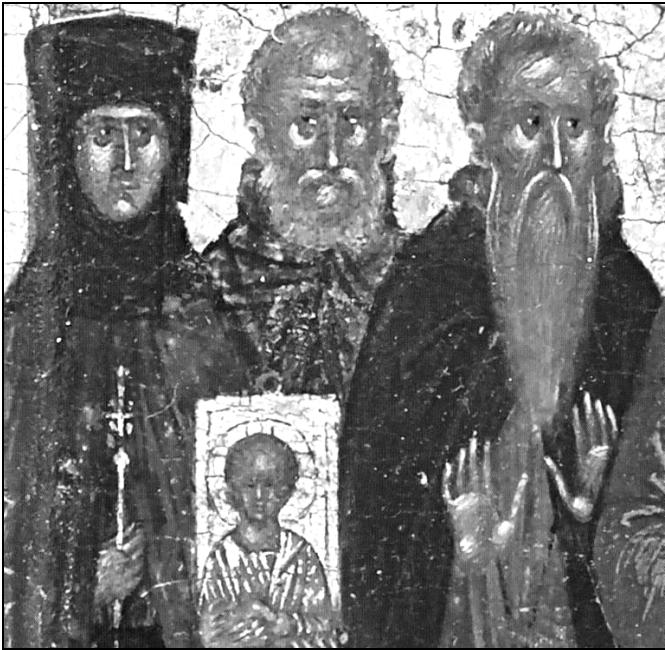




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ March 9th, 2025 + Sunday of Orthodoxy + The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste + 1st Sunday of Great Lent +



Hymns for Today

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world."

Through the sufferings which Thy holy Forty Martyrs endured for Thy sake, O Lord, we beseech Thee, O Lover of mankind: "Heal all of our infirmities!"

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

You have abandoned all earthly armies, cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord. Having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones, you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

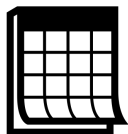
By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were

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!

slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel Reading - John 1:43-51

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."



This Week's Schedule **Doly Trinity Orthodox Church**

THIS WEEKEND- Sunday of Orthodoxy **Saturday, March 8th**

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Friends of the Poor @ 10:30 AM
Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM
Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, March 9th

Parents: Bring your family icons for the kids to make our annual Sunday of Orthodoxy procession in the church!

Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Swearing in of Parish Council,
Procession w/ Icons, Coffee Hour, Church School,
Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

Deanery Mission Vespers @ HTOC @ 4 PM

If you are able to help with hospitality see Deborah Mills

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THIS WEEK - 2nd Week of Great Lent

Tues @ 4:00 PM: Small Compline

Wed @ 11-1:30: Open Church

Wed @ 6:00 PM: Presanctified Divine Liturgy
w/ Lenten Potluck

Thurs @ 11:00 AM: Bible Study

Fri @ 6:30 PM: Akathist Hymn w/ Lity for departed

Sat @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy

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NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 15th

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM
Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, March 16th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM,
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour, Church School,
Brief Visitation Ministry Meeting
Lenten Presentation on the Divine Liturgy @ 11:30 AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Acts of the Apostles with discussions.

ORTHODOXY 101 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 March 30th (Lenten Food).

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, March 8th after Liturgy
Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, March 9th @ 11:30 AM

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE: St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Allentown is collecting items to ship to Ukraine. Please donate soap, hygiene items, clothes, toys. Cash donations will also be accepted. The collection will run from Sunday, March 9 through Sunday, March 16. See Paula Holoviak for details.

2024 Giving Statements: Anyone who wishes to receive a formal statement of giving for the year 2024 please provide your name on the sign up sheet in the Church vestibule.

TODAY - Sunday of Orthodoxy Mission Vespers: Sunday March 9th @ 4 PM Holy Trinity will host the deanery Mission Vespers for Sunday of Orthodoxy. Following Vespers we will host a Lenten meal for all the faithful attending. Anyone able to **volunteer to help** with the meal and hospitality would be greatly appreciated. Please see Deborah Mills or Fr. Innocent.

Great Lent Mission Vespers Schedule:

Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 2 @ 4 PM):

- Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Wilkes Barre, PA

Sunday of the Cross (March 23 @ 4 PM)

- Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church, Berwick, PA

Sunday of Mary of Egypt (April 6 @ 4 PM)

- All Saints Orthodox Church, Olyphant, PA

Volunteers Needed March 14/15: A work project is slated for Friday 14 March – 4PM – 6PM & Saturday 15 March – 11AM – 3PM. On Friday we will load up all old metal chairs and shelves from our pavilion in preparation for Saturday's work. Following Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning (11AM) we will stop by Allan recycling center in Wilkes Barre for a drop off and then head over to Holy Resurrection. There we will pick up a variety of chairs, shelves, kitchen equipment, etc and bring those items to the pavilion. Many hands make light work so please try and contribute a few hours of your time and energy towards this project. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Father Innocent or Sandy Serafin (571-274-5846)A sign up sheet is posted in the vestibule.

Lenten Presentation on Divine Liturgy: Sundays, March 16th & 23rd @ 11:30 AM PDn Sergei Kapral will offer a 2-part presentation on the Divine Liturgy. PDn Sergei will walk us through each part of the Liturgy to help us gain a better understanding and deepen our experience of the Divine Liturgy. Questions and discussions to follow.

The Blessing of Homes continues for those who have rescheduled or by appointment. Check in with Fr. Innocent as to when there is availability for your visit.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays: Alex Reznek (3/2), Emma Lynn DiBatista (3/3), Abby Harvey (3/4), Lisa Marie Harvey (3/7), Isabela Sofrenovic (3/9), Dara Soljaga (3/11), Vera Kraynanski (3/11), Michael Polk (3/12) Nadine Breisch (3/13), Vera Hoats (3/13), Sergei Kapral Jr. (3/17), Rdr. Gregory Kurtz (3/17), Mat. Victoria Kapral (3/21), Joshua Leonori (3/22), Jacob Zbegner (3/27) Gerry Stankiewicz (3/27), Jean Ann Hutz (3/31) Delores Voda (3/31)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Isabela Sofrenovic (3/9), Dara Soljaga (3/11), Vera Kraynanski (3/11), Michael Polk (3/12) Nadine Breisch (3/13), Vera Hoats (3/13)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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On the Sunday of Orthodoxy

Met. Anthony Bloom

We are keeping today, as every year at the end of the first week of Lent, the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. And every year we must give thought to what is meant, not only as a historical event, but also in our personal lives. First of all, we must remember that the Triumph of Orthodoxy is not the Triumph of the Orthodox over other people. It is the Triumph of the Truth Divine in the hearts of those who belong to the Orthodox Church and who proclaim the Truth revealed by God in its integrity and directness.

Today we must thank God with all our hearts that He has revealed Himself to us, that He has dispelled darkness in the minds and hearts of thousands and thousands of

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Bob Lutzick, Leann, Gregory Krevko, Tom Vaskalis, David, Delores Tressa, Sandra Condon, Hieromonk Gabriel, Sylvia Dreater **Departed:** Mat. Suzanne Senyo, Aleksandra, Olivia, Veronica, Mat. Eugenia

people, that He who is the Truth has shared the knowledge of the perfect Truth Divine with us.

The occasion of this feast was the recognition of the legitimacy of venerating icons. By doing this we proclaim that God - invisible, ineffable, the God whom we cannot comprehend, has truly become man, that God has taken flesh, that He has lived in our midst full of humility, of simplicity, but of glory also. And proclaiming this we venerate the icons not as idols, but as a declaration of the Truth of the Incarnation.

We are all living icons, and this lays upon us a great responsibility because an icon may be defaced, an icon may be turned into a caricature and into a blasphemy. And we must think of ourselves and ask ourselves: are we worthy, are we capable of being called "icons", images of God?

Met. Anthony Bloom

By doing this we must not forget that it is not the icons of wood and of paint, but God who reveals Himself in the world. Each of us, all men, were created in the image of God. We are all living icons, and this lays upon us a great responsibility because an icon may be defaced, an icon may be turned into a caricature and into a blasphemy. And we must think of ourselves and ask ourselves: are we worthy, are we capable of being called "icons", images of God? A western writer has said that meeting a Christian, those who surround him should see him as a vision, a revelation of something they have never perceived before, that the difference between a non-Christian and a Christian is as great, as radical, as striking, as the difference there is between a statue and a living person. A statue may be beautiful, but it is made of stone or of wood, and it is dead. A human being may not at first appear as possessed of such a beauty, but those who meet him should be able, as those who venerate an icon - blessed, consecrated by the

Church - should see in him the shining of the presence of the Holy Spirit, see God revealing Himself in the humble form of a human being. As long as we are not capable of being such a vision to those who surround us, we fail in our duty, we do not proclaim the Triumph of Orthodoxy through our life, we give a lie to what we proclaim. And therefore each of us, and all of us collectively, bear every responsibility for the fact that the world meeting Christians by the million is not converted by the vision of God's presence in their midst, carried indeed in earthen vessels, but glorious, saintly, transfiguring the world.

What is true about us, simply, personally, is as true about our churches. Our churches were called by Christ as a family, a community of Christians to be a body of people who are united with one another by total love, by sacrificial love, a love that is God's love to us. The Church was called, and is still called, to be a body of people whose characteristic is to be the incarnate love of God. Alas, in all our churches what we see is not the miracle of love divine.



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

<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week's Collection (2/23/25) : \$2,176</p>
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"The icon is theology in color, a visible expression of the truth that God became man, so that man might be united to God."

Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos
