



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

4th Sunday of Great Lent + Sun, April 2, 2023 + Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt



Hymns for Today's Service

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passeth away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoiceth with the angels.

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:

"Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross.// Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 9:11-14

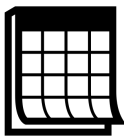
But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel Reading - Mark 10:32-45

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do

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!*

for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."



This Week's Schedule

Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

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THIS WEEKEND - St. Mary of Egypt **Saturday, April 1st**

8 AM (Please note the time change for this week only):

Divine Liturgy, followed by Friends of the Poor

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confession

6 PM: Lenten Movie Night

Sunday, April 2nd

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

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Mission Vespers

Sun, April 2nd @ 4 PM: All Saints Orthodox Church,
Olyphant w/ Lenten Meal

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THIS WEEK - 6th 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: Vespers for Lazarus Saturday

SAT @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
Followed by Altar Boy Retreat & Parish Cleanup

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NEXT WEEKEND **PALM SUNDAY**

Saturday, April 8th

5 PM: Great Vespers for Palm Sunday, Confession

Sunday, April 2nd

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Blessing of the Palms &
Pussy Willows, Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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SCHEDULE CONFESSION BEFORE PASCHA: A friendly reminder to make a confession before Pascha to receive Holy Communion. Anyone wishing to receive should go to confession at least once during Great Lent. If you have been away from Holy Communion be sure to make a confession before receiving. Confession is available before and after services throughout Lent as time permits and also on Wednesdays during our time of silent prayer. Please come or set up an appointment for a specific time with Fr. Innocent.

THIS SUNDAY - SUPPORT OUR YOUTH: The Sunday School is selling decorated Easter baskets filled with chocolate. The cost for each basket is \$10 and all proceeds will benefit International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in support of aid to earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. Cash donations will also be accepted.

NEXT WEEKEND - SAT APRIL 8th - ALTAR SERVER / PARISH CLEANUP FOR PASCHA: All are encouraged to come help prepare our beautiful church for Pascha. Parish altar servers, families, young and old, we are asking for help from youth and adults to help clean, dust, polish candles stands, etc. The day will begin with Divine Liturgy at 9 AM, followed by coffee, light snacks and cleaning. With enough help we should only have to work for a couple hours.

LENTEN FOOD SALE: A big thanks to all who helped at the Friday Lenten Food Sales throughout this Great Lent and the support that all of you offered whether as volunteers or customers.

BRING IN YOUR PUSSYWILLOWS: Anyone willing to harvest pussywillows from your yard or area for our Paschal celebration can now bring them to the church.

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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. 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

April Birthdays: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Dave & Dolores Voda, Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

This Week: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8)

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.



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt



On this fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we focus on the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary was born in Egypt, left home at the age of 12, and spent the next 17 years taking advantage of men for her own physical pleasure. Not until she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (for all the wrong reasons, but God works even through our wrong choices) did she begin to question the path she was taking. It was when she was unable to enter the church to venerate the Holy Cross that she realized something was wrong. The Theotokos herself helped Mary to understand the severity of her sins, and she repented. She repented so completely that she spent the rest of her days in the desert, fighting against her own fleshly desires and sins. God was with her there in the desert, and he showed His presence to her by providing for her needs and helping her to learn the scriptures and the ways of the Church even without another human there to teach her about them. This allowed Mary to grow more and more holy.

A holy monk, Zosimas, was the lone person she saw, and she did not see him until 47 years after she fled to the

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, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick **Departed:** John Zoranski

desert. They had only two encounters, both of which encouraged each of them. Zosimas was able to learn of Mary's story, and Mary was able to receive Holy Communion at the hand of Zosimas right before she died. Each of these two people longed for holiness in their own life, and both were humbled by the other's presence on their journey.

This humility is an interesting contrast to Mark 10:32-45, the Gospel reading for this Sunday. This Gospel reading reminds us of the squabbling disciples, who are fighting for greatness in this passage. It is interesting that the Church has chosen to offer us the opportunity to study the life of St. Mary, who fought her pride and humbled herself in the desert for most of her life; and then contrast it with the disciples' desire to sit at Christ's right hand in His kingdom. It is as though the Church is saying to each of us, "Here are two approaches to life in the Kingdom of God. Who will you choose to be like?" We all know who we should emulate, but repenting and humbling ourselves as completely as St. Mary did is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. Yet here is her life, offered to us as we approach the end of Great Lent, encouraging us to continue to fight the good fight as she did; to abstain from our passions so completely that we learn from Christ Himself and find ourselves humbled when we are in the presence of even the humblest of fellow humans.

Holiness is not limited to those with a perfect background. Although God can certainly work in and through those who have always lived holy lives (as did Abba Zosimas), He also brings healing and holiness to those of us who repent completely and turn our focus away from the things of this earth and completely on Him (as He did in the life of St. Mary of Egypt). Glory to God who embraces us as we struggle and meets us in that place! **St. Mary of Egypt, please intercede for our salvation!**

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection/Donations (3/26) : \$2,915

Holy Week & Pascha 2023



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY April 9

Blessing of Palms & Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

HOLY MONDAY April 10

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY TUESDAY April 11

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY WEDNESDAY April 12

Matins w/ Holy Unction (Cathedral) @ 6 PM

HOLY THURSDAY April 13

Last Supper Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

12 Passion Gospels @ 6:30 PM

HOLY FRIDAY April 14

Vespers for the Burial of Our Lord @ 3:00 PM

Lamentations @ 6:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY April 15

Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

+His Eminence Archbishop Mark Presiding+

Beginning SAT NIGHT, April 15

Nocturns @ 9:30 PM

Paschal Matins w/ Procession @ 10:00 PM

Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 11:00 PM

Blessing of the Baskets & Paschal Feast @ 12:30 AM

SUN MORNING, April 16

Agape Vespers w/ Procession @ 11 AM

followed by Blessing of the Baskets