



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sunday, November 21st, 2021: 21st Sunday after Holy Pentecost, Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple



Hymns for Today

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.

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!"

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 most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the

angels of God praise her: "Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!"

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 9:1-7

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

Gospel Reading - Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts

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!

which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

This Week's Schedule

THIS WEEKEND

Entrance of The Theotokos into the Temple

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

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

THIS WEEK

Nativity Fast Continues

WED, Nov 24th: Private Prayer 11 AM-1:30 PM,

WED, Nov 24th: Thanksgiving Akathist

Glory to God for All Things @ 6:30 PM

(Thanksgiving Day is Fast Free)

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NEXT WEEKEND

SAT, Nov 27th: Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions

SUN, Nov 28th: Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9
AM, Coffee Hour, Church School,
Special Parish Meeting for Budget Approval

Upcoming Parish Events & Announcements

DEC 1, NEXT WEEK: Vespers & Study Continues

Our Wednesday Night Vespers and Study from 6:00PM-7:30PM will continue after the Thanksgiving weekend. 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) Michael Yeosock (11/18), John Goobic III (11/19), Louie Gianuzzi (11/19), Michael Talpash (11/22), Andrew Neal (11/24), Douglas Cardoni (11/26), Candice Dutko (11/30) **Anniversaries:** Peter & Paula Holoviak (11/12), Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19)

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

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, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Bernie Elko, Delores Voda, Mary Ann Lepa, Melanie Bishop **Departed:**

Glory to God for all Things!

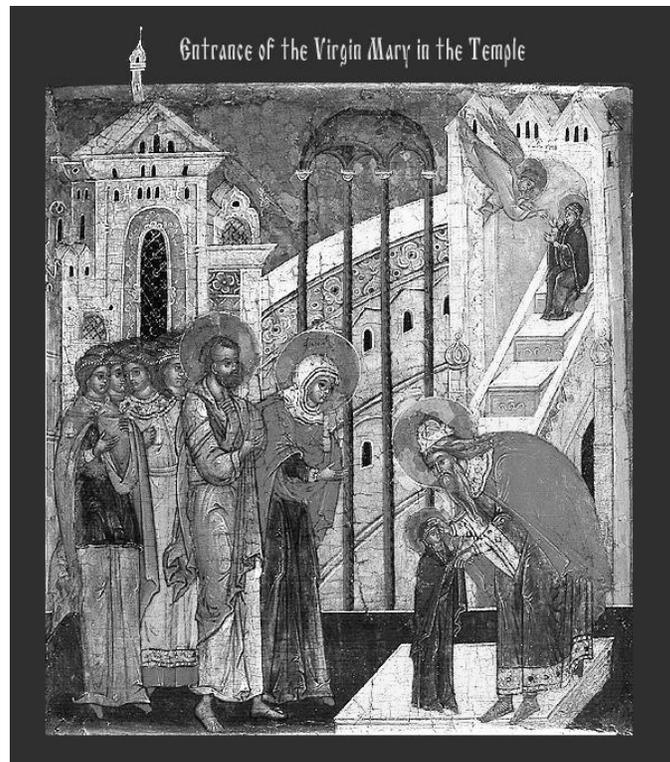
Everlasting King, Thy will for our salvation is full of power. Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life. We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen. For eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be. Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise, both now and in the time to come. Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

From 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 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.

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.



"Because the Theotokos accepted Christ into her life in this unique way (Her Entrance into the Temple), every human being may now become His living temple. By taking His humanity from her, Jesus Christ has united every dimension of our life with His divinity. As the Second Adam, He has healed and restored all that went wrong with the first Adam. He has made us His temple already through his Incarnation. But our calling during this season of the Nativity Fast, of Advent, is not merely to acknowledge that we are His temple and then live according to the conventional standards of our, or any other, society. Instead, it is to become more faithful and pure temples so that we will be prepared to welcome Him with integrity into our lives this Christmas. And there is no better way to do that than by following the example of the Theotokos, who was by no means a powerful, famous, or conventionally influential person according to the standards of her culture." - Fr. Philip LeMasters