



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 22nd Sun after Pentecost + Sun, November 5th, 2023 + Martyrs Galaction and his wife, Epistemis, at Emesa



Hymns for Today's Service

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.

Let us the faithful honor these two betrothed athletes: Galacteon and modest Epistemis. Their ascetic labors blossomed into martyrdom, Therefore we cry to them: "Glory to Him Who has strengthened you! Glory to Him Who has crowned you! Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!"

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!"

You are numbered among the hosts of martyrs for you were illustrious in mighty contests. Galacteon, together with Epistemis, thy faithful wife and companion in struggle, unceasingly intercede to the one God for us all!

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel Reading - Luke 8:41-56

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came

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!

trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.



This Week's Schedule

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, November 4th

5 PM: 9th Hour (4:50), Great Vespers, Confessions

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Sunday, November 5th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,
Coffee Hour, Church School, Parastas, Parish Council

Parastas Today, Sunday November 5th

In memory of Betty Polk

Offered by Greg Polk

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THIS WEEK

Feast of Archangel Michael

TUES: 6:30 PM - Great Vespers for Archangel Michael

WED 9 AM - Divine Liturgy for Archangel Michael

NO Akathist this Wed due to the Feast of Arch. Michael

Please plan to come to the Feastday services instead

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, November 11th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

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Sunday, November 12th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,
Coffee Hour, Church School, Parish Council

Annual Harvest Dinner starts at NOON (Nov 12)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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Parish Council is the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is one week early - **TODAY, November 5th.**

Friends of the Poor is the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be November 11th.

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is November 26th

Election Day Food Sale: Holy Trinity Food Sale Election Day - 7 November 2023. 9AM - 5PM Porchetta Sandwich - \$8, Pulled Pork Sandwich - \$8. Soups \$7 - Bowl (12oz). \$15 - Quart (32oz). *** Piggie Soup *** Shrimp Boil Stew (shrimp, kielbasa, corn, potatoes) *** Clam Chowder. Soda/Water.

Dec 2, Wilkes-Barre Deanery Retreat at All Saints Orthodox Church, Olyphant, PA: Saturday, December 2nd the parishes of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery will gather together for a time of worship and retreat at All Saints Orthodox Church in Olyphant, PA. The event will begin at 9AM with Divine Liturgy, followed by a light Lenten brunch and lecture from the OCMC's longest serving field missionary, Nathan Hoppe. Mr. Hoppe will talk about the importance of the mission mindset in the parish, and reflect on his international missionary labors over the years. The lecture will begin at noon, followed by Q&A, and ending by 2 PM. All Deanery Clergy are invited to serve. Choir members from the Deanery are also invited to participate. Please sign up at your parish by November 26th so our hosts at All Saints can plan for the day. We look forward to gathering once again with our brothers and sisters throughout the Wilkes-Barre Deanery.

NOV 12th – ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER

Dear Parish Family – Once again it is time for our annual Harvest Dinner, a Thanksgiving all-you-can-eat family style meal with Turkey and all the fixins! The dinner will be Sun, Nov 12th following coffee hour. Pavilion doors will open at 11:30 AM for cocktails with the feast beginning at Noon. Drinks include soda and water. BYOB for wine and beer.

The *recommended* donation per adult is \$25: under 7 years old – free; 7-12 years old – \$5. If you are not able to pay the recommended donation price, please donate what you can or see Fr. Innocent for a complimentary ticket. Anyone wishing to attend please sign up in the vestibule by Nov 4th OR or call Deborah Mills at 570-822-5975 between Oct 30 – Nov 4th. Payment can be left at the candle stand or sent to the rectory. Write “Harvest Dinner” and the number of people attending on the memo line.

In an effort to make this year’s Harvest Dinner possible for everyone we have cut the ticket price to below cost and made it “*recommended*” so that everyone can attend this festive community meal. If you wish, you can help supplement the cost of this meal for others in three ways. 1) Give beyond the recommended donation 2) Sponsor a ticket for someone else – See Fr. Innocent 3) OR make a monetary donation to sponsor a food item – suggestions would include \$35 (Turkey), \$25 (Potatoes), \$25 (Yam Casserole), \$25 (Misc), \$20 (Veggies & Rolls) – See Diane or Sandy.

Don’t miss this wonderful time together to give thanks!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER Birthdays: Scott Harvey (11/4), Matushka Melanie Neal (11/4), Irene Dutko (11/5), Anya Nealon (11/8), Steve Nealon (11/10), Joli Dutko (11/12), Matt Austin (11/16), John Goobic III (11/19), Andrew Neal (11/24), Douglas Cardoni (11/16) **Anniversaries:** Steve & Jean Hutz (11/19), Michael & Lisa Talpash (11/22)

This Week’s Birthdays & Anniversaries: Irene Dutko (11/5), Anya Nealon (11/8), Steve Nealon (11/10)

Who Can Tame the Tongue?

But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, “Raca!” shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, “You fool!” shall be in danger of hell fire. – Matthew 5:22

What are we to do? “Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be liable to the hell of fire.” But “no human being can tame the tongue.” Will everyone therefore go to the hell of fire? By no means. “Lord, you have become our refuge from generation to generation.” Your wrath is just. You send no one to hell unjustly. “Where shall I go from your spirit? or where shall I flee from your presence,” unless to you? Thus let us understand, my dearly beloved, that if no human being can tame the tongue, we must take refuge in God, who will tame it. Does your own human nature prevent you from taming your tongue? “No human being can tame the tongue.” Consider this analogy from the animals that we tame. A horse does not tame itself; a camel does not tame itself; an elephant does not tame itself; a snake does not tame itself; a lion does not tame itself. So too a man does not tame himself. In order to tame a horse, an ox, a camel, an elephant, a lion and a snake, a human being is required. Therefore God should be required in order for a human being to be tamed. – Augustine of Hippo



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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RAISING OF JAIRUS DAUGHTER

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Today’s Gospel is not only about miracles and the mercy of God; to me it is about hope beyond hope. In the story of the daughter of Jairus we see a child already dead; everyone knows about it; there is such certainty that when the Son of God, become the Son of Man, says, No! This child has not died, it is fallen asleep, everyone contradicts Him: No, this child has died. And then Christ, with a word of power, but in an act of love calls the child to earthly life again.

Isn't this, – apart from being a true event of our human history, – isn't this also a parable, and an image of so many human situations? How often we would say, There is no point in doing anything about this person, this person is lost anyhow; there is nothing to do about



redeeming a given situation, this situation is beyond redemption. And we must remember the words which were spoken by Christ to Peter when he said, Who then can be saved? and the Lord said to him, What is impossible to man, is possible unto God.

Hope beyond hope: not because we have got good reasons to hope, but because we can be possessed of a passionate certainty that not only love divine but human love can bring back to life what was lost. People who have fallen into the deepest dereliction, people who seem to us to be hopelessly evil, if they are met by the sacrificial love, – and the word sacrificial is essential, – the sacrificial love of God and the same sacrificial love in us, can be redeemed.

In the case of this child it happened immediately. In our relation to one another and to people it may take years, years of patient love, years during which we will give ourselves, but also endure, endure endlessly the most unendurable things; and in the end there can be redemption. There can be redemption on this earth, in the form of a person who was thought to be hopeless, beyond help, and who begins to change, and then we see a miracle, and we are elated, and hope becomes complete and real, and joy fills our heart.

But there is also another way in which this sacrificial love can be redemption. A western theologian has said around the time of the last war, when feelings were deep and pain acute, he said that suffering is the meeting place between evil and humanity; suffering is always caused by

human agency or human agency turns away from it and does not alleviate it. And suffering always cuts into the soul or into the body of people. But when it has happened, the victim acquires divine power to forgive, and by forgiveness to undo the evil, and to redeem those who have done the evil.

Let us reflect on this; this thought has come to me not out of reflection, and indeed not out of my life that has always been too easy for me to be able to speak such words. But after the war a document was found in one of the concentration camps. It was written on a torn sheet of wrapping paper by a man who died in this camp. And the substance of his message was a prayer in which he said, Lord, when you come as a Judge of the earth, do not condemn the people who have done such atrocious things to us; do not hold against them their cruelty and our suffering, their violence and our despair, but look at the fruit which we have borne in patience, in humility, in fortitude, in forgiveness, in loyalty, in solidarity; and may these fruits be accounted unto their salvation. Do not allow the memory of us to be in eternity horror to them; may it be their salvation.

This is also hope beyond hope. And to me it is connected with this contrast between the sinful, the false, the blind knowledge expressed by the people in the house: they laugh at Christ, they know that the child is dead, hope is superfluous, it is drowned in despair, – and the victory of love and of mercy which is shown in the event but which can extend in so many ways into our personal lives on the simplest level, and on the most heroic ones.

Let us therefore give thought to it, and choose for hope beyond hope, for that love and that faith that conquer. Amen.

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."

<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Collections last Sunday (10/29): \$3,657</p>
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