The Sunday Messenger

+ Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre + Sept 6th, 2026 + The Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossæ + 14th Sunday after Pentecost +

Hymns & Readings

For Today's Divine Liturgy

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 Michael, commander of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech thee: by thy prayers encompass us beneath the wings of thine immaterial glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to thee: "Deliver us from all harm, for thou art the commander of the Powers on high!"

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!"

O Michael, commander of God's armies and minister of the divine glory, prince of the bodiless angels and guide of mankind; ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, as the supreme commander of the Bodiless Hosts.

Please Sing Along!

Singing throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

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 - Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have

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!

prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

THIS 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

40th Day Parastas/Memorial Service for Margaret Pregmon
Offered by David Lezinsky

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

THIS WEEK
The Feast of Nativity of the Mother of God
Mon, Sept 7th @ 6:30 PM - Great Vespers w/ Lity
Tues, Sept 8th @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy
WED @ 10 AM - Bible Study
WED @ 11 AM - 1 PM - Church Open for Prayer
WED @ 6 PM - Akathist to Our Sweetest Lord Jesus Christ

NEXT WEEKEND
SAT, Sept 12th
Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, Sept 13th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Orthodoxy 101 - 1 of 3 Sessions on Divine Liturgy
Pdn Sergei will walk through the entirety of the Divine Liturgy over 3 sessions. Anyone can attend!
Orthodoxy 101 (catechism) @ Noon.

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, Sept 27th.
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.

Sept 19th - HTOC Pulled Pork Food Sale DETAILS: HTOC will have a Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork Dinner food sale on Sat. Sept 19th, from 11 AM to 4 PM. Pulled Pork Dinners will include Fr. Innocent's Pulled Pork Sandwich, Country Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips and a desert. ¼ Pound Pulled Pork Sandwiches can also be purchased separately. **HELP NEEDED:** If you would be willing to help in the preparation, sale and/or cleanup of the event please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule with the times/days you are available.

Sept 20th - Church School Begins - Please sign-up with your children's names and ages (Prek-12th Grade) in the Narthex. Church School is every Sunday following Divine

Liturgy, unless otherwise noted for Feast Day's, etc. **You do not have to be Orthodox for your children to attend.**

B-Days & Anniversaries

September Birthdays: Eva Nealon (9/1), Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), Pd. Sergei Kapral (9/5), William Gurka (9/8), Blaise Hoyt (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)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: William Gurka (9/8), Blaise Hoyt (9/8), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6)

Wisdom

... of the Saints, Fathers & Teachers

The Wedding Garment

An excerpt from Homily 69 by St. John Chrysostom

Since then they were not worthy, go ye, says He, into the highways, and as many as you shall find, bid; both the common sort, and the outcasts. For because He had said in every way, "The harlots and publicans shall inherit heaven;" and, "The first shall be last, and the last first;" He shows that justly do these things come to pass; which more than anything stung the Jews, and goaded them far more grievously than their overthrow, to see those from the Gentiles brought into their privileges, and into far greater than theirs.

Then in order that not even these should put confidence in their faith alone, He discourses unto them also concerning the judgment to be passed upon wicked actions; to them that have not yet believed, of coming unto Him by faith, and to them that have believed, of care with respect to their life. For the garment is life and practice.

And yet the calling was of grace; wherefore then does He take a strict account? Because although to be called and to be cleansed was of grace, yet, when called and clothed in clean garments, to continue keeping them so, this is of the diligence of them that are called.

The being called was not of merit, but of grace. It was fit therefore to make a return for the grace, and not to show forth such great wickedness after the honor. "But I have not enjoyed," one may say, "so much advantage as the Jews." Nay, but you have enjoyed far greater benefits. For what things were being prepared for them throughout all their time, these you have received at once, not being worthy. Wherefore Paul also says, "And that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy" (Romans 15:9). For what things were due to them, these you have received.

Wherefore also great is the punishment appointed for them that have been remiss. For as they did despite by not coming, so also thou by thus sitting down with a corrupt life. For to come in with filthy garments is this namely, to depart hence having one's life impure; wherefore also he was speechless.

Do you see how, although the fact was so manifest, He does not punish at once, until he himself, who has sinned, has passed the sentence? For by having nothing to reply he condemned himself, and so is taken away to the unutterable torments.

For do not now, on hearing of darkness, suppose he is punished by this, by sending into a place where there is no light only, but where "there is" also "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 22:13). And this He says, indicating the intolerable pains.

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:** 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

"Because although to be called and to be cleansed was of grace, yet, when called and clothed in clean garments, to continue keeping them so, this is of the diligence of them that are called."

Hear ye—as many as, having partaken of the mysteries and having been present at the marriage, clothe your souls with filthy deeds. Hear whence you were called.

From the highway. Being what? Lame and halt in soul, which is a much more grievous thing than the mutilation of the body. Reverence the love of Him Who called you, and let no one continue to have filthy garments, but let each of you busy himself about the clothing of your soul.

Hear, you women; hear, you men; we need not these garments that are bespangled with gold, that adorn our outward parts, but those others that adorn the inward. Whilst we have these former, it is difficult to put on those latter. It is not possible at the same time to deck both soul and body. It is not possible at the same time both to serve mammon, and to obey Christ as we ought.

Let us put off us therefore this grievous tyranny. For neither if any one were to adorn your house by hanging it with golden curtains, and were to make you sit there in rags, naked, would you endure it with meekness. But lo, now you do this to yourself, decking the house of your soul, I mean the body, with curtains beyond number, but leaving the soul itself to sit in rags.

Do you not know that the king ought to be adorned more than the city? So therefore while for the city hangings are prepared of linen, for the king there is a purple robe and a diadem. Even so do thou wrap the body with a much meaner dress, but the mind do thou clothe in purple, and put a crown on it, and set it on a high and conspicuous chariot. For now you are doing the opposite, decking the city in various ways, but suffering the king, the mind, to be dragged bound after the brute passions.

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 (8/30) : $3,252

Scan to make an online donation.

Thank You

Thank you to **Joann Dutko** for today's coffee hour and to those who helped clean up! Next Sunday Lydia & Andy 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 Joann Dutko.

"The wedding garment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."

— Blessed Augustine