



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

23rd Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Nov 27, 2022 + Greatmartyr James the Persian. Ven. Palladius of Thessalonica.



## Hymns for Today

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

Long-suffering James, thou didst astound all by enduring horrible tortures with great patience. As the evil assembly performed the slaughter, thou didst utter prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord. Through thy sufferings thou didst receive thy crown, and didst come to the throne of the heavenly King, Christ God. Entreat Him to save our souls!

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Thou didst listen to thy faithful wife and didst contemplate the judgment of God, holy James; thou didst despise the threats and commands of the Persians,

accepting the cutting of thy body as though thou wast a vine. Therefore thou wast revealed as a martyr worthy of honor.

### Please Sing Along!

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

## Epistle Reading - Ephesians 2:14-22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## Gospel Reading - Luke 13:10-17

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the

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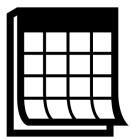
**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!*

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Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

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## This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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### **THIS 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, Orthodoxy 101

### **Parish Potluck**

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### **THIS WEEK**

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

Wed, 6:30 PM – Akathist Service

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### **NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, December 3rd

**9 AM: Friends of the Poor**

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

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Sunday, December 4th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM: Church School, Orthodoxy 101



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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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.

TODAY – NOV 27 PARISH POTLUCK: Everyone is welcome to join us downstairs for our monthly Parish Potluck (whether you brought something or not).

DECEMBER SOUP SALE: Thursday, December 8, 11 AM – 5 PM. Soups: Piggy Stew, Chicken Rice, Clam Chowder - 12oz bowl, \$6; Qt (32 oz), \$13. Take out or eat in. Folks can stop by on their way to Christmas shopping. Volunteers are needed for prep on December 6 and sale day on December 8. Sign up sheet in the vestibule.

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](mailto:erin.m.azar@gmail.com).

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## **Parish Calendar**

NOV 23rd – Akathist – Glory to God for all Things 6:30 PM

NOV 27th – Monthly Parish Potluck (Lenten Foods Only)

DEC 3rd – Friends of the Poor Ministry @ 9 AM

DEC 5th – Vespers for St. Nicholas of Myra @ 6:30 PM

DEC 6th – St. Nicholas Day Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

DEC 8th – Soup Sale

DEC 11th – Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

DEC 11th – Orthodox Youth Gathering @ 3 PM

DEC 24th – Royal Hours @ 8AM / Great Compline & Matins for the Nativity of Our Lord (Time TBD)

DEC 25th – Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord @ 9 AM

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**December Birthdays:** David Clark (12/1), Helen Gudaitis (12/5), Stephen Dutko (12/8), Nina Grymko (12/10), Andrew Kondratick (12/11), Lydia Dutko (12/12), Andrew Conklin (12/13), Joan Austin (12/18), Christa Talpash (12/19), Dcn Lawrence Worlinsky (12/19), Patrick Tutella (12/19), Susan Goobic Howell (12/19), Jeri Basarab (12/21), Mary Ann Kudey (12/21) Dolores Rilko (12/21), Kellie Ann DiBattista (12/27), Anessa Cardoni (12/28), Peter Holoviak (12/30), Daniel Bisset Jr. (12/31)

**Anniversaries: N/A**

**This Week's Birthdays:** David Clark (12/1)

**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.

*"Thirst for Jesus, so that he may inebriate you with his love.*

*Blind your eyes to all that is held in honour in the world, so that you may be held worthy to have the peace which comes from God reign in your heart.*

*Fast from the allurements that make the eyes glitter, in order that you may become worthy of spiritual joy.*

*Prayer accords strictly with behavior. For no one yearns for heavenly things when he is bound up in the fetters of the will concerning bodily matters; nor is there anyone who will ask for things divine when he is occupied with earthly matters.*

*Everyone's desire is made known by his actions, and it is for the things about which he is concerned that a person will be anxious to ask. The person who desires the greatest things is not concerned with the lesser."*

- St. Issac of Syria



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### Spirituality, God, & Christ

*An excerpt from The Orthodox Faith on oca.org*

Spirituality in the Orthodox Church means the everyday activity of life in communion with God. The term spirituality refers not merely to the activity of man's spirit alone, his mind, heart and soul, but it refers as well to the whole of man's life as inspired and guided by the Spirit of God. Every act of a Christian must be a spiritual act. Every thought must be spiritual, every word, every deed, every activity of the body, every action of the person. This means that all that a person thinks, says and does must be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit so that the will of God the Father might be accomplished as revealed and taught by Jesus Christ the Son of God.

*... whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor 10.31).*

Doing all things to the glory of God is the meaning and substance of life for a human being. This "doing" is what Christian spirituality is about.

#### God

Christian spirituality is centered in God; in fact, its very goal is communion with God, which is attainable through the accomplishment of His will. To be what God wants us to be and to do what God want us to do is the sole meaning of our human existence. The fulfillment of the prayer "Thy will be done" is the heart and soul of all spiritual effort and activity.

In the Old Testament law, it is written:

*I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy (Lev 11:44).*

In the New Testament, the first letter of Saint Peter refers to this fundamental command of God.

*... as He who called you is holy, be holy yourself in all your conduct; since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet 1:16).*

That human beings should be holy by sharing in the happiness of God Himself is the meaning of union with God. All are “called to be saints” (Rom 1.7) by becoming “partakers of the nature of God” (2 Pet 1.1). This is what Jesus meant when He said in Sermon on the Mount, “You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5.48).

The teaching that man must be holy and perfect like God Himself through the accomplishment of the will of God is the central teaching of the Orthodox Christian faith. This teaching has been stated in many different ways in the Orthodox spiritual tradition. Saint Maximus the Confessor (7th c.) said it this way: “Man is called to become by divine grace all that God Himself is by nature.” This means very simply that God wills and helps His creatures to be like He is, and that is the purpose of their being and life. As God is holy, man must be holy. As God is perfect, man must be perfect, pure, merciful, patient, kind, gentle, free, self-determining, ever-existing, and always, for eternity, the absolute superabundant realization of everything good in inexhaustible fullness and richness ... so man must be this way as well, ever growing and developing in divine perfection and virtue for all eternity by the will and power of God Himself. The perfection of man is his growth in the unending perfection of God.

### Christ

Christian spirituality is centered in Christ. Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God who was born as a man of the Virgin Mary in order to give man eternal life in communion with God His Father.

In Jesus Christ “the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Col 2.9). In Him is the “fullness” of “grace and truth” (Jn 1.16–17) and “all the fullness of God” (Col 1.19). When one sees and knows Jesus, one sees and knows God the Father (Jn 8.19, 14.7–9). When one is in communion with Jesus, one is in abiding union with God (cf. Jn 17, Eph 2, Rom 8, 1 Jn 1).

The goal of human life is to be continually “in Christ.” When one is “in Christ,” according to Saint John, one does God’s will and cannot sin.

*You know that He [Jesus] appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has either seen Him or knows Him. ... he who does right is righteous, as He is righteous. ... No one born of God commits sin; for God’s nature abides in him, and he cannot*

*sin because he is born of God. By this it may be seen who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil; whoever does not do right is not of God, nor he who does not love his brother (1 Jn 3.4–10).*

Jesus Christ is “the Way, the Truth and the Life” (Jn 14.6). He speaks the words of God. He does the work of God. The person who obeys Christ and follows His way and does what He does, loves God and accomplishes His will. To do this is the essence of spiritual life. Jesus has come that we may be like Him and do in our own lives, by His grace, what He Himself has done.

*Truly, truly I say to you, He who believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father (Jn 14.12).*



## 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*

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**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305**  
**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840**  
**Last Week’s Collection (11/20/22) : \$2,962**

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### 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