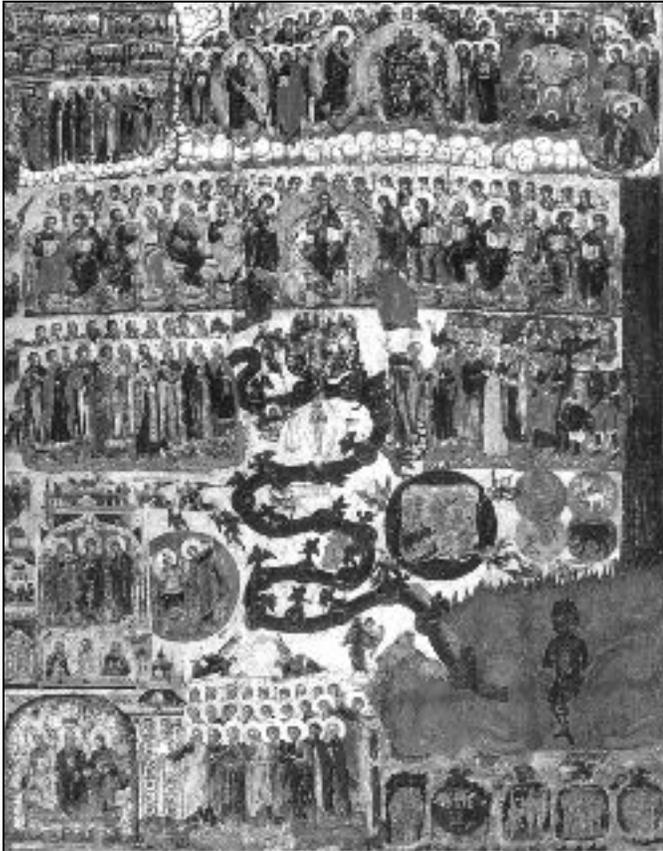




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sun, March 7, 2021 : The Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare) • Saint for the day : The Holy Martyrs of Cherson



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.

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!

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

This Weekend

SAT, March 6: 5 PM Great Vespers,
5:45 PM Parastas for Stephen Krill

SUN, March 7: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,
Church School, **Parish Council Meeting**

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Church Open for Personal Prayer

Wednesdays: 11 AM - 1:30 PM & 3:30 PM - 6 PM

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FRI, March 12: Parish Food Sale 11 AM- 5 PM

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Next Weekend

SAT, March 13: 5 PM Great Vespers

SUN, March 14: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,
Forgiveness Vespers

Announcements & Meetings

Lenten Food Sale Dates: March 12 & 26. 11AM to 5PM. Pls note that there will be no food sale on March 19 as this is our first week of Great Lent with services each evening. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation towards the purchase of a box of potato pancake batter (\$40) or

clam chowder ingredients (any amount) may do so by contacting Sandy Serafin or Diane Welgus.

March 12th Food Sale Menu: Halushki, Potato Pancakes, and Clam Chowder (*cold*).

Another Food Sale Success: Thank you to all who contributed to another successful Friday Food Sale whether by working or supporting it through purchasing the delicious food. Revenue from the sale was roughly \$1500. Glory to God!

Submit your departed names: Please submit any new names to be added to your existing list of departed loved ones for our Friday Evening Lity service during great lent. If your list has not changed from last year there is no need to submit.

Annual Maintenance Contribution – A reminder letter for the annual Maintenance Contribution was included in a recent bulletin and also sent out in the mail. If you have not received a copy please pick one up at the candle stand or contact Father Innocent. *We have begun to receive some of your annual contributions already! Thanks so much for your support and dedication to the needs of our humble parish!*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays: Emma Lynn DiBatista (3/3), Abby Harvey (3/4), Lisa Marie Harvey (3/7), Nadine Breisch (3/13), Joshua Leonori (3/22), Gerry Stankiewicz (3/27), Jean Ann Hutz (3/31)

This Week's Birthdays: Lisa Marie Harvey (3/7), Nadine Breisch (3/13)

Altar Server Schedule

Sunday, March 7: Alec B, Kaleb D, Symeon C

Sunday, March 14: Vladimir H, Alex H, Andrew N

Sunday, March 21: Alec B, Tommy D, Ephraim N

Sunday, March 28: Vladimir H, Christopher D, Andrew C

PARISH PRAYER LIST **Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mat Delores Donlick & Fr. Daniel Donlick, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Camden Thomas, Peter Holoviak & Family, Marni Bachman & Family, Rose Marie, Elaine Benczkowski, Helen Gudaitis, Mahaffey Family, George Scott, Evelyn Kosmiski, Joe Sloan, Dustin & Nina, Louis Gianuzzi, Betty Serafin, Donald Tumavitch

Newly Departed: Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar

On the Church Calendar

Month of MARCH

Sat, 6th @ 5 PM: Great Vespers

Sun, 7th @ 9 AM: Sunday of Last Judgement / Liturgy
Parish Council Meeting

Fri, 12th @ 11 AM–5 PM: Parish Food Sale

Sat, 13th @ 5 PM: Great Vespers

Beginning of GREAT LENT 2021 (Clean Week)

Sun, 14th @ 9 AM: Forgiveness Sunday / Divine Liturgy

Mon, 15th–Thurs, 18th @ 6:30 PM: Canon of St. Andrew

Fri, 19th @ 6:30 PM: Akathist w/ Lity for Departed

Sat, 20th @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy – St. Theodore

Week 2 of Great Lent

Sat, 20th @ 5 PM: Great Vespers

Sun, 21st @ 9 AM: Triumph of Orthodoxy / Divine Liturgy

Wed, 24th @ 6 PM: Presanctified Liturgy

Fri, 26th @ 11 AM–5 PM: Parish Food Sale

Fri, 26th @ 6:30 PM: Akathist w/ Lity for the Departed

Sat, 27th @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy

Week 3 of Great Lent

Sat, 27th @ 5 PM: Great Vespers

Sun, 28th @ 9 AM: St Gregory Palamas / Divine Liturgy
Archbishop Mark Presiding

Wed 31st @ 6 PM: Presanctified Liturgy

Sunday of the Last Judgement

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).

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 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.

On the Virtues: Patience

Fr. Thomas Hopko, oca.org

To be obedient in all things to God requires the virtue of patience. Saint Paul lists this virtue as one of the “fruits of the Spirit” (Gal 5.22). Christ Himself in His humble obedience to God was exceedingly patient.

To be patient literally means to suffer and endure. It means to wait on the Lord through all tribulations and trials with courage and hope. It means to put up with ones self and others, growing gradually in the grace of God through the daily effort to keep His commandments and to accomplish His will. Only those who are patient, according to Christ, bring forth fruit from the seeds of God’s Word that are sown in their hearts.

And as for that in the good soil, they are these who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience (Lk 8.15).

In times of persecution, when Christians are delivered up to answer for Christ, being “hated by all for My name’s sake,” the Lord counsels His followers: “in patience, possess ye your souls,” which means, “through your endurance you will gain your lives” (Lk 21.19).

Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and late rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble . . . against one another, that you may not be condemned; behold the Judge is standing at the doors. As an example of suffering and patience . . . take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the patience of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful (Jas 5:7–11).

Too often people embarking on the spiritual life forget that patience is a virtue, and that, because of man’s freedom, the effort to cleanse one’s life from sin is tiresome and long. Everything is expected at once, with little striving and small effort.

Too often, also, people who wish to be patient forget that the virtue is a grace of God and a fruit of the Spirit. They think that they can attain patience with themselves and with others by will power alone; by rationalizations and human considerations. Such people never find peace for their souls.



The virtue of patience is found in the steadfast endurance given by God. It is the power to “stay on the cross” no matter what, doing only the will of the Lord. Patience is united with faith, hope, love, humility and obedience, which alone brings the strength to go on. It must be renewed daily through fasting, prayer and communion with God in the Church. It is found when one trains oneself to remember God, to abide in Christ and to see all things in the light of the Kingdom of God. If one wishes to be patient, one must be united with Christ and live by the power of the Spirit. According to the spiritual teachers, there is no other way.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it (1 Cor 10.13).

Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved (Ps 55.22; cf. 1 Pet 5.7).
