



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

30th Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Jan 8th, 2023 + The Afterfeast of Theophany + Sunday After Theophany



## Hymns for Today

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 memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world, and grants us great mercy.

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back, filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit. The ranks of Angels stood amazed when they beheld Thee baptized in the stream. And we who were in darkness are

filled with light. We praise Thee, O God made manifest, as Thou dost enlighten all.

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 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

## Gospel Reading - Matthew 4:12-17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death

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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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Light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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## This Week's Schedule Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

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### **THIS WEEKEND**

Saturday, January 7th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, January 8th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour, Church School, Orthodoxy 101,  
Parish Council Meeting

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### **THIS WEEK**

Mon, 5-7 PM: Viewing for Eleanor Sovyrda w/ Parastas

Tues, 9 AM: Funeral for Eleanor Sovyrda

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

Wed, 6:30 PM - Akathist: Most Holy Mother of God

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### **NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, January 14th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, January 15th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour, Parastas, Church School, Orthodoxy 101

### **Parastas on Sunday, January 15th**

**In Memory of Lydia Homick - 40th Day Memorial**

*Offered by the Benedetti Family*

**In Memory of Peter Holoviak**

*Offered by Gregory & Cathy Kurtz*

**In Memory of Bernard Golubiewski**

*Offered by Patricia Sluhocki*

**In Memory of Eleanor Sovyrda**

*Newly Reposed*

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### **Parish Calendar**

Jan 8th - Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

Jan 21st - Friends of the Poor @ 8:45 AM

Jan 26-27th - Diocesan Assembly (Bethlehem, PA)

Jan 27-28th - Pierogi Project / Sale

Feb 2nd - Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple



## 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 (starts back TODAY, January 1st).

TODAY: PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Next Sunday, January 8th at 11:30 AM. If you are on the Parish Council please plan to attend. All parish members are welcome.

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.

GIVING ENVELOPES: 2023 Giving Envelopes are in the back of the Church. 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. If you do not receive envelopes please pick up this year's giving letter for all parishioners on the envelope table.

### **2023 HOME BLESSINGS**

*PLEASE READ FOR INSTRUCTIONS*

The Blessing of Homes will continue this **Wednesday, Jan 11th** (*See schedule change below due to Tuesday's Funeral*). The order in which homes are blessed will follow the normal pattern. Please see the schedule below. Fr. Innocent and his helpers will arrive to bless either the outside OR inside depending on your preference for this year. If you would like the inside of your home blessed remember to have an icon, candle, bowl for holy water, and list for living & departed. For blessing the outside of your home no special preparations are needed other than the list of names. If you do not want your home blessed

please let Fr. Innocent know. If you have not had your home blessed in past years (or in recent years), but would like to this year, let Fr. Innocent know so he can add you to the schedule. Fr. Innocent and the boys look forward to this joyful time with each one of you!

### **Home Blessing Schedule**

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES DUE TO TUESDAY'S FUNERAL**

**Tues, Jan 10th:** (Moved to Wednesday, January 11th)

**Wed, Jan 11th:** Hudson, Plains, Laflin, Pittston, Moosic Area, Bald Mountain (11 AM - 5 PM)

**Thurs, Jan 12th** Mountaintop, Hanover Twp, Nanticoke Area (11 AM - 5 PM)

**Tues, Jan 17th:** Wilkes Barre City & Township, Kingston, Dallas, Edwardsville, (11 AM - 5 PM)

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

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## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**January Birthdays:** Coleen King (1/1), Mary Krill (1/1), Greg Polk (1/4), Melissa Donlick (1/5), Mark Sovryda (1/5), Sonja Kay (1/5), Margaret Krout (1/7), Jerry Stankiewicz (1/8), David Welgus (1/11), Amanda Benczkowski (1/17), Matthias Haugh (1/22), Josie Bisset (1/31), Amanda Benczkowski, Matthias Haugh **Anniversaries: N/A**

**This Week's Birthdays:** Jerry Stankiewicz (1/8), David Welgus (1/11)

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*"It seems that we do not understand one thing:  
It is not good when we return the  
love of those who love us, yet hate  
those who hate us.*

*We are not on the right path if we do this.  
We are the sons of light and love, the sons of  
God, His children. As such we must have His  
qualities and His attributes of love, peace,  
and kindness toward all."* - Elder Thaddeus



## **Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers**

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### **The New Commandment**

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

The commandments to love God and neighbor are found in the law of Moses. They are not commandments for God's people. They are the commandments "written on men's hearts" and given "by nature" itself (Rom 2.14-15). They are the commandments given by God, in His Words, to man "from the beginning" (1 Jn 2.7).

In the new covenant Church of Christ, however, there is a "new commandment" (1 Jn 2.8). It is the "new commandment" given by Jesus Himself to those who believe in Him.

*A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (Jn 13.34).*

The new element in this "new commandment" is not the teaching of love, for this was written in the law. The new element is that believers in Christ must love as Christ Himself loves. The new commandment is to love "as I have loved you."

Christian love must be the perfect love of Christ Himself which is wholly divine. Christian love must be the totally self-emptying love of the Lord Himself. It must be the divine love of God the Father poured into men's hearts by the very Spirit of God. It must be the love that is absolutely faithful, perfect, eternal and divine.

Of all the men who ever lived on this earth, or who ever will live, only one has fully fulfilled the two great commandments of God; only one has lived absolutely and perfectly according to God's laws; only one has loved the Father with all of His heart, mind, soul, and strength, and His neighbor as Himself. This is Jesus Christ, the child of Mary according to the flesh.

There is no one righteous before God's law but Jesus. Only He has lived according to the law and by the teachings of the prophets. He alone is the one who has

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore 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, Subdeacon Nicholas, Deacon Vasilios, Patrick Tutella, Shane Fitzgerald **Departed:** Eleanor Sovryda, Lydia Homick

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“fulfilled the law and the prophets” (cf. Mt 5.17, 7.12). He alone, of all men, has loved with perfect, sinless, dispassionate love.

*He committed no sin; no guile was found on His lips. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten; but He trusted to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed (1 Pet 2.22–24; cf. Is 53).*

Having no sin, Jesus took our sins upon Himself and became sin “for us men and for our salvation” (Nicene Creed). In this the perfect love of God was perfected in a human being, that all humans might share in the love and glory of God. As all of the holy fathers have said, “He became what we are, that we might become what He is . . . God became man that man might become god.”

*For our sake God made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5.21).*

*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness . . . that you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the nature of God (2 Pet 1.3–4).*

*Since . . . the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage.*

*Therefore He had to be made like His brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself suffered and was tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.*

*For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize [i.e., co-suffer] with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we, yet without sinning (Heb 2.14–18, 4.15–16).*

God has given us His love in Jesus. When a person is “in Christ” he can love with the love of God. This is the “new commandment,” that men filled with the Holy Spirit should love with the love of God Himself.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul describes the perfect love which is Christ’s gift of God to men in the Holy Spirit. He describes what Christian love is: the chief gift of the Spirit of God, who is love.

Through the love of Christ, men are called to bear, believe, hope and suffer all things. This is what Christ has done. This is what love does. The one who does this has fulfilled the “new commandment” of Jesus and abides in the love of God. The one who does this abides in God Himself, and already possesses eternal life as a member of His Kingdom.



## 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 (12/25/22) : \$3,850**

**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.