

December 23rd ; Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Tone 5 Tropar (for the 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 (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 5 Kondak (for the 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 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.

Prokimen Tone 5 (for the Resurrection; Psalm 11:7,1)

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16.

Beloved in Christ: As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, put on compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, putting up with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (for the Resurrection; Psalm 88:1,2)

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

v: For You have said: “Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens.”

Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

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. ***



see: <http://www.uocyouth.org/uoccollegemission.html> for details.

Advent and the Gifts of the Magi

- from goarch.org

Continuing the events of the Birth of Christ we recall the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. Seeking the Newborn King they offer Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the icon we understand the statement "kneeling before Innocence we see wealth prostrating itself before Poverty."

The Magi offer gold - an offering of obedience to the King; frankincense - bringing worship and reverence to God; and myrrh - an offering to the human nature of Christ. Their offering reminds the faithful that we too must present our gifts to the Lord.

The gifts we offer through good stewardship are our Time, Talents, and Treasure. Instead of gold, we present our heart to the Lord; rather than frankincense, we offer our soul illumined with love for God and for all humankind; and in place of myrrh, we give our mind so that our thoughts and actions may be free of sin.

The Magi traveled a great distance to meet the newborn King. They overcame many obstacles to meet the Savior of Humankind. Following the Star of Bethlehem, they were guided to prostrate themselves before the God incarnate. They understood what it meant to present their very best to the Lord of all. The Star of Bethlehem has been shining in the hearts of Christians for almost 2,000 years. We must continue to allow the star to guide us in acts of Christian stewardship!

What cause can possibly be worthier than presenting ourselves to God so that the sacred mission of His Church might be fulfilled? We should not wait for the Church to ask for our support, we must step forward voluntarily to meet the Lord and present ourselves to Him by the giving of our Time, Talents, and Treasure.

Speaking of which; it is such a blessing to serve such a generous community! Not only do you give regularly of your time and treasure ... when special needs arise you dig deeper to meet them! Great thanks to all who have contributed to the special needs below (including one anonymous benefactor who gave \$30,000; glory to God!).

Funds needed as of 12/8/2018

	Cost	\$ Raised	\$ Needed
Furnace Fund	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0
Chapel A/C	\$6,833	\$6,833	\$0
SS Room Water Damage	\$1,940	\$1940	\$0
Fellowship Hall Roof	\$40,174	\$1,133	\$39,041

Announcements

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 next **DINNER & WINE TASTING** is scheduled for 2/9 @6PM. Let's invite all our friends!

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

Our last “**Surviving the Holiday**” session, which we offer to help people who have lost loved ones deal with the special grief that comes during the holidays will meet on 12/31 at 10AM.

Lord willing, we will resume our Bible Study journey through the Old Testament in early February.

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!

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. Thank you for your support!

Reader Schedule

12/23 Rdr. James, 12/30 John Sokalsky, 1/6 Robert Noecker

Greeter Schedule

12/23 Perkins family, 12/30 Eleanor Fox; 1/6 Judy Miller & Vera Muzychka,

Worship Schedule (also see our website)

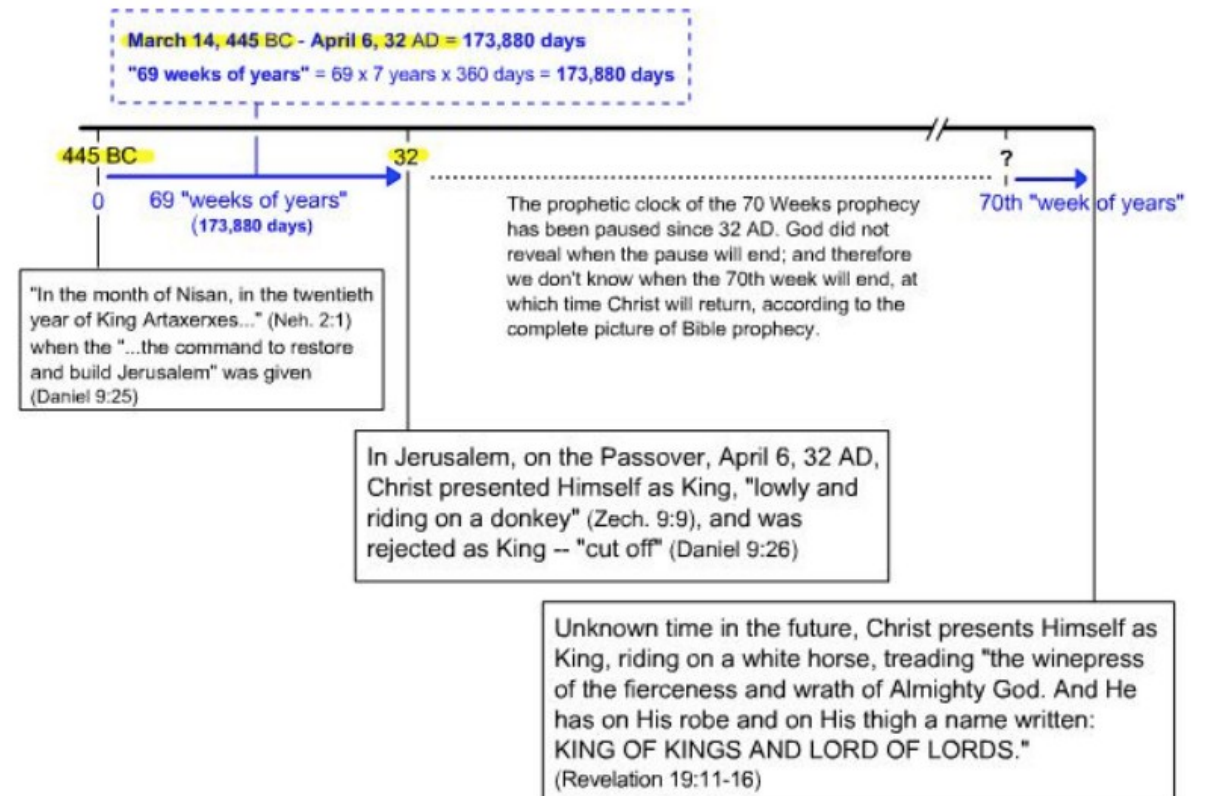
Sunday	12/23	9AM	Divine Liturgy
Sunday	12/30	9AM	Divine Liturgy (Fr. Jim Cairns serving) Greening the Church!!!
Saturday	1/5	10AM	Royal Hours of the Nativity
		4PM	Vespers of Christmas Eve
Sunday	1/6	9AM	Divine Liturgy (Christmas Eve!)
		5PM	Holy Supper (in Hall)
		7PM	Grand Compline of the Nativity
Monday	1/7	10AM	Festal Divine Liturgy of the Nativity
Sunday	1/13	9AM	Deacon's Typika (Dn. Michael Abrahamson serving)
Saturday	1/19	10AM	Theophany: Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Waters, Blessing of Houses
Sunday	1/20	9AM	Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Houses
Saturday	1/26	4PM	Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sunday	1/27	9AM	Divine Liturgy
Saturday	2/2	4PM	Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sunday	2/3	9AM	Divine Liturgy
Thursday	2/7	6:30PM	Akathist to the Pokrova
Saturday	2/9	4PM	Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sunday	2/10	9AM	Divine Liturgy (Zacchaeus Sunday)
Thursday	2/14	5:30PM	Parish Vigil of the Meeting (40 th Day)
Friday	2/15	10AM	Divine Liturgy – Meeting (40 th Day)
Saturday	2/16	4PM	Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sunday	2/17	9AM	Divine Liturgy (Publican & Pharisee)
Fast-free Week!			
Thursday	2/21	5:30PM	Akathist to the Pokrova
Saturday	2/23	4PM	Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sunday	2/24	9AM	Divine Liturgy (Prodigal)
Thursday	2/28	5:30PM	Akathist to the Pokrova
Saturday	3/2	4PM	Great Vespers w/ Litya
Sunday	3/3	9AM	Divine Liturgy (Farewell, Meat!)

The Prophet Daniel Predicted the Date of the Incarnation of Christ-God

After Israel was conquered and Jerusalem destroyed in 586 BC, God revealed to the prophet Daniel that the decree to "restore and build Jerusalem" would begin a prophetic time clock that would count down for 69 "weeks of years" and then Christ would be "cut off." (this prophecy is found in Daniel 9:24-26)

The predicted decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given to Nehemiah "in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes"(see Nehemiah 2:1), which scholars have identified as March 14, 445 BC.

On Jewish calendars a "week of years" is 7 years and a prophetic year is 360 days. The following chart shows how this prophecy identified the probable day that Christ rode into Jerusalem, presenting Himself as the King of Israel, and was rejected ("cut off"), a day remembered today as Palm Sunday.



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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