



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 14th Sun after Pentecost + Sun, September 10th, 2023 + Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos



## Hymns for Today's Service

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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.

Let all who rejoice at their triumph honor those three virgin martyrs, who are united to God as sisters and who pour forth fair streams of grace: Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, who were in all things courageous; they ever pray to the Trinity for us.

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

Invincible in your struggles for the Holy Trinity, and through your love for each other as sisters, you defeated the foe of the spiritual life, and with the five virgins, entered victoriously into the heavenly mansions where you ever rejoice with the angels in the presence of the King of all!

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."

### 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 1:21-2:4

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

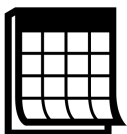
**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

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## Gospel Reading - Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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## This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

### THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, September 9th

10 AM: Friends of the Poor

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 10th

7:45 AM: Baptism of Cyril Kulp (*Dn Damian & Lilly's son*)

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,  
Coffee Hour, Parastas for Eva Lisowski *offered by the  
William Benedetti Family*, Parish Council Meeting

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### THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church

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## The Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross

WED, Sept 13th, 6:30 PM: Great Vespers

THURS, Sept 14th, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy

**Note:** *Due to the feast there is NO Wed night Akathist OR  
Thurs morning Bible Study.*

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### NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, September 16th

2 PM: Wedding Of Anela Saracina & Gregory Kurtz

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, September 17th

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

## Parastas Sept 17th following Divine Liturgy 1 Year Anniversary of the Repose of Peter Holoviak

*offered by the Holoviak Family*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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**ATTENTION! - DATE CHANGE - SUN, SEPT 24th -  
SPECIAL PARISH MEETING:** Attention all Parish  
Members. The Parish Council is calling a special meeting  
that requires the attention of all HTOC members. The  
meeting is being held to vote on changing our Annual  
Parish Meeting date from October to January, as well as  
the wording and guidelines for Parish Council size and  
requirements. The specific changes will be distributed  
beforehand. It's crucial that we have as many  
parishioners there as possible so please save the date and  
plan to attend. Thank you. Please note, the date was  
previously Sept 17th but has been changed to the 24th.

### Upcoming Events & Feast Days:

Sept 14th - Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross

Sept 16th - Wedding of Anela Saracina & Gregory Kurtz

Sept 17th - Parastas for Peter Holoviak (*following Liturgy*)

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**HAS GOD BLESSED YOU WITH A  
GOOD SINGING VOICE?**

**THE HOLY TRINITY CHOIR** is seeking new members. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please call or text Greg Polk at (570)362-2642. Previous choral experience is helpful but not required. All ages are welcome.

**We must receive the one who  
CURSES US AS A MESSENGER  
FROM GOD, rebuking our  
hidden evil thoughts, so that  
we, seeing our thoughts with  
exactness, might correct  
ourselves. For we do not  
know how many hidden evils  
we have; Only a perfect man  
can understand all of his own  
shortcomings.**

(St. Mark the Ascetic)

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**September Birthdays:** Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), William Gurka (9/8), Vladimir Dutko (9/13), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27), Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30) **September Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6), Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17)

**This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Vladimir Dutko (9/13)



**Words of Wisdom  
From the Saints & Teachers**

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**THE MOTHER OF GOD IS PARADISE**



By Priest Ioan Valentin Istrati

We see today the newly born girl-child and understand how great is the love of God. We hear the cries of a small child and learn of the unutterable wisdom of the Trinity. We look at the human child and through our tears we see how exalted man becomes through love—exalted to the radiant light of the throne of Life.

The Most Holy Virgin Theotokos was born on this day. She rises like the sun from the tears of prayer, from the kindness of blessed old age and from sacred purity. The girl-child shines in the world as the fruit of God's miracle, greater than the heavens, preparing to give birth to the Creator of all.

The little child, barely heard crying today, will become the Intercessor of the human race. The girl is light as a feather, yet more spacious than the heavens. She is but a tiny babe, pressed to the breast of the grandmother of the Lord, preparing to become the sanctified temple and spiritual paradise.

She is a church, because she was able to contain and give rest to the Heavenly King. She is the temple of eternity, because in her God Himself was clothed in human essence. The Creator of the galaxy through humble love

**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Tom & Joan Austin, Lilly, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick, Dave Hamilton, David & Delores Voda, Nicole Hapeman, Archpriest Daniel Donlick & Family, Bob (Andrew) Lutzick **Departed:** George, Basil, Mat Delores Donlick, Bernie Baluta

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is wholly contained in the small and virgin womb of His mother. She is the temple of the Immaculate Lamb of God, because she bears and cradles in her arms Him Who bears all creation.

The Mother of God is the Mother of the Church, because no one can ever inherit Christ if he does not give birth to Him in his soul, as the Virgin of heavenly love gave birth to Him in the flesh. No one can receive the Source of Life if he does not feel the fragrant, divine tears of virginity in the eyes of the one who gave birth to Him. No one can love the Lover of Mankind if he does not spiritually become a mother in soul, in order to give birth to Him mystically. Theosis of human nature is the image and unfolding of the Lord's incarnation from the Virgin. When she cradles God in her arms, myriads of angels cry out in praise. When she kisses her Son, the universe is filled with divine love. When she tenderly whispers to the Infant, the whole world apprehends its own hidden meaning.

But even more than a temple, the Mother of God is a spiritual, mystical paradise, which speaks of man's highest calling to eternal love. The Virgin is the bush that burns without being consumed, in which matter is sanctified and delivered forever from corruption, aflame with love for God, but not destroyed by corruption.

Her childbearing virginity represents the existence of paradise, in which matter is penetrated with grace and conquers the laws of nature by the laws of love. Her purity that gives birth to Life is a theological metaphor for paradise—the mystical image of the Kingdom of Heaven, the path on which the universe burdened with sins is directed. Every person who inherits paradise is actually one who has achieved a maternal love of God—not sleeping nights in care and vigilance for Him and growing Him in the depth of the heart, so that He would become one's all.

The holy Virgin is the source of love, because she completes with herself the weeping love of man bereft of grace, and all of God's desire to be united with us. Her mercies pour out upon mankind without waiting for agreement or request, unceasingly spreading the sweetness of love from her maternal heart. The whole universe, pregnant with God, looks with love at the one who gave birth to Him, and learns to be filled with the light that pours from the Eternal One. Mankind fathoms the mysteries of history and learns the Eucharistic

transformation of a mother into energy by grace, as in the Nativity, which is virginal, and in death, which becomes the guarantee of life.

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*Every person who inherits paradise is actually one who has achieved a maternal love of God—not sleeping nights in care and vigilance for Him and growing Him in the depth of the heart, so that He would become one's all.*

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We see today the newborn Virgin and understand the grandeur of God's love. We hear the crying of a little girl-child and learn of the Trinity's unutterable wisdom. We look at the human child, and through our tears see how loftily a human being can ascend through love—to the shining light of the throne of Life. Let us kiss the Infant in our souls, and learn at the eternal school of theology.

Her silence is more precious than all the words of this world. After all, the greatest power in the universe is love, which gives life, offering itself in sacrifice, and which gives birth to a child. And the greatest light in all the universe is the strength to love, for all eternity, those who killed your Child.

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## 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."*

<p><b>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305</b> <b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840</b> <b>Collections last Sunday (9/3): \$2,466</b></p>
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