



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ April 6th, 2025 + Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt + 5th Sunday of Great Lent + St. Eutychius, Patriarch of Constantinople



## Hymns for Today's Service

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross.

Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

### Please Sing Along!

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

## Epistle Reading - Hebrews 9:11-14

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

## Gospel Reading - Mark 10:32-45

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to

**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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them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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## This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

### THIS WEEKEND - Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

**Saturday, April 5th**

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

*Confession available before or after Vespers*

**Sunday, April 6th**

Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Church School / Pysanky Egg Workshop

**Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM**

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### TODAY - Mission Vespers, April 6 @ 4 PM

*All Saints Orthodox Church, Olyphant, PA*

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### THIS WEEK - 6th Week of Great Lent

**Tues @ 4 PM:** Small Compline

**Wed @ 11-1:30:** Open Church

**Wed @ 6:00 PM:** Presanctified Divine Liturgy

**Thurs @ 11:00 AM:** Bible Study

**Fri @ 6:30 PM:** Vespers for Lazarus Saturday

**Sat @ 9 AM:** Divine Liturgy

### NEXT 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,

Church School, Coffee Hour



## 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. **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. The next gathering will be SAT, April 12th after Liturgy

**Holy Trinity Parish Council** is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, April 6th @ 11:30 AM - ***NOTE: This month's meeting is the first Sunday of April.***

**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.

**Final Lenten Potato Pancake Sale this Week:** Our final Potato Pancake sale for the Lenten season is next Friday, April 11. 11 AM - 5 PM. At our final sale Carl Liskowski will be selling his **Pysanky Eggs** for \$10 each to support our Education fund. Show your support by buying Pysanky eggs. They make great Pascha gifts!

**Upcoming Parsh Work Day 4/12:** Attention all worker bees! On 4/12 we will clean, polish brass, and finish preparing the Church for Holy Week and Pascha. Many hands make light work and any amount of time offered is

appreciated. Come offer your time and talent to help make your parish home beautiful for our Lord's resurrection.

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

**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.

**Please, No Parking or Driving on the Grass:** Please refrain from parking or driving on the grass on the property. The ground is very soft and easily damaged. We also do not want anyone to get stuck. Thank you for your help with this.

**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 to sign up.



## LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday may be given to Deborah Mills or left at the Candle stand. Please write "Flowers for Lent" in the memo. 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:** Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Andy Dutko (4/9), Alec Breisch (4/9), Nicholas Reznak (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9)

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*"God sees your effort and accepts your repentance, not because of the quantity of your tears, but because of the humility of your soul."*

St. Ephraim the Syrian

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## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### Today's Saint Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

On this fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we focus on the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary was born in Egypt, left home at the age of 12, and spent the next 17 years taking advantage of men for her own physical pleasure. Not until she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (for all the wrong reasons, but God works even through our wrong choices) did she begin to question the path she was taking. It was when she was unable to enter the church to venerate the Holy Cross that she realized something was wrong. The Theotokos herself helped Mary to understand the severity of her sins, and she repented. She repented so completely that she spent the rest of her days in the desert, fighting against her own fleshly desires and sins. God was with her there in the desert, and he showed His presence to her by providing for

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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

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her needs and helping her to learn the scriptures and the ways of the Church even without another human there to teach her about them. This allowed Mary to grow more and more holy.

A holy monk, Zosimas, was the lone person she saw, and she did not see him until 47 years after she fled to the desert. They had only two encounters, both of which encouraged each of them. Zosimas was able to learn of Mary's story, and Mary was able to receive Holy Communion at the hand of Zosimas right before she died. Each of these two people longed for holiness in their own life, and both were humbled by the other's presence on their journey.

This humility is an interesting contrast to Mark 10:32-45, the Gospel reading for this Sunday. This Gospel reading reminds us of the squabbling disciples, who are fighting for greatness in this passage. It is interesting that the Church has chosen to offer us the opportunity to study the life of St. Mary, who fought her pride and humbled herself in the desert for most of her life; and then contrast it with the disciples' desire to sit at Christ's right hand in His kingdom. It is as though the Church is saying to each of us, "Here are two approaches to life in the Kingdom of God. Who will you choose to be like?" We all know who we should emulate, but repenting and humbling ourselves as completely as St. Mary did is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. Yet here is her life, offered to us as we approach the end of Great Lent, encouraging us to continue to fight the good fight as she did; to abstain from our passions so completely that we learn from Christ Himself and find ourselves humbled when we are in the presence of even the humblest of fellow humans.

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*"Holiness is not limited to those with a perfect background. "*

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Holiness is not limited to those with a perfect background. Although God can certainly work in and through those who have always lived holy lives (as did Abba Zosimas), He also brings healing and holiness to those of us who repent completely and turn our focus away from the things of this earth and completely on Him (as He did in the life of St. Mary of Egypt). Glory to God who embraces us as we struggle and meets us in that place! **St. Mary of Egypt, please intercede for our salvation!**



## 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><b>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:</b> \$12,305 <b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:</b> \$2,840 <b>Last Week's Collection (3/30/25):</b> \$3,336</p>
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## Wilkes-Barre Bright Saturday Paschal Picnic

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

**Vespers @ 2 PM**

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**Where:** Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
**Who:** All are welcome to attend and bring a friend.  
All local Orthodox Parishes are invited!

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

+ St. John Chrysostom

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