



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

1st Sunday of Great Lent + Sun, March 5th, 2023 + Sunday of Orthodoxy + Martyr Conon of Isauria



Hymns for Today

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.

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, for Thou alone hast come to save the world."

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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!*

Gospel Reading - John 1:43-51

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."



This Week's Schedule

DOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

WELCOME HOLY RESURRECTION CATHEDRAL

Please keep Fr. Gregory in your prayers as he recovers from surgery. Holy Resurrection Parishioners can make Sunday offerings to the Cathedral at the candle stand by placing it in an envelope marked "Cathedral". We are grateful to have you with us today!

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THIS WEEKEND - Sunday of Orthodoxy

Saturday, March 4th

9 AM: Divine Liturgy for St. Theodore
w/ Blessing of Kolyva

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

6 PM: Lenten Movie – Man of God

Sunday, March 5th

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

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Mission Vespers

Sun, March 5th @ 4 PM: Holy Resurrection Cathedral
w/ Lenten Meal to follow

THIS WEEK - 2nd Week of Great Lent

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

Wed, 6 PM: Presanctified Liturgy w/ Potluck

Fri @ 6:30 PM: Akathist w/ Litya for the Departed

Sat @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

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NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 11th

9 AM: Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM: Parastas for Lydia Homick – Offered by Jackie
Brennan – Atkinson and Mark Hopyak

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

Sunday, March 12th

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

11:30 AM: Parish Council Meeting

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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SATURDAYS: LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT: Beginning this weekend (March 4th), Saturday evenings following Great Vespers in the basement of the church Sherry Huntzinger will be hosting a Christian movie night. Popcorn will be provided. This week showing *Man of God*. "Exiled unjustly, convicted without trial, slandered without cause. Man of God depicts the trials and tribulations of **Saint Nektarios of Aegina**, as he bears the unjust hatred of his enemies while preaching the Word of God." Join us for this excellent film about one of our own saints.

LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION - The Orthodox Spiritual Life: Fr. Innocent will be presenting weekly Adult Education Class Sundays during coffee hour throughout Great Lent beginning March 5th. Each week will cover a different topic on the rich spiritual life our faith offers us and its ultimate goal. Presentations will last 30 minutes followed by discussion and Q&A. This

class will take the place of Orthodoxy 101 during Great Lent. Everyone is invited.

LENTEN FOOD SALE: A big thanks to all who helped at last week's Lenten Food Sale. A handsome profit of \$1753.63 was realized. Clam chowder has been added to the menu for the next few sales. Other menu items may be added depending on volunteer support. Please support & spread the word about upcoming sales – March 10, 17, 24 & 31 / 11AM – 5PM. Potato pancakes (3 for \$5) & clam chowder (\$6 bowl/\$13 quart). Helpers are always needed & welcome. Volunteer sign-up sheet on the podium in the vestibule.

GREAT LENT TEXT MESSAGE SERIES: Throughout Great Lent (as we did during the Nativity Fast), Fr. Innocent will send a series of encouraging text messages relating to the fast, spirituality, relevant scripture readings, challenging questions, and other resources to help you keep engaged in the spirit of the Lenten Fast. If you would like to receive these occasional messages throughout the week sign up in the vestibule/Narthex or Send Fr. Innocent a message to get on the list. We will be creating a special group on the Signal App. So please download the app to your phone. Questions? Ask Fr. Innocent.

THIS WEEK: PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY w/ LENTEN POTLUCK: Beginning Web March 8th, we will have Presanctified Liturgy followed by a Lenten Potluck (No meat or dairy) on Wednesday nights throughout the fast. Make this Liturgy and Community Meal a part of your Lenten Journey. Presanctified begins at 6 PM.



LENTEN & PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being collected so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General donations for flowers during lent are being accepted and will be used for the Feast of the Cross (flowers will adorn the cross) and Palm Sunday (Palms & Pussy Willows). Donations may be given to Deborah Mills. Please write “Flowers for Lent” in the memo. We will also continue

our tradition of **Paschal Flower Donations** in memory and for the health of loved ones. We will adorn the grave of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Good Friday with fresh Spring flowers as a reflection of our love. These flowers will also adorn the Church on Holy Pascha and throughout Bright Week. On Saint Thomas Sunday, those who donated flowers will be welcome to bring these flowers home to loved ones and shut-ins to brighten their day. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers “In Memory of” or “For the Health of” a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations at the candle stand, mail them to the Church, OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox. The names of your loved ones will be listed in the Holy Pascha Church Bulletin and remembered in prayer. If you wish to have your offering listed in the Holy Pascha Bulletin, your loved ones name(s) and donation must be received by Palm Sunday.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays: Emma Lynn DiBatista (3/3), Abby Harvey (3/4), Lisa Marie Harvey (3/7), Isabela Sofrenovic (3/9), Dara Soljaga (3/11), Michael Polk (3/12) Nadine Breisch (3/13), Joshua Leonori (3/22), Gerry Stankiewicz (3/27), Jean Ann Hutz (3/31)

This Week's Birthdays: Lisa Marie Harvey (3/7), Isabela Sofrenovic (3/9), Dara Soljaga (3/11)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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On the Sunday of Orthodoxy

Met. Anthony Bloom

We are keeping today, as every year at the end of the first week of Lent, the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. And every year we must give thought to what is meant, not only as a historical event, but also in our personal lives. First of all, we must remember that the Triumph of Orthodoxy is not the Triumph of the Orthodox over other people. It is the Triumph of the Truth Divine in the hearts of those who belong to the Orthodox Church and who

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, 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, Lilly, Charles, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, John Zoranski, Melanie Bishop **Departed:** Theodore Sovryda

proclaim the Truth revealed by God in its integrity and directness.

Today we must thank God with all our hearts that He has revealed Himself to us, that He has dispelled darkness in the minds and hearts of thousands and thousands of people, that He who is the Truth has shared the knowledge of the perfect Truth Divine with us.

The occasion of this feast was the recognition of the legitimacy of venerating icons. By doing this we proclaim that God - invisible, ineffable, the God whom we cannot comprehend, has truly become man, that God has taken flesh, that He has lived in our midst full of humility, of simplicity, but of glory also. And proclaiming this we venerate the icons not as idols, but as a declaration of the Truth of the Incarnation.

By doing this we must not forget that it is not the icons of wood and of paint, but God who reveals Himself in the world. Each of us, all men, were created in the image of God. We are all living icons, and this lays upon us a great responsibility because an icon may be defaced, an icon may be turned into a caricature and into a blasphemy. And we must think of ourselves and ask ourselves: are we worthy, are we capable of being called "icons", images of God? A western writer has said that meeting a Christian, those who surround him should see him as a vision, a revelation of something they have never perceived before, that the difference between a non-Christian and a Christian is as great, as radical, as striking, as the difference there is between a statue and a living person. A statue may be beautiful, but it is made of stone or of wood, and it is dead. A human being may not at first appear as possessed of such a beauty, but those who meet him should be able, as those who venerate an icon - blessed, consecrated by the Church - should see in him the shining of the presence of the Holy Spirit, see God revealing Himself in the humble form of a human being. As long as we are not capable of being such a vision to those who surround us, we fail in our duty, we do not proclaim the Triumph of Orthodoxy through our life, we give a lie to what we proclaim. And therefore each of us, and all of us collectively, bear every responsibility for the fact that the world meeting Christians by the million is not converted by the vision of God's presence in their midst, carried indeed in earthen vessels, but glorious, saintly, transfiguring the world.

What is true about us, simply, personally, is as true about our churches. Our churches were called by Christ as a family, a community of Christians to be a body of people who are united with one another by total love, by sacrificial love, a love that is God's love to us. The Church was called, and is still called, to be a body of people whose characteristic is to be the incarnate love of God. Alas, in all our churches what we see is not the miracle of love divine.



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 (2/26/23) : \$2,637
Potato Pancake Sale: \$1753.63

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

*"What separates us from God and each other?
 Money, food, and drink — this dust, this dross,
 this corruption. Why? Because we have not lived
 Christian trust and faith in God. We do not know,
 or we forget, that man's true life is love for God
 and his neighbor." + St. John of Kronstadt*