



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sunday, March 6th, 2022 - Forgiveness Sunday - The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise - Beginning of Great Lent



O Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue, Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart! O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: "Have mercy on me, a transgressor, O merciful Lord!"

Gospel Reading - Romans 13: 11-14:4

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 6:14-21

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who

Hymns for Today

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Through the sufferings which Thy holy Forty Martyrs endured for Thy sake, O Lord, we beseech Thee, O Lover of mankind: "Heal all of our infirmities!"

You have abandoned all earthly armies, cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord. Having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones, you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

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!*

sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This Week's Schedule

GREAT LENT Begins This Week

THIS WEEKEND – FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

SAT, March 5th: Great Vespers @ 5 PM,
Parastas, Confessions

SUN, March 6th: Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, **Forgiveness Sunday Vespers**,
Cheesefare Potluck/ Coffee Hour

Parastas – Sat, March 5th after Vespers

In Memory of Stephen Krill

Offered by Mary Krill

In Memory of Dolores Karas

Offered by Donna Stankiewicz

THIS WEEK

SCHEDULE FOR FIRST WEEK OF LENT

March 6th – 12th

Sun @ 10:30 AM: Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Mon-Thurs @ 6:30 PM: Great Compline w/ the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

WED: Private Prayer 11:00 AM–1:30 PM

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

Sat @ 9 AM: St. Theodore Saturday Divine Liturgy w/
Blessing of Koliva

NEXT WEEKEND – SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

SAT, March 12th: Great Vespers @ 5 PM,
Parastas, Confessions

SUN, March 13th: Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Icon Procession, Coffee Hour, **Church School**

NOTE: Calling all Children & Youth: Bring an icon of your saint or one you love for our Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession following Divine Liturgy (March 13).

Parastas – Sat, March 12th after Vespers

In Memory of Lynn Bankos,

Robert Benczkowski, Dennis Cardoni

Offered by Mary Krill, Elaine Benczkowski, Anna Cardoni

In Memory of Stephen Havrilak, Frank & Anna Broda

Offered by Marilyn Havrilak

Memorial Donations

Mat. Ann Pawlush: \$25 – Mary Ann Kudey

Betty Serafin: \$100 – Tom, Joan Austin & Family

Parish Events & Announcements

BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND – ORTHODOXY 101:

Beginning Saturday **March 5th @ 3:30 PM** we will begin a course on Orthodox fundamentals for those who are new to the faith, interested in the faith, or would like to renew their interest and learning about the faith. Join us weekly on **Saturday's at 3:30 PM** for one hour of learning and discussion beginning March 5th.

LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION – BEGINNING

MARCH 13TH : Two years ago Subdeacon Gregory began a *Lenten Study on Living the Christian Life* that was cut short after two sessions by the pandemic. This great Lent we will return to the study to focus on practical ways to live a Christian life during Great Lent. Our study is titled “*How to live a Christian Life – 55 Maxims of Fr. Thomas Hopko*”. The class will be held Sundays throughout Great Lent following Divine Liturgy. Presented by SubDeacon Greg Polk.

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY w/ LENTEN POTLUCK:

Beginning Web March 16th, we will have Presanctified Liturgy followed by a Lenten Potluck (No meat or dairy). Until the Pandemic this Lenten meal was a longstanding Tradition of Holy Trinity. We are excited to bring it back this year. Please make this Liturgy and Community Meal a part of your Lenten Journey. Presanctified begins at 6 PM.

YES! LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Holy Trinity is hosting a community service experience for our Wilkes-Barre area youth with **YES**, an Orthodox ministry that focuses on developing young Orthodox leaders.

WHO: High School and College Students

WHAT: Be guided through an educational and formational service learning experience. Learn about the current struggles of your community. Connect with organizations doing great work in your city. Come together with other young people eager to serve.

WHEN: All day Saturday, April 2nd – Meet for Liturgy at 9am. Wrap up at 6pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

WHERE: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church 401 E Main St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

REGISTRATION: Register at yesnorthamerica.org. A donation of \$65 a person will support the outreach efforts and make it possible for the YES Program to prepare and execute the Trip. Visit our website for financial assistance.

QUESTIONS: Contact Catie DeCarlo – YES Trip Leader at cgolitzin2015@gmail.com

LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT: Beginning March 12th, Saturday evenings following Great Vespers in the basement of the church Sherry Huntzinger will be hosting a Christian movie night. Popcorn will be provided.

MAN OF GOD SHOWING AT CINEMARK MOOSIC MARCH 21ST @ 7 PM: *“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. Tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the door.

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.

- AID for UKRAINE - OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Holy Trinity has been presented with the 3 ways to provide for and support Ukrainians and Ukrainian refugees who have fled their country. In this Lenten season especially we are called to give without hesitation to those who are in need. Please give generously so that we might be a coworker with our Lord in caring for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

Uuarc.org - United Ukrainian American Relief Committee. Paula Holoziak has worked with them for over 20 years. They are a highly trusted humanitarian aid organization for Ukraine. Currently UUARC is raising funds to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of war in Ukraine after further invasion of Russia onto Ukrainian soil and conflict escalation. With millions of potential victims in Ukraine, UUARC is fundraising to provide vital medical supplies to victims, care for the injured and refugees, as well as shelter and food to those affected. UUARC is working closely with UCCA, UWC, US Aid, and the Ukrainian Embassy in the coordination of aid.

OCA.org/relief - A special appeal for donations from the individual parishioners of the Orthodox Church in America from February 28th through March 7th. These donations will be collected by the Orthodox Church in America and sent on to ELEOS, the humanitarian agency of the Polish Orthodox Church, and registered with the Polish government, who is dealing directly with the unfolding refugee crisis and needs support as soon as

possible. Donations will go towards refugee relief, their housing, and meeting basic needs.

Air Force Base in Poland – Laura Polk’s nephew is in the Air Force and has provided a list of needs for a base in Poland that is serving the Ukrainian refugees. He’s also given us the address to send the items directly to the base which is like mailing something within the continental US. These items can be shipped directly from Amazon to the address below.

Mr. Cody B. Huffman
CMR 414 Box 1518
APO, AE 09173

If ordering on Amazon, people need to scroll through the states and will find APO at the end. **The following items are needed:** underwear, socks, raincoats, cosmetics, hygiene items, detergent, non-perishable food, instant coffee, sweets, flashlights, batteries, big bags of any sort (they’ve come with nothing and have nothing to carry things in).

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open – \$ 2,840
Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open – \$12,305
Collections last Sunday (in person & online) – \$1,928.47

2022 COMMITMENT FORM: If you have not submitted your annual commitment form you may pick-up a form at the candle stand. Submitting your best estimate enables the parish to budget for the year. You will not be held to this number. So far we have only received commitments from 25 of the nearly 100 members.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays: Emma Lynn DiBatista (3/3), Abby Harvey (3/4), Lisa Marie Harvey (3/7), 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), Michael Polk (3/12)

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Delores Karas, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Peter Holoviak & Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Joe Sloan, Matushka Elizabeth, Karen Maier, John Metz, Tim, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Bernie Elko, Delores Voda, Mary Ann Lepa, Eric, Mat. Delores Donlick, Archpriest Vladimir Fetchko, Dorothy Sysak, James Clark, Vasilli (Bill) Talpash, Melanie Bishop
Departed: Betty Serafin, Dolores Karas, Tina

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS: WHY?

By Protobresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin the Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people, Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a “good deed” required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says: “In vain do you rejoice in no eating, O soul! For you abstain from food, but from passions you are not purified. If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast.”

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.