The Sunday Messenger

+ Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre + Aug 30th, 2026 + Afterfeast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist + 13th Sunday after Pentecost +

Hymns & Readings

For Today's Divine Liturgy

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world and grants us great mercy.

O God of our Fathers, always act with kindness towards us; take not Thy mercy from us, but guide our lives in peace through the prayers of the Patriarchs Alexander, John, and Paul!

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner became an act of divine dispensation, for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, but that which is false and temporal.

Set a flame by the love of Christ, O glorious ones, you took up the yoke of His precious Cross, revealing yourselves as followers in His footsteps by your way of life, and you became partakers of His divine glory, divinely-wise Alexander, with wonderful John and glorious Paul. As you stand before His throne, earnestly pray for our souls!

Please Sing Along!

Singing throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren — you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints — that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another

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!

with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

THIS WEEKEND
SAT, Aug 29th
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, Aug 30th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Parish Potluck

TODAY - Church School & Youth Planning Meeting
Teachers & parents you are invited to attend our annual church school & youth planning meeting today at noon. We are also in need of church school teachers! If you'd like to learn more about this important and growing ministry of the church please attend!

THIS WEEK
Bible Study begins next week - Wed's @ 10 AM
WED @ 11 AM - 1 PM - Church Open for Prayer
WED @ 6 PM - Akathist to the Mother of God

NEXT WEEKEND
SAT, Sept 5th
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, Sept 6th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Orthodoxy 101 - New Session, September 6th
Church Tour for inquirers & beginning of fall Orthodoxy 101 (catechism) @ Noon.

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love."

— 1 Corinthians 16:13–14

Bible Study beginning Sept 9 - Wed's @ 10 AM
ORTHODOXY 101 Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about our faith. Classes will be Sunday's @ noon starting Sept. 6th.
Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is Sun, August 30th.
Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next FOP is Saturday, September 12th
Holy Trinity Parish Council: Date to be determined.

Tues, September 1st, Pavilion Cleanup @ 5:30 PM - There will be a Pavillion cleanup to prepare for upcoming rentals and wedding receptions. Please come offer an hour or two to assist in the preparation. It should be fairly quick work if we get a good showing. Thank you for your help!

September Birthdays: Eva Nealon (9/1), Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), Pd. Sergei Kapral (9/5), William Gurka (9/8), Vladimir Dutko (9/13), Gregory Krevko (9/14), Jalen Buchinski (9/19), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Tom Michalski (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Brian Hutz (9/21), Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27), Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30), Paul (Brett) Edwards (9/30) **September Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6), Brian & Beth Hutz (9/7) Steve & Joann Dutko (9/14), Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17), Jason & Coleen King (9/5)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: John Dezinski (8/17), Lindsey Rivera (8/31), Eva Nealon (9/1), Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), Pd. Sergei Kapral (9/5), Jason & Coleen King (9/5)

... of the Saints, Fathers & Teachers

The Parable of the Vineyard

By Met. Anthony Bloom

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Today's Gospel, interrupting, so to speak, a series of joyful readings, is a very terrifying one: the story of the workers in the vineyard who turned out to be traitors. And indeed this parable reflects the whole history of the human race, but in the context of all the readings that have gone before, it tells us also of the terrible, in the full sense of that word, ingratitude of mankind, including all of us, to God. In the face of all His love, all His miracles, in the face of everything that He has accomplished, we remain unmoved and self-centered; we think of ourselves, we do not think of our neighbours, still less do we think of God; ingratitude, self love, concentration on ourselves, on what we want, what appeals to us, what seems necessary to us.

"And as in the parable the workers led the son out of the vineyard and killed him, so mankind treated the incarnate Son of God. And when I say 'mankind', I am speaking not of others, but of us ourselves, because life is entrusted to us to make of it a triumph of love, brotherhood, harmony, faith and joy, and we do not do so, because we think only of ourselves."

Today's Gospel reading tells us that God created a whole beautiful wonderful world, fenced it with His might and His providence, prepared everything in it so that it could be the place of God's Kingdom, that is the Kingdom of mutual love, the Kingdom of joy. But we know what we, people, have made of this world: a place where men are afraid to live, where there is bloodshed, where inhuman, cruel acts are committed, and not only on a world-wide scale, but on a family scale, a parish scale, and among the closest friends.

PARISH PRAYER LIST // Homebound: Evelyn, Vladimir, Marie, Pearl, 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, Elaine & Forrest Hanson, Alexandra, Jody, Michael Noice, Paul Loftus, Santo, Susan Shiposki, Dn Jerimiah, William, Alan, Tim, Ann, Paul, Bill, Linda, Betty, Jim, George, Ali, Athansios, Hanna, Don Redmond, Alijah, John **// Recently Departed:** Clement, Ernie, Elizabeth, Margaret, Barbara **// Pray for our Catechumens:** Tom, Gail, Jaqueline, John, Adrienne, Michelle, Jesse, Katie, Lisa, Aaric, Tyler, Dom, David, Ashley, Audrey, Jessica, Nicholas, Nicholas // **Inquirers:** Steve, Nicholas, Matt, April

From generation to generation the Lord has sent His messengers: patriarchs, prophets, angels, preachers, the Forerunner; and finally He came Himself to remind us that the world was created for love. And as in the parable the workers led the son out of the vineyard and killed him, so mankind treated the incarnate Son of God. And when I say 'mankind', I am speaking not of others, but of us ourselves, because life is entrusted to us to make of it a triumph of love, brotherhood, harmony, faith and joy, and we do not do so, because we think only of ourselves. In response to everything that God has done for us, created us, revealing Himself to us, pouring out all His love on us and finally giving us the life and death of His Son, we produce hardly anything but a brief 'Thank you' and instantly forget.

Turn back to everything you heard during Lent, to what you saw on the night of Christ's Resurrection, to what was said in all the subsequent weeks by the saints, the saints of Russia, the saints of these islands, by the Gospel of love and humanity. Consider all this and ask yourselves, 'am I not a worker in the vineyard, and am I not one of those who pushes Christ away every time He enters my life? Do I not say: get off my path, get out of my life — I want to be the God, the master, I want to manage everything.' Thus speaks each one of us, not so rudely, not so blasphemously, but in actions, in rotten words.

We must come to our senses. I have said many times that we are saved because God loves us; yet not by the love of God only, but by our response to this love. If our wish is merely to reap the fruits of the Cross, of the crucifixion, of the days of the passion, and return nothing to God, and give nothing to our neighbour for whom God died, except a momentary thought, we are alien to everything that God accomplished for us.

Let us therefore stand before the warning, the reminder in today's Gospel and face the question, 'where is my gratitude? Do I embody it not only in words, which are rare enough but in deeds?' Let us pass judgement on ourselves and start a new life. Gratitude to God consists in being a joy to Him, and to our neighbour a support, a saviour and a joy. Let us begin today to bear the fruits of what we have just learned from God through Christ.

Amen.

"... 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 (8/23) :

Scan to make an online donation.

Thank you to **all who brought a dish** for today's coffee hour and to those who helped clean up! Next Sunday Joann Dutko will sponsor coffee hour. Please reach out if you'd like to help. Even the most simple dish or snack!

Would you sponsor a coffee hour with a friend?
See Fr. Innocent, Mat. Melanie or Joanne Dutko.