



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

33rd Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Jan 29th, 2023 + The Sunday of Zacchaeus



Hymns for Today

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. O Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Today thou didst rise from the east, enlightening all of creation with thy teachings, and thou art crowned with martyrdom, Godbearing Ignatius.

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - 1 Timothy 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Gospel Reading - Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

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!



This Week's Schedule

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THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, January 28th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, January 29th

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

Coffee Hour, Church School, Orthodoxy 101, Evangelism
& Outreach Committee Meeting

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THIS WEEK

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

Wed, 6:30 PM - **Vespertal Liturgy for the Great Feast of
the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple /
Blessing of Candles**

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, January 4th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, January 5th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy followed
by swearing in of the Parish Council, Coffee Hour,
Church School, Orthodoxy 101,
Parish Council Meeting

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Parish Calendar

- Jan 29th - Outreach & Evangelism Committee Meeting
- Feb 1st - Vespertal Liturgy/ Meeting of the Lord: 6:30 PM
- Feb 2nd - Joint Cemetary Committee Meeting @ 4:30 PM
- Feb 5th - Swear in 2023 Parish Council / Council Meeting
- Feb 12th - Annual Youth Pancake Breakfast
- Feb 19th - Meatfare Potluck / Member Appreciation
- Feb 26th - Forgiveness Sunday / Beginning of Great Lent

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.



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 (No class today. Starts back NEXT WEEK, January 29th).

TODAY: SUN, JAN 29 - OUTREACH & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING: Next Sunday, Jan 29 the Parish Outreach and Evangelism Committee will meet to discuss future efforts to engage our local community in a variety of ways. Everyone is invited and all ideas are welcome. We will meet during coffee hour.

THE RETURN OF BOARD GAME NIGHT: Before the pandemic, we had a monthly board game night on Saturdays after Vespers and it was quite successful. We are looking for the optimal time for anyone interested in coming together again for some board game fun, fellowship, and snacks. If you would be interested in joining us, please see Fr. Innocent about what days/times would be optimal for you and/or your family. Possibilities include Friday nights, Saturday afternoons/evenings, and Sunday afternoons/evenings. This event is for everyone regardless of age and not only for families with kids.

2023 HOME BLESSINGS CONTINUE: If you would like to have your home blessed there is still plenty of time. Contact Fr. Innocent to schedule an appointment.

PARISH MESSAGING for EVENTS and NOTIFICATIONS: We are changing the way we send text message notifications to the Parish Community from a standard text message to a super-secure messaging platform called Signal. The messaging platform we have used in the past comes with a fee and - among other benefits - Signal is FREE. Please download the Signal App from the Apple or Android App store and follow the link Fr. Innocent sent out via text message last week. If you have questions or need help see Matushka Melanie or Fr. Innocent. We are happy to help. We will use this platform for notifications about parish events, upcoming services, announcements, and service cancellations due to weather.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays: Mary Gurka (2/1), Cassandra Mahaffey (2/2), Subdeacon Thomas Donlick (2/2), Sebastian Neal (2/6), Paul Tumavitch (2/9), Mitchell Rivera (2/14), David Mills (2/19), Jeremiah Haugh (2/21), Sandy Serafin (2/23), Alexanne Conklin (2/24), Andrew Rivera (2/28) **Anniversaries: N/A**

This Week's Birthdays: Josie Bisset (1/31), Mary Gurka (2/1), Cassandra Mahaffey (2/2)

Communing with Christ through Giving

“The Lord said: Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me (Matthew 25:40).

Similar things happen in almsgiving and in Holy Communion. In Holy Communion we receive the Living Lord Christ Himself, in the form of bread and wine; in almsgiving we give to the Living Lord Christ Himself, in the form of the poor and needy. A certain man in Constantinople was unusually merciful. Walking along the streets of the city, he would press his gift into the hands of the poor and hurry onward, so he would not hear their gratitude or be recognized. When a friend of his asked how he had become so merciful, he replied: “Once in church I heard a priest say that whoever gives to the poor, gives into the hands of Christ Himself. I didn’t believe it, for I thought, ‘How can this be, when Christ is in heaven?’ However, I was on my way home one day and I saw a poor man begging, and the face of Christ shone above his head! Just then a passerby gave the beggar a piece of bread, and I saw the Lord extend His hand, take the bread, and bless the donor. From then on, I have always seen Christ’s face shining above the beggars. Therefore, with great fear I perform as much charity as I can.” + **St. Nikolai Velimirovich**



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Virtues: Honesty

An excerpt from The Orthodox Faith on oca.org

The wise man who has knowledge lives according to the truth through a totally honest life. Honesty means first of all, to speak the truth and never to “bear false witness” (Ex 20.16).

There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to do evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers (Prov 6.16–19; cf. 11.1, 12.17, 17.4, 21.28, 25.14, 18).

This basic scriptural teaching is also that of the apostles.

For we pray to God that you may not do what is wrong . . . but that you may do what is honest . . . for we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth (2 Cor 13.7–8).

Honesty also means to act truly and openly, without pretense, or the presentation of a false image of oneself. It means, in a word, not to be a hypocrite.

Above all things, Christ the Lord hated and condemned hypocrisy, lying and deceit. He accused the devil himself, first and foremost, of being a deceiver and liar, pretending to be other than he is, presenting himself and

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, 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 & Joan Austin, Paul Berdy, Patricia, Subdeacon Nicholas, Deacon Vasilios, Shane Fitzgerald, Lilly, Charles, Elizabeth, George Krill
Departed: Eleanor Sovryda

his teaching as totally other than the falsehood and wickedness that they actually are (cf. Jn 8.44–47). This is the way of all the false prophets, and of the antichrist himself.

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, men who will not acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh; such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist (2 Jn 7).

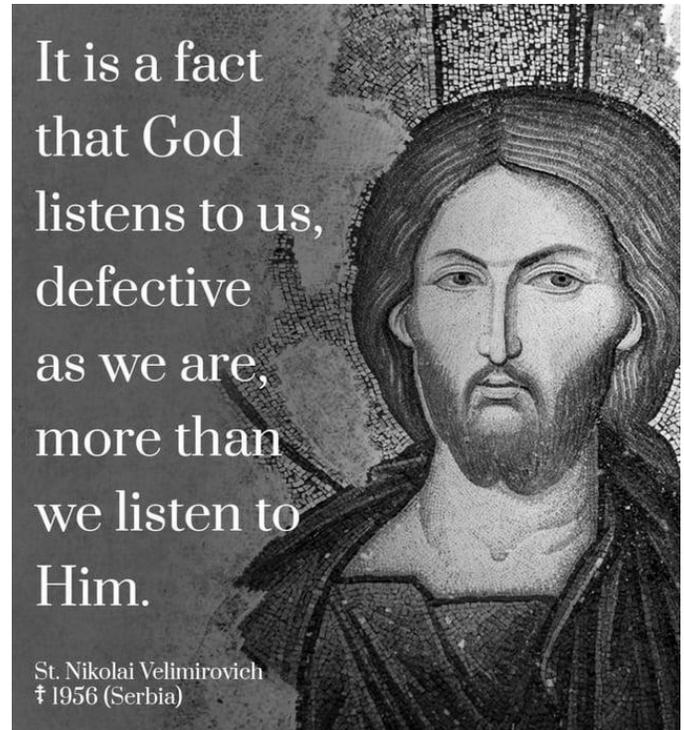
Take heed that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name saying “I am the Christ,” and they will lead you astray. . . . and many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. . . . For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect (Mt 24.4, 11, 24).

In His fierce condemnation of the evil of the scribes, pharisees and lawyers, Christ was most violent against their hypocrisy. Of all the evils of men, the most vile in the sight of the Lord is undoubtedly hypocrisy.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you cleanse the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside you are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisee! first cleanse the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead men’s bones and all impurity. So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within are full of hypocrisy and iniquity (Mt 23.25–28).

The spiritual person is not a hypocrite. He shows himself honestly for what he is, and does not pretend to be what he is not. He reveals himself to all exactly as he actually is. He does not say or do anything that would lead people to have a false impression of him or of anyone or anything. He is utterly honest and pure in all that he thinks, says and does, knowing that God sees all and judges with righteousness all those who “walk in integrity” (cf. Ps 26.1, 11).



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 (1/22/23) : \$1,931

What 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