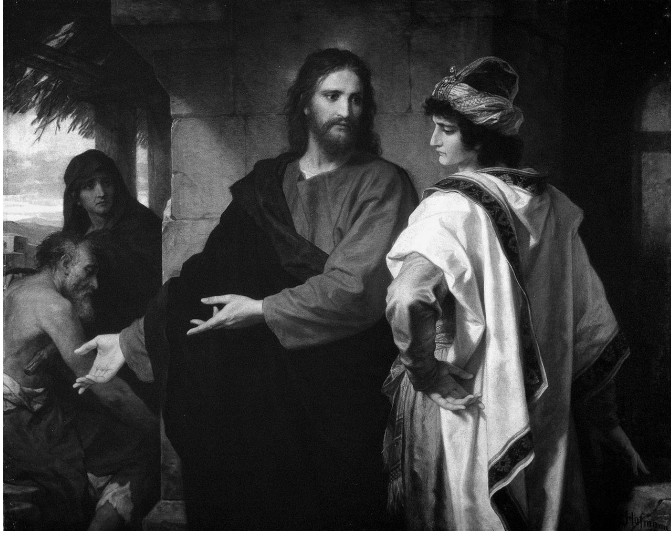




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

August 31st, 2025 + 12th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Most-holy Theotokos



Hymns for This Week

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.

Ever Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind, thou hast given thy people a powerful legacy: the robe and sash of thy most honored body which remained incorrupt throughout thy seedless childbearing; for through thee time and nature are renewed. Therefore we implore thee: "Grant peace to thy people and to our souls great mercy!"

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Today thy flock celebrates the enshrinement of thy precious sash, and it earnestly cries out to thee: "Rejoice, O Virgin, boast of all Christians!"

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 19:16-26

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What

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!

do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, Aug 30th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Aug 31st

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Holy Resurrection Cathedral Update- Upstairs after Liturgy

Coffee Hour - Parish Potluck

Church School Committee Meeting

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THIS WEEK

Wed @ 10 AM - Bible Study - Epistle to the Romans

Wed @ 11 AM to 1 PM - Open Church

Wed @ 6 PM - Akathist to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre

Wed @ 6:40 PM - Orthodoxy 101

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, Sep 6th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Sep 7th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour

Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS & Upcoming Parish Events

+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

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

ORTHODOXY 101 Wednesdays @ 6:40 PM following the Akathist Service (6 PM): 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 **Sunday, August 31st.**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Saturday, September 13th.**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is **Sunday, September 7th.**

WANTED: Coffee Hour Teams - Sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour with a friend. Speak with Joanne Dutko to learn more and sign up.

FINAL COLLECTION for Intern Dn Tikhon Krueger and Family: If you are able, **would you consider making a donation to the Krueger family to help support them in their last year of seminary?** Last week was their final week with us. After today's collection, we will send them our parish's offering for them. Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church with a note at the bottom (Dn Tikhon and Family) and left at the candlestand.

Holy Ascension Orthodox Church 110th Anniversary: Fr. Kirill and the parishioners of Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Frackville, PA, joyfully invite you to join us in celebrating our 110th Anniversary on **Saturday, September 6th!** The celebration will begin with a **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM**, followed by a festive banquet nearby at Capriotti's Catering in McAdoo. Banquet reservations are \$40 per person, which includes a full meal and an evening of fellowship, music, and dancing with live entertainment by one of the nation's top polka bands from New York! Cocktail hour will begin at 1:00pm. To reserve a spot at the banquet, please call John Malinchok at (570) 590-2669. Please be sure to RSVP no later than Tuesday, August 26th. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with our Orthodox brothers and sisters from near and far.

September 20 / 21st - Archbishop Mark's Annual

Visit: Archbishop Mark will be making his annual visit on September 20th & 21st for Great Vespers & Divine Liturgy. Please plan to be in church to welcome him! We will have a special parish potluck on that day. Bring your favorite "special" dish to share. A signup sheet for dishes will be posted in the Vestibule.

NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP "Orthodoxy on Tap":

Holy Trinity, in conjunction with St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church, will be hosting a monthly Orthodox Young Adult (ages 18-28 or so) gathering the third Friday of each month. Our first meeting will be here at Holy Trinity on Friday, September 19th @ 7 PM. The first meeting will be an organizational meeting to plan and discuss group possibilities. Young adults from other Parishes in the area are also invited. Plan to attend and meet other Orthodox Young Adults.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays: Eva Nealon (9/1), Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), Pd. Sergei Kapral (9/5), William Gurka (9/8), Vladimir Dutko (9/13), Gregory Krevko (9/14), Jalen Buchinski (9/19), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Tom Michalski (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Brian Hutz (9/21), Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27), Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30), Paul (Brett) Edwards (9/30) **September Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6), Brian & Beth Hutz (9/7) Steve & Joann Dutko (9/14), Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17)

This Week: Birthdays - Lindsey Rivera (8/31), Eva Nealon (9/1), Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), Pd. Sergei Kapral (9/5) **Anniversaries** - Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Rich Young Ruler

By Met. Anthony Bloom

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

It is not only awesome, at times it is frightening to preach the Word of God, because the Lord said "By thy words thou shall be judged." Judged, because if you proclaim God's truth and remain idle and not the doer of what the Lord has commanded, and what you know well enough to proclaim to others - then, how shall you stand before the judgement of God? This does not apply only to the priest, but to every Christian who is called to be a witness, an apostle, one that brings God's word to the people who are in darkness or twilight, who need divine light, and truth and life.

Today's Gospel challenges us all so sharply. It begins with words that may be interpreted in more than one way: "Good Lord - what shall I do to have eternal life?" And the Lord answers, "Why do you call Me 'good'? Good is only God". He does not say, "You are wrong". He does not deny His right to be called good as God is good; and thereby, to those who have ears to hear, those who have a heart capable of perceiving the surpassing goodness of the Lord Jesus, surpassing all human goodness, all human beauty and truth - it is a testimony: Yes, you are speaking to your God, and it is your God that is to answer your question.

And then Christ gives us two indications. The one is: if you wish to have eternal life, keep the Commandments. The Commandments of God are not only rules of behavior (although, of course, they are such), but as one of the Psalms puts it, should be in our inmost hearts. It should be from the depths of our heart that we accomplish the Commandments: not because we are commanded from outside, but because they have reached us with the ring of truth; not because God has spoken, but because with all our being we have answered "Amen!" This is true, this is life, this is the way into eternal life.

When we hear Christ mentioning these Commandments - where are we? Who of us can say that he was faithful to every word of this shortlist that indicates that without which we cannot live? Where do we stand? I, who am preaching, you who are hearing, because it is as responsible to hear as it is to speak. How often do we think - as this young man, and with how little reason - that we want perfection. We want perfection without having first trod the road of the Commandments.

But Christ says to us quite clearly: "If you want perfection - give all you possess." It is not only material things which we can give: every one of us has treasures hoarded in his mind and heart, in his soul, things which are more important to him than anything material, that is his

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Bob Lutzick, Gregory Krevko, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Sylvia Dreater, Patricia Sohowski, Raven, Pearl Tutko, Marie Dutko **Departed:** Matushka Elizabeth Petorak, Karen Junkin

wealth. Each of us should turn inward and ask himself, "What is there which is my peculiar treasure? What are those things which I will not give away even for life eternal, for God?"

We do not put things in such a crude manner, but we hug those things which are so precious to us, and still, we hope that we will enter the Kingdom of God, we will reach perfection, we will become in all fullness what we are called to be, the kind of persons of whom God dreamed when He created us - and it is not true.

In the Book of Revelation, there is a passage that says, "I have only one thing against you - you have forgotten your first love". And this first love, indeed, for each of us, is the Living God, Whom we call in so many ways: we may call Him 'Life', we may call Him 'Fulfilment', we may call Him 'Happiness', we may call Him by all the names that mean that we should reach the fullness of our being. At times we know that only in God it is possible, at times we imagine that we can outgrow ourselves - all the same, this is our first love: to become as great as God has dreamed us, willed us.

And we do not follow the Commandments because we think that we can achieve it in a simpler manner; and we do not give away all we have, that is: the only thing we are not prepared to give away, in a hope that God will accept us, and our burden.

Let us reflect on this story. This is not even a parable, it is something that has happened to a young man. It happens to all of us when God says, "Have you been faithful to the way of life which I have described to you in terms of commandments, outlined in these terms as one can outline a road by milestones? Do you want to attain fullness - start at that point." And if you are aware of having been faithful in these things, then ask yourself the further question: what is the treasure which I will not give away, even for eternal life?

"How often do we think - as this young man, and with how little reason - that we want perfection. We want perfection without having first trod the road of the Commandments."

The young man heard the words of Christ, and went away sad. He had earthly possessions, but we have so many possessions which are not material and which are our burden, our fetters.

And yet, there is in this story one thing that can give us so much hope. Christ did not condemn this young man; Christ let him go without a word of reproach because what He had said was like seed sown into the mind and heart of this young man. He let him go wounded at the heart, puzzled in his mind, called to be himself by an act of heroic will and surrender, let go of himself, as Christ said, give everything away and follow Him. Where to? Along the road of human life on one hand, on the other hand - into the fullness of life eternal.

When Christ says to us "Follow Me", He does not call us to walk a frightening, dark road; He says, "I have trodden all this road, I know every meander of it - you can safely follow! I am like the good shepherd that walks in front of his sheep, meeting all dangers himself, so that the sheep may be safe." We all will go home like the young man, perhaps saddened, that neither are we keeping the Commandments, nor are we able to give away our most precious treasure: but remember - we will not go condemned, we will have been faced with an ultimate choice, and as long as we can struggle on earth - there is time.

But let us not be beguiled by the length of time: time flies, time goes - let it not be too late, let us turn to life, let us become all we are capable of being. The answer to today's Gospel is so clear - "Who then can be saved?" - To man, it is not possible by our own strength; but to God, all things are possible." That is our hope: God is with us, and nothing is too much for us. Amen.



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 (8/24/25) : \$2,524
Parish Shrimp Boil: \$1,340