



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

October 20th, 2024 + 17th Sunday after Pentecost + Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch, Righteous Child Artemius of Verkola



Hymns for This Week

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Thy holy martyr Artemius, O Lord, through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through his intercession, save our souls!

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Let us gather to sing worthy hymns in honor of Artemius, the pious and victorious martyr who defeated his enemies. He is great among martyrs and generous in

performing miracles, and he intercedes with the Lord on behalf of us all.

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

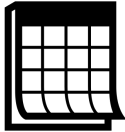
And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel Reading - Luke 16:19-31

There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!*

to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, October 19th

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM (New Session Begins)

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Parastas for Stephen Hutz Jr. following Vespers

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, October 20th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour, Church School

Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist to the Mother of God

THUR 11 AM: Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, October 26th

Baptism of Alivia Kathleen Rubino @ 11 AM

Daughter of Anthony and Amy (Welgus) Rubino

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Parastas for Sokola, Pieck, Zingaretti

Families following Vespers

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, October 27th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Parish Potluck, Church School

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Oct 27th - Informal meeting w/ new "cathedral" members @ Coffee Hour for a cathedral update. Also, please bring your HTOC new member forms!

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REMINDER:

Parish Potluck Next Sunday, Oct 27th



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

NEW SESSION - Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Acts of the Apostles with discussions.

NEW SESSION - ORTHODOXY 101 Beginning October 19th: Saturdays @ 3:30 PM Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. 1 hour followed by Great Vespers.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is October 27th.

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, November 16th @ 9 AM

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Oct 20th @ 11:30 AM

+++ Upcoming Events +++

SAVE THE DATE: SubDeacon Gregory Polk will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate on Sat, Nov 9th at 9 AM by His Eminence Archbishop Mark here at Holy Trinity. More details to come.

OCT 27 - Fellowship/Hospitality Committee

Meeting: Next Sunday (Oct 27) following Coffee hour the Fellowship Committee would like to meet and discuss planning for upcoming events at Holy Trinity. We would also like to invite anyone, especially our new members, who have an interest in helping with parish events to please join us for our meeting.

Next Perogie Project NOVEMBER 15TH & 16TH:

Friday & Saturday Work Schedule: Fri. 2pm to 6pm, Sat. 9am to 3pm. Volunteer sign up sheet and pierogi order sheets are in the vestibule. Volunteers are needed to make the project a success. Perogies \$ 13.00 a doz. LIMIT. 5 doz. Pre-order Call: 570-822-5975 November 11th - 14th. Between 10am and 3pm. Pick up date: Nov. 16th (Sat.) (1pm to 3pm)

Nov 9th - St. Michael's 2nd Annual Veterans Day

Pasta Dinner: St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Old Forge, PA is hosting its 2nd Annual Veterans Day Pasta Dinner and Raffle! Anyone is welcome to join us for a

time of fellowship and delicious food catered by Arcaro and Genell. In addition to the food there will be a Gift Card & Basket Raffle! Tickets can be purchased at the door and includes many prizes from local business and a variety of themed baskets.

Details: November 9, 2024, 2-6pm @ St. Michael's Orthodox Church Hall, 512 Winter St., Old Forge, PA 18518 **Cost:** Tickets cost \$12 per person, and include pasta with meatballs, salad, bread roll, and desert. Dine in or take out available! To purchase tickets Call Sandy at (570) 562-3887, or Tammy at (570) 562-0724

***This year we are donating a portion of the proceeds to Camp Freedom. Camp Freedom is a nonprofit organization that provides outdoor adventures for disabled Veterans and First Responders, their family members, and Gold Star families including quality hunting, shooting sports, fishing, hiking, biking, and other year-round outdoor activities. These activities remove individuals from clinical settings into the healing environment of the outdoors and nature.*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER Birthdays: Paula Holoviak (10/2), Barry Benczkowski (10/2), Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Brian Benczkowski (10/5), Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Irene Zimich (10/6), John Zimich (10/11), Kristen Reznak (10/16), Jason Stankiewicz (10/18), Anela Kurtz (10/18), Amber King (10/20), Renee Eyerman (10/20), Nancy Pieck (10/20), Sarah Benczkowski (10/22), Mary Anya Haugh (10/27), Walter Shedlock (10/28), Marie Talpash (10/28) **Anniversaries:** Nancy & Mike Pieck (10/12), William & Mary Gurka (10/15), Marianne & Paul Newmeyer (10/16), Rebecca & Steve Leonori (10/23), Michael & Lisa Talpash (10/24)

This Week:

Birthdays: Kristen Reznak (10/16), Anela Kurtz (10/18), Amber King (10/20), Nancy Pieck (10/20), Sarah Benczkowski (10/22), Rebecca Leonori (10/23) **Anniversaries:** Nancy & Mike Pieck (10/12), Marianne & Paul Newmeyer (10/16), Rebecca & Steve Leonori (10/23), Michael & Lisa Talpash (10/24)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Lazarus & The Rich Man

by Met. Anthony Bloom

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

As every of Christ's parables of the judgement today's parable has got a very simple aspect and at the same time should be reflected on a deeper level.

The simple aspect is this: you have had on earth all that was good, Lazarus has had nothing; he therefore receives in eternity all the goods which he has lacked on earth and you are deprived of it. But this is not the real and deeper meaning of it.

Who is this rich man? It is a man who not only possessed all that the earth could give him: wealth, a good name, a status among his fellow-citizens; it is a man who craved for nothing else. All he wanted, all he needed was material wealth, a good standing among men, reverence, admiration, a slavish obedience of those who were under him.

Lazarus possessed nothing; but from the parable we see that he did not complain, he received what the rich man needed not; he ate the crumbs from his table. But — he had a living soul; perhaps did he crave for more: who doesn't want to have a roof, who doesn't want to have the security of food? But he received what was given with gratitude.

And when they died, what did they take with them? The rich man had nothing to take because he had never had any concern for anything that the earth couldn't give. Lazarus had always longed for more than the earth could give: for justice, for peace, for love, for compassion, for human brotherhood — for all those things which make the human being human. The rich man was in a condition which is described in one of the prophecies: Israel has grown fat with wealth and has forgotten God... The poor man could do no such thing; he was too poor to be rooted into the earth — he was free.

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Archpriest Michael Evans, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Evelyn, Joan, Irene, Sonja **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Tom & Joan Austin, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, Delores Voda, David Lezinsky, June, Bob Lutzick, Leann, Matthew Gingo, Madison & Millie Nicholas, Gregory Krevko, Steve Rilkowski, Tom Vaskalis, David, Alice Liskowski **Departed:** Spencer Nicholas, Nicholas Petrishin, Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Petorak, Roberta Pryor Schloemer, Peter Telencio

Now, this applies to all of us; because all of us we possess within ourselves both the rich man and Lazarus. On the one hand, how much we have, how rich we are, how secure, how opulent. On the other hand, if we are here, it means that there is another dimension within our soul that longs for something else. But the question is to be asked: if we had to choose — what we would choose? What is what we really treasure? Is it security which the earth so far has given us — or is it the vastness, the depth of understanding, communion with God, love of our neighbour, compassion — so many other things which the Gospel has taught us?

And this is where the parable refers not only to two men of the past, or to others than we are, it refers to us personally: who am I, — or if you prefer, which is more fair — who predominates in me? Am I more like the rich man, so rooted into the earth that the things of God, the things of the spirit, the things of eternity, or simply, what is truly human comes secondly — or am I one of those for whom what to be human matters more than anything?

And then, there is another thing in the parable. The rich man, seeing himself devoid of all, of every thing turns to Abraham and says, Send Lazarus to my brothers who are still on earth to give them a warning, that they may not come to this place of torment... And Christ says, Even if one came back from the dead, if they have not listened to what has been revealed in the past, they will not believe, they will perish in their sin...

How, that echoes in a tragic way with the situation in which people were when they stood as a milling crowd around the Cross on which Christ was dying. Some were believers, His own people — but where were they? They had fled. Some were His disciples faithful at the core of their being, faithful with their hearts, the women who had followed Him — they stood at a distance; only the Mother of God and John stood by the Cross.

But in the crowd there were such who, together with the High Priest, the Pharisees who had condemned Christ, were saying: Descend now from the Cross — and we shall believe... How many thought: If He only did that, we could believe without taking any risk, believe with security, safely; believe and follow One Who had already won His victory; but can we, can we possibly believe and follow One Who now, defeated, reviled, rejected hangs on the Cross between two criminals? We can't...

That is what the parable says; and which is shown in the life of so many.

Where do we stand? Are we prepared to believe Christ's word? Are we prepared, captured by the beauty, the ineffable, the unutterable beauty of Christ's personality to follow Him at all risk? And risk, we know, is great: we will be reviled, we will be laughed at, we will be strangers, people will think that we are tramps on earth, not that we are pilgrims of Heaven; but are we prepared to do this?

We must give thought to these two aspects of the parable; because otherwise it is irrelevant, it has nothing to do with us — and yet, so much it has!

Let us think of it, deeply, standing judgement before it. God does not judge us in order to condemn. God presents us with reality and asks of us only one thing: Respond to reality! Do not accept a world which is a mirage! Do not accept yourself while you remain a mirage: be real, and then you will be children of the Kingdom.

And what can be greater: brothers and sisters of Christ, sons and daughters of the Living God; and messengers — messengers of God on earth. Can we hope for anything greater? And yet — this is what is offered to each and all of us! What a wonder, what a joy! How can we turn away from this? Amen.



The Treasury

“... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

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<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week's Collection (10/13/24) : \$4,753</p>
