



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

4th Sunday of Lenten Preparation + Sun, February 26th, 2023 + Forgiveness Sunday / Expulsion of Adam and Eve



Hymns for Today

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!"

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue, Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart! O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: "Have mercy on me, a transgressor, O merciful Lord!"

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Romans 13:11-14:4

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 6:14-21

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth

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!

nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



This Week's Schedule

DOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

+++

THIS WEEKEND - Forgiveness Sunday

Saturday, February 25th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, February 26th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,
Forgiveness Sunday Vespers, Cheesefare Coffee Hour

+++

THIS WEEK - 1st Week of Great Lent

Sun @ 10:30 AM: Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Mon-Thurs @ 6:30 PM: Great Compline w/ the Great
Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Wed, 11 AM-1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church

Fri @ 6:30 PM: Canon to St. Theodore
w/ Litya for the Departed

Sat @ 9 AM: St. Theodore Saturday Divine Liturgy
w/ Blessing of Koliva

+++

NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of Orthodoxy

Saturday, March 4th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, March 5th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,
Church School, Coffee Hour, Adult Education

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Mission Vespers

Sun, March 5th @ 4 PM: Holy Resurrection Cathedral
w/ Lenten Meal to follow

Ask Fr. Innocent: Do you have questions about the Orthodox faith? Submit your questions anonymously in the vestibule in the small black "Ask Fr. Innocent?" box. Questions will be answered during coffee hour and/or in the bulletin.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

+++

TODAY: Changing Candle Glass: All Hands on Deck!
Everyone is invited to help make our color change to purple (glass) in the church for Great Lent following Forgiveness Sunday Vespers. Thank you for your help in advance. Many hands make light work!

Lenten Adult Education - The Orthodox Spiritual Life: Fr. Innocent will be presenting weekly Adult Education Class Sundays during coffee hour throughout Great Lent beginning March 5th. Each week will cover a different topic on the rich spiritual life our faith offers us and its ultimate goal. Presentations will last 30 minutes followed by discussion and Q&A. This class will take the place of Orthodoxy 101 during Great Lent. Everyone is invited.

GREAT LENT TEXT MESSAGE SERIES: Throughout Great Lent (as we did during the Nativity Fast), Fr. Innocent will send a series of encouraging text messages relating to the fast, spirituality, relevant scripture readings, challenging questions, and other resources to help you keep engaged in the spirit of the Lenten Fast. If you would like to receive these occasional messages throughout the week sign up in the vestibule/Narthex or Send Fr. Innocent a message to get on the list. We will be creating a special group on the Signal App. So please download the app to your phone. Questions? Ask Fr. Innocent.

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY w/ LENTEN POTLUCK:
Beginning Web March 8th, we will have Presanctified Liturgy followed by a Lenten Potluck (No meat or dairy) on Wednesday nights through the fast. Make this Liturgy and Community Meal a part of your Lenten Journey. Presanctified begins at 6 PM.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays: Mary Gurka (2/1), Cassandra Mahaffey (2/2), Amelia Stankiewicz (2/3), Subdeacon Thomas Donlick (2/4), Sebastian Neal (2/6), Emma Sofrenovic (2/7), Paul Tumavitch (2/9), Mitchell Rivera

(2/14), Subdeacon David Mills (2/19), Jeremiah Haugh (2/21), Sandy Serafin (2/23), Alexanne Conklin (2/24), Andrew Rivera (2/28) **Anniversaries:** Brian & Kristi Benczkowski

This Week's Birthdays: Andrew Rivera (2/28)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

+++

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS: WHY?

By Protobresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin the Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people, Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a "good deed" required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says: "In vain do you rejoice in no eating, O soul! For you abstain from food, but from passions you are not purified. If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast."

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.

*O Paradise, garden of delight and beauty,
dwelling-place made perfect by God,
unending gladness and eternal joy,
the hope of the prophets and the
home of the saints, by the music of thy rustling
leaves beseech the Creator of all
to open the gates which my sins have closed,
that I may partake of the Tree of Life and Grace
which was given to me in the beginning!*



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 (2/19/23): \$2,804
Earthquake Relief: \$455 (matched by HTOC for a total of \$910 donated)

What is my weekly tithe?

Weekly Income	10%	5%	4%	2%
\$200	\$20	\$10	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10
\$750	\$75	\$37	\$30	\$15
\$1000	\$100	\$50	\$40	\$20
\$1500	\$150	\$75	\$60	\$30
\$2000	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$40

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Archpriest Vladimir, Tom & Joan Austin, Paul Berdy, Patricia, Subdeacon Nicholas, Deacon Vasilios, Shane Fitzgerald, Lilly, Charles, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, John Zoranski **Departed:** Eleanor Sovyrda, Theodore Sovyrda, Florence Howie

Treasures for Our Lenten Journey

Themes from the Preparatory Sundays of Great Lent

+++

The Sunday of Zacchaeus

Longing and love for God

Longing and love for God are the foundations of any spiritual journey. As we begin Great Lent, do those things that help you to increase your desire to know and love God.

+++

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Humility and Poverty of Spirit

Embarking on the spiritual journey requires humility and the heart's acknowledgment before God that He is the source of all goodness and spiritual progress.

+++

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son

A Vision of Knowing God's Goodness

Our journey back to God is strengthened by maintaining a vision, purpose, and goal of knowing Him and experiencing the goodness of Him in our daily lives.

+++

The Sunday of the Last Judgement

Acts of Mercy and Love

To know God means that we imitate Him by following His commandments. Performing acts of mercy and love is the evidence we belong to Him.

+++

Forgiveness Sunday

Forgiveness for Everyone

To know the God of love and forgiveness we begin by forgiving everyone that has offended us. Forgiveness brings freedom, peace and joy into our lives.