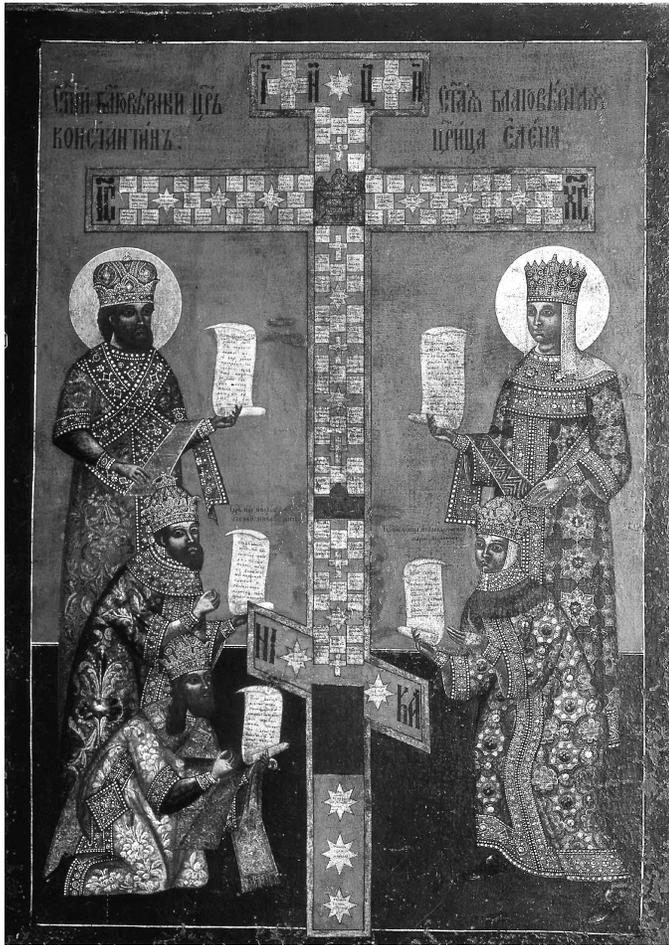




# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sun, April 4, 2021 : The Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross • Saint for the day: Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer



## Hymns for Today's Service

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all  
the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ  
our God, glory to Thee!"

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their

adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy  
habitation!

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of  
Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of  
the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have  
been vanquished; for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and  
cried to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise!"

## Epistle Reading - Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has  
passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us  
hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest  
who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in  
all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us  
therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may  
obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For  
every high priest taken from among men is appointed for  
men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both  
gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on  
those who are ignorant and going astray, since he  
himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is  
required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer  
sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to  
himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.  
So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High  
Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son,  
today I have begotten You." As He also says in another  
place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of  
Melchizedek";

## Gospel Reading - Mark 8:34-9:1

When He had called the people to Himself, with His  
disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to  
come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his  
cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life  
will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the

**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!

gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

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## *This Week's Schedule*

### This Weekend

**SAT, April 3rd:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy, 5 PM Great Vespers

**SUN, April 4th:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy for Sunday of the Cross, Church School, **Parastas**

### April 4th Parastas in Memory of:

**The Klemash & Lutzman Families**

*Offered by Deborah Zbegner*

**William & Julia Talpash**

*Offered by Marie Talpash*

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### This Week

**4th Week of Great Lent**

**TUES, April 6th @ 4 PM:** Lenten Bible Study

**WED, April 7th @ 11AM-1:30PM:** Church Open for Prayer  
6 PM: Presanctified Liturgy

**FRI, April 9th @ 6:30 PM:** Akathist w/ Lity for Departed

**SAT, April 10th @ 9 AM:** Divine Liturgy

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### Next Weekend

**SAT, April 10th:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy

5 PM Great Vespers

**SUN, April 11th:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy for Sunday of John of the Ladder, Church School

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### A NOTE ON RECEIVING COMMUNION AT EVENING SERVICES:

*Those who would like to receive Holy Communion at evening Liturgies should fast from food and drink from lunch until receiving communion. This excludes anyone who may need more frequent nourishment due to health conditions or the*

*need to take medications. Do as best you can according to your strength and needs. If you have questions please speak with Fr. Innocent.*

### A NOTE ON CONFESSION DURING GREAT LENT

*Confession is available before and after services throughout Lent as time permits and also on Wednesdays during our time of silent prayer. Please come or set up an appointment for a specific time with Fr. Innocent.*

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A 4 WEEK LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. INNOCENT

JOURNEY THROUGH

OUR LORD'S PASSION AND RESURRECTION

Every Tues @ 4 PM Beginning Tuesday, March 30

Join us in person OR online • Link will be sent by email

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## *Announcements & Meetings*

**Bring in your Pussywillows:** Anyone willing to harvest pussywillows from your yard or area for our Paschal celebration can now bring them to the church. Spring weather is upon us and they will soon begin to flower. Thanks so much for your help!

**Wilkes University Food Drive:** We are collecting much needed items for students at Wilkes University. Items needed include: Non-perishable foods, soups, canned fruit, Chef Boyardee meals, personal care items, household items. **The drive ends Sunday, April 25th** (Palm Sunday).

**Paschal Flower Donations in Memoriam and For the Health of Our Loved Ones:** Continuing our parish family tradition, we will adorn the grave of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Good Friday with fresh Spring flowers as a reflection of our love. These flowers will also adorn the Church on Holy Pascha and throughout Bright Week. On Saint Thomas Sunday, those who donated flowers will be welcome to bring these flowers home to loved ones and shut-ins to brighten their day. 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:

1. Please see the signup sheets in the Church Vestibule.
2. If able, you can mail your donations to the church OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox.
3. Contact Father Innocent with the details if you are unable to do any of the above.

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.

**Church Cleanup for Pascha: Sat, April 17th** the Holy Trinity Community will come together to clean and prepare the church for Pascha. We could use help from any and all who are willing to offer a little time. Parish altar servers are needed to help prepare the altar by polishing the brass candle stands, removing wax from the carpets and general cleaning. Additionally, we are asking for help from youth and adults to help clean, dust, polish candles stands, etc. The day will begin with Divine Liturgy at 9 AM, followed by coffee, light snacks and cleaning. With enough help we should only have to work for a couple hours.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**April Birthdays:** Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Dave & Dolores Voda

**This Week's Birthdays:** Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9)

## Altar Server Schedule

**Sunday, April 4:** Alec B, Kaleb D, Symeon C, Christopher D, Ephraim N

**Sunday, April 11:** Vladimir H, Alex H, Andrew N, Tommy D, Andrew C

**Sunday, April 18:** Alec B, Kaleb D, Symeon C, Christopher D, Ephraim N

**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, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Camden Thomas, Peter Holoviak & Family, Marni Bachman & Family, Rose Marie, Helen Gudaitis, Mahaffey Family, George Scott, Evelyn Kosmiski, Joe Sloan, Louis Gianuzzi, Betty Serafin

**Newly Departed:** Mitred Archpriest Basil Summer

## On the Church Calendar

### Week 5 of Great Lent

**SUN, April 11th** - Sunday of St. John Climacus (4th Sun)

**TUES, April 13th** @ 4 PM: Lenten Bible Study

**WED, April 14th** @ 11 AM-1:30 PM: Church Open / Prayer

**WED, April 14th** @ 6 PM: Presanctified Liturgy

**THURS, April 15th** @ 6:30 PM: Canon of St. Andrew Crete

**FRI, April 16th** @ 6:30 PM: Akathist w/ Lity for Departed

**SAT, April 17th** @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Church Cleanup

**SAT, April 17th** @ 5 PM: Great Vespers

## Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

from goarch.org



On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore,

we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

### Icon Of The Commemoration

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, September 14. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.