



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ The 32nd Sunday after Pentecost + January 14th, 2024 + The Leavetaking of Theophany



## 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.

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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!"

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: "Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O unapproachable Light."

## Please Sing Along!

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

## Epistle Reading - Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

## Gospel Reading - Luke 18:35-43

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had

**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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come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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## This Week's Schedule

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

#### **THIS WEEKEND**

Saturday, January 13th

9 AM: Friends of the Poor

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

Sunday, January 14th

8:10 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School,

Parish Council @ 11:30 AM

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#### **THIS WEEK**

WED 11 AM – 1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church

6:30 PM: Akathist: "The Mother of God, Healer of Cancer"

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study

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#### **NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, January 20th

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

Sunday, January 21st

8:10 AM: Resurrectional Matins w/ Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School

**Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is SUN, Jan 28th.**

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING** – Fundraising committee meeting Sunday, January 21st following Divine Liturgy at Coffee Hour. Anyone interested in being part of the committee is welcome to attend.

**TAKE POINSETTIAS HOME:** Anyone who would like to take home a Poinsettia from the front of the church is welcomed to do so today after Liturgy. Thank you to all who donated towards beautifying the church this Nativity season for Our Lord in remembrance to your loved ones.

**Sat, January 27th @ 9:30 AM - Ordination of Dn Kirill Zawatski to the Priesthood:** All parishioners and friends of Dn Kirill and Olivia Zawatski are invited to attend his ordination to the Priesthood here at Holy Trinity.

**Annual Parish Council Meeting/ Nominations for Office** – Sunday, January 28th, 2024 following Divine Liturgy, all members are asked to attend our annual parish meeting. **Election for church council officers will be conducted. Open positions include Treasurer and Trustee.** Qualification for election into office per HTOC bylaws requires that one be at least 21 years of age; a voting member of the parish for at least one year for trustees and 2 years two years for officers; an active communicant of the sacraments (confession / communion); meet all canonical requirements of the faith; and a person of the church in conduct and speech. If you would like to serve on the Parish Council please contact one of the members of this year's nominating committee – Andy Kondratick, Donna Stankeiwicz, Dan Brisk, or Fr. Innocent.

**GIVING ENVELOPES:** The 2024 Giving Envelopes will be available in the back of the church TODAY. If you would like envelopes and there is not a box in the back for you, OR if you received envelopes and would no longer like to receive them, please see Greg Polk or Deborah Mills.

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### **2024 Parish Calendars are here!**

A very special thank you to David, Michael and Patricia Yeosock and the Yeosock Funeral Home for sponsoring this year's beautiful calendar published by St. Tikhon's



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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**Parish Council is the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Jan 14th.**

**Friends of the Poor is the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, Jan 13th.**

Monastery. Pick up your free calendar at the candle stand. One calendar per family please.

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## **2024 HOME BLESSINGS**

PLEASE READ FOR INSTRUCTIONS

The Blessing of Homes began last Tuesday, January 9th. If you have not had your home blessed in past years, but would like to this year, let Fr. Innocent know so he can add you to the schedule. Fr. Innocent and the family look forward to this joyful time with each one of you! You can prepare for our visit by having an icon, candle, bowl for holy water, and list for living & departed. If you do not want your home blessed please indicate so on the signup sheet in the vestibule.

### **Home Blessing Schedule**

**Tues, Jan 16th:** Wilkes Barre City & Township, Kingston & Westside, and homes missed earlier (11 AM – 5 PM)

**By Appointment:** Back Mountain, Outside of Area

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## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**January Birthdays:** Colleen King (1/1), Mary Krill (1/1), Greg Polk (1/4), Melissa Donlick (1/5), Sonja Kay (1/6), Margaret Krout (1/7), Jerry Stankiewicz (1/8), Gabrielle Kenzakoski (1/10), David Welgus (1/11), Odin Rivera (1/18), Amanda Benczkowski (1/17), Deborah Zbegner (1/21), Ray Sofrenovic (1/21), Matthias Haugh (1/22), Josie Bisset (1/31), Amanda Benczkowski, Matthias Haugh **Anniversaries:** Warren & Nadine Breisch (1/13)

**This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Amanda Benczkowski (1/17), Odin Rivera (1/18)

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**Charitable giving in 2023 made possible by your tithes and donations.**

*Thank you!*

**THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, our Holy Trinity Community was blessed to assist Our Lord in service and support of charities within and outside our community in 2023.**

*International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)*

*Ukrainian War Relief*

*St. Vincent DePaul's Soup Kitchen*

*St. Tikhon's Seminarians (Dn Kirill & Dn Damian)*

*Commission for Economic Opportunity*

*HTOC Friends of the Poor Ministry*

*(Homeless & Poor of Wilkes Barre)*

*United Children's Home*

*Hazleton Homeless Community Center*

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## **TODAY, Jan 14th**

### **The Healing of Blind Bartimeaus**

When the Lord Jesus Christ drew near to the city of Jericho, by that city's gates was wrought one of the last miracles for the good of suffering man.

By the gates sat paupers begging alms. Amongst them was the blind Bartimeaus. Hoping for a good collection of alms, he had no idea of what happiness awaited him. Hearing the unusual noise of the people passing by, he learned that coming through was Jesus of Nazareth, Whose miracles were causing a stir throughout the country. This aroused a joyful hope in the blind man, and forgetting about the alms he was waiting for he began to cry, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" the people wanted to make him be silent, considering his loud clamoring indecent in the presence of the One who is about to enter into Jerusalem as the Messiah of all the people. But Christ heard his cry and His compassion heart was touched by it. He stopped and asked that the blind man be brought to Him. Then the crowd changed its tone and said to the blind man, "Don't be afraid, arise, He is calling you." In a burst of joy, as the Evangelist Mark testifies, he hastily threw off his cloak, jumped up

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Tom & Joan Austin, Joan Lello, Mary Gurka, Barbara Pascoe, David, Elizabeth, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Delores Voda, Nicole Hapeman, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Mat Melanie **Departed:** Stanley Cramton, Ioan, Irene

and came to Christ. “What do you want from Me?” the Savior asked him. “Rabboni,” answered the blind man, “I want to receive my sight!” “Receive your sight,” said Christ, “your faith has saved you.” He then touched the eyes of the blind man, whose eyes could then see that very instant. And the recently blind man followed after Christ, glorifying God.

The blind man received not only physical sight; his heart touched the Light about which the apostle John wrote: And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not (Jn. 1:5). That is why Bartimaeus followed after Christ, glorifying God, and became a herald of the True God, Who through Jesus Christ told us that to all people is given the power to be sons of God (Jn. 1:12); that all of us, even the weakest and most sinful of us, are children of God, who have the Heavenly King as our common Father, and that as His children all people are equal in worth, and therefore any differentiation between Hellenes and Jews, slaves and free has no power, because we are all equally children of God.

In Christ shone forth true life over the world, and this light is inextinguishable and unconquerable, although it is surrounded by an impenetrable, thick darkness; it is stubbornly surrounded from the light by the hidden evil will of the sons of rebellion. In Thee is the fountain of light... and it Thy light shall we see light (Ps. 36), as once exclaimed the prophet and psalmist David. He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death, says the righteous Job the Much Suffering (Job 12:22).

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Christ is the Light of Truth, Who illumines every man who comes into the world; we have celebrated the days of the feasts of the Nativity and the Theophany. Now the Lord in His Providence calls us to follow the example of blind Bartimeaus, for whom Christ became not an object of faith, but the whole content of life, the Teacher and Guide, the life strength of one who was only recently blind.

Bishop Mitrophan Znosko-Borovsky



# 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**  
**Collections last Sunday (12/31): \$1,656**

## PROPORTIONAL GIVING

*Assessing our personal giving for the coming new year.*  
Proportional giving is the practice of returning to the Lord a portion of the financial treasure He has blessed us with in this life. We offer our gifts in gratitude for His. This principle is found in both the Old and New Testament scriptures. Because it is proportional, what is returned to Him is different for each family and household. The giving chart below offers a starting point for giving based on a range of weekly incomes along with a range of giving levels beginning at 10%, the ideal for a Christian tithe if one is capable, down to 2%. Our goal as we journey through life is to offer increasingly more of what God has given us back to Him, just as we give more of our heart. *Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also* (Matt 6:21). This, of course, is done freely and out of love for God and His Church, not in response to an outward rule (*Freely you have received, freely give* – Matt 10:8). May this chart be helpful for you in prayerfully determining your level of giving this coming new year, challenging yourself to return to God the good portion of His financial blessings.

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