



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

November 17th, 2024 + 21st Sunday after Pentecost + St. Gregory, Wonderworker of Neo-Cæsarea (ca. 266-270).



## Epistle Reading - Galatians 2:16-20

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## Gospel Reading - Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

## Hymns for This Week

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Thou didst become worthy of thy name through thy way of life; through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy. Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds, that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles, frightening the devils and healing the sick through thy wonderworking. O All-wise Father Gregory, thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called Wonderworker.

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**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!*

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## This Week's Schedule

### Doly TRINITY ORTHODOX Church

#### THIS WEEKEND

##### Saturday, November 16th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

*Confession available before or after Vespers*

#### **Parastas following Vespers in remembrance of:**

Theresa, Alan, Karen & Joseph

*Offered by Susan Shiposki*

##### Sunday, November 17th

Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour, Church School

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#### THIS WEEK

#### **Funeral for Archpriest Michael Evans**

*Served at St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville PA*

**TUES** 4 PM-6PM: Viewing w/ Parastas

**WED** 10 AM: Funeral for a Priest

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#### **Feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple**

**WED** 6:30 PM: *Great Vespers w/ Litya*

**THUR** 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for the Feast

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#### NEXT WEEKEND

##### Saturday, November 23rd

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

*Confession available before or after Vespers*

##### Sunday, November 24th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour, Church School



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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#### +++ Weekly / Monthly +++

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

**ORTHODOXY 101** 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 November 24th.

**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, Dec 8th @ 11:30 AM

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**NOVEMBER Birthdays:** Scott Harvey (11/4), Matushka Melanie Neal (11/4), Myra Tarantini (11/4), Irene Dutko (11/5), Anya Nealon (11/8), Steve Nealon (11/10), Joli Dutko (11/12), Matt Austin (11/16), Douglas Cardoni (11/16), John Goobic III (11/19), Michael Talpash (11/22), Andrew Neal (11/24), Olivia Kamboch Spinghel (11/27), Candice Dutko (11/30) **Anniversaries:** Rdr Gregory & Kathy Kurtz (11/8), Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19)

#### **This Week:**

**Birthdays:** John Goobic III (11/19), Michael Talpash (11/22) **Anniversaries:** Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19)



## 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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**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305**  
**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840**  
**Last Week's Collection (11/10/24) : \$4,041**



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

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

The end of today's Gospel reading is a warning about something that we could all be aware of all the time, that is that death is at our elbow, that much, very much, of what we do will perish with us as unnecessary, mortal.

Does this mean that Christ's warning about the closeness of death should frighten us and deprive us of creative strength? No, on the contrary; the Fathers used to say, "keep a constant memory of death," not in the sense that we should be afraid of death and live under its constant shadow, but rather because nothing but the awareness of the fact that life is short, that it may end at any moment, can give to every moment its final meaning, and to the whole of life the feeling that we must hurry to do good, that we must hurry to live in such a way that at whatever moment death overtakes us, it will be a moment of triumphant life. We would live with such depth, so intensely, if only this awareness were with us constantly. If we were to know that the words that I am now speaking to you were the last, how differently would I say them, and how differently would you listen!

If we were to feel that the person we were talking to might be dead within a few minutes, how careful we should be that our words and actions in relation to him should be the culmination of all the love and care of which we are capable, that they should be the triumph of everything that is best and highest in our relationship.

The reason that we live so badly, utter so many empty words, rotten words, dead words, commit so many actions that afterwards burn in our soul like wounds, is that we live as though this life was merely a rough draft of the life we will one day be living, when we have had time to shape the draft into the final story. But that is not how things work; death comes and the draft remains rough, his life has not been lived, just blotted, and there

remains regret for the person who could have been great, but turned out shallow and insignificant.

That is what today's Gospel is about, not that we should be afraid of death, but that, knowing that it can come at any moment, every moment must be perfect, every word must be a word of life, filled with the Spirit, fit to enter eternity. And every action of ours in relation to each one of us should be such as to give life and express the fullness and depth and strength of the love and reverence which we should feel for each other and for all. Let us consider this, and then if we can act upon it, every word and every action will acquire the dimension of eternity and shine with its light. Amen.

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*"A selfish man, in his desire to have more, can only see himself and not the needs of others. Love sees beyond oneself, seeking the good of all."*

St. Maximus the Confessor

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"He who lives for himself alone is truly dead, for he has cut himself off from the life-giving community of love and compassion that God intended."

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

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"The world is enslaved to money and material things. But when we detach from these and place our trust fully in God, we live in freedom and peace."

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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**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, Myra, Bob Lutzick, Leann, Matthew Gingo, Madison & Millie Nicholas, Gregory Krevko, Steve Rilkowski, Tom Vaskalis, David, Alice Liskowski **Departed:** Archpriest Michael Evans, Roberta Pryor Schloemer, Archpriest Peter Telencio, Monk Nichodemus, Emily Trumbower