



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sunday, October 4, 2020 - Love Your Enemies

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8.
Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens (1st c.).



Hymns for Today

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!

We the faithful all praise Hierótheus, the disciple of Paul, Hierarch of Athens, the world's teacher and a preacher of the Faith, who revealed to us Christ's Mysteries and poured forth streams of godly doctrine. His life was well-pleasing to God, Who is greatly merciful.

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!

Hierarch of Athens, we praise thee for thou hast instructed us in awesome and ineffable things, and thou wast revealed to be a divinely-inspired writer of hymns. Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierotheus!

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

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.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Services livestreamed on Facebook)

TODAY: 8:40 AM Hours, 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy,
Annual Parish Meeting

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**TODAY: Annual Parish Meeting in Pavillion
Following Divine Liturgy. All Members Please
Plan to Attend.**

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DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. 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.*

SAT, October 10: 5:00 PM Great Vespers, Parastas
SUN, October 11: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,
Church School

Parastas Oct 10 after Saturday Vespers

In Memory of Stephen Krill offered by Carol Kulich & Family. **In Memory of Connie Padrezas** offered by Charles & Cheryl Liput. Parastas will begin at aprox. 5:45 PM following Great Vespers.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES – MANY YEARS!

Upcoming Birthdays: Paula Holoviak (10/2), Tommy Donlick Jr. (10/5), Paul Andrew Tumavitch (10/6), Jason Stankiewicz (10/18), Amber King (10/20) **Upcoming Anniversaries:** William & Mary Gurka (10/15), Dan & Shannon Bisset Jr. (10/28)

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Gospel of Mark

Beginning October 7th – November 18th

Over six sessions we will read through the Gospel of St. Mark and explore the miracles, parables, teachings and events that shape our faith & Christian lives.

Classes will be online at 7:30 PM. More details to come!

PARISH SCHEDULE – UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: To allow for social distancing this meeting will be held in the church pavilion. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

OCTOBER 6th – MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: Meeting to be held in the pavilion beginning at 6 PM. Purpose of the meeting will be to rack and stack the remaining improvement projects for this year and also for 2021.

OCTOBER 7th – WED NIGHT BIBLE STUDY @ 7:30 PM online. Link to be shared prior to meeting. [READ Chapters 1–3 of the Gospel of Mark for our first meeting.](#)

OCTOBER 10th – CEMETERY CLEAN-UP DAY: There will be a clean-up day for the Holy Resurrection Cemetery on William St in Plains, scheduled for Saturday October 10th, (rain date October 17th). The goal is to

re-mount the Cemetery sign (blown down during a storm), trim back overgrown brush and to generally tidy up the Cemetery grounds. Start time is scheduled for 9:00am to 1:00pm. Items such as pruning shears, chainsaws, weed whackers, hedge trimmers, and rakes would be helpful. Light refreshments will be provided.

OCTOBER 11th – CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS:

Attention all parents! Holy Trinity Church School will begin October 11th. Please sign your kids up using the signup sheet in the back of the church. If you have any questions or concerns relating to precautions being taken due to the pandemic please see Alexanne Conklin OR Joanne Dutko.

OCTOBER 11th – ELECTION DAY FOOD SALE:

A meeting to plan for the upcoming Presidential Election Day food sale at the pavilion following church services. Due to COVID social distancing requirements, new ways of running this sale will be discussed. All interested members are asked to attend. Thanks in advance for your support of this important fundraiser.

PARISH DIRECTORY – LAST CALL! Please check your directory listing on the podium in the Vestibule of the church, make any necessary corrections, and write “Yes” or “No” next to the listing indicating whether or not you would like to be included. We will publish the first version of the directory based on the corrections and updates after this Sunday! Thanks for all of your help!

Altar Server Schedule

Sunday, Oct 4: Alex H, Tommy D, Andrew N

Sunday, Oct 11: Christopher D, Symeon C, Ephraim N

Sunday, Oct 18: Alec B, Kaleb D, Andrew C

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Anna Hutz Lahr, Brian Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Rebecca King, Delores Karas, Joan Belcher, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mary DeBenedetto, Violet Filipi, Karl Pfeiffenberger, Lisa Vallone, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Anastasia Homick, Camden Thomas, Dr. Peter Kaminski, Peter Holoviak & Family, Mary Krill, Thomas Padrezas, Bachman Family Brian & Marni
Departed: Stephen Krill, Connie Padrezas

Bless My Enemies – A Poem by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Bless my enemies, O Lord. And I bless them and do not curse them.

My enemies have driven me into Your arms more than my friends have.

My friends have bound me to the earth;

My enemies have loosened my bonds from the earth and have tom up all my hopes in the earth.

They have turned me into a stranger in the kingdoms of this earth and into a superfluous inhabitant of this earth.

Like an animal that finds a safer shelter when hunted down rather than when not, so have I, hunted down by my enemies, found the safest shelter by hiding under Thy tent where neither friend nor foe can slay my soul.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. And I bless them and do not curse them.

They, instead of me, have confessed my sins before the world.

They flogged me, when I hesitated to flog myself.

They vexed me, when I tried to flee from suffering.

They scolded me, when I flattered myself.

They spat upon me, when I took pride in myself.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. And I bless them and do not curse them.

When I pretended to be wise, they called me a fool.

When I pretended to be mighty, they mocked me as a dwarf.

When I wanted to lead the people, they pushed me into the background.

When I rushed to enrich myself, they prevented me with an iron hand.

When I thought that I could sleep peacefully, they awoke me from my slumber.

When I erected a house for a long and tranquil life, they demolished it and drove me out.

Truly, my enemies have loosened my bonds from the world and have stretched my hands to the hem of Thy garment.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. And I bless them and do not curse them.

Bless them and multiply them; multiply them and embitter them even more against me, so that my flight to Thee has no return,

So that my hope in men may be rent asunder like cobwebs,

So that complete serenity may reign in my soul,

So that my heart may become the grave of the two evils of my twins: arrogance and anger,

So that I might gather all my treasure in heaven.

Ah, so that I may for once be freed from self-deception, which has entangled me in the dreadful web of this illusory life.

My enemies have made known to me—what only a few know—that a person has no enemies in this world other than himself.

Only he who knows that his enemies are not enemies but brutal friends, hates them.

Truly, it is difficult for me to say who has done me greater good and greater evil in this world: my friends or foes.

Therefore bless, O Lord, my friends and foes.

A slave curses his enemies, for he does not understand. But a son blesses them, for he has understanding.

For a son knows that his enemies cannot touch his life. Hence, he walks freely among them and prays to God for them.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. And I bless and do not curse them.

POEM – CRANKY OLD MAN

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in an Australian country town, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, They found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital.

CRANKY OLD MAN

What do you see nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking . . . when you're looking at me?
A cranky old man, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?
Who dribbles his food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice . . 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to notice . . the things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?
Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding . . . The long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking?. Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse .you're not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of Ten . .with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another
A young boy of Sixteen with wings on his feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twentymy heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vowsthat I promised to keep.
At Twenty-Five, nowI have young of my own.
Who need me to guide . . . And a secure happy home.

A man of Thirty My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other . . . With ties that should last.
At Forty, my young sons . . .have grown and are gone,
But my woman is beside me . . to see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more, . . .Babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead.
I look at the future I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years . . . And the love that I've known.
I'm now an old man and nature is cruel.
It's jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles grace and vigour, depart.
There is now a stone . . . where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass . A young man still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells
I remember the joys I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years, all too few . . . gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact . . . that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people open and see.
Not a cranky old man .
Look closer see ME!!

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within. We will all, one day, be there, too!