



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ April 21st, 2024 + Fifth Sunday of Great Lent + The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt + Hieromartyr Januarius



Hymns for Today's Service

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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.

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

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

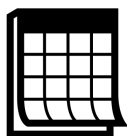
But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For 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

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!*

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 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

NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt **Welcome His Eminence Archbishop Mark!**

Saturday, April 20th

9 AM: Divine Liturgy

3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

5 PM: 9th Hour (4:50), Great Vespers,
Confession (*before or after Vespers*)

6 PM: “*The Chosen*” w/ Popcorn Viewing Downstairs

Sunday, April 21st

8:00 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Church School,

Special Coffee Hour - Please Come!

4 PM: Mission Vespers @ St. Nicholas, Olyphant, PA

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THIS WEEK - 6th Week of Great Lent

Tues, 4 PM: Great Compline

Wed, 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer

Wed, 6 PM: Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/ Potluck
Welcome St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church

Thurs, 11 AM: Bible Study

Fri @ 6:30 PM: Great Vespers of Lazarus Saturday

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NEXT WEEKEND - Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 27th

9 AM: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM: Church Cleanup w/ Snacks

3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

5 PM: Vigil for Palm Sunday

Confession (*before or after Vespers*)

Sunday, April 28th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours

9 AM: Blessing of Palms, Divine Liturgy,
Festal Potluck



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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Parish Council is **usually** the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is **May 26th**

Friends of the Poor is **usually** the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be **SAT, May 18th**.

Parish Potlucks are **usually** the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **April 28th, Palm Sunday**.

This Week: Election Day Food Sale - Please support our Election Day food sale this Tuesday and enjoy a delicious meal. Porketta sandwiches, clam chowder, mushroom soup & chicken soup. 9AM - 5PM or until sold out. Help needed on Monday (10AM - 1PM) & Tuesday (9AM - 5PM). Volunteer sign up sheets in the vestibule. Questions or suggestions contact Sandy - 571-274-5846

Lenten Adult Ed: Sunday's throughout Great Lent during Coffee hour we will have a short Lenten Adult Education presentation w/ discussion. We will focus on a variety of topics that relate to Great Lent.

Orthodoxy 101 Class: Saturdays at 3:30 PM we will have a weekly “inquirers” class and discussion for anyone interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith. Class materials will be provided.

Sat, April 27th - Church Cleanup for Pascha: All are encouraged to come help prepare the church for Pascha. Families and individuals, young and old - we need your

help to clean, dust, polish candlestands, bundle the pussywillows and palms, and prepare the church hall for our Paschal celebration. The day will begin with Divine Liturgy at 9 AM, followed by coffee, light snacks and cleaning.

HELP for Holy Week Services – We Need Your Help! The upcoming Holy Week services will require volunteers throughout the week. There will be many opportunities from holding candles, carrying the burial shroud, helping with processions, reading scriptures AND MORE! Please see Paul Tumavitch or Brian Hutz and watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex/Vestibule.

THIS WEEK: PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY w/ LENTEN POTLUCK: Presanctified Liturgy followed by a Lenten Potluck (No meat or dairy) on Wednesday nights throughout the fast. Make this Liturgy and Community Meal a part of your Lenten Journey. Presanctified begins at 6 PM. *This week we welcome St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church!*

Watch “The Chosen” Saturday Nights During Lent: Join us Saturday evenings following Great Vespers @ 6 PM during Lent to watch episodes from Season 1. Popcorn and drinks will be provided! *This Saturday is the last weekend!*

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.

Our Cleaning Crew Needs Your Help: The Holy Trinity cleaning team is currently understaffed. With Great Lent and the additional services the church receives much more traffic than usual. Every week both the upstairs and downstairs, including the bathrooms, are cleaned by two or three faithful workers to ensure the church is in pristine condition for the services we all attend. They will often come back during the week after midweek services to clean a second time. If you are available, please consider donating a few hours of your time during the week to help our crew. See Fr. Innocent,

Leigh Storey or Deborah Mills – or come to the church Monday's at 9 AM. We would be so grateful!



LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday may be given to Deborah Mills. Please write “Flowers for Lent” in the memo. 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, mail them to the Church, OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox attention Deborah Mills. 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), 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: Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22)

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Tom & Joan Austin, Joan Lello, Barbara Pascoe, Elizabeth Hutz, Delores Voda, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Fr. Gregory White, Mary Gurka, Mary Ann Kudey, Tom Youngblood, Catherine Gates, John Boyle, Rose Marie, Patricia Yeosock, Lucille Dragan, Mark **Departed:** Ben Dragan, Michael Yeosock, Shirley Gingo, Edward Hojnicky

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. 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

<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Collections last Sunday (4/14): \$1867</p>
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Wilkes-Barre Bright Saturday Cookout & Picnic

When: Saturday, May 11th

following Paschal Divine Liturgy at 9 AM. Picnic will begin at approx 11 AM.

Hot grill will be provided. Bring Food/Drinks!
Vespers @ 2 PM

Where: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Who: All are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

All Local Orthodox Parishes have been invited!

*"The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously.
The calf is fatted; let no one go away hungry."*

+ St. John Chrysostom
