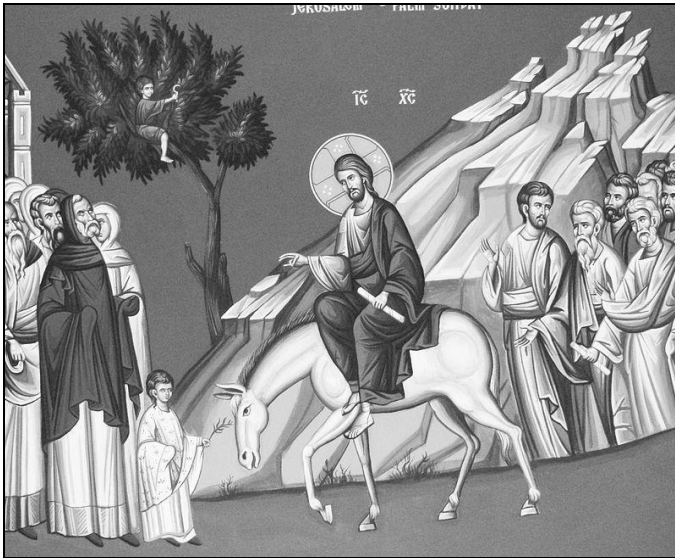




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem + April 5th, 2026 + Palm Sunday



Hymns for Today's Service

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing: "Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading - John 12:1-18

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and

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!

cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason, the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS 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

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

Blessing of the Palms & Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM,

Festal Potluck w/ Fish Entree

Orthodoxy 101 @ Noon

Upstairs in the Church (Nave)

Note New Day & Time

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Holy Week & Pascha 2026

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

HOLY MONDAY April 6

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY TUESDAY April 7

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY WEDNESDAY April 8

Presanctified Liturgy @ 9 AM

Holy Unction @ 6:30 PM

(Unction is a sacrament and may only be received by those who have been to confession during the Lenten season)

HOLY THURSDAY April 9

Last Supper Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

12 Passion Gospels @ 6:30 PM

HOLY FRIDAY April 10

Royal Hours @ 8 AM

Vespers for the Burial of Our Lord @ 3:00 PM

Lamentations @ 6:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY April 11

Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

Archbishop Mark Presiding, Tonsure of

Constantine Rosencrans as Reader

HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

Beginning SAT NIGHT, April 11

Nocturns @ 9:30 PM

Paschal Matins w/ Procession @ 10:00 PM

Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 11:00 PM

Blessing of the Baskets & Paschal Feast @ 12:30 AM

SUN MORNING, April 12

Agape Vespers w/ Procession @ 11 AM

followed by Blessing of the Baskets

WED MORNING, April 15

Paschal Hours & Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM



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.

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!

HOLY SATURDAY GRAVE WATCH - We would like to keep the church open Holy Saturday following Divine Liturgy throughout the day for veneration of the tomb of Our Lord. Anyone who would like to help can take a 1 hour (or more) shift on Holy Saturday between Noon and 9:30 PM praying before the tomb of Our Lord. This beautiful tradition of our church honors His death and burial, is a meaningful time of prayer before His Resurrection, and allows the church to stay open and available as a place of prayer for anyone who would like to come and venerate the tomb. Time should be spent reading Psalms or praying quietly. Please be sure to turn off your cell phones. **The signup sheet is in the vestibule/narthex.**

HOLY SATURDAY @ 9 AM, WE NEED YOU! Holy Saturday Vespertal Liturgy @ 9 AM is one of the most beautiful, meaningful, and profound services of Holy Week. It is the moment when Christ descends into Hades, frees the captives, and breaks the chains of death that hold humanity hostage. This unfolding of Christ's resurrection is symbolized by the changing of the covers throughout the church from purple to white. Bay leaves are thrown throughout the church in celebration of Christ's Victory over death. Towards the beginning of the service 15 Old Testament scriptures are read that foreshadow the coming resurrection of the God-Man, Jesus Christ. Please join us, your fellow Holy Week travelers, for this important beginning of the Paschal Feast. There will be a signup sheet this week for anyone who would like to help us read one of the Old Testament readings. No special skill is needed. If you can read, you can help - young or old! See you there!

ARCHBISHOP MARK VISIT HOLY SATURDAY: Our Diocesan Bishop, His Eminence Archbishop Mark, will make his annual Lenten visit on Holy Saturday, for Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. Constantine Rosencrans will be tonsured a Reader at this year's service. Please plan to attend this important Holy Week service to welcome our Archbishop.

AGAPE MEAL FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY ON PASCHA: Following the blessing of the baskets on Pascha it is traditional for the faithful to break the fast by eating with one another from the baskets which have just been blessed. All are encouraged and welcome to break the fast together downstairs in the Parish Hall in the joy of the Paschal celebration!

April 19th, THOMAS SUNDAY: Easter Egg Hunt & Grave Blessing. Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Thomas Sunday at 11 AM following Divine Liturgy and a quick coffee break (for parents and the priest). Our annual Grave Blessings at Holy Resurrection & Fern Knoll Cemeteries will take place at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM respectively. Both of these events are weather permitting.

Help with Holy Week Services - Holy Week is coming and there are a variety of opportunities for parishioners to help with Holy Week services. Please see the signup sheets in the back.

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.

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 Holoviyak (4/9), Nicholas Reznak (4/9), Leigh Storey (4/17), Vladimir Holoviyak (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)

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 Shuposki, 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, Aaric, Tyler, Dom, David, Ashley, Jessica // **Inquirers:** Steve, Nicholas

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: 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)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Triumphal Entry of Our Lord

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in an earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

Our Pledge

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal

presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!" Thus on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:



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 (3/29/26) : \$4,946
Potato Pancake Sale: \$1,974 Psanky Egg Sale: \$535



Wilkes-Barre Bright Saturday Paschal Picnic

When: Saturday, April 18th

following Paschal Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.

Picnic will begin at approx 10:30 AM.

Bring prepared food & drinks to share!

Vespers @ 2 PM