



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sunday, Nov 15th, 2020 - The Good Samaritan

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6.

Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa



Hymns for Today

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 Christ our God, Thou hast granted us the miracles of Thy holy martyrs Gúrias, Samónas, and Abíbus, as a stronghold and protection. Through their prayers, strengthen those in authority in ev'ry good deed, for Thou alone art merciful and lovest mankind!

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.

You received grace from on high, O all-praised martyrs, and you intercede for those in the midst of temptations. Therefore, O saints, you freed a young woman from bitter death, and are indeed the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world.

Epistle Reading - Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel Reading - Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. 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.*

took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Services livestreamed on Facebook)

SAT: 5PM Great Vespers

TODAY: 8:40 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy,
Parastas, Church School

Parastas TODAY Sunday NOV 15th

In Memory of Stephen Krill

Offered by John & Irene Zimich

In Memory of Joni Belcher

Offered by Joe & Elaine Bernardo

In Memory of Evelyn Bogan

Offered by Mary Krill

**In Memory of Anastasia, Anna & Bernard Golubiewski,
Wasil and Anna Kuncio, Anthony & Mark Sluhocki,
Genieve & Lorri Gromoll**

Offered by Bernard Golubiewski

**In Memory of Demetrius, Mary, Bert, Adam, Demetrius
Jr, Alexander, June, Robert and Irene**

Offered by Alexanne Conklin & Family

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Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple

FRI, November 20: 6:30 PM Great Vespers w/ Litya

SAT, November 21: 9 AM Divine Liturgy,
40th Day Parastas for Joan Belcher

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SAT, November 21: 5 PM Great Vespers, Moliebon for
Steve & Jean Anne Jutz

SUN, November 22: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine
Liturgy, Church School, Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Gospel of Mark

This Wednesday, November 18th

THIS WEEK: Chapters 13-14

Class will be online at 7:00 PM.

The link to join is the same every week.

The Nativity Fast Begins TODAY

The church encourages us to abstain from meat & dairy, throughout the fast, PLUS fish, wine and oil on certain days. Consult your Orthodox calendar for specific days. *May God give us the strength to use this invaluable tool as a means of growing closer to Our God!*

Monthly Parish Council Meeting: NOV 22nd

We will hold a brief November Parish Council Meeting immediately after the Post Communion Prayers following Divine Liturgy. The meeting will be held in the church. Did we mention it will be brief?

November Homeless Collection

In an effort to help our community in these trying times, the Church School is holding a collection for the local homeless male population. There is a need for the following men's, full size items: Toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, socks, men's body wash, etc. Monetary donations are also being accepted, please see Colleen. Donations are being accepted through the month of November. See the poster on the bulletin board for more details. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES – MANY YEARS!

November Birthdays: Scott Harvey (11/4), Matushka Melanie Neal (11/4), Irene Dutko (11/5), Fred Pleban (11/6), Steve Nealon (11/10), Joli Dutko (11/12), Andrew Neal (11/24) Douglas Cardoni (11/26), **Anniversaries:** Peter & Paula Holoiviak (11/12), Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19)

This Week: Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19)

Altar Server Schedule

Sunday, Nov 15: Alex H, Tommy D, Andrew N

Sunday, Nov 22: Christopher D, Symeon C, Andrew C

Sunday, Nov 29: Alec B, Kaleb D, Ephraim N

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Archbishop David, Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Brian Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Rebecca King, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mat

Delores Donlick & Fr. Daniel Donlick, Mary DeBenedetto, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Camden Thomas, Dr. Peter Kaminski, Peter Holoviak & Family, Mary Krill, Thomas Padrezas, Bachman Family, Brian & Marni, Rose Marie

Departed: Met Theodosios, Evelyn Bogan, Joni Belcher, James Balchune, Maria Severino, Mary Ellen, Anna Hutz Lahr

The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple



According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called “Psalms of Ascent.”) The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. “If anyone were to ask me,” said Saint Jerome, “how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian.”

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin’s stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

Words of Life & Living Bread

From *Of What Life Do We Speak*
By His Beatitude Met. Tikhon

The words of our Lord Jesus Christ are found throughout the Scripture and are familiar to all Orthodox Christians who dwell within the bosom of the Church. And yet, our hearts often fail to grasp the deep meaning of these words and to recognize the transformative impact they could have in our life. We are bombarded daily with competing words, images, and ideologies which drown out the simple, yet direct, message of the Holy Gospel and make it more difficult, not only to hear the Lord's words of life, but to incorporate them as the foundation of our very existence. We know that the Christian path requires an ascetical effort on our part, but this ascetical effort is not limited to fasting, prayer and attendance at liturgical services. The latter are tools at our disposal, not simply to shield our minds from the noise of this worldly assault, but to help us acquire a genuine life of piety, guided by the fear of God and activated by real humility, all of which can lead us towards an authentic Christ-like existence in the world.

The words of Jesus Christ cannot be placed on equal footing with the noise and chatter we encounter in our daily existence precisely because they can only be fully experienced within the context of our life in the Church, which is in the world, but not of the world. The Christian experience is a very real and actual immersion in God's grace, not merely an intellectual understanding of abstract commandments or emotional response to Divine revelation. The Lord spoke of Himself as the bread of life not so that His words could remain as written letters on a page, but to welcome us into an experience: "Verily, verily, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, words of life and living bread ye have no life in you."¹ It is through our participation in the Holy

Eucharist, by literally having Christ within us, His blood coursing through our veins and His body sanctifying our bodies, that we enter this life-giving experience.

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Our communion with Christ occurs not only at the precise moment of our partaking of the Holy Things but through all the mysteries by which we participate sacramentally in the life of the Holy Trinity. From the moment that the priest blesses the water of baptism, showing it to be "the water of sanctification" and "the fountain of life," to the final exclamation at the funeral service where Christ is proclaimed to be the "life and the resurrection" of the newly departed, a Christian is never denied access to the gift of life. This sanctification moves beyond the individual person to affect the entire world. There is an unbroken movement of life from the Liturgy of Preparation when the priest cuts the holy bread cross-wise, saying: "Sacrificed is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, for the life of the world and its salvation to the paschal explosion when we "arise at the rising of the sun" and "behold Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, Who causes life to dawn for all." All of this, reflected in the fullness of our sacramental and liturgical life, is what it means to be a communicant in the Church.