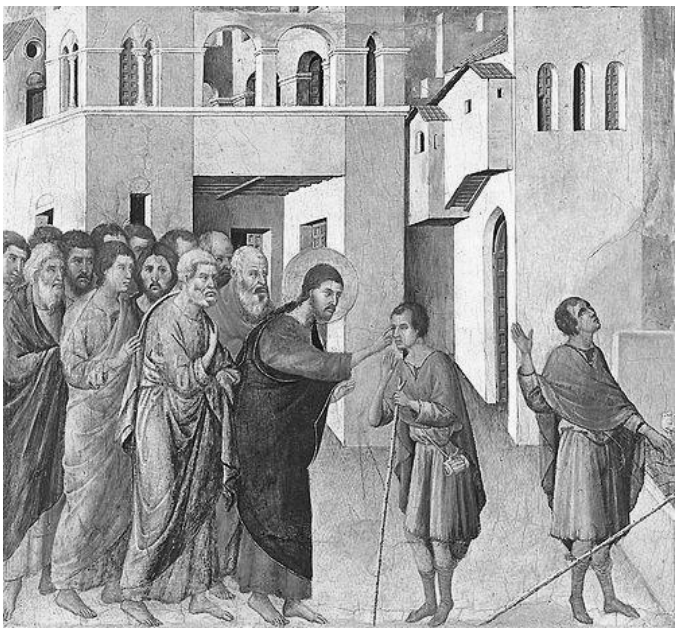
The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

The Sunday of the Blind Man + May 17th, 2026 + Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



Hymns for Today's Service

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to Thee in repentance: "Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness."

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women, granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

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

Epistle Reading - Acts 16:16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them ...

Gospel Reading - John 9:1-38

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him

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!*

who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

SAT, May 16th

Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

SUN, May 17th - Sunday of the Blind Man

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour, Church School,

Orthodoxy 101 @ Noon, **Hospitality Meeting @ 11 AM**

Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

THIS WEEK

WED @ 10 AM - Bible Study

WED @ 11 AM - 1 PM - Church Open for Prayer

Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

WED @ 6:30 PM - Great Vespers w/ Lity

THURS @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Feast

NEXT WEEKEND - Memorial Day Weekend

SAT, May 23rd

Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

SUN, May 24th

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

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour, Church School,

Parastas, Orthodoxy 101 @ Noon

Parastas (Memorial Service) for Sunday, May 24th

In Memory of:

Bernie Golubieski, *offered by Jason King*

Stephen & Marilyn Havrilak, *offered by Sandra Havrilak*

Susan Howe, *offered by Peter Goobic*

Harry Krevko, *offered by Mary Krevko*

Eva Pelak, *offered by Theresa Ungashick*

Piernock Family, *offered by Dolores Piernock Valoonis*

And all veterans departed this life ...

Submit your name(s) for the Parastas

If you would like to include a loved one in next Sunday's memorial service please bring your list and give it to Fr. Innocent at the service.

Announcements

& Upcoming Parish Events

+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study **Wednesdays at 10 AM**. We are reading through the Gospel According to St. John with discussions.

ORTHODOXY 101 **Sundays @ noon** following the coffee hour: Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is **Sun, May 31st - Holy Pentecost**

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next FOP is **Saturday, June 13th**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is **Sunday, May 17th**

WANTED: Coffee Hour Teams - Sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour with a friend. Speak with Joanne Dutko or Fr. Innocent to learn more and sign up.

Today, May 17th - Hospitality Committee Meeting
Christ is Risen! Today at 11 AM during Coffee Hour we will meet to discuss upcoming events and hospitality, including our upcoming Pentecost Feast.

Mid-Term Election Day Food Sale, Tues May 19 - Our Election Day Food sale is this coming Tuesday, 19 May. We are soliciting help tomorrow Monday (18 May) from 8:30 AM to approx. noon for prep and set-up and on Tuesday (19 May) from 10AM to 5PM or until we sell out. Volunteer sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. If you cannot make it during the sale consider offering a few hours, post sale, for clean-up. All help will be very much appreciated. Please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846 with questions or suggestions.

Feast of Pentecost Festal Meal, May 31st: A Festal meal will be offered on our Parish Feast Day of Holy Pentecost. Main dishes and dessert will be offered by the Parish. Please bring a side dish to share to complete the meal. We look forward to celebrating the great Feast of our Parish together.

Pentecost Fast-Free Friday Picnic - June 5th: The Holy Trinity community is invited to the Rectory for our 4th annual Parish Picnic sponsored by the Neal Family. Please come enjoy a southern style BBQ dinner and spend time with us from 4PM-8PM, Friday, June 13th. All friends, visitors, and parishioners are welcome. All food is cared for. BYOB.

Upcoming Church Feasts

Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Wed, May 20th @ 6:30 PM - Great Vespers w/ Lity
Thurs, May 21st @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy

Holy Pentecost
Sat, May 30th @ 5 PM - Great Vespers w/ Lity
Sun, May 31st @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy *(followed by Potluck)*
Mon, June 1st @ 9 AM - Liturgy for Holy Spirit Monday

Fri, June 5th @ 4 PM - Parish Fast-Free Pentecost BBQ
(Offererd by the Neal's at the Rectory)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays: Alexandria Rubino (5/7), Gabriel Brisk 5/10), Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20), Zach Harvey (5/24), Jack Willis (5/24), Elaine Benczkowski (5/26), Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30) **Anniversaries:** Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20)

Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

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On the Man Born Blind

Met. Anthony Bloom

At the end of today's reading, words stand that we pass by very often. The blind man says to Christ, "And who is the Son of God?" and Christ answers, "You have seen Him and He is speaking to you".

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:** John Ceccoli **// Pray for our Catechumens:** Tom, Gail, Jaqueline, Dejare, Eric, John, Adrienne, Michelle, Jesse, Katie, Lisa, Aaric, Tyler, Dom, David, Ashley, Jessica, Nicholas // **Inquirers:** Steve, Nicholas

For us, the first words are so natural; the first event of our life, the first event of a meeting is that we see a person, but what was this wonder of this man who had never seen anything in the world and who, touched by the life-giving hand of Christ, of a sudden saw! And the first person he saw was his Lord and his God, Christ, the Son of Man.

I remember a Romanian writer telling us in his biography what definitive, what profound impression the face of the first man he remembers made. He remembers himself as a child, and over him - the inexpressibly beautiful face of his father who was a priest, looking at him, with all human love, with all the tenderness, and all the depth of a human gaze. And he says that this was a first vision for him in the icon which a human face can be when it is lit from inside by love and by understanding, by depth and by eternity, a vision of God. Here this man saw God in the features of Him who was God and who had become the Son of Man.

I would like to attract your attention also to something different. On another occasion we read the story of a paralytic healed by Christ; and the Church, singing the praises of God on that occasion says, "As this man found no one to show mercy on him, the Son of Mary, God Himself, stooped down and met his need". Because this man had not found another man to show mercy, to show compassion, to show concern, God has come down to him. Now we live in another time, we live in the time with God truly having become man in our midst, and more than this: He has made us to be living members of His body, an incarnate, concrete presence of His Incarnation, the temples of the Spirit, the place of the Presence. Now any man who is in need should at the same time find in each of us a man stirred to compassion, taught mercy and understanding by God become Man, and at the same time, simultaneously, meeting with us, he should be able to see the love of God in our eyes and to perceive the active, imaginative, creative action of divine charity in our words and in our deeds.

Since Christ has come into the world, the time of man has come; but not of man as severed from God, separated from Him, alien to Him, but a wonderful time when in man, in those who have discovered Christ, who have believed in Him, who have become one with Him - those men to whom God has entrusted the care of His world - people can both receive divine and human mercy and see human compassion, human love, human joy.

Is not this a great call, is not that something which should make us capable of great things? The time of God and the time of man is one, not only in the incarnate Son of God, but in this mysterious incarnate presence which each of us represents, the presence of God in the flesh, in human compassion, in human love, and this is an earnest claim and a challenge which the Gospel presents us with. Are we to one another and to those further afield that kind of humanity? New humanity, new creatures, new men with the newness of a renewed life, the life of God. This is what we are called to be.

Let us then reflect on it, make a decision, make a move and become an icon, a vision of God, not only in the shining of love in our eyes, not only in the words we speak, but also in every action and deed, so that the time of man should have become the day of the Son of Man, the day of the Lord. Amen.

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 (5/10/26) : $1,866