman Milan!

Reader Schedule: 12/9 Joseph Truchan, 12/16 Nik Fartuch, 12/23

Greeter Schedule: 12/9 Eleanor Fox, 12/16 Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka, 12/23 Perkins family.

	11/24/18		
Items needed	cost	\$ raised	\$ needed
Furnace Fund	\$18,000.00	\$5,841.00	12,159.00
Chapel A/C	\$6,833.00	\$3,193.00	3,640.00
SS room water damage	\$1,940.00	\$140.00	1,800.00
Fellowship Hall new roof	\$40,174.00		40,174.00
TOTAL NEEDED			57,773.00

Archpastoral Letter on the Nativity Fast

Beloved-in-Christ! We have begun a forty-day period of anticipation of a great event in the salvific work of our Lord – His coming-in-the-flesh in order that we, through hearing His teaching, through witnessing His healing, and participating in His death and resurrection, may become inhabitants of His Heavenly Kingdom.

The Holy Church prescribes for us, faithful, a period of fasting and prayer to prepare ourselves properly for greeting the great day of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. We are challenged by the Gospel reading on the eve of the Nativity Fast (Luke 14:25-35) to not simply greet Him in the tranquil and humble setting of the Cave, and then return to our previous routine of life, but to follow Him by bearing our cross every day and hating those things that hinder our struggle for the Kingdom of God. Let us use this advent season to break away from dark, destructive temptations keeping us from Christ, who is the Light and Life! Take advantage of this time to renew our dedication to the reading of Scripture, to regular prayer, to good works. Keep the fast, each according to their strength, as the Church prescribes. With determined will and with our gaze to the Heavenly Kingdom, abstain from those distractions which cause the “salt to lose its flavour.”(Luke 14:34)

As hierarchs serving in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church outside Ukrainian lands, we are also compelled during this time to exhort you all to engage in fervent prayer for Ukraine! Let us pray for the softening of hearts and return to proper discernment of those who seek to prohibit the confirmation of the See of Kyiv to her proper place as a loving sister within the family of local Orthodox churches; who attempt to diminish and discredit the good reputation and status of the Mother Church of Constantinople and, in particular, her Holy and Sacred Synod and of His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew specifically. Let us pray for those who, most tragically, in these past few days have once again shown a preference to act as an enemy rather than a friend to Ukraine by ordering and carrying out deliberate, unjustified aggression against Ukrainian naval personnel on the open seas. Let us pray for the those struggling to establish a law-abiding, free, peace-loving Ukrainian nation. Let us pray especially for those charged with defended her lands, among whom are numerous wounded and captured as a result of discharging their loyal and sacrificial duty.

Assuring you of our constant prayers, we beseech your prayers for us, your hierarchs – for our health, wisdom, and strength as we strive to be good and faithful archpastors to you in these complicated and even dangerous times.

May we all walk together in peace and in tranquility to the Holy Cave and the Christ-child therein, Who leads us to salvation, eternal life, and the Heavenly Kingdom!

A blessed fast to you, all!

With love in Jesus Christ, our Lord,

+Antony, Metropolitan, UOC-USA & Diaspora (and all the UO hierarchs outside Ukraine)

Interesting Facts from a Recent Study on American Orthodoxy

Orthodox Church Jurisdictions that are part of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America (in alphabetical order)	Number of adherents (*)	Number of parishes (**)	Number of monastic communities	Number of bishops
Albanian Orthodox Diocese	700	2	0	1
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA	10,500	79	0	1
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America	75,000	260	3	7
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada and Australia	2,600	27	2	1
Georgian Orthodox Church	900	18	2	1
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	482,800	530	19	15 (***)
Orthodox Church in America	84,600	547	19	11
Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas	11,200	31	2	1
Russian Orthodox Church (Patriarchal Parishes)	12,400	35	1	1
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia	27,000	162	18	7
Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America	68,000	120	4	3
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA	23,000	85	0	2
All US Orthodox Church jurisdictions combined	798,700	1,896	80	51

- The percentage of Orthodox Church adherents in US general population has remained essentially the same from 1936 to 2010: 0.26%
- The states where it is easiest to find a nearby Orthodox parish are New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New York.
- The states with the “lowest” supply of Orthodox parishes per certain territory are Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, North and South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.
- The total number of people (including children) participating in local Orthodox Christian parishes is about 800,000.

Advent, Nativity, and Theophany Schedule (also see our website)

Sunday	12/9	9AM	Divine Liturgy & Spiritually Speaking
Thursday	12/13	10AM 6:30PM	Divine Liturgy – St. Andrew Akathist of the Nativity
Saturday	12/15	4PM	Great Vespers w/Litya
Sunday	12/16	9AM	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	12/19	10AM	Divine Liturgy – St. Nicholas!
Saturday	12/22	10AM 6PM	Liturgy – Conception of St. Anna Great Vespers (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
Sunday	12/23	9AM	Divine Liturgy
Sunday	12/30	9AM	Divine Liturgy (Fr. Jim Cairns serving) Greening the Church!!!
Saturday	1/5	10AM 4PM	Royal Hours of the Nativity Vespers of Christmas Eve
Sunday	1/6	9AM 5PM 7PM	Divine Liturgy (Christmas Eve!) Holy Supper (in Hall) Grand Compline of the Nativity
Monday	1/7	10AM	Festal Divine Liturgy of the Nativity
Sunday	1/13	9AM	Deacon's Typika (Dn. Michael Abrahamson)
Saturday	1/19	10AM 4PM	Theophany: Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sunday	1/20	9AM	Divine Liturgy

Note: Fr. Anthony will be traveling to Georgia for Western Christmas (on vacation to visit family) and to Romania between our Nativity and Theophany (to represent our seminary and present a paper at a theological conference). This has necessitated a change from the normal Holiday schedule (see above). Thank you for your support!

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!

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