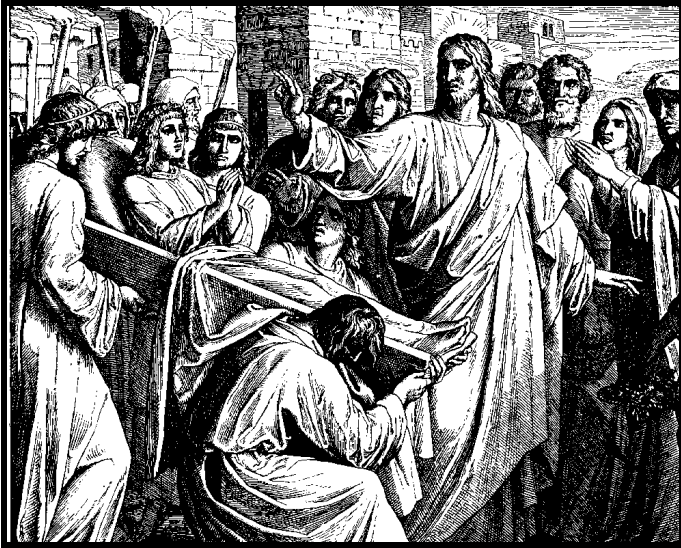




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

October 6th, 2024 + 15th Sunday after Pentecost + Glorification of St. Innocent, Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas



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 Holy Father Innocent, in obedience to the will of God, thou didst accept dangers and tribulations, bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth. Thou didst show us the way; now by thy prayers help lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven!

Thou didst evangelize the Northern people of America and Asia, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the natives in their own tongues, O Holy Hierarch, Father Innocent, Enlightener of Alaska and All America, whose ways were ordered by the Lord. Pray to Him for the salvation of our souls in His Heavenly Kingdom!

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.

Thy life, O holy Father Innocent, apostle to our land, proclaims the dispensation and grace of God! For, laboring in dangers and hardships for the Gospel of Christ, thou wast kept unharmed and exalted in humility. Pray that He may guide our steps in the way we should go!

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

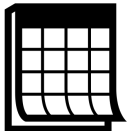
For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed 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 - Luke 7:11-16

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw

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!*

her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, October 5th

Great Vespers @ 2 PM (Note Time Change)

Confession available before or after Vespers

Foodfest: 3PM-8PM

Sunday, October 6th

OCT 6th is Church Musician Sunday

*Honoring Choir Directors, Singers, Chanters, Readers,
Composers, Arrangers, Bell-Ringers for their ministry*

Matins @ 8:00 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour, Church School

Parastas for Julia, William, Eva, Alexander

Offered by Marie Talpash

Foodfest Cleanup after Divine Liturgy

Please plan to stay and help at the Pavillion!

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THIS WEEK

The Neal's are on vacation this week.

Keep us in your prayers.

WED: NO Open Church or Akathist

THUR: NO Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, October 12th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

++ NO Vespers this Week ++

Sunday, October 13th

Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour, Church School



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 October 27th.

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 +++

SAVE THE DATE: SubDeacon Gregory Polk will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate on Sat, Nov 9th at 9 AM by His Eminence Archbishop Mark here at Holy Trinity. More details to come.

Parish Council: Meets this month on October 20th

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.

Next Perogie Project NOVEMBER 15TH & 16TH:

Friday & Saturday Work Schedule: Fri. 2pm to 6pm, Sat. 9am to 3pm. Volunteer sign up sheet and pierogi order sheets are in the vestibule. Volunteers are needed to make the project a success. Perogies \$ 13.00 a doz. LIMIT. 5 doz. Pre-order Call: 570-822-5975 November 11th - 14th. Between 10am and 3pm. Pick up date: Nov. 16th (Sat.) (1pm to 3pm)

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

OCTOBER Birthdays: Paula Holoviak (10/2), Barry Benczkowski (10/2), Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Brian Benczkowski (10/5), Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Irene Zimich (10/6), John Zimich (10/11), Jason Stankiewicz (10/18), Amber King (10/20), Sarah Benczkowski (10/22), Rebecca Leonori (10/23), Mary Anya Haugh (10/27), Walter Shedlock (10/28), Marie Talpash (10/28) **Anniversaries:** William & Mary Gurka (10/15), Rebecca & Steve Leonori (10/23)

This Week:

Birthdays: Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Irene Zimich (10/6), John Zimich (10/11) **Anniversaries:**



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Raising of the Widow's Son

by St. John Chrysostom

See the Lord's boundless compassion, my beloved! He came to the city of Nain, not by chance, but by design. As He approached the gates of the city, a great crowd followed Him, and there He encountered another crowd—a funeral procession. And what a pitiable sight it was! A widow, mourning her only son, walking with tearful steps behind the bier. Consider her desolation: no husband, no other children, no comfort left to her in this world. Her entire hope, her entire consolation, had been extinguished by death.

And yet, before she spoke a word, before she pleaded or entreated, the Lord, seeing her sorrow, was moved with compassion. Here, let us understand the greatness of His love. He was not moved by entreaty, not compelled by

request, but driven by the purest mercy, the depth of His divine compassion. He said to her, 'Do not weep.' But how could she not weep? The sight before her eyes was the lifeless body of her only son. Who among us could restrain tears at such a sight?

Still, the Lord said, 'Do not weep.' For He intended not only to wipe away her tears, but to undo the very cause of her sorrow. He approached the bier and touched it. Such was His gentleness. He did not seize or grasp, but gently touched the bier, as if to show that even death itself would yield to His slightest command. And indeed, it did. For He spoke, and the Word of God, which once brought all creation into being, now restored life to this dead man: 'Young man, I say to you, arise!' Not a lengthy prayer, not an invocation to the Father or a prophet, but simply a command, as one who holds authority over life and death. And immediately, the dead man sat up and began to speak. What greater proof could there be that Christ is the Source of Life?

“But this miracle, my brethren, is not merely a story for us to marvel at from a distance. It is a sign and a lesson for all of us.”

Notice, too, the perfect order of His work. He did not raise the dead man and leave him to fend for himself. No, He restored him to his mother, thus completing the work of compassion. The One who is 'the Resurrection and the Life' not only demonstrates His power over death but His tender care for the living. For what use is life if it is not lived in communion with others, in relationships of love and support? Christ returns the son to the mother, renewing the bond that had been broken, reestablishing the joy that had been lost. Such is the mercy of our God.

But this miracle, my brethren, is not merely a story for us to marvel at from a distance. It is a sign and a lesson for all of us. Christ did not raise this young man only for his mother's sake. He raised him for our sake, to show that He is Lord over death, that He holds in His hands the keys of life and death. Just as He raised this young man from physical death, so He raises us from the spiritual death of sin.

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, Alice Liskowski **Departed:** Spencer Nicholas, Nicholas Petrishin, Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Petorak

For are we not also dead? Consider the state of our souls when we live apart from God, when we are ensnared by sinful habits and passions. We are like that young man, being carried to our graves, the light of life extinguished within us. But Christ comes to us, as He came to Nain, and He approaches us in our despair, in our hopelessness, in our sin. And He says to us, 'Arise!' He touches the bier of our sins, He speaks life into the deadness of our hearts, and we are raised to newness of life.

How does this happen? Through repentance, my beloved! When we repent, we allow Christ to approach us, to touch the places in our souls that are dead, to heal the wounds caused by sin. Repentance is the path from death to life. And just as the young man began to speak when he was raised, so too must we begin to speak when Christ raises us. But not idle talk, not meaningless chatter. No, the speech of the resurrected soul is the speech of praise and thanksgiving, the words of prayer and adoration to the One who gives life.

And what did the people say when they saw this great miracle? 'God has visited His people.' They were right, of course, but they did not understand fully. Christ's visitation was not a momentary event, a passing miracle. His visitation was the very Incarnation, His coming to dwell among us, to share in our suffering, to conquer death on our behalf. The raising of the widow's son was a sign of what was to come—the resurrection of all from death, when Christ Himself would rise from the dead and trample down death by His own death.

Therefore, let us not think of Christ's visitation as something that happened long ago. Let us recognize that He continues to visit us today. Every time we turn to Him in prayer, every time we receive the Holy Mysteries, every time we repent of our sins, Christ comes to us, just as He came to Nain. He touches the bier of our sins, He speaks life into our hearts, and He restores us to communion with Himself.

May we, like the people of Nain, glorify God and say with joy, 'God has visited His people!' To Him be all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. 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

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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 (9/29/24) : \$3,381</p>
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Quotes on Today's Gospel Reading

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"The resurrection of the widow's son is a sign of the resurrection of the soul that has fallen into sin and death. When the soul is touched by Christ, it is raised again to life. The tears of the widow are the prayers of the Church, who intercedes for her children."

St. Gregory of Nyssa

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"God visited His people not only through this one miraculous event but continues to visit us through every act of mercy, every prayer, and every instance where His grace transforms our weakness into strength. Christ's raising of the widow's son is a sign for all time that God is present, active, and deeply involved in the life of His people."

St. Nikolai Velimirovich
