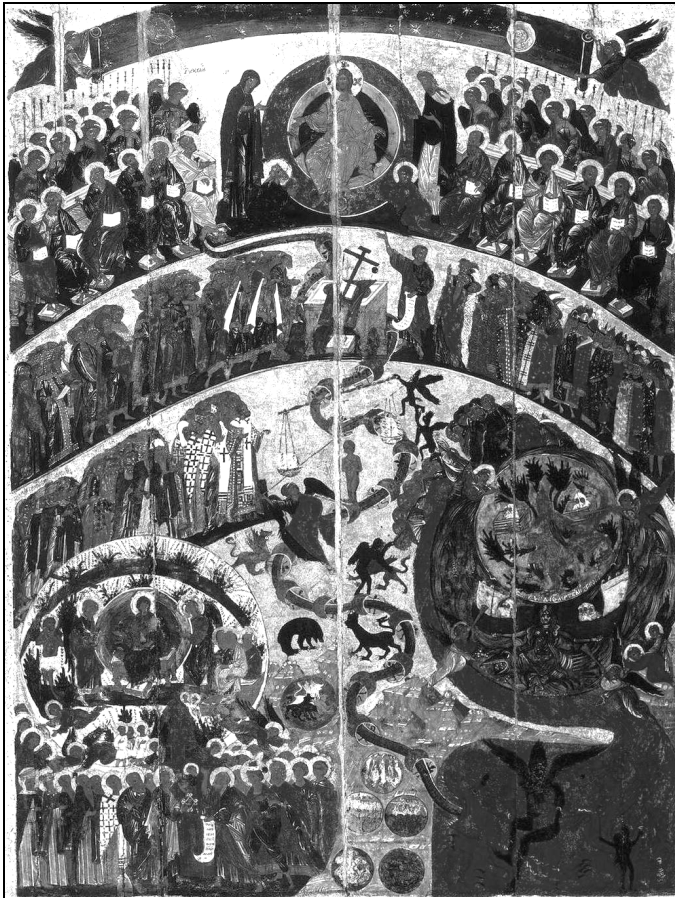




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ March 10th, 2024 + The Sunday of the Last Judgment + Martyr Quadratus and those with him +



Hymns for Today

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry

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!

and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - Meatfare Sunday

Saturday, March 9th

9 AM: Friends of the Poor

5 PM: 9th Hour (4:50), Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, March 10th

8:10 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School,
Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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THIS WEEK

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

6:30 PM: Akathist: "To the Mother of God -
Healer of Cancer"

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND - Forgiveness Sunday

Saturday, March 9th

5 PM: 9th Hour (4:50), Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, March 10th

8:10 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Forgiveness Sunday Vespers,
Coffee Hour



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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Parish Council is the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is **SUN, March 10th**.

Friends of the Poor is the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be **SAT, March 9th**.

Parish Potlucks are **usually** the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **TODAY, Meatfare Sunday**.

Potato Pancake Friday's Fundraiser every Friday through March 15. Please come for lunch or take home for dinner. A sign up sheet and schedule is in the vestibule/narthex for those who can come to help. We appreciate any time you can offer.

Lenten Adult Ed: Sunday's throughout Great Lent during Coffee hour we will have a short Lenten Adult Education presentation w/ discussion. We will focus on a variety of topics that relate to Great Lent. As we journey towards Holy Week and Pascha we will seek to deepen our Lenten experience through focusing on topics like fasting, the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion, the meaning of our Lenten services & prayers, Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Bring the questions you've always wanted to ask and a desire to grow closer to Our Lord!

Watch "The Chosen" Saturday Nights During Lent: The Chosen is a critically acclaimed television series that tells the story of the gospels, Our Lord and His disciples. Join us Saturday evenings following Great Vespers @ 6 PM during Lent to watch episodes from Season 1. This is an excellent and thought provoking show that is sure to inspire your Lenten journey.

**** See updated Lenten Service Schedule for March enclosed. This Schedule replaces the one already distributed. ****

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays: Emma Lynn DiBatista (3/3), Abby Harvey (3/4), Lisa Marie Harvey (3/7), Isabela Sofrenovic (3/9), Dara Soljaga (3/11), Michael Polk (3/12) Nadine

Breisch (3/13), Joshua Leonori (3/22), Gerry Stankiewicz (3/27), Jean Ann Hutz (3/31)

This Week's Birthdays: Dara Soljaga (3/11), Michael Polk (3/12) Nadine Breisch (3/13)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Sunday of the Last Judgement

From oca.org



Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His

righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

“When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor.”

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, “Who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed. As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Tom & Joan Austin, Joan Lello, Barbara Pascoe, Elizabeth Hutz, Melanie Bishop, Delores Voda, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Michael Yeosock, Fr. Gregory White, Mary Gurka, Mary Ann Kudey, Tom Youngblood, Catherine Gates, John Boyle, Rose Marie **Departed:** Barbara Kulick, Daniel Fitzsimmons

for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

*Rejoice at every opportunity of
showing kindness to your
neighbour as a true Christian who
strives to store up as many good
works as possible, especially the
treasures of love.*

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Righteous John, Wonderworker of
Kronstadt



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

Collections last Sunday (2/25): \$2,386.19

Potato Pancakes (3/1) - \$1,826

Treasures for Our Lenten Journey

*Themes from the Preparatory Sundays of
Great Lent*

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.
