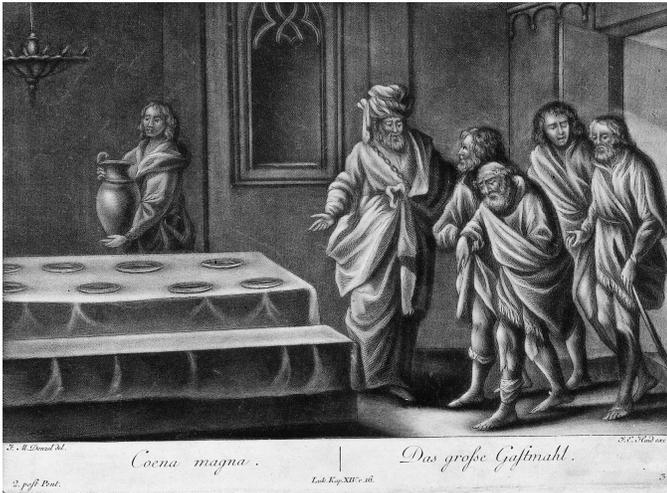




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

26th Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Dec 11th, 2022 + Sunday of the Forefathers



Hymns for Today

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel Reading - Luke 14:16-24

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master

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!

said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, December 10th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

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Sunday, December 11th

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour, Church School,

Parastas In Memory of William & Julia Talpash

Offered by Marie Talpash and Family

11 AM: Orthodoxy 101

11:30 AM: Parish Council Meeting

3 PM: NEPA Orthodox Youth Gathering

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THIS WEEK

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

Wed, 6:30 PM - Akathist Service: St. Herman of Alaska

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, December 17th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

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Sunday, December 18th

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

11 AM: Annual Children's Christmas Play (Yolka)

Your Invited to the Heavenly Banquet

The Great Feast of Our Lord's Nativity is quickly approaching. As we prepare to meet Him at the manger, we prepare ourselves to receive Him - for Him to be born in us - on Christmas Day through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and repentance. If you haven't already, remember to put aside time to come to Holy Confession during the fast in preparation for Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

Confession is available before or after Vespers, Wed Night Akathist, at 8:20 AM on Sun Mornings, or by appointment.



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: 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.

NATIVITY POINSETTIA DONATIONS - \$15: As customary, our Nativity Poinsettia Donations will purchase flowers to adorn the Church for the Feast of the Nativity. Your donations may be made in remembrance of, or for the health of, your family and loved ones. The names you provide at the time of your donation will appear in the Church Bulletin for the Feast of the Nativity. Please see the signup sheet in the vestibule and give your donation directly to Mary Ann Kudey or Deborah Mills. Many thanks and may God Bless You for your donation!

CLEANING VOLUNTEERS - Join the Clean Team! If anyone would have a little extra time to help our parish cleaning team prepare for the Feast of Nativity, please contact Deborah Mills. We could use a little extra help in our preparations (especially downstairs) to get ready.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THIS SEASON

Give to Help Support the Diocese of Alaska

December 11, 2022, the Sunday before the feast day of Saint Herman of Alaska, marks the first of an annual collection for the Diocese of Alaska.

At the 20th All-American Council in Baltimore, MD, His Grace Bishop Alexei held a forum updating the Church on the challenges facing the Diocese of Alaska. In the face of such serious difficulties, the council passed the following resolution:

“Whereas Alaska is the cradle of Orthodoxy in America: Be it resolved that the 20th AAC asks the Holy Synod of Bishops to designate annually the Sunday closest to the December feast of Saint Herman, for a free-will collection from each parish in the Orthodox Church in America to support the Diocese of Alaska Clergy Endowment.”

Learn more and help the Diocese of Alaska by donating on their website at odosa.org/current-fund-raisers OR by writing a check to HTOC with “Diocese of Alaska” on the memo field.

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Give to HTOC Friends of the Poor Ministry

Support our own parish ministry - “Friends of the Poor” - by making a monetary donation OR by donating warm “new” or “like-new” coats, hats, gloves, etc for the winter months. As we ministry to the homeless and poor of Wilkes-Barre we encounter a wide variety of needs, especially this time of year. If you would like to make a donation by check please write “Friends of the Poor” on the memo line. If you have questions about donations or how you can get involved in this ministry please see Patrick Tutella.

Parish Calendar

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays: David Clark (12/1), 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), Daniel Bisset Jr. (12/31)
Anniversaries: N/A

This Week's Birthdays: Andrew Kondratick (12/11), Lydia Dutko (12/12), Andrew Conklin (12/13)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

*The following is an excerpt from The Winter Pascha,
by Fr. Thomas Hopko*

Two Sundays before the celebration of Christmas, the Orthodox Church rejoices in the festival of the Holy Forefathers of the Old Covenant, including those who came before the giving of the Law. The foretold the coming of the Messiah and are redeemed by his saving Pascha. Together with the Canon of the Nativity of Christ, the following hymns are sung at the services of the day.

*Let us offer praise to the fathers
Who shone forth before and during the Law;
With righteous minds they served the Lord and Master
Who shone forth from the Virgin,
And now they delight in the unending Light.*

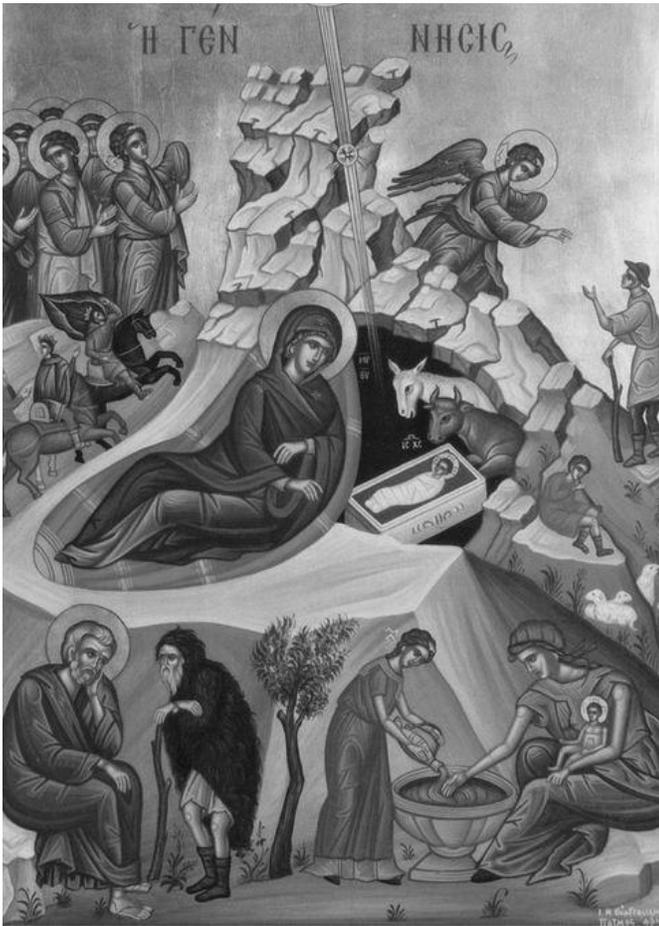
*Let us honor Adam, the first-formed man and forefather of us all,
Who was honored by the hands of the creator.
He rests in the heavenly mansions with all the elect.*

*With his whole mouth, tongue and heart,
The wondrous Enoch hoped that in the Spirit
He might call with godly mind upon God, the Master of all.
Having lived on earth in a well-pleasing manner,
He has been taken up in glory.*

*Let us hear the divine words of those who cry aloud,
Telling of the coming of Christ.*

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, Jami Cochran, Patricia
Departed: Lydia Homick

For behold, He is born in a cave of an unwedded Maiden,
 And his awesome birth is foretold to the Wise Men
 By the suddenly appearing star.



There is a great difference between existing and living. Many people exist. Very few really live. Only those who seek God have life. Only those who delight in His commandments and rejoice in accomplishing His will pass beyond mere existence and actually find life. "Seek God, and your soul shall live" (Ps 69:32, LXX). This is the cry of the psalmist David who is especially hymned on this Sunday and on the Sunday after Christmas. His exhortation is in perfect harmony with the words of God given to Moses in His revelation of the divine Law.

"See I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day, by walking in His ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you

will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you this day, that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying His voice, and cleaving to Him; for that means life to you and length of days, that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." (Deut 30:15-20)

The holy forefathers and mothers, together with all their descendants, have chosen life. They find it in God's Messiah, Jesus Christ, who is Life itself, God's incarnate Word. The celebration of the Winter Pascha is a celebration of Life in God's Word. For "Christ who is our life" has already appeared (Col 3:4). We have "beheld His glory" (Jn 1:14). Now that glory is hidden in the "form of a slave" (Phil 2:7), but it will be revealed at the end of the ages in power for those who "have loved His appearing" and "live in Him" (2 Tim 4:8; Col 2:6).

You shone as heaven's lights upon the earth
 Enkindling the light of piety.
 You called forth the choir of all creation
 As you sang to the Master who saves all from temptation,
 "Bless Him, O children! Exalt Him, O priests!
 Praise Christ, all people, throughout all the ages!"



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 (12/11/22) : \$2,256.17

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.