



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

13th Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Sept 11th, 2022 + Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday before Elevation.



Hymns for Today's Service

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!"

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

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

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

Thou didst deplete thy bodily strength by fasting, vigil, and prayers, entreating the Creator to grant forgiveness of thy sin; having received it, thou didst show us the way of repentance, venerable Mother Theodora.

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Please Sing Along!

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

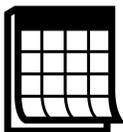
Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren — you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints — that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand — Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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 - Matthew 21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"



This Week's Schedule Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

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THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, September 10th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, September 11th

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

10:30 AM: Parastas for Met. Herman

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK

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

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

TUES, SEPT 13 @ 6:30 PM: Great Vespers

WED, SEPT 14 @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for the Feast

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NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, September 17th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, September 18th

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

10:30: Parastas for Eva Lisowski & Bernard Golubiewski

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

11:30 AM: Parish Council Meeting



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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PULLED PORK SALE Sat, Sept 17, 11 AM-4 PM: This coming Saturday is our Annual Pulled Pork Dinner Sale. Dinners include a 1/4lb Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips, and Dessert for \$12. Sandwiches can be purchased for \$8. You can pre-order Monday-Thursday, 9AM-4PM by calling the rectory at 570-825-6540 and pressing "2" to place your order. Walk-ins welcome. We need volunteers. If you are able to volunteer please see the signup sheet in the Vestibule/Narthex.

September 18th: Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY NIGHT AKATHIST: Beginning Wed, September 21st @ 6:30 PM Fr. Innocent will lead a weekly Akathist Service. Join us for this midweek time of prayer and supplication to our Lord, His Mother, and the Saints.

NOTE: DATE CHANGED OCT 9 - Annual Parish Meeting/ Nominations for Office - Sunday, October 9, 2022 following Divine Liturgy, all members are welcome to attend our annual parish meeting. **Election for church council officers will be conducted. Open positions include Chair, Vice Chair & Financial Secretary.** Qualification for election into office per HTOC bylaws requires that one be at least 21 years of age; a voting member of the parish for at least two years; an active communicant of the sacraments (confession / communion); meet all canonical requirements of the faith; and a person of the church in conduct and speech. If you would like to be an officer on the Parish Council please contact one of the members of this year's nominating committee - Peter Holoviak, Andy Kondratick, Donna Stankeiwicz, or Fr. Innocent.

OCT 1st & 2nd DEANERY & PARISH RENEWAL

RETREAT: The Diocese of Eastern PA and Wilkes Barre Deanery are sponsoring a Parish Renewal Retreat for our Deanery & Parish. Bill Marianes, a parish planning expert who we have already engaged for parish strategic planning, will host the retreat here at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. The Deanery Retreat will be held Saturday, October 1st beginning at 9 AM and Sunday, October 2nd, specifically for our Parish, following Divine Liturgy. All parishioners, Parish Council, and the Strategic Planning Team are welcome and encouraged to attend, especially on Sunday when Bill speaks to our parish. We are also looking for parishioners willing to help organize and work the event. Please signup to attend and/or volunteer in the Vestibule/Narthex.

Summer/Fall Upcoming Events

Wed, September 14th – The Exaltation of the Cross

Sun, September 18th – Parish Council

Sat, October 1st – Feast of Protection Liturgy @ 9AM

Sat, October 1st – Parish Renewal Retreat (Deanery wide)

Sun, October 2nd – Bill Marianes @ Coffee Hour (HTOC)

Sun, Oct 9th (Note Change) – Annual Parish Meeting

With all your power, ask the Lord for humility and brotherly love, because God freely gives His grace for love towards one's brother. Do an experiment on yourself: one day ask God for love towards your brother, and another day – live without love. You will see the difference.

(St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XVI.8)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays: Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), William Gurka (9/8), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Irene Kazmierowicz (9/27), Stephen Hutz (9/29), Alekzandria Dutko (9/30) **September Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6), Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17)

This Week's Birthdays: N/A **Anniversaries:** Martha & Paul Tumavitch (9/17)

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.

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection: \$4,899

PROPORTIONAL GIVING CHART

How much 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

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.

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Peter Holoviak & Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Fr. Vladimir Fetchko, Reader Matthew, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Matthew Austin, Archpriest Vladimir, Tom Austin, Donna Stankiewicz, Samir Abdo, Nesrin Dahdal, Sara Abdo, Mansour Abdo, Siwar Abdo, Silin Abdo
Departed: Met Herman, Met Kallistos Ware, Monk Arseny, Mat Patricia Bohush, Mat Anne Hopko



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Parable of the Vineyard

By Met. Anthony Bloom

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Today's Gospel, interrupting, so to speak, a series of joyful readings, is a very terrifying one: the story of the workers in the vineyard who turned out to be traitors. And indeed this parable reflects the whole history of the human race, but in the context of all the readings that have gone before, it tells us also of the terrible, in the full sense of that word, ingratitude of mankind, including all of us, to God. In the face of all His love, all His miracles, in the face of everything that He has accomplished, we remain unmoved and self-centred; we think of ourselves, we do not think of our neighbours, still less do we think of God; ingratitude, self love, concentration on ourselves, on what we want, what appeals to us, what seems necessary to us.

Today's Gospel reading tells us that God created a whole beautiful wonderful world, fenced it with His might and His providence, prepared everything in it so that it could be the place of God's Kingdom, that is the Kingdom of mutual love, the Kingdom of joy. But we know what we, people, have made of this world: a place where men are afraid to live, where there is bloodshed, where inhuman, cruel acts are committed, and not only on a world-wide scale, but on a family scale, a parish scale, and among the closest friends.

From generation to generation the Lord has sent His messengers: patriarchs, prophets, angels, preachers, the Forerunner; and finally He came Himself to remind us that the world was created for love. And as in the parable the workers led the son out of the vineyard and killed him, so mankind treated the incarnate Son of God. And when I say 'mankind', I am speaking not of others, but of us ourselves, because life is entrusted to us to make of it a triumph of love, brotherhood, harmony, faith and joy, and we do not do so, because we think only of ourselves. In response to everything that God has done for us, created us, revealing Himself to us, pouring out all His love on us and finally giving us the life and death of His

Son, we produce hardly anything but a brief 'Thank you' and instantly forget.



Turn back to everything you heard during Lent, to what you saw on the night of Christ's Resurrection, to what was said in all the subsequent weeks by the saints, the saints of Russia, the saints of these islands, by the Gospel of love and humanity. Consider all this and ask yourselves, 'am I not a worker in the vineyard, and am I not one of those who pushes Christ away every time He enters my life? Do I not say: get off my path, get out of my life — I want to be the God, the master, I want to manage everything.' Thus speaks each one of us, not so rudely, not so blasphemously, but in actions, in rotten words.

We must come to our senses. I have said many times that we are saved because God loves us; yet not by the love of God only, but by our response to this love. If our wish is merely to reap the fruits of the Cross, of the crucifixion, of the days of the passion, and return nothing to God, and give nothing to our neighbour for whom God died, except a momentary thought, we are alien to everything that God accomplished for us.

Let us therefore stand before the warning, the reminder in today's Gospel and face the question, 'where is my gratitude? Do I embody it not only in words, which are rare enough but in deeds?' Let us pass judgement on ourselves and start a new life. Gratitude to God consists in being a joy to Him, and to our neighbour a support, a saviour and a joy. Let us begin today to bear the fruits of what we have just learned from God through Christ.

Amen.