



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

October 26th, 2025 + 20th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Holy, Glorious Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessaloniki



Hymns for This Week

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.

The world has found thee to be a great defense against tribulation and a vanquisher of heathens, O Passion-bearer. As thou didst bolster the courage of Nestor, who then humbled the arrogance of Lyaïos in battle, Holy Demetrius, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy!

On this day Thou didst rise 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 Thy power.

God, Who has given thee invincible might, has tinged the Church with streams of thy blood, Demetrius. He preserves thy city from harm, for thou art its foundation.

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Galatians 1:11-19

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

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,

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient tradition 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. Speak w/ Fr. Innocent if you would like to learn more!

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 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, Oct 25th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

Sunday, Oct 26th

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM,

Church School w/ Fr. Innocent, Coffee Hour

Hospitality Committee Meeting @ 11:45 AM

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THIS WEEK

Wed @ 10 AM: Bible Study - Epistle to the Romans

Wed @ 11 AM to 1 PM: Church Open for Prayer

Wed @ 6 PM: Akathist - Glory to God for all things

Wed @ 6:40 PM: Orthodoxy 101

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, Nov 1st

Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

Sunday, Nov 2nd

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM,

Church School, Coffee Hour

Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS & Upcoming Parish Events

+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Wednesdays at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Epistle to the Romans with discussions.

ORTHODOXY 101 Wednesdays @ 6:40 PM following the Akathist Service (6 PM): Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **Sunday, November 30th**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Saturday, November 15th.**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is **Sunday, November 2nd.**

WANTED: Coffee Hour Teams - Sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour with a friend. Speak with Joanne Dutko to learn more and sign up.

Mon, Nov 3rd - THE WYOMING VALLEY

INTERFAITH COUNCIL is honored to confer The Citation of Distinction for Community Leadership Upon **Archpriest Father Joseph Martin** (of blessed memory) and **Protodeacon Sergei Kapral**. You are cordially invited to attend the Community Interfaith Luncheon Monday, November 3rd, 2025 at 12:00 Noon at The Holiday Inn - 600 Wildflower Dr., Wilkes-Barre, PA. To make reservations take a form from the bulletin board in the vestibule or ask at the candlestand. RSVP deadline Oct 25th.

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), Gail Coslett (10/12), Marlene Stempien (10/14), 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 - Mary Anya Haugh (10/27), Walter Shedlock (10/28), Marie Talpash (10/28) **Anniversaries** N/A

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Parish Harvest Dinner

A Family & Friends "Family Style" Turkey Dinner
at Amber Palace in Parsons

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Sunday, November 9, 2025

Dinner at 12 noon / doors open at 11 am / cash bar
\$20 for Adults, \$10 for Children

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Reservations with payment begin Sunday Oct
5th after Divine Liturgy in the Vestibule.
Deadline Oct 31st.



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.

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...

PARISH PRAYER LIST // Homebound: Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice // **Sick & Suffering:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Gregory Krevko, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Sylvia Dreater, Pearl Tutko, Marie Dutko, Elaine & Forrest Hanson, Alexandra, Jody, Sergei, Priest Michael, Michael Noice, Paul Loftus // **Recently Departed:** Rosalie Romanuski // **Pray for our Catechumens:** Tom, Gail, Jaqueline, DeJare, Eric, John, Adrienne, Michelle // **Inquirers:** James, Raven, Trey, Sammy, Lisa, Eric, Tyler

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.

“Do you see how everywhere the rich man is accused, not because he was rich, but because he was unmerciful? ... It is not wealth that is a sin, but the failure to use wealth for mercy.”

St. John Chrysostom

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“The Lord placed a poor man at the rich man's gate so that mercy could save the rich man's soul. The poor man was the rich man's ladder to Heaven, but he refused to climb it.”

St. Nikolai Velimirović

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“The rich man was condemned not for having riches, but for having no mercy. The measure of one's love for God is the mercy shown to others.”

St. Theophan the Recluse

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“In this parable, the rich man had everything but love; Lazarus had nothing but faith. One built a wall with his riches; the other built a bridge with his suffering.”

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom



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

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (10/19/25) : \$2,007
