



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

23rd Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Nov 20, 2022 + Forefeast of the Entrance into the Temple of the Mother of God



Hymns for Today

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow, by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. In fulfillment of her vow, today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

The twofold lamps of divine gifts, Proclus, shepherd of New Rome, and Gregory, scion of Decapolis, guide us by the light of grace as divinely-inspired fathers. Let us draw near and eagerly beseech them, that we may receive forgiveness and salvation of our souls!

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the

Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

The Church knows thee to be a brilliant sun enlightening all with the rays of healing and the beauty of virtue. Therefore, as we celebrate thine honored memory, We glorify thy struggles, ever-blest and all-wise Father Gregory.

Today the universe is filled with joy at the glorious feast of the Mother of God, and cries out: "She is the heavenly tabernacle."

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel Reading - Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will

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!

store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.'



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

+++

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, November 19th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

+++

Sunday, November 20th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy
10:30 AM: Coffee Hour, Church School, Orthodoxy 101
11:30 AM: Vespers for the Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple

THIS WEEK

Mon, Nov 21st @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple

Wed, 11 AM-1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church

Wed, 6:30 PM - Akathist (Glory to God for All Things)

+++

Happy Thanksgiving!

To all the faithful of our Holy Trinity Family: May your Thanksgiving Holiday be filled with joy and gratitude for all of the many gifts Our Lord bestows on us!

+++

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, November 26th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

+++

Sunday, November 27th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy
10:30 AM: Church School, Parish Potluck



ANNOUNCEMENTS & Upcoming Parish Events

+++

ORTHODOXY 101: A weekly class for visitors, inquirers, catechumens, or anyone wanting to refresh on the basics of the Orthodox faith. Sundays following Divine Liturgy.

NOV 27 PARISH POTLUCK (Fasting Foods): Bring something to share and enjoy our monthly community potluck meal following Divine Liturgy Nov 27th. All food for this month's meal should be **Lenten** since we will be in the Nativity Fast. If you have questions or need ideas see Fr. Innocent. Sign up in the Vestibule.

NATIVITY FAST TEXT MESSAGE SERIES: Throughout the Nativity Fast, Fr. Innocent will send a series of encouraging text messages relating to the fast, spirituality, relevant scripture readings, challenging questions, and other resources to help you keep engaged in the spirit of the Nativity Fast. If you would like to receive these occasional messages throughout the week sign up in the vestibule or Send Fr. Innocent a message to get on the list.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN YOUTH: COME HANG OUT ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH: Orthodox Christian kids and teens of all area parishes, ages 5-18, are invited to a get-together on December 11th at 3pm at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 401 East Main St. in Wilkes Barre. We will be playing board games, munching on snacks, and a Christmas craft will be offered for the younger children. Feel free to bring your favorite board game and/or a fast-friendly snack to share. Parents are welcome to stay for this event and get to know other families in the area! For questions, contact Diakonissa Erin Azar at erin.m.azar@gmail.com.

Parish Calendar

NOV 21st - Great Feast - Entrance of the Mother of God
NOV 23rd - Akathist - Glory to God for all Things
NOV 27th - Monthly Parish Potluck (Lenten Foods Only)
DEC 3rd - Friends of the Poor Ministry @ 9 AM
DEC 6th - St. Nicholas Day Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Dec 11th - Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

DEC 11th - Orthodox Youth Gathering @ 3 PM
DEC 24th - Great Compline for the Nativity of Our Lord
DEC 25th - The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

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

This Week's Birthdays: Michael Talpash (11/22), Andrew Neal (11/24), Douglas Cardoni (11/26) **Anniversaries:** N/A

Ask Fr. Innocent: Do you have questions about the Orthodox faith? Submit your questions anonymously in the vestibule in the small black "Ask Fr. Innocent?" box. Questions will be answered during coffee hour and/or in the bulletin.

A distracted person has made his soul a highway, along which, through imagination, tempting objects pass by like shadows and tempt the soul to follow them. And then, when one is thus, so to speak, torn away from oneself, the devil secretly approaches, takes away the good seed, and puts a bad one in its place.

St. Theophan the Recluse

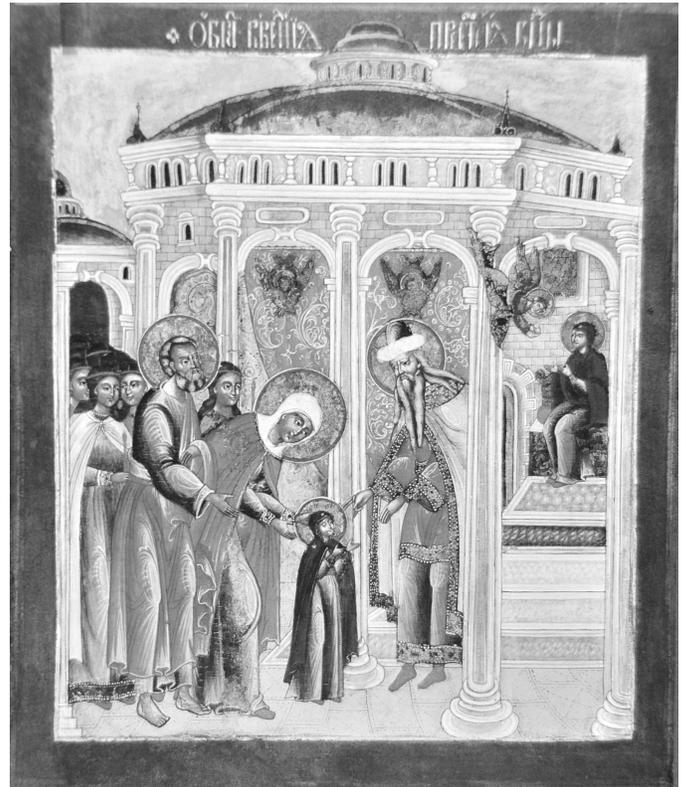


Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

+++

The Entrance of The Most-Holy Mother of God into the Temple

An excerpt from The Orthodox Faith on oca.org



According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Archpriest Vladimir, Tom Austin, Paul Berdy **Departed:**

God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

- Troparion for the Feast of the Entrance

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed

constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.



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 (11/13/22):

+++

PROPORTIONAL GIVING CHART

How much is my weekly tithe?!

Weekly Income	10%	5%	4%	2%
\$200	\$20	\$10	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10
\$750	\$75	\$37	\$30	\$15
\$1000	\$100	\$50	\$40	\$20
\$1500	\$150	\$75	\$60	\$30
\$2000	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$40