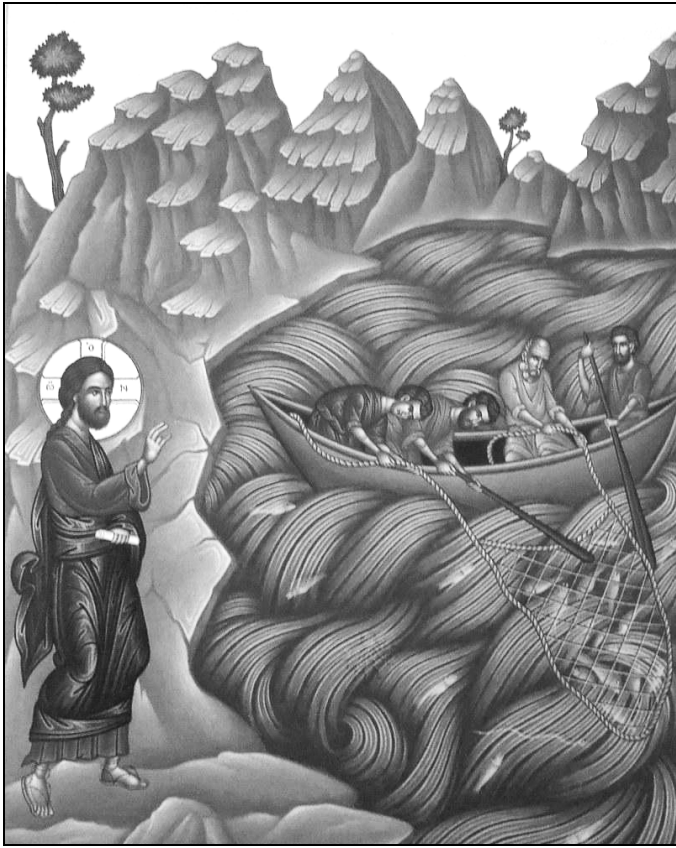




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

September 22nd, 2024 + 13th Sunday after Pentecost + Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinopè



Hymns for This Week

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Holy Apostle Quadratus, entreat the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth

without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. O Hieromartyr Phocas, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

The universe offers Thee, O Lord, the Apostle Quadratus as a most honored hierarch and athlete of great strength; with hymns it honors his all-venerable memory and asks that through him Thou grant forgiveness of transgressions to those who sing his praise.

The Master established thee as a brilliant sun shining on all the faithful, glorious Hieromartyr Phocas. He has accepted thy life, faith and contest as myrrh, for He is rich in mercy.

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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!*

Gospel Reading - Luke 5:1-11

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, September 21st

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 22nd

NO MATINS THIS WEEKEND

Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Church School, Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK

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

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist to the Mother of God
Healer of Cancer

THUR 11 AM: Bible Study

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, September 28th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 29th

Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Church School following Liturgy

Monthly Parish Potluck

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Parastas for Peter Holoviak

Offered by Paula Holoviak

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Holy Resurrection Community Welcome

& Parish Membership Overview

At Coffee Hour September 29th



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.

NEW SESSION - ORTHODOXY 101 Beginning October 19th:
Saturdays @ 3:30 PM 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, October 12th @ 9 AM

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

+++ Upcoming Events +++

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.

Diocesan Donation to Friends of the Poor: We are grateful to His Eminence Archbishop Mark and the Diocesan Council for their donation of \$500 to our Friends of the Poor Ministry.

Signup for Holy Trinity Text Messages & Emails: If you are not currently receiving messages from Holy Trinity via text message and/or email you may sign up in the vestibule. You will receive messages and emails concerning parish events, services, weather cancellations, food sales, our weekly email newsletter & Sunday Sermon email. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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: Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27) **Anniversaries:**



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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From a Sermon on The Great Catch

by St. John Chrysostom

Beloved, let us reflect upon Peter, the fisherman, and how his obedience to Christ brought him from ignorance into divine revelation. He had toiled all night and caught nothing. Consider the weariness of labor and the frustration of failure. Yet when Christ commanded him to cast his net once more, Peter did not argue, though human reason would have told him otherwise. He did not say, "I am a fisherman, and You are a carpenter. I know better about these waters!" No, he simply said, "At Your word, I will let down the net."

It was obedience, my brethren, pure and simple, that brought forth the miraculous catch. The power did not lie in Peter's skill, for he had fished all night without success. The power lay in his obedience to Christ's word. It was not Peter's understanding that brought the fish into the net, but his trust in Christ, who commanded what seemed impossible.

This is the great lesson for us today: obedience to God, even in what we do not understand, brings us into the realm of divine grace. There is no faith without obedience. When we act only according to what we

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

understand, we limit ourselves to human knowledge, which is finite and flawed. But when we trust God in the things we do not understand, we open ourselves to His infinite wisdom.

Do you see, then, the fruit of Peter's obedience? Not only did he receive an abundance of fish, but he also received the revelation of Christ's divinity. For when he saw the great miracle, Peter fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" What is this, brethren? Peter, the fisherman, suddenly became a theologian! He understood that he stood not before an ordinary man, but before God Himself.

And how did this revelation come to Peter? It was through his obedience, through his willingness to follow a command that made no sense to him. In this act of trust, he was opened to the mystery of Christ.

We, too, are often called to cast our nets into the deep waters of life, not knowing what the outcome will be. We may toil and labor in vain, yet when Christ speaks, we must obey. Though we do not understand, His word is always true, and His promises will never fail. If we trust Him, we will see miracles not only in our circumstances, but in our hearts. For in obedience, we are drawn closer to God, and in that nearness, we come to know Him more deeply.

Beloved, do not rely on your own understanding, for it is weak and limited. Rely instead on the word of Christ. Follow Him in faith, and like Peter, you will find that obedience leads not only to earthly blessings, but to the greatest blessing of all: the revelation of God Himself.



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 (9/15/24): \$3,340</p>

Quotes on Today's Gospel Reading

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"As the apostles, through obedience to Christ, were made to be fishers of men, so are we, through obedience, drawn into the deep mysteries of God. It is only by submitting our will to Him that we are granted the eyes to see and the ears to hear the truths of the Kingdom."

St. Symeon the New Theologian

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"Often, we are called to follow Christ into the unknown, into places we do not understand. It is there, in the difficult and irrational moments of obedience, that the greatest revelations of grace are given. To trust Him when we do not know is to open ourselves to the fullness of His life."

Elder Aimilianos of Simona Petra

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"When human reason fails, faith prevails. Peter toiled all night and caught nothing, but at the word of Christ, his net was filled. This shows that the fruitfulness of our labor is not always in our control but in the obedience to the will of God."

St. Basil the Great
