The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

HOLY PASCHA + Sun, April 12th, 2026 + Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs Bestowing life!

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

Epistle Reading - Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Reading - John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said,

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!*

'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

This Week's Schedule
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

SUN MORNING, April 12
Agape Vespers w/ Procession @ 11 AM
followed by Blessing of the Baskets
WED MORNING, April 15
Paschal Hours & Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
+++
NO OPEN CHURCH, AKATHIST or BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK
+++
SAT MORNING, April 18
Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Wilkes-Barre Paschal Picnic @ 10:30 AM
Great Vespers @ 2 PM

NEXT SUNDAY - THOMAS SUNDAY, April 19
Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
followed by
Children's Easter Egg Hunt @ 11 AM,
Blessing of the Graves (weather permitting)
Holy Resurrection @ 12:30, Fern Knoll @ 2:30

AGAPE MEAL FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY ON PASCHA: Following the blessing of the baskets on Pascha it is traditional for the faithful to break the fast by eating with one another from the baskets which have just been blessed. All are encouraged and welcome to break the fast together downstairs in the Parish Hall in the joy of the Paschal celebration!

THOMAS SUNDAY: Easter Egg Hunt & Grave Blessing. Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Thomas Sunday at 11 AM following Divine Liturgy and a quick coffee break (for parents and the priest). Our annual Grave Blessings at Holy Resurrection & Fern Knoll Cemeteries will take place at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM respectively. Both of these events are weather permitting.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Andy Dutko (4/7), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Nicholas Reznak (4/9), Kate Rivera (4/12), Leigh Storey (4/17), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Barbara Arnell (2/24), Paul Dreater (4/24), Callie Evans (4/29) **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kate Rivera (4/12), Leigh Storey (4/17)

Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers
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THE PASCHAL SERMON

The Catechetical Sermon of St. John Chrysostom is read during Matins of Pascha.

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; He gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast.

The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Wilkes-Barre Bright Saturday Paschal Picnic

When: Saturday, April 18th
following Paschal Divine Liturgy at 9 AM
Picnic will begin at aprox 10:30 AM
Bring prepared food & drinks to share!
Vespers @ 2 PM
Where: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
Who: All are welcome to attend and bring a friend.
All Local Orthodox Parishes have been invited!

Pascha Flower Donations
In Memory of:

Apanovich, Huntzinger Families
Sherry Huntzinger
Haugh-Krill Families
Mary B. Krill
Bankos, Benczkowski, & Cardoni Families
Mary B. Krill
Seasock, Boulle, Conklin, Geiger, Korba, Kennedy
Conklin & Seasock Families
Jesse & Bessie Cottle
Ptdn.Sergei & Matushka Vicki
Stankiewicz-Kosko Family
Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz
Gianuzzi Family
Louie Gianuzzi
Glowatsky, Shedlock, & Layton Families
Olga Layton
Goobic & Willis Family
John & Denise Meck
Susan Goobic Howell
John & Denise Meck
Melanie Smith
Eva Nealon
Evelyn Suchiski & Esther Dancheck
Kristen Reznak & Renee Eyerman
Raymond & Justine Gulczynski
Kristen Reznak & Renee Eyerman
Nicholas & Julia Gurka Family
William & Mary Gurka
Steve & Apolonia Shilo
William & Mary Gurka
Stephen Hutz III
Steve & Jean Hutz
Stenach & Yamelski Family
Vera Kraznanski
Archpriest Michael & Matushka Olga Kapral
Ptdn.Sergei & Matushka Vicki
Thomas Czekalski
Margaritte Czekalski
Krill & Zimich Families
John & Irene Zimich
Zoranski Family
Kyra Zoranski

PARISH PRAYER LIST // Homebound: Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice, Sylvia, Paul **// Sick & Suffering:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Pearl Tutko, Marie Dutko, Elaine & Forrest Hanson, Alexandra, Jody, Michael Noice, Paul Loftus, Santo, Susan Shiposki, Dn Jerimiah, William, Alan, Tim, Ann, Paul, Ruth, Bill, Linda, Betty, Jim, George, Ali, Athansios **// Recently Departed:** Patriarch Ilia of Georgia **// Pray for our Catechumens:** Tom, Gail, Jaqueline, Dejare, Eric, John, Adrienne, Michelle, Jesse, Katie, Lisa, Aaric, Tyler, Dom, David, Ashley, Jessica // **Inquirers:** Steve, Nicholas

Mirko Soljaga
Sofrenovic Family
Ray Gajic
Sofrenovic Family
Julia & John Dennis
Sandy Kapelan
Gregovich Family
Myra Tarantini
Peter & Dorothy Welgus
David & Diane Welgus
Anthony Stempien
Marlene Stempien
Father Peter Telencio
Marlene Stempien
Olga & Edward Skotnicki
Jen & Ryan Rusnok
Stephen Nerbecki, John & Anna Dulsky
Gloria Nerbecki & Jon Sims
Wanchisen & Shiposki Families
Susan Shiposki

Pascha Flower Donations For the Health of:

Apanovich, Huntzinger Families
Sherry Huntzinger
Vera Hoats
Eva Nealon
Nancy Bartle
Kyra Zoranski
Haugh, Krill Families
Mary B. Krill
Bankos, Benczkowski, & Cardoni Families
Mary B. Krill
Kim Matrona Fritzges
Matushka Vicki
Seasock, Boulle, Conklin, Geiger, Korba, Kennedy
Conklin & Seasock Families
Glowatsky, Shedlock, & Layton Families
Olga Layton
Gianuzzi Family
Louie Gianuzzi
Stankiewicz-Kosko Family
Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz
Koller-Harvey
Kyra Zoranski

Beth Ann Hutz
Brian Hutz
Catechumens & Inquirers
Protodeacon Sergei & Matushka Vicki Kapral
Sergei Kapral
Protodeacon Sergei & Matushka Vicki Kapral
Kapelan Family
Sandy Kapelan
Goobic & Willis Families
John & Denise Meck
Tarantini & Willis Families
June Willis
Shiposki Family
Susan Shiposki
Hanson & Rusnok Families
Ryan & Jen Rusnok
Sofrenovic Family
Sofrenovic Family
Sims, Nerbecki, Galiford, Sappe & Dulsky Families
Gloria Nerbecki & Jon Sims
Krill & Zimich Families
John & Irene Zimich

Memorial Flower Donations for Cross & Icons:

Sunday of the Cross
In Memory of Archpriest Adam Krell & Matushka Eleanor Krell, David A. Krell, & the Krell, Kosko, Mirowsky, Zevan Families
Offered by Deborah Krell Mills & David C. Mills

Great and Holy Pascha Icon
In Memory of Archpriest Adam Krell & Matushka Eleanor Krell, David A. Krell, & the Krell, Kosko, Mirowsky, Zevan Families
Offered by Deborah Krell Mills & David C. Mills