



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

September 21st, 2025 + 15th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Cross



## Hymns for This Week

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

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!

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of 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!

## Please Sing Along!

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

## Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

## Gospel Reading - Matthew 22:35-46

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How

**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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then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

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## This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

### **THIS WEEKEND - Archbishop Mark Visiting**

Saturday, Sep 20th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM w/ Archbishop Mark

Sunday, Sep 21st

**NO MATINS**, Archbishop Mark arrives @ 8:30 AM,

Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Special Potluck Coffee Hour w/ Archbishop Mark

### **PARENTS - Special Church School Plan for Today**

Children will have a reserved table at coffee hour near the bishop and will ask questions in place of our regular Church School.

### **Parastas 9/21 - Following Coffee Hour**

In Memory of Peter Holoviak and the Duda Family -  
Andrew, Mary, John, Andrew, Peter, Michael, Joseph, Joseph  
*Offered by Paula, Vladimir & Alexander Holoviak*

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### **THIS WEEK**

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

Wed @ 11 AM to 1 PM - Open Church for Prayer

Wed @ 6 PM - Akathist to the Mother of God,  
Healer of Cancer

Wed @ 6:40 PM - Orthodoxy 101

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### **NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, Sep 27th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday, Sep 28th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Church School w/ Fr. Innocent after Liturgy

Outreach Committee Meeting @ Coffee Hour



## 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, September 21st - Archbp Mark's Visit**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Saturday, October 11th.**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is **Sunday, October 12th.**

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

### **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 next meeting will be at St. Mary's Orthodox Church on Friday, October 17th @ 7 PM. Young adults from other Parishes in the area are also invited. Plan to attend and meet other Orthodox Young Adults.

### **St. TIKHON OF MOSCOW 100TH ANNIVERSARY:**

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Repose of Saint Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow, His Eminence Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania warmly invites the clergy and faithful of the Diocese to join him for a Festal Hierarchical **Divine Liturgy at All Saints Church, Olyphant, PA, on Saturday, October 18 2025, at 9:30 AM.** As indicated in the flyer, His Eminence will be greeted at 9:15 AM, and the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 AM. Following the service, a festive luncheon will be offered to all in the Church Hall. Experienced parish singers are invited to participate in an ensemble choir that will be formed for this celebration.

**FALL TEEN RETREAT November 14-16** hosted by the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, 2025 at Camp Hebron Retreat Center Halifax, PA. Applications will be open to Teens 7th to 12th Grade. The Diocese of Eastern PA Youth

Ministries program focuses on creating opportunities for young people to deepen their faith, build lasting relationships, and engage in meaningful activities that support their journey in Christ. Retreat life centers on worship and spiritual formation as well as fellowship and fun through activities. HTOC will form a carpool to take youth to the camp. See Fr. Innocent if you have any questions. Apply At: [youth.DOEPA.ORG](http://youth.DOEPA.ORG)

## 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** – Brian Hutz (9/21), Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27) **Anniversaries** – N/A



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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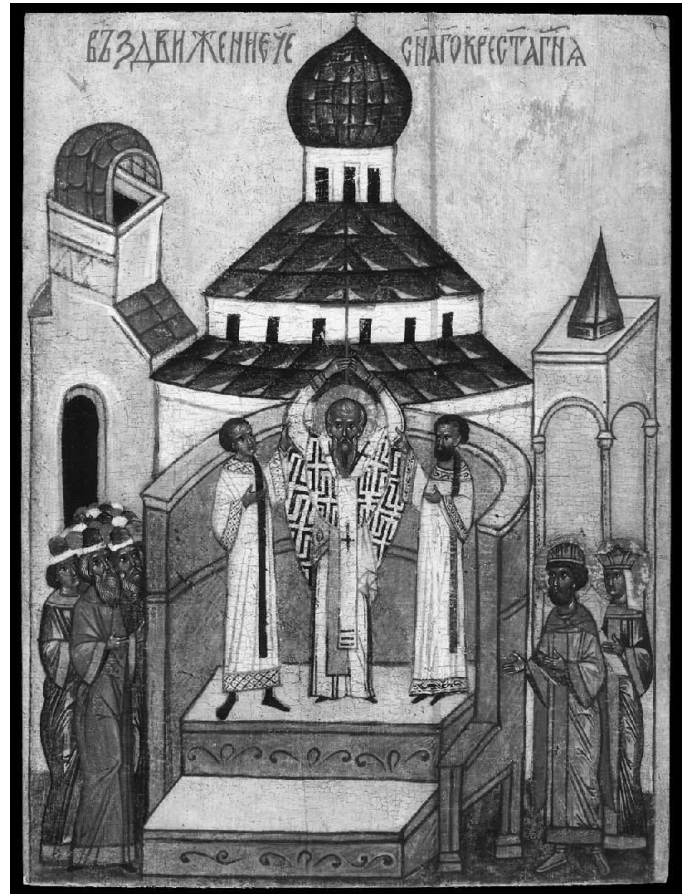
### Sermon on the Life-Giving Cross

+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 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.....”



*“The Cross, though heavy to bear, leads us unfailingly into Paradise. Without bearing the Cross, no one can be saved.”*

St. Seraphim of Sarov

**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, Elaine & Forrest Hanson **Departed:**

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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*

<b>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:</b> \$12,305
<b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:</b> \$2,840
<b>Last Week's Collection (9/14/25):</b> \$2,315

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*"Let us not be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Let the Cross be our seal, made with boldness by our fingers on our brow and in everything; over the bread we eat, the cups we drink, in our comings and goings, before sleep, when we lie down and when we rise, when we are on the way, and when we are still."*

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

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