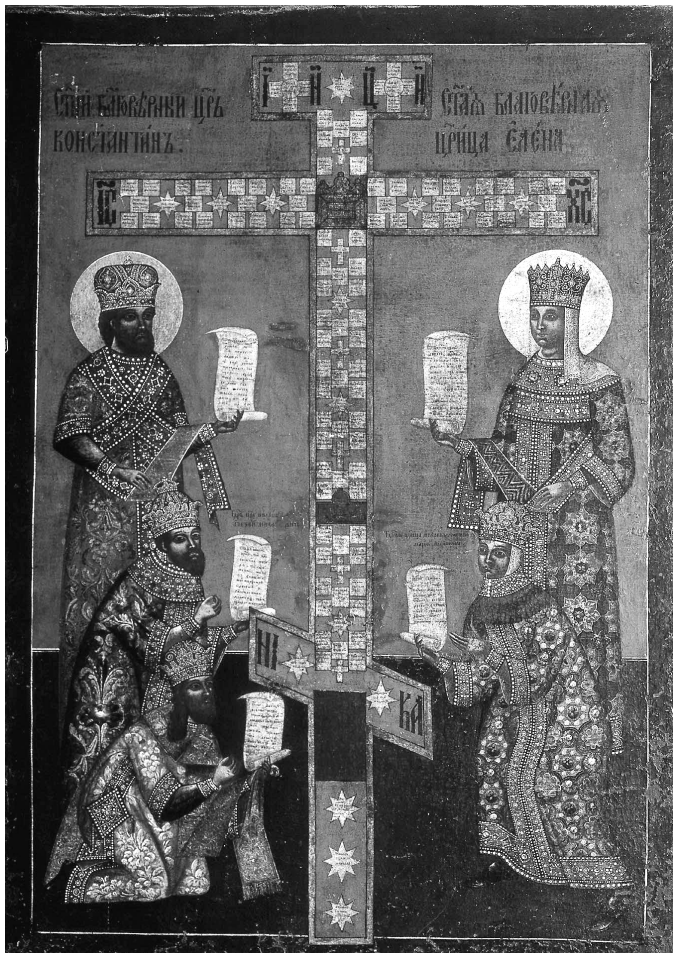




# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ April 7th, 2024 + Third Sunday of Great Lent + The Sunday of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross + St. Tikhon of Moscow



Let us praise Tikhon, the Patriarch of All Russia, and Enlightener of North America, an ardent follower of the apostolic traditions, and good pastor of the Church of Christ, who was elected by Divine Providence, and laid down his life for his sheep! Let us sing to him with faith and hope, and ask for his hierarchical intercessions: keep the Church in Russia in tranquility, and the Church in North America in peace; gather her scattered children into one flock, bring to repentance those who have renounced the True Faith, preserve our lands from civil strife, and entreat God's peace for all people!

A gentle manner adorned thee: thou didst show kindness and compassion to those who repented; thou wast firm and unbending in confessing the Orthodox Faith, and zealous in loving the Lord. O holy Hierarch of Christ and Confessor Tikhon, pray for us that we may not be separated from the love of God, which is of Christ Jesus, our Lord!

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise!"

## Please Sing Along!

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

## Hymns for Today's Service

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation!

## Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both

**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!

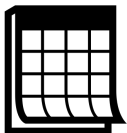
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gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1**

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

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## **This Week's Schedule** **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**

### **NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of the Precious Cross**

Saturday, April 6th

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 7th

8:00 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Church School, Coffee Hr, Adult Ed

4 PM: Mission Vespers @ Holy Trinity, Stroudsburg PA

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### **THIS WEEK - 4th Week of Great Lent**

**Tues, 4 PM:** Great Compline

**Wed, 11 AM:** Church open for prayer

**Wed, 6 PM:** Presanctified Divine Liturgy w/ Potluck

**Thurs, 11 AM:** Bible Study

**Fri @ 6:30 PM:** Canon w/ Akathist to Mother of God  
w/ Litya for the Departed

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### **NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of St. John Climacus**

Saturday, April 13th

8 AM: Divine Liturgy (*note time change*)

9:30 AM: Friends of the Poor

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 14th

8:00 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Church School, Coffee Hr, Adult Ed  
Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **& Upcoming Parish Events**

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**Parish Council** is the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is **SUN, April 14th**.

**Friends of the Poor** is the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be **SAT, April 13th**.

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

**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. ***THIS WEEK: "Being Found out"***

**NEW! 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.

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**THIS WEEK: PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY w/ LENTEN POTLUCK:** This week we will have 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.

**Watch "The Chosen" Saturday Nights During Lent:** The Chosen is a critically acclaimed television series that tells the story of the gospels, Our Lord and His disciples. Join us Saturday evenings following Great Vespers @ 6 PM during Lent to watch episodes from Season 1. This is an excellent and thought provoking show that is sure to inspire your Lenten journey. Popcorn and drinks will be provided!

**Bring in your Pussywillows:** Anyone willing to harvest pussywillows from your yard or area for our Paschal celebration can now bring them to the church. Spring weather is upon us and they will soon begin to flower. Thanks so much for your help!

**National Orthodox Baby Shower:** St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Olyphant is participating in the Orthodox Christians for Life National Orthodox Baby Shower. It is held in conjunction with the Feast of the Annunciation. We will be collecting items through the end of the month, and will be delivered to Providence Pregnancy Resource Center in Scranton in early April. Items will be collected through March 31st. OCLife requires we give new and unused items, and the PRC said that they give needy families baby clothes from size 1 to 4t, with more need in the size 1 category. Diapers and wipes are always needed. You may bring items and leave them in the Narthex / Vestibule this week or next Sunday, March 31st.

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 **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.

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## **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), 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:** Pearl Tutko (4/8), Andy Dutko (4/9), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9)

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## **Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross**

*from goarch.org*



On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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**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, Melanie Bishop, Delores Voda, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Michael Yeosock, Fr. Gregory White, Mary Gurka, Mary Ann Kudey, Tom Youngblood, Catherine Gates, John Boyle, Rose Marie, Ben Dragon, Patricia Yeosock **Departed:** Michael Yeosock, Barbara Kulick, Daniel Fitzsimmons, Shirley Gingo

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Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.



## 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><b>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305</b> <b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840</b> <b>Collections last Sunday (3/31): \$2,892</b></p>
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