

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY
(Pokrov)

July 2, 2023

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 4

Menologion

The Deposition of the Venerable Robes of the
Theotokos at Blachernae (c. 465).

Propers
141 - 142

Served By

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Divine Liturgy intention is for the Parish
Family

At our Annual Clergy Days on May 23, 2023,
we have been advised by the Chancery Office
that since the World Health Organization
declared an end to the emergency phase of
the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are to return to
the traditional distribution of Holy
Communion via one golden spoon.

Fasts & Feasts

July 16 Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the
First Six Ecumenical Councils

July 20 Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah

August 1-14 Dormition Fast

August 6 Transfiguration of Our Lord, God
and Savior, Jesus Christ

August 15 The Dormition of our Most Holy
Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-
Virgin Mary

In the Gospel reading, we encounter the story of the healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:24-34, 41-43). This account serves as a powerful reminder of the unfathomable compassion and healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ. The woman, plagued by her ailment for twelve long years, approached Jesus with faith, believing that even touching His garment would bring about her healing. And indeed, in her encounter with Christ, she experienced the miraculous restoration of her health. Similarly, Jairus, a leader of the synagogue, sought Jesus' help in desperation, and through the Lord's touch, his daughter was raised from death to life. These narratives demonstrate the boundless love and mercy of our Savior, who reaches out to the lowly and the desperate, offering them healing, restoration, and new life.

These accounts call us to reflect upon our own lives and consider the areas in which we may be in need of healing and renewal. Just as the woman with the issue of blood reached out to

Christ in faith, let us approach Him with humble hearts, recognizing our weaknesses and seeking His transformative power. Whether we struggle with physical ailments, emotional burdens, or spiritual infirmities, let us not hesitate to come before our Lord, knowing that He is the source of true healing and restoration.

One popular folk tale from Eastern Slovakia is "The Legend of the Wooden Church." It tells the story of a small village in the region that faced great hardship and adversity until the arrival of a mysterious traveler and the construction of a unique church. Here's a retelling of the tale:

Long ago, in a remote village nestled in the hills of Eastern Slovakia, the inhabitants faced continuous struggles and misfortunes. Their crops failed, diseases plagued their livestock, and the village endured a persistent sense of despair.

One day, a traveler with a kind smile arrived in the village. He spoke of hope and promised that he could bring a change to their lives. The villagers, desperate for relief, eagerly listened to the traveler's words. He revealed his plan to build a church that would provide solace and blessings to the village.

The traveler set to work immediately, rallying the villagers together. With their combined efforts, they began to construct a wooden church in the heart of their village. The entire community participated, contributing their skills, time, and resources to the project. The people worked tirelessly, their spirits lifted by the traveler's presence and the vision of a brighter future.

As the church took shape, a sense of peace settled upon the village. The surrounding fields flourished, and the villagers found renewed strength and unity. The traveler,

known to them as a wise and humble man, taught them the importance of faith, love, and compassion.

Legend has it that the wooden church possessed extraordinary powers. It radiated warmth and comfort, and its walls echoed with prayers and songs of praise. The villagers found solace within its embrace, and the church became a beacon of hope for those seeking guidance and miracles.

Word of the miraculous wooden church spread far and wide, attracting pilgrims and visitors from distant lands. They came seeking blessings and offering their own stories of faith and perseverance. The village thrived as people traveled from near and far to experience the transformative power of the church and the uplifting spirit of its community.

To this day, the legend of the wooden church lives on in Eastern Slovakia. It serves as a reminder of the importance of unity, faith, and the enduring power of a place of worship. The tale teaches us that even in the face of adversity, the strength of a community and the power of belief can bring about profound and lasting change.

Note: This folk tale is a fictional creation based on the general themes and storytelling style of Eastern Slovakian folklore.

Joe