



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ 13th Sun after Pentecost + Sun, September 3rd, 2023 + Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia



## Hymns for This Week

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!"

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. O Hieromartyr Anthimus, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile, and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe. Our holy Father Theoctistus, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

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!

Living hon'rably as a priest, thou didst complete the course of martyrdom; thou didst extinguish the worship of idols and didst become a champion of thy flock, O divinely wise one. Therefore, we honor thee, mystically crying out: "Through thy prayers deliver us from calamity, ever-memorable Anthimus."

### 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.

## Gospel Reading - Matthew 21:33-42

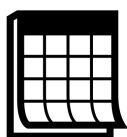
Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the

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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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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 Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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### THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, September 2nd

10 AM: Andrew & Odin Rivera Baptisms

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 3rd

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,  
Coffee Hour, Maintenance Meeting (*Church Sign*)

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### THIS WEEK

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

6:30 PM: Akathist: To the Mother of God

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study - Luke Chapter 7

## The Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

THURS, Sept 7th, 6:30 PM: Great Vespers

FRI, Sept 8th, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy

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### NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, September 9th

10 AM: Friends of the Poor

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, August 10th

7:45 AM: Baptism of Basil Kulp (Dn Damian & Lilly's son)

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,  
Coffee Hour, Parastas for Eva Lisowski offered by the  
William Benedetti Family



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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**ATTENTION! - DATE CHANGE - SUN, SEPT 24th - SPECIAL PARISH MEETING:** Attention all Parish Members. The Parish Council is calling a special meeting that requires the attention of all HTOC members. The meeting is being held to vote on changing our Annual Parish Meeting date from October to January, as well as the wording and guidelines for Parish Council size and requirements. The specific changes will be distributed beforehand. It's crucial that we have as many parishioners there as possible so please save the date and plan to attend. Thank you. Please note, the date was previously Sept 17th but has been changed to the 24th.

### Upcoming Events & Feast Days:

Sept 8th - Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

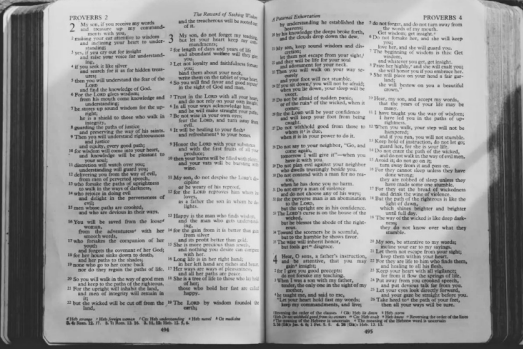
Sept 14th - Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross

Sept 16h - Wedding of Anela Saracina & Gregory Kurtz

Sept 17th - Parastas for Peter Holoviak (*following Liturgy*)

Please join us for our weekly

# BIBLE STUDY



**Thursdays, 11 AM - Noon**  
**Bring a Bible. Everyone is Welcome.**  
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 401 East Main Street - Downstairs in the Church

## HAS GOD BLESSED YOU WITH A GOOD SINGING VOICE?

**THE HOLY TRINITY CHOIR** is seeking new members. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please call or text Greg Polk at (570)362-2642. Previous choral experience is helpful but not required. All ages are welcome.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**September Birthdays:** Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), William Gurka (9/8), Vladimir Dutko (9/13), 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 & Anniversaries:** Marianne Haugh (9/3), William Gurka (9/8), Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6)



## 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-centered; 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

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Tom & Joan Austin, Lilly, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick, Dave Hamilton, David & Delores Voda, Nicole Hapeman, Archpriest Daniel Donlick & Family, Bob (Andrew) Lutzick **Departed:** George, Basil, Mat Delores Donlick, Bernie Baluta

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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.

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## 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."*

**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305**

**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840**

**Collections last Sunday (8/27): \$2,195**

**Shrimp Boil: \$1,793**

## The Morning Prayer of the Last Elders of Optina

*O Lord, grant that I may meet all that this coming day brings to me with spiritual tranquility. Grant that I may fully surrender myself to Thy holy Will. At every hour of this day, direct and support me in all things. Whatsoever news may reach me in the course of the day, teach me to accept it with a calm soul and the firm conviction that all is subject to Thy holy Will. Direct my thoughts and feelings in all my words and actions. In all unexpected occurrences, do not let me forget that all is sent down from Thee. Grant that I may deal straightforwardly and wisely with every member of my family, neither embarrassing nor saddening anyone. O Lord, grant me the strength to endure the fatigue of the coming day and all the events that take place during it. Direct my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive and to love.*

AMEN.

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