



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

September 29th, 2024 + 14th Sunday after Pentecost + Ven. Kyriakos the Anchorite (556)



Hymns for This Week

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.

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father Cyriacus. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who, through thee, grants healing to all! Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

The sacred Lavra honors thee as a mighty champion and helper, and yearly celebrates thy memory. As thou hast

boldness before the Lord: preserve us from our enemies so that we may sing: "Rejoice, thrice-blessed Cyriacus!"

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Gospel Reading - Luke 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

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!*



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, September 28th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 29th

Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Church School following Liturgy

Monthly Parish Potluck

Holy Resurrection Community Welcome

& Parish Membership Overview

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Parastas Today after Liturgy

Peter Holoviak

Offered by Paula Holoviak

& Newly Reposed

Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Petorak

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THIS WEEK

Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God

MON 6:30 PM: Great Vespers

TUES: 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for
Protection of the Mother of God

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist Glory to God for All Things

THUR 11 AM: Bible Study

FOODFEST Preparations Mon - Sat: See Schedule

FOODFEST Fri 4-9 // Sat 3-8

We are still in need of volunteers. Signup in the back!

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, October 5th

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, October 6th

Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Coffee Hour

Foodfest Cleanup after Divine Liturgy

Please plan to stay and help at the Pavillion!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Gospel of St. Luke with discussions.

NEW SESSION - ORTHODOXY 101 Beginning October 19th: 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.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is September 29.

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, October 12th @ 9 AM

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Oct 20th @ 11:30 AM

+++ Upcoming Events +++

TODAY Sept 29 - Welcome to Holy Resurrection Community & New Member Day:

All of us at Holy Trinity are so grateful to have the community of Holy Resurrection Cathedral and all of our new members and guests with us. On September 29th after Divine Liturgy everyone is encouraged to come downstairs to our monthly potluck for a brief presentation on membership at HTOC. What does it mean to be a member? Our parish council and committee members will answer your questions, talk about our many ministries and teams, and all the things we do. From fundraising to maintenance, hospitality to Friends of the Poor - come, listen and learn about membership at Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity Foodfest - October 4 & 5: The foodfest is just around the corner. Please consider volunteering your time before, during and after preparing and serving foods, setting up and breaking down tables & chairs, parking cars or just helping wherever the need arises. Beginning on 1 September please check the information stand in the vestibule for food prep schedules, volunteer sign up sheets, information on how to donate money or supplies plus overall information in general. Your time, talents and donations will always be appreciated. If you have any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846.

Cemetery Cleanup Day - October 12: There will be a Cemetery cleanup day at the Holy Resurrection Cemetery on William Street in Plains scheduled for October 12, 2024 from 9:00am to 1:00pm (rain date October 19). The goal is to trim overgrown trees, brush, hedges, grass and generally tidy up the Cemetery. We will also construct a pad to store and secure the Cemetery trash bins. Volunteers are asked to bring trimmers, pruners, saws, rakes, shovels, etc. Light refreshments will be served.

Choir & Singing Lessons: We are happy to announce that Dan Brisk, who is a full-time instructor of music & voice, will be offering voice coaching and instruction lessons during coffee hours to any current or potential NEW choir members (We are seeking new members). Anyone who is interested, please see Dan. If you would like to consider joining the choir see SD Greg Polk.

Next Perogie Project: Nov 15th & 16th. The signup sheet will be in the vestibule.

Diocesan Donation to Friends of the Poor: We are grateful to His Eminence Archbishop Mark and the Diocesan Council for their donation of \$500 to our Friends of the Poor Ministry.

Signup for Holy Trinity Text Messages & Emails: If you are not currently receiving messages from Holy Trinity via text message and/or email you may sign up in the vestibule. You will receive messages and emails concerning parish events, services, weather cancellations, food sales, our weekly email newsletter & Sunday Sermon email. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Remaining SEPTEMBER Birthdays: Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30) **OCTOBER Birthdays:** Paula Holoviak (10/2), Barry Benczkowski (10/2), Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Brian Benczkowski (10/5), Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Irene Zimich (10/6), John Zimich (10/11), Jason Stankiewicz (10/18), Amber King (10/20), Sarah Benczkowski (10/22), Rebecca Leonori (10/23), Mary Anya Haugh (10/27), Walter Shedlock (10/28), Marie Talpash (10/28) **Anniversaries:** William & Mary Gurka (10/15), Rebecca & Steve Leonori (10/23)

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Birthdays: Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30) Paula Holoviak (10/2), Barry Benczkowski (10/2), Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Brian Benczkowski (10/5)

Anniversaries:



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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On Love of Enemies

by St. John Chrysostom

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

See how He everywhere sets Himself against the things that are commonly said! For, whereas in the Old Law it had been said, "An eye for an eye," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy" (Matthew 5:43), what does He command? Something far greater than this. Not only to love your neighbor, but even your enemy! For He knows that the soul of man cannot be brought to a calm state by vengeance but by love alone.

Christ has called us to something higher. If we do not love our enemies, how will the anger in our hearts ever be conquered? Do you see the wisdom in His commandment? He cuts off the root of anger, and He heals the wounds of our soul by calling us to love those who harm us. Why? Because love is stronger than anger and greater than hatred.

How can we hate a man who is made in the image of God? When we remember that every person, no matter how they have sinned against us, is created by God and bears His image, we are softened. No longer do we see them as enemies but as fellow travelers in need of mercy.

Love is a greater weapon than any sword, for it can turn an enemy into a friend. Do you doubt it? Let me tell you a story. A certain man was wronged and insulted publicly. His friends urged him to take vengeance, to answer insult with insult. But what did he do? He invited the one who wronged him to his table, showed him hospitality, and

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Homebound - Evelyn, Vladimir, Jeri, Marsha, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Archpriest Michael Evans, Mit. Arch. Vladimir & Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Evelyn, Joan, Irene, Roberta, Sonja **Sick & Suffering** - Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Tom & Joan Austin, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, Delores Voda, David Lezinsky, June, Bob Lutzick, Leann, Matthew Gingo, Madison & Millie Nicholas, Gregory Krevko, Steve Rilkowski, Tom Vaskalis, David **Departed:** Spencer Nicholas, Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Petorak

forgave him. What was the result? The enemy became his friend. By love, a great evil was turned into a great good.

And what is greater than this? That we should be like our Father in heaven, who causes the sun to rise on the good and the evil alike (Matthew 5:45). He is merciful, so we must also be merciful. If we imitate this mercy, we will be truly His children.

Let us look to the saints, who have walked this path before us. St. Stephen, the first martyr, as stones rained down upon him, prayed for those who were killing him. He cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" (Acts 7:60). His prayer, spoken in love, was stronger than the stones. His love conquered the hatred of his enemies, and one of those who stood by, Saul, later became Paul, the great Apostle.

Do you see, beloved, how love works? It transforms not only the one who gives it but the one who receives it. So let us be merciful, let us forgive, and let us love our enemies. By this, we will be perfected, and we will be children of the Most High.

In loving those who wrong us, we break the cycle of vengeance and enter into the peace of Christ. For what reward will we have if we love only those who love us? Even sinners do this. But by loving those who hate us, we are lifted up into the love of God.

So, let us go forth today and forgive. Let us love. Let us become vessels of God's mercy, that we may shine as lights in a world darkened by hatred. In this way, we will fulfill the words of our Savior, and we will become true followers of Him who loved us even while we were yet sinners. Glory to God forever, 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

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Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (9/22/24) :

Quotes on Today's Gospel Reading

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"Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoers, to show mercy and to do good to others. For this is the highest virtue."

St. John Chrysostom

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"The love which is preferred by Christ is that which in the end renders us Godlike, for the love of God is unwearied, unshaken, and does not stumble in doing good even to its enemies... so that we may have a kind of participation in God's own nature by loving as He loves."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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"You must love your neighbor as yourself. But you cannot love your neighbor in the right way unless you see in him the image of God."

St. Maximus the Confessor