



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sunday, November 14, 2021: 20th Sunday after Holy Pentecost, Holy and All-Praised Apostle Philip



Hymns for Today

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!"

Holy Apostle Philip, entreat the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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!

Thy disciple, friend and imitator of Thy passion, the God-preaching Philip, proclaimed Thee to the universe. By his prayers deliver Thy Church from her enemies; through the Theotokos protect every city, O most merciful Christ!

Epistle Reading - Galatians 2:16-20

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel Reading - Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he

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!

took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This Week's Schedule

THIS WEEKEND

SAT, Nov 13th: Great Vespers @ 5 PM

SUN, Nov 14th: Hours @ 8:40 AM,
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour, Church School,
Parastas, Parish Council Meeting

Parastas for Sunday Nov. 14th

In memory of Anastasia, Anna, Bernard Golubiewski,
Anna Wasyl Kuncio, Anthony, Mark Sluhocki.

Offered by Bernard Golubeiwski

THIS WEEK

Nativity Fast Begins December 15th

*Abstain from Meat, Fish, Wine, Dairy, & Oil. Fish, wine,
and oil are permitted on weekends and some weekdays as
noted on your Orthodox Calendar.*

WED, Nov 17th: Private Prayer 11 AM-1:30 PM,
Vespers @ 6 PM, Study Hour @ 6:30 PM

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NEXT WEEKEND

Entrance of The Theotokos into the Temple

SAT, Nov 20th: Great Vespers w/ Litya @ 5 PM

SUN, Nov 21st: Hours @ 8:40 AM,
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour, Church School

Upcoming Parish Events & Announcements

TODAY: Parish Council Meeting - Sun, Nov 14th @
11:30 AM

THIS WEEK: Nativity Season begins Nov 15th -
The Nativity Fast is upon us. With the fast beginning Nov
15th we will begin a weekly **Wednesday Night Prayer and**

Study from 6:00PM-7:30PM on Nov 17th. The evening
will begin with a Daily Reader's Vespers that will last
about 25 minutes followed by a 1-hour study on the topic
of **Freedom & Sin**. What kind of freedom does our faith
offer us vs. the freedom of the world? This question is
foundational to our understanding of both the purpose of
the church and our purpose as humans. Come and
explore with us!

2021-2022 Stewardship / Pledge Forms

The HTOC Finance Committee recently sent letters to
parish members concerning an annual financial pledge /
commitment for the 2021-2022 Church year. If you have
not yet done so, please review the materials therein and
prayerfully discern a pledge to the Parish. The form can
be completed and left in an envelope at the candle stand
or returned via mail. If you have not yet received this
letter you can pick one up at the candle stand.

Special Parish Meeting - (2022 Budget discussion &
vote) - Sun, Nov 28th following Coffee Hour

Food and Winter Clothing Drive for Kutztown University Students:

We are beginning our annual
drive to help Kutztown University Students in need. They
need Hats, gloves, coats (new or used) / Personal care
items such as soap, bodywash, toothpaste / canned
soups, mac and cheese, cereals, granola bars, pasta and
sauce. Anything that college kids eat. Items can be left in
the Narthex (Vestibule). Last date to donate will be
Sunday, December 5.

A Walk in the Margins: SAT, Dec 4th at 9:00 AM all
are welcome to gather here at Holy Trinity for a briefing
and prayer, followed by a "walk in the margins" in
downtown Wilkes Barre. Our purpose is to encounter the
person of Christ in the poor, needy and homeless as we
take our walk, engaging them with a loving heart,
warmth and friendly conversation. We plan to be finished
by 10:30 AM. All are welcome. A signup sheet is in the
Vestibule.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays: Scott Harvey (11/4), Matushka
Melanie Neal (11/4), Irene Dutko (11/5), Fred Pleban
(11/6), Steve Nealon (11/10), Joli Dutko (11/12), Matthew
Austin (11/16) John Goobic III (11/19), Louie Gianuzzi

(11/19), Andrew Neal (11/24) Douglas Cardoni (11/26)
Anniversaries: Peter & Paula Holoviak (11/12), Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19), Michael Talpash (11/22)

This Week's Birthdays: Matthew Austin (11/16) John Goobic III (11/19), Louie Gianuzzi (11/19) **Anniversaries:** Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19)

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Camden Thomas, Peter Holoviak & Family, Rose Marie, Helen Gudaitis, George Scott, Evelyn Kosmiski, Joe Sloan, Louis Gianuzzi, Betty Serafin, Matushka Elizabeth, Karen Maier, John Metz, Tim, Dn Gabriel Aldgride & Family, Jerry Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Bernie Elko, Delores Voda, Mary Ann Lepa, **Departed:** Rob Aldridge, Cecelia Davidson

The Parable of the Good Samaritan: The Way of the Christian

By Met. Anthony Bloom

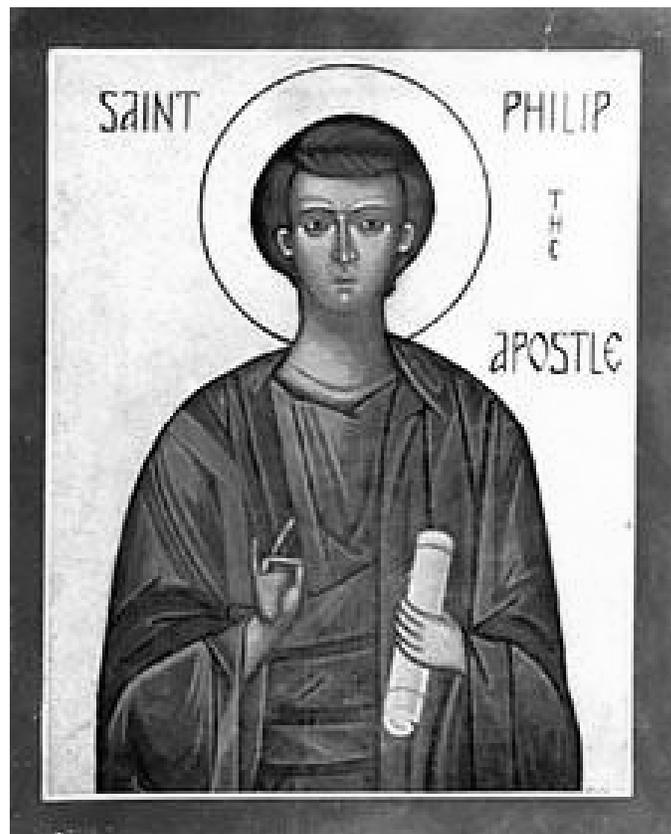
Today's Gospel in short, contains everything which is the way of the Christian. The first commandment is that we should love our God with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength, with all our being, and our neighbour as ourselves. To love means to prefer all that is dear to the beloved person, to what is dear to us. To love God means that we should live, and indeed be such that He could rejoice in what we are, that there should be nothing alien to Him in our lives.

And here comes the second commandment, which the lawyer did not understand: that we should love our neighbour as ourselves. To love again our neighbour, forgetting ourselves. Very often we think that we are worthy Christians if we feel that we have in our hearts a warmth, that we love God. But this is not enough. The test of this love is to share God's own love for every one of our neighbours. I remember a sad moment in my own life, when my father asked me: what was the dream of my life? I was young then, and I said, 'To be with God alone.' And he looked sadly at me and said, 'You have not begun to be a Christian.' Because if we love God we must

share with Him all His concerns for the whole world and for each person in this world.

Let us, therefore, take this short event in the life of Christ and the parable as a rule. We will never be able to know how much we love God. It is difficult, because it is so easy to delude oneself. Even when we say that we love someone, a moment may come when selfishness, indifference, a quarrel may make an end, at least for a time, to our mutual friendship and closeness. But there is a criterion which is objective. How do you treat your neighbour? What does he mean to you? If he means nothing, if he is a passer-by, if he is only someone in your way, or if he is someone to whom you can pay attention when you are in the right mood, then we have not begun to love God and to love the world together with Him. Let us therefore think of it, ask ourselves pertinent questions, and redress our lives. Amen.

Holy, All-Praised Apostle Philip Commemorated on November 14



The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip was a native of the city of Bethsaida in Galilee. He had a profound depth of knowledge of the Holy Scripture, and rightly discerning the meaning of the Old Testament prophecies, he awaited the coming of the Messiah. Through the call of the Savior (John 1:43), Philip followed Him. The Apostle Philip is spoken about several times in the Holy Gospel: he brought to Christ the Apostle Nathaniel (i.e. Bartholomew, April 22, June 30, and August 25. See John 1:46). The Lord asks him where to buy bread for five thousand men (John. 6: 5-7). He brought certain of the Hellenized Jews wanting to see Jesus (John. 12:21-22); and finally, at the Last Supper he asked Christ to show them the Father (John. 14:8).

After the Ascension of the Lord, the Apostle Philip preached the Word of God in Galilee, accompanying his preaching with miracles. Thus, he restored to life a dead infant in the arms of its mother. From Galilee he went to Greece, and preached among the Jews that had settled there. Some of them reported the preaching of the Apostle to Jerusalem. In response, some scribes arrived in Greece from Jerusalem, with one of the Jewish chief priests at their head, to interrogate the Apostle Philip.

The Apostle Philip exposed the lie of the chief priest, who said that the disciples of Christ had stolen away and hidden the body of Christ. Philip told instead how the Pharisees had bribed the soldiers on watch, to deliberately spread this rumor. When the Jewish chief priest and his companions began to insult the Lord and lunged at the Apostle Philip, they suddenly were struck blind. By his prayer the Apostle restored everyone's sight. Seeing this miracle, many believed in Christ. The Apostle Philip provided a bishop for them, by the name of Narcissus (one of the Seventy Apostles, January 4).

From Greece the Apostle Philip went to Parthia, and then to the city of Azotus, where he healed an eye affliction of the daughter of a local resident named Nikoklides, who had received him into his home, and then baptized his whole family.

From Azotus the Apostle Philip set out to Syrian Hieropolis (there were several cities of this name) where, stirred up by the Pharisees, the Jews burned the house of Heros, who had taken in the Apostle Philip, and they wanted to kill the apostle. The apostle performed several miracles: the healing of the hand of the city official Aristarchus, withered when he attempted to strike the

apostle; and restoring a dead child to life. When they saw these marvels, they repented and many accepted holy Baptism. After making Heros the bishop at Hieropolis, the Apostle Philip went on to Syria, Asia Minor, Lydia, Emessa, and everywhere preaching the Gospel and undergoing sufferings. Both he and his sister Mariamne (February 17) were pelted with stones, locked up in prison, and thrown out of villages.

Then the Apostle Philip arrived in the city of Phrygian Hieropolis, where there were many pagan temples. There was also a pagan temple where people worshiped an enormous serpent as a god. The Apostle Philip by the power of prayer killed the serpent and healed many bitten by snakes.

Among those healed was the wife of the city prefect, Amphipatos. Having learned that his wife had accepted Christianity, the prefect Amphipatos gave orders to arrest Saint Philip, his sister, and the Apostle Bartholomew traveling with them. At the urging of the pagan priests of the temple of the serpent, Amphipatos ordered the holy Apostles Philip and Bartholomew to be crucified.

Suddenly, an earthquake struck, and it knocked down all those present at the place of judgment. Hanging upon the cross by the pagan temple of the serpent, the Apostle Philip prayed for those who had crucified him, asking God to save them from the ravages of the earthquake. Seeing this happen, the people believed in Christ and began to demand that the apostles be taken down from the crosses. The Apostle Bartholomew was still alive when he was taken down, and he baptized all those believing and established a bishop for them.

But the Apostle Philip, through whose prayers everyone remained alive, except for Amphipatos and the pagan priests, died on the cross.

Mariamne his sister buried his body, and went with the Apostle Bartholomew to preach in Armenia, where the Apostle Bartholomew was crucified (June 11); Mariamne herself then preached until her own death at Lykaonia.

The holy Apostle Philip is not to be confused with Saint Philip the Deacon (October 11), one of the Seventy.