



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt + March 29th, 2026 + The 5th Sunday of Great Lent



Hymns for Today's Service

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 9:11-14

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel Reading - Mark 10:32-45

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but

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!

it is for those for whom it is prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”



This Week's Schedule

DOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

THIS WEEKEND - Saturday, March 28th

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

Sunday, March 29th - St. Mary of Egypt

Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour
CHURCH SCHOOL - The youth will be making Psanky eggs today following Divine Liturgy.

Lenten Adult Ed Series @ 11:30 AM

Join us at Coffee Hour for part three of our 3-part series on Saints & Icons w/ Iconographer Susan Shiposky.
Presentations will last approx. 30-mins

Orthodoxy 101 @ Noon

Upstairs in the Church (Nave)
Note New Day & Time

There will be a hospitality Committee Meeting following Coffee Hour today!

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THIS WEEK

6th Week of Great Lent

Tues @ 4:00 PM: Small Compline

Wed @ 10:00 AM: Bible Study (Study of Passion Week)

Wed @ 11-1:00: Open Church

** Wed @ 6:00 PM: Presanctified Liturgy at St. Mary's Antiochian Church. Please bring a dish to share.

Fri @ 6:30 PM: Lazarus Saturday Great Vespers

Sat @ 9 AM: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy

Parish Cleanup to follow

Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy

in preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Pascha. We will also bundle the Palms & Willows. Please plan to come and help prepare for the feast! We need your help.

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, April 4th

Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Parish Cleanup and Palms/Willows Bundles
Vigil for Palm Sunday w/ Lity @ 5 PM, Confessions

Sunday, April 5th - Palm Sunday

Hours @ 8:40 AM,
Blessing of the Palms & Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM,
Festal Potluck

Orthodoxy 101 @ Noon

Upstairs in the Church (Nave)
Note New Day & Time



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

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

ORTHODOXY 101 Sundays @ Noon. 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 April 5th, Palm Sunday.

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next FOP is Saturday, May 9th (no April FOP)

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is TBD.

Great Lent Mission Vespers Schedule: Sunday of Mary of Egypt (March 29 @ 4 PM)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Olyphant PA

Confession Before Pascha: A friendly reminder to make a confession before Pascha to receive Holy Communion.

Anyone wishing to receive should go to confession at least once during Great Lent. If you have been away from Holy Communion be sure to make a confession before receiving. Confession is available before and after services throughout Lent as time permits and also on Wednesdays during our time of silent prayer.

April 4th, Lazarus Saturday: Parish Clean up, Willow and Palm Bundling for Palm Sunday!

Calling the HTOC Community! Lazarus Saturday we will conduct our annual Holy Week & Pascha Parish Cleanup detail immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please come and offer whatever amount of time you have! We'll also be bundling palms and pussy willows which will be blessed Palm Sunday morning before the start of Divine Liturgy. It's a beautiful offering - The blessed bundles you create will be given to all to hold during Liturgy, reaffirming our union with Christ and readiness to follow him. These blessed bundles are traditionally brought home and placed in our icon corners, often lasting for years! To our "bundlers": Please bring garden clippers if you have them. Contact Alexanne Conklin with any questions and thank you everyone for your help!

ARCHBISHOP MARK VISIT: Our Diocesan Bishop, His Eminence Archbishop Mark, will make his annual Lenten visit on Holy Saturday, for Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. Please plan to attend this important Holy Week service to welcome our Archbishop.

NEXT PIEROGIE PROJECT Friday & Saturday APRIL 24th & 25th. Work Schedule: Fri. 2pm to 6pm, Sat. 9am to 3pm. Volunteer sign up sheet and pierogie order sheet are in the vestibule. Volunteers are needed to make the project a success. Pierogies \$ 13.00 a doz. LIMIT. 5 doz. Pre-order Call: 570 825 9480 APRIL 21 st - 23rd. Between 10am and 3pm Pick up date: SAT, APRIL 25th/ 1pm to 3pm.



LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being collected so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General donations for flowers during lent are being accepted and will be used

for the Feast of the Cross (flowers will adorn the cross), Palm Sunday and Holy Week icons. Donations may be left at the candle stand, attention Deborah Mills. Please write "Flowers for Lent" in the memo. We will also continue our tradition of **Paschal Flower Donations** in memory and for the health of loved ones. We will adorn the grave of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Good Friday with fresh Spring flowers as a reflection of our love. These flowers will also adorn the Church on Holy Pascha and throughout Bright Week. On Saint Thomas Sunday, those who donated flowers will be welcome to bring these flowers home to loved ones and shut-ins to brighten their day. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers "In Memory of" or "For the Health of" a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations at the candle stand or mail them to the Church. The names of your loved ones will be listed in the Holy Pascha Church Bulletin and remembered in prayer. If you wish to have your offering listed in the Holy Pascha Bulletin, your loved ones name(s) and donation must be received by Palm Sunday.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Andy Dutko (4/9), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Nicholas Reznak (4/9), Leigh Storey (4/17), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Jean Ann Hutz (3/31) Delores Voda (3/31)

*"God sees your effort and accepts
your repentance, not because of the
quantity of your tears, but because
of the humility of your soul."*

St. Ephraim the Syrian

PARISH PRAYER LIST // Homebound: Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice, Sylvia, Paul // **Sick & Suffering:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Pearl Tutko, Marie Dutko, Elaine & Forrest Hanson, Alexandra, Jody, Michael Noice, Paul Loftus, Santo, Susan Shiposki, Dn Jerimiah, William, Alan, Tim, Ann, Paul, Ruth, Bill, Linda, Betty, Jim, George, Ali, Athansios // **Recently Departed:** Patriarch Ilia of Georgia // **Pray for our Catechumens:** Tom, Gail, Jaqueline, Dejare, Eric, John, Adrienne, Michelle, Jesse, Katie, Lisa, // **Inquirers:** Aaric, Tyler, Dom, David, Steve, Ashley, Jessica



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Today's Saint Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

On this fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we focus on the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary was born in Egypt, left home at the age of 12, and spent the next 17 years taking advantage of men for her own physical pleasure. Not until she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (for all the wrong reasons, but God works even through our wrong choices) did she begin to question the path she was taking. It was when she was unable to enter the church to venerate the Holy Cross that she realized something was wrong. The Theotokos herself helped Mary to understand the severity of her sins, and she repented. She repented so completely that she spent the rest of her days in the desert, fighting against her own fleshly desires and sins. God was with her there in the desert, and he showed His presence to her by providing for her needs and helping her to learn the scriptures and the ways of the Church even without another human there to teach her about them. This allowed Mary to grow more and more holy.

A holy monk, Zosimas, was the lone person she saw, and she did not see him until 47 years after she fled to the desert. They had only two encounters, both of which encouraged each of them. Zosimas was able to learn of Mary's story, and Mary was able to receive Holy Communion at the hand of Zosimas right before she died. Each of these two people longed for holiness in their own life, and both were humbled by the other's presence on their journey.

This humility is an interesting contrast to Mark 10:32-45, the Gospel reading for this Sunday. This Gospel reading reminds us of the squabbling disciples, who are fighting for greatness in this passage. It is interesting that the Church has chosen to offer us the opportunity to study the life of St. Mary, who fought her pride and humbled herself in the desert for most of her life; and then contrast it with the disciples' desire to sit at Christ's right hand in His kingdom. It is as though the Church is saying to each of us, "Here are two approaches to life in the Kingdom of God. Who will you choose to be like?" We all know who we should emulate, but repenting and humbling ourselves as completely as St.

Mary did is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. Yet here is her life, offered to us as we approach the end of Great Lent, encouraging us to continue to fight the good fight as she did; to abstain from our passions so completely that we learn from Christ Himself and find ourselves humbled when we are in the presence of even the humblest of fellow humans.

"Holiness is not limited to those with a perfect background."

Holiness is not limited to those with a perfect background. Although God can certainly work in and through those who have always lived holy lives (as did Abba Zosimas), He also brings healing and holiness to those of us who repent completely and turn our focus away from the things of this earth and completely on Him (as He did in the life of St. Mary of Egypt). Glory to God who embraces us as we struggle and meets us in that place! **St. Mary of Egypt, please intercede for our salvation!**



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 (3/22/26) : \$3,854
Potato Pancake Sale: \$2,271

ATTENTION: Please, No Parking or Driving on the Grass: It's that time of year again when the ground is especially soft. Our maintenance and grounds team asks that we all please refrain from parking or driving on the grass as it is easily damaged. We also do not want anyone to get stuck. Thank you!