

Українська Православна Катедра Покрови Пресвятої Богородиці

**St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

**Protection of the Most Holy**

**Mother of God Cathedral**



1031 Fullerton Ave,  
Allentown, PA 18102

Rev. Richard Jendras, Pastor

Telephone 610-820-0821

Web: <http://pokrova-allentown.org>

Email: [saintmaryuoc@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaryuoc@gmail.com).

**VOL. 5 No. 07**

**11 FEBRUARY 2024 - THIRTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Today's Liturgical Propers**

**Tone 3 Troparion** *(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 3 Kontakion** *(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 3 Parish Theotokian**

Today the Virgin stands in the church, / and with hosts of Saints invisibly prays to God for us. / Angels worship with Hierarchs, / and Apostles rejoice with Prophets, / for the Birth-Giver of God prays for us/ to the Pre-eternal God.

**Tone 3 Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
*(Ps. 46:6)*

*V. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Ps. 46:1)*

**Epistle**

(280-ctr) 1 Timothy 1:15-17

**Tone 3**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps. 30:1a)*

*V. Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! (Ps. 30:2b)*

**Gospel**

(62) Matthew 15:21-28

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

=====

## Announcements

- **PRAY FOR UKRAINE!** - The Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy in the Lehigh sponsors weekly Moleben services for the peace and well-being of Ukraine. Last week's Moleben service was postponed because of inclement weather. **The next Moleben service will be this Tuesday; 13 February at 6:30 PM at our own parish St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church 1031 Fullerton Avenue, Allentown.** We urge everyone to attend and PRAY FOR UKRAINE!
- **NOTE WELL: Due to Fr. Richard's continued illness, all weekday services are currently postponed. Please listen to Sunday announcements for updates.**
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE** - In case of inclement weather, we direct our parishioners to our parish website and Facebook page. Information on the cancellation or delay of scheduled services will be posted there as soon as possible. In addition, the same information will be announced on television channel 69 WFMZ.
- **READER SCHEDULE:**

DATE.	HOURS	EPISTLE
02-11.	Liliya Baklavets.	Bohdan Khromenko
02-18.	Dennis Ritter.	Nik Fartuch
02-25	Rich Bodnar.	Bob Noecker
- **COFFEE SOCIAL: TODAY IS SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! Hosted by the Sisterhood of St. Anna.**
- Please pray for the sick and infirm of our Church: Fr. John Fencik, Fr. Yakiw Norton, Fr. Oleh Hucul, Fr. Vasyl Dovgan, Fr. Ivan Levitsky, Fr. Bohdan Heleta, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Tania Antoniewicz, Richard Antoniuk, Bohdan Baranczyk, John Chorney, Gloria Dunski, Marie Hinkley, Daniel Milinichuk, Maria Onulack, Michael Onushko, Nancy Onusko, Mary Ellen Mackiewicz, William Radio, Dori Bochnak, Katheryn Solan, Elsie Moroz, Child of God Karina Strashinsky and the Child of God Johnny Walson.
- **BULLETIN MAILING TO CEASE** - Due to rising postage and printing costs, effective 01 March, the weekly bulletin will no longer be sent out through the US Postal Service, except to those who request it and make a donation to defray

printing and mailing. (Those in long-term health facilities will continue to receive it regardless.) The bulletin will be available, as always, at the church - and, as of 01 March, will be posted on the parish website: [www.pokrova-allentown.org](http://www.pokrova-allentown.org). Anyone wishing to continue receiving the bulletin by mail, should notify the parish office and make a minimum donation of \$30 to cover printing and mailing expenses.

## Schedule for This Week

**SUNDAY - 11 February - THIRTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
*2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 Matthew 15:21-28*

### 9:30 AM - DIVINE LITURGY

**Monday; 12 February - The Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom**  
*James 2:14-26 Mark 10:46-52*

**Tuesday; 13 February - Thee Holy Unmercenary Wonderworkers Cyrus and John and those with them**  
*James 3:1-10 Mark 11:11-23*

6:30 PM - MOLEBEN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF UKRAINE - **AT OUR PARISH** (Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Clergy of the Lehigh Valley)

**Wednesday; 14 February - The Holy Martyr Tryphon of Campsada**  
*James 3:11-4:6. Mark 11:23-26*

**Thursday; 15 February - Meeting of the Lord in the Temple (MAJOR HOLY DAY)**  
*Hebrews 7:7-17. Luke 2:22-40*

**Friday; 16 February - Thee Holy Righteous Symeon and the Prophetess Anna**  
*1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10 Mark 12:1-12*

**Saturday; 17 February - The Venerable Isidore of Pelusium**  
*1 Thessalonians 5:14-23 Luke 17:3-10*

## SUNDAY - 18 February - THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Timothy 4:9-15 Luke 19:1-10

### 9:30 AM - DIVINE LITURGY

## The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on [February 2](#)



The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law. At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law. Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms,<sup>1</sup> and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.” She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: “This Child has established Heaven and earth.”

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the VI century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. Giving thanks to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the VII century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the VIII century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessaloniki in the IX century.

Today we also commemorate the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as “the Softening of Evil Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy.” The Mother of God is depicted without her Child, and seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar Icon, “Of the Seven Swords” (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right. The “Softening of Evil Hearts” is also commemorated on August 13.

The Icon “Simeon’s Prophecy” symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: “a sword shall pierce through your own soul” (Luke 2:35).

In Constantinople, the Emperors would celebrate the Feast Day at the Blakhernae church during the All-Night Vigil. This custom continued until the Fall of the Byzantine Empire.