



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ April 13th, 2025 + Palm Sunday + Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem + HOLY WEEK



## Hymns for Today's Service

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing: "Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

### Please Sing Along!

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

## Epistle Reading - Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

## Gospel Reading - John 12:1-18

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not,

**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!

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daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason, the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

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## This Week's Schedule

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

#### THIS WEEKEND - Palm Sunday Saturday, April 12th

Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM  
*Followed by Parish Cleanup for Pascha*  
Vigil for Palm Sunday @ 5 PM  
*Confession available before or after Vespers*

#### Sunday, April 13th Hours @ 8:40 AM,

Palm Sunday - Blessing of the Palms  
& Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

## Holy Week & Pascha 2025

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

#### **HOLY MONDAY April 14**

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

#### **HOLY TUESDAY April 15**

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM (Archbp Mark Presiding)

#### **HOLY WEDNESDAY April 16**

Presanctified Liturgy @ 9 AM

Holy Unction @ 6:30 PM

*(Unction is a sacrament and may only be received by those who have been to confession during the Lenten season)*

#### **HOLY THURSDAY April 17**

Last Supper Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

12 Passion Gospels @ 6:30 PM

#### **HOLY FRIDAY April 18**

Royal Hours @ 8 AM

Vespers for the Burial of Our Lord @ 3:00 PM

Lamentations @ 6:30 PM

#### **HOLY SATURDAY April 19**

Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

*Baptisms & Chrismations of the Spinghel Family & Blaise Hoyt*

## HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

### **Beginning SAT NIGHT, April 19**

Nocturns @ 9:30 PM

Paschal Matins w/ Procession @ 10:00 PM

Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 11:00 PM

Blessing of the Baskets & Paschal Feast @ 12:30 AM

### **SUN MORNING, April 20**

Agape Vespers w/ Procession @ 11 AM

*followed by Blessing of the Baskets*

### **MON MORNING, April 21**

Paschal Hours & Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

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## 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. **Bible Study is currently on break.**

**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. **Orthodoxy 101 is currently on break until after Pascha.**

**Parish Potlucks** are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is April 27th.

**Friends of the Poor** is usually the second Saturday of each month. **No Friends of the Poor in April.**

**Holy Trinity Parish Council** is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, May 11th @ 11:30 AM.

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**Confession Before Pascha:** A friendly reminder to make a confession before Pascha to receive Holy Communion. Anyone wishing to receive should go to confession at least once during Great Lent. If you have been away from Holy Communion be sure to make a confession before receiving. Confession is available before and after services throughout Lent as time permits and also on Wednesdays during our time of silent prayer.

**Bundle Palms and Pussy Willows:** Volunteers are needed to help bundle the palms and the pussy willows after Liturgy on Saturday, April 12 in the basement of the church for Palm Sunday. Please bring garden clippers if you have them. Thank you to Joli Dutko for organizing and

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heading up this project this year! And thank you everyone for your help!

**HOLY SATURDAY GRAVE WATCH** – We would like to keep the church open Holy Saturday following Divine Liturgy throughout the day for veneration of the tomb of Our Lord. Anyone who would like to help can take a 1 hour (or more) shift on Holy Saturday between Noon and 9:30 PM praying before the tomb of Our Lord. This beautiful tradition of our church honors His death and burial, is a meaningful time of prayer before His Resurrection, and allows the church to stay open and available as a place of prayer for anyone who would like to come and venerate the tomb. Time should be spent reading Psalms or praying quietly. Please be sure to turn off your cell phones. **The signup sheet is in the vestibule/narthex.**

**HOLY SATURDAY, WE NEED YOU!** Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy is one of the most beautiful, meaningful, and profound services of Holy Week. It is the moment when Christ descends into Hades, frees the captives, and breaks the chains of death that hold humanity hostage. This unfolding of Christ's resurrection is symbolized by the changing of the covers throughout the church from purple to white. Bay leaves are thrown throughout the church in celebration of Christ's Victory over death. Towards the beginning of the service 15 Old Testament scriptures are read that foreshadow the coming resurrection of the God-Man, Jesus Christ. Please join us, your fellow Holy Week travelers, for this important beginning of the Paschal Feast. There will be a signup sheet this week for anyone who would like to help us read one of the Old Testament readings. No special skill is needed. If you can read, you can help – young or old! See you there!

**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.

**Help with Holy Week Services** – Holy Week is coming and there are a variety of opportunities for parishioners to help with Holy Week services. Please see the signup sheets in the back.

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

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## LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

**PALM SUNDAY – LAST DAY TO DONATE:** Donations towards adorning the church this Pascha are being accepted. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers “In Memory of” or “For the Health of” a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations at the candle stand, mail them to the Church, OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox attention Deborah Mills. The names of your loved ones will be listed in the Holy Pascha Church Bulletin and remembered in prayer. If you wish to have your offering listed in the Holy Pascha Bulletin, your loved ones name(s) and donation must be received by Palm Sunday.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**April Birthdays:** Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Andy Dutko (4/9), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Nicholas Reznak (4/9), Leigh Storey (4/17), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

**This Week's Birthdays:** Leigh Storey (4/17), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19)

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*“He who is seated upon the cherubim rides upon a donkey. He who is clothed in light as with a garment lays aside His glory for a moment and enters in humility.”*

St. Andrew of Crete

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**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, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Sylvia Dreater, Patricia Sohoski, Natalie Gripp **Departed:** Jerzy



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### The Triumphal Entry of Our Lord

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

#### Our Pledge

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!" Thus on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:

*... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

*(Philippians 3:10-11)*



### 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**  
**Last Week's Collection (4/6/25) : \$**



### Wilkes-Barre Bright Saturday Paschal Picnic

**When: Saturday, April 26th**  
following Paschal Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.  
Picnic will begin at approx 11 AM.  
Bring prepared food & drinks to share!  
**Vespers @ 2 PM**