



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

October 5th, 2025 + 17th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Martyr Charitina of Amisus



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 lamb Charitina calls out to Thee, O Jesus, in a loud voice: "I love Thee, my Bridegroom, and in seeking Thee I endure suffering. In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in Thee, and I died so that I might live with Thee. Accept me as a pure sacrifice, for I have offered myself in love." Through her prayers save our souls, since Thou art merciful!

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!

Having fortified thy soul with faith and strengthened by understanding thou didst openly put the enemy to shame, O Charitina; thou didst stand before Christ wearing a robe empurpled by thy blood, All-blessed One, and now thou dost rejoice with the Angels, praying for us, O passionbearer.

Please Sing Along!

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

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 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

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!



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, Oct 4th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

Sunday, Oct 5th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Church School, Coffee Hour

Church School / Fall Youth Activities Meeting

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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, Oct 11th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Cemetery Clean-Up @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

Sunday, Oct 12th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Church School, Coffee Hour

Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is **Sunday, October 12th**.

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

Cemetery Clean-up Day October 11th: There will be a Cemetery cleanup day at the Holy Resurrection Cemetery on William Street in Plains scheduled for October 11, 2025 from 9:00am to 1:00pm (rain date October 18). The goal is to trim overgrown trees, brush, hedges, grass and generally tidy up the Cemetery. Volunteers are asked to bring chainsaws, trimmers, pruners, rakes, etc. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

St. TIKHON OF MOSCOW 100TH ANNIVERSARY: In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Repose of Saint Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow, His Eminence Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania warmly invites the clergy and faithful of the Diocese to join him for a Festal Hierarchical **Divine Liturgy at All Saints Church, Olyphant, PA, on Saturday, October 18 2025, at 9:30 AM.** As indicated in the flyer, His Eminence will be greeted at 9:15 AM, and the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 AM. Following the service, a festive luncheon will be offered to all in the Church Hall. Experienced parish singers are invited to participate in an ensemble choir that will be formed for this celebration.

FALL TEEN RETREAT November 14-16 hosted by the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, 2025 at Camp Hebron Retreat Center Halifax, PA. Applications will be open to Teens 7th to 12th Grade. The Diocese of Eastern PA Youth Ministries program focuses on creating opportunities for young people to deepen their faith, build lasting relationships, and engage in meaningful activities that support their journey in Christ. Retreat life centers on worship and spiritual formation as well as fellowship and



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, October 26th**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Saturday, October 11th.**

fun through activities. HTOC will form a carpool to take youth to the camp. See Fr. Innocent if you have any questions. Apply At: youth.DOEPA.ORG

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.

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), 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 - Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Brian Benczkowski (10/5), Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Irene Zimich (10/6), John Zimich (10/11) **Anniversaries** - N/A



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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On Love of Enemies

by St. John Chrysostom

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

See how He everywhere sets Himself against the things that are commonly said! For, whereas in the Old Law it had been said, "An eye for an eye," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy" (Matthew 5:43), what does He command? Something far greater than this. Not only to love your neighbor, but even your enemy! For He knows that the soul of man cannot be brought to a calm state by vengeance but by love alone.

Christ has called us to something higher. If we do not love our enemies, how will the anger in our hearts ever be conquered? Do you see the wisdom in His commandment? He cuts off the root of anger, and He heals the wounds of our soul by calling us to love those who harm us. Why? Because love is stronger than anger and greater than hatred.

How can we hate a man who is made in the image of God? When we remember that every person, no matter how they have sinned against us, is created by God and bears His image, we are softened. No longer do we see them as enemies but as fellow travelers in need of mercy.

Love is a greater weapon than any sword, for it can turn an enemy into a friend. Do you doubt it? Let me tell you a story. A certain man was wronged and insulted publicly. His friends urged him to take vengeance, to answer insult with insult. But what did he do? He invited the one who wronged him to his table, showed him hospitality, and forgave him.

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 // **Recently Departed:** Rosalie Romanuski // **Pray for our Catechumens:** Tom, Gail, Jaqueline, Dejure, Eric // **Inquirers:** James, Raven, John, Adrienne, Michelle, Trey, Sammy

What was the result? The enemy became his friend. By love, a great evil was turned into a great good.

And what is greater than this? That we should be like our Father in heaven, who causes the sun to rise on the good and the evil alike (Matthew 5:45). He is merciful, so we must also be merciful. If we imitate this mercy, we will be truly His children.

Let us look to the saints, who have walked this path before us. St. Stephen, the first martyr, as stones rained down upon him, prayed for those who were killing him. He cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" (Acts 7:60). His prayer, spoken in love, was stronger than the stones. His love conquered the hatred of his enemies, and one of those who stood by, Saul, later became Paul, the great Apostle.

Do you see, beloved, how love works? It transforms not only the one who gives it but the one who receives it. So let us be merciful, let us forgive, and let us love our enemies. By this, we will be perfected, and we will be children of the Most High.

In loving those who wrong us, we break the cycle of vengeance and enter into the peace of Christ. For what reward will we have if we love only those who love us? Even sinners do this. But by loving those who hate us, we are lifted up into the love of God.

So, let us go forth today and forgive. Let us love. Let us become vessels of God's mercy, that we may shine as lights in a world darkened by hatred. In this way, we will fulfill the words of our Savior, and we will become true followers of Him who loved us even while we were yet sinners. Glory to God forever, 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

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (9/28/25) : \$5,056

Quotes on Today's Gospel Reading

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"Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoers, to show mercy and to do good to others. For this is the highest virtue."

St. John Chrysostom

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"The love which is preferred by Christ is that which in the end renders us Godlike, for the love of God is unwearied, unshaken, and does not stumble in doing good even to its enemies... so that we may have a kind of participation in God's own nature by loving as He loves."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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"You must love your neighbor as yourself. But you cannot love your neighbor in the right way unless you see in him the image of God."

St. Maximus the Confessor
