



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

September 8th, 2024 + 11th Sunday after Pentecost + The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary



Hymns for This Week

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve — from the

corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

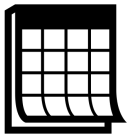
Epistle Reading - **Philippians 2:5-11**

(Reading for the Mother of God) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading - **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28**

(Reading for the Mother of God) Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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!



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - Nativity of the Mother of God

Saturday, September 7th

Vigil w/ Litya @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 8th

Hours (3rd & 6th) @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

+ Parastas for Fr. Adam Krell, Fr. George Pawlush
and Metropolitan Herman +

Offer by SD Greg Polk

Coffee Hour

HOC Parish Council @ 11:30 AM

+++

THIS WEEK

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

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist: Glory to God for All things

THUR 11 AM: Bible Study

+++

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, September 14th

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 following Liturgy

Coffee Hour

HROC Special Meeting @ 11:30 AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

+++

+++ 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, Sept 8th @ 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 +++

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.

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.

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,

“The birth of the Mother of God is a divine event that transcends human understanding. She is the bridge between heaven and earth, the one through whom the Creator enters His creation. Her Nativity is a moment of profound significance, for in her, we see the beginning of our redemption, the first step toward the

Incarnation of the Word.”

St. Sophrony of Essex

talents and donations will always be appreciated. If you have any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846.

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.

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: William Gurka (9/8), Vladimir Dutko (9/13), Gregory Krevko (9/14) **Anniversaries:** Steve & Joann Dutko (9/14)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

+++

The Nativity of the Mother of God

by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

"Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting." – Troparion of the Nativity

I should like to say a few words about the greatness of this feast. When a man surveys this world in which we

live, which is so vast, seemingly boundless, and looks at himself in it, he feels very small and insignificant.

And if he adds to this the hardness and coldness of men, he may sometimes feel extremely vulnerable, helpless and unprotected both before people and before the terrifying vastness of the world.

Yet at the same time if a man looks at himself not in relation to his surroundings, but goes deep into himself, he will there discover such an expanse, such depths, that the whole created world is too small to fill it. Man sees the beauty of the world — and the vision does not completely satisfy him; he learns an enormous amount about God's creation — and the knowledge does not fill him to the brim. Neither human joy nor even human sorrow can completely fill a man, because in him is a depth that exceeds everything created; because God made man so vast, so deep, so limitless in his spiritual being, that nothing in the world can finally satisfy him except God Himself.

Today's feast of the Mother of God demonstrates this fact with particular beauty and splendour. She so believed in God, She gave herself to Him with such a pure mind and pure heart, with an unwavering will, with the purity of Her virginity and life such that She was granted to say the Name of God perfectly, with such love that the Word became flesh and God was made man in Her.

Through this we are shown that not only is the soul, the inner being and spirit of man, so created by God that it can contain the mystery of a meeting with the living God, but that even the body is so made that in an unfathomable way it can be united with the living God. Indeed, according to St. Peter we are called to become partakers of the divine nature; according to St. Paul our vocation is to become temples of the Holy Spirit. The whole of the New Testament teaches us that we are the Body, the living tremulous Body of Christ, through baptism and through Holy Communion. How wonderful this is, and therefore with what reverence must we regard not only our immortal soul, but this body of ours which is called to rise again, to enter the Kingdom of God and be glorified, like the body of Christ.

In the XI century St. Simeon the New Theologian wrote one day when he had returned to his humble cell after receiving Holy Communion, words to this effect, "I look upon this corruptible body, upon this frail flesh, and I

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, Spencer, Madison & Millie Nicholas, Gregory Krevko, Steve Rilkowski **Departed:**

tremble, because by partaking of the Holy Mysteries it has been permeated by God, it has been united with Christ, it is overflowing with the Holy Spirit... these powerless hands have become the hands of God, this body has become a body that God has taken possession of.”

Consider what has been given us not only by our faith, but by the sacraments of the Church. The immersion in the blessed waters of Baptism makes us particles, living members of Christ’s Body, the Anointing with Holy Chrism is not only the visible seal of the Holy Spirit, but makes us the temples in which He dwells. When the bread and wine which are offered by our faith and love to God are consecrated, they become incomprehensibly and mysteriously the Body and Blood of Christ, and this created matter partakes of Christ and imparts to us, who are incapable of soaring to God in spirit, the divinity of Christ, which saves and transfigures us in soul and body.

This feast of Nativity of the Mother of God is the time when we remember the birth of the One who for the sake of us all, for the whole human race, was able to show such faith, to surrender so absolutely to God, that He could become Man through Her, and bring us these manifold, unfathomable gifts. Glory to Her humility, glory to Her faith, glory to Her love, glory to God Who was incarnate and to the Virgin Mother of God, the worthy vessel of the incarnation of the Son of God, Christ our God! 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

+++

<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week’s Collection (9/1/24) : \$2,391</p>

Quotes for Today’s Gospel Lesson

“The birth of the Theotokos is the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan for the salvation of mankind. Through her, the Word will take flesh and dwell among us. This day is a great and holy day, for it marks the beginning of the new creation, where God and man are united in the person of Christ.”

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

“In the humble birth of the Most Holy Theotokos, we see the greatness of God’s plan, which chooses the lowly and the meek to accomplish His divine will. Her life is a model of humility and obedience, and her birth is the prelude to the greatest act of divine humility—the Incarnation of Christ. Let us emulate her humility and strive to live in obedience to God’s will.”

St. Sophrony of Essex

“The Mother of God is the greatest example for all Christians, especially for those who seek to live a life of holiness. Her Nativity is a reminder of the importance of purity, humility, and obedience in our spiritual journey. Let us pray to her, asking for her guidance and intercession, that we may follow in her footsteps and draw closer to Christ.”

St. Paisios of Mt. Athos
