



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

September 15th, 2024 + 12th Sunday after Pentecost + Afterfeast of the Precious & Life-Giving Cross



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.

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!

Thou didst defeat error and didst triumph in martyrdom, Nicetas, namesake of victory; for thou didst conquer the ranks of the enemy and didst end thy contest by fire. Pray to Christ our God to grant us His 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.

Thou didst stand firm and didst defeat delusion and hast received thy martyr's crown, Nicetas, namesake of victory; thou art rejoicing with the Angels, together with them thou art praying unceasingly to Christ God for us all.

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

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?"

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!*

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 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 - Exaltation of the Precious Cross

Saturday, September 14th

Exaltation of the Cross - Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Parastas for Stephen Krill, *offered by Mary Krill*
Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 15th

Matins @ 8:00 AM
Chrismation of Catechumens @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Church School Begins Today After Liturgy
Coffee Hour

HROC Special Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist for the Precious Cross

THUR 11 AM: Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, September 21st

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 22nd

Matins @ 8:00 AM

Chrismation of Catechumens @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Church School following Liturgy

Coffee Hour



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Gospel of St. Luke with discussions.

Orthodoxy 101 *NOTE: Orthodoxy 101 is currently on break. No classes at this time.* Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. 1 hour followed by Great Vespers.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is September 29.

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, September 21st @ 9 AM

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Oct 20th @ 11:30 AM

Holy Resurrection Parish Council Meeting will be the 4th Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Sep 29th @ 11:30 AM

+++ Upcoming Events +++

TODAY-Sept 15, Holy Resurrection Special

Meeting: A special meeting is required on September 15th for all members of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church relating to the parish closure. Details for the meeting have been sent to parishioners via email and mail. If you have any questions please see Brian Hutz.

TODAY-Sept 15, First Day of Church School

September 15th is the first day of Church school for all children (preschool through 12th grade). Class begins immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sundays downstairs in the church hall. Please sign up for your

child on the signup sheet in the Narthex (vestibule). If you have any questions please see Paula Holoviak.

Sept 29 - Welcome to Holy Resurrection Community & New Member Day: All of us at Holy Trinity are so grateful to have the community of Holy Resurrection Cathedral and all of our new members and guests with us. On September 29th after Divine Liturgy everyone is encouraged to come downstairs to our monthly potluck for a brief presentation on membership at HTOC. What does it mean to be a member? Our parish council and committee members will answer your questions, talk about our many ministries and teams, and all the things we do. From fundraising to maintenance, hospitality to Friends of the Poor - come, listen and learn about membership at Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity Foodfest - October 4 & 5: The foodfest is just around the corner. Please consider volunteering your time before, during and after preparing and serving foods, setting up and breaking down tables & chairs, parking cars or just helping wherever the need arises. Beginning on 1 September please check the information stand in the vestibule for food prep schedules, volunteer sign up sheets, information on how to donate money or supplies plus overall information in general. Your time, talents and donations will always be appreciated. If you have any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846.

Cemetery Cleanup Day - October 12: There will be a Cemetery cleanup day at the Holy Resurrection Cemetery on William Street in Plains scheduled for October 12, 2024 from 9:00am to 1:00pm (rain date October 19). The goal is to trim overgrown trees, brush, hedges, grass and generally tidy up the Cemetery. We will also construct a pad to store and secure the Cemetery trash bins. Volunteers are asked to bring trimmers, pruners, saws, rakes, shovels, etc. Light refreshments will be served

Choir & Singing Lessons: We are happy to announce that Dan Brisk, who is a full-time instructor of music & voice, will be offering voice coaching and instruction lessons during coffee hours to any current or potential NEW choir members (We are seeking new members). Anyone who is interested, please see Dan. If you would like to consider joining the choir see SD Greg Polk.

Next Perogie Project: Nov 15th & 16th. The signup sheet will be in the vestibule.

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)

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: Jalen Buchinski (9/19), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Tom Michalski (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Brian Hutz (9/21) **Anniversaries:** Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17), Tom & Beth Nealon (9/15 - 45 yrs)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Sermon on the Life-Giving Cross

by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

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

We have been keeping these days the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. There is a passage in the Gospel in which the Lord says to us, "No one has greater love than he who gives his life for his neighbor." And these words resolve the antinomy between the horror of the Cross and the glory of it, between death and the resurrection. There is nothing more glorious, more awe-inspiring and wonderful than to love and to be loved. And to be loved of God with all the life, with all the death of the Only-Begotten Son, and to love one another (as well) at the cost of all our life and, if necessary, of our death, (this) is both tragedy but mainly victory. In the Canon (Anaphora) of the Liturgy we say:

"Holy art Thou and all-holy, Thou and Thine only-begotten Son and Thy Holy Spirit! Holy art Thou and all-holy, and magnificent is Thy glory! Who hast so loved Thy world as to give Thine only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Archpriest Michael Evans, Mit. Arch. Vladimir & Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Evelyn, Joan, Irene, Roberta, Sonja **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Tom & Joan Austin, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, Delores Voda, David Lezinsky, June, Bob Lutzick, Leann, Matthew Gingo, Madison & Millie Nicholas, Gregory Krevko, Steve Rilkowski, Tom Vaskalis, David **Departed:** Spencer Nicholas

should not perish but have everlasting life; who when He had come and had fulfilled all the dispensation for us, in the night in which He was given up — or rather, gave Himself up for the life of the world — took bread in His holy, pure, and blameless hands; and when He had given thanks and blessed it, and hallowed it, and broken it, He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles.....”

This is the divine love. At times one can give one’s own life more easily than offer unto death the person whom one loves beyond all; and this is what God our Father has done. But it does not make less the sacrifice of Him who is sent unto death for the salvation of one person or of the whole world.

And so when we think of the Cross we must think of this strangely inter-twined mystery of tragedy and of victory. The Cross, an instrument of infamous death, of punitive death to which criminals were doomed — because Christ’s death was that of an innocent, and because this death was a gift of self in an act of love — becomes victory.

This is why Saint Paul could say, “It is no longer I, it is Christ Who lives in me.” Divine love filled him to the brim, and therefore there was no room for any other thought or feeling, any other approach to anyone apart from love, a love that gave itself unreservedly: love sacrificial, love crucified, but love exulting in the joy of life.

And when we are told in today’s Gospel, “Turn away from yourself, take up your Cross, Follow Me” (Mark 8: 34) — we are not called to something dark and frightening; we are told by God: “Open yourself to love! Do not remain a prisoner of your own self-centeredness.” Do not be, in the words of Theophane the Recluse, “like a shaving of wood which is rolled around its own emptiness.” Open yourself up! Look — there is so much to love, there are so many to love! There is such an infinity of ways in which love can be experienced, and fulfilled and accomplished. Open yourself and love (others) — because this is the way of the Cross! Not the way which the two criminals trod together with Christ to be punished for their crimes; but the wonderful way in which giving oneself unreservedly, turning away from self, existing only for the other, loving with all one’s being so that one exists only for the sake of the other — this is the Cross and the glory of the Cross.

So, when we venerate the Cross, when we think of Christ’s crucifixion, when we hear the call of Christ to deny ourselves — and these words simply mean: turn away from yourself! Take up your cross! — we are called to open ourselves to the flood of Divine Love, love that is both death to ourselves and openness to God, as well as to each and to all.

In the beginning of the Gospel of Saint John we are told, “And the Word was with God”; in the Greek it says “Godwards.” The Word, the Son, had no other love, no other thought, no other movement but towards the Beloved One, giving Himself to Him Who gave Himself perfectly to Him.

Let us learn the glory of crucified Love, of this sacrificial Love which is, in the words of the Old Testament, “stronger than death, stronger than hell,” stronger than all things because it is Divine Life conquering us and poured through us onto all those who need to be loved in order to come to Life, to believe in Love, and themselves to become children of Love, children of Light, to inherit Life eternal. 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

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<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week’s Collection (9/8/24) : \$2,159</p>

"The Lord did not say that it was impossible for the rich to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but that it was difficult. If we are rich in love and mercy, then earthly riches will not hinder us. The problem is when wealth takes possession of our heart, making it harder to give ourselves to God completely."

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica
