



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

12th Sunday after Pentecost + Sun, Sept 4th, 2022 + Hieromartyr Gorazd, Bishop of Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia



## Hymns for Today's Service

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to 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 Babýlas, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Thou didst ascend to the heights of the virtues, O Prophet Moses; therefore, thou wast deemed worthy to see the glory of God. Having received the grace-filled tablets of the Law, and bearing the grace of the writing within thyself, Thou wast the honorable praise of prophets, and a great mystery of piety.

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Thou didst guard the mighty works of faith in thy heart, therefore, thou didst not fear the tyrant; preserve us as well, Hieromartyr Babýlas, good servant of Christ!

The choir of prophets rejoices with Moses and Aaron today, for the fulfillment of their prophecy is in our midst: the Cross, by which Thou hast saved us, shines forth today. By their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

### 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 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet

**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!*

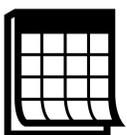
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not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### Gospel Reading - Matthew 19:16-26

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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## This Week's Schedule Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

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### **THIS WEEKEND**

Saturday, September 3rd

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, September 4th

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

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour

4PM: Youth & Family Cookout - Rain or Shine!

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### **THIS WEEK**

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

### **Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God**

WED, SEPT 7 @ 6:30 PM: Great Vespers

THURS, SEPT 8 @ 9 AM: Divine Liturgy for the Feast

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### **NEXT 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: Coffee Hour

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## YOUTH & FAMILY LABOR DAY WEEKEND COOKOUT



TODAY - Sunday, September 4th

**Cookout and Games begin at 4 PM**

*Ping Pong, Foosball, Outdoor Games*

*Followed by Campfire & Music*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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### **Annual parish council meeting/ Nominations for**

**Office** - Sunday, September 25, 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. Parishes throughout the Deanery will be attending so it will be a great time to meet, get to know and learn from one another. 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**

- Sun, September 4th** - Annual Family & Youth Labor Day Weekend Cookout
- Thur, September 8th** - Nativity of the Theotokos
- Wed, September 14th** - The Exaltation of the Cross
- Sun, September 18th** - Parish Council (budget approval)
- Sun, September 25th** - Annual Parish Meeting
- 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, October 9th** - Parish Council Meeting

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**September Birthdays:** Jason King (9/1), Marianne Haugh (9/3), William Gurka (9/8), Lynn Bankos (9/11), Kaleb Dutko (9/19), Brittany Marie Willis (9/20), Olivia Zawatski (9/22), 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:** William Gurka (9/8)  
**Anniversaries:** Jason & Coleen King (9/5), Dave & Diane Welgus (9/6)

**It costs nothing to become a Christian, but once you become one, then it costs you everything!**

Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

**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 Sunday:** \$1858

**PROPORTIONAL GIVING CHART**

How much is my weekly tithe?!

Proportional giving is the practice of returning to the Lord a portion of the financial treasure He has blessed us with in this life. This, of course, is done freely and out of love for God and His Church, not in response to an outward rule (*Freely you have received, freely give* - Matt 10:8). May this chart be helpful for you in prayerfully determining your level of giving, challenging yourself to return to God the good portion of His financial blessings.

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

**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, Met. Herman, Samir Abdo, Nesrin Dahdal, Sara Abdo, Mansour Abdo, Siwar Abdo, Silin Abdo **Departed:** Monk Arseny, Mat Patricia Bohush, Mat Anne Hopko, Met Kallistos Ware



## Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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### Quotes on Money, Sharing & Almsgiving

“Jesus emphasized financial issues so heavily because the pursuit of money and possessions often constitutes the single greatest competitor within human hearts against our willingness to love God with all our heart. In specifically identifying this competitor, Jesus could have chosen anger, lust, unforgiveness, gluttony, or disobedience, but he didn't. He chose money: "You cannot serve God and mammon" (Mt 6.24). Commenting on this subject, Wesley Wilmer wrote, "Scripture consistently reminds us that if Christ is not first in the use of our money, He is not first in our lives. Our use of possessions demonstrates materially our spiritual status."

Andrew Geleris, M.D.

*Money & Salvation, An Invitation to the Good Way*

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“Human beings have accumulated in their coffers gold and silver, clothes more sumptuous than useful, diamonds and other objects that are evidence of greed; then a foolish arrogance hardens their hearts; for they show little pity to their brothers and sisters in distress. What utter blindness! . . . Attend not to the law of the strong but to the law of the Creator. Help nature to the best of your ability, honor the freedom of creation, protect your species from dishonor, come to their aid in sickness, rescue them from poverty .... Seek to distinguish yourself from others only in your generosity. Be like gods to the poor, imitating God's mercy. Humanity has nothing so much in common with God as the ability to do good. “

St Gregory the Theologian

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“This is the rule of most perfect Christianity, its most exacting definition, its highest point, namely the seeking of the common good. For nothing can so make a person an imitator of Christ as caring for his neighbors.”

St John Chrysostom

“Let us not put our trust in a hope that Christ will come to enable us to continue our lives as we know them, continuing on with them in the same horizon of this world, an extension of all those creature comforts that satisfy us so easily. Let us rather be ready to accept the gift that He in fact offers us, knowing the cost of this gift, the cost to Him and also what is expected from us. As the disciples said as Jesus was about to begin the journey to Bethany, let us also go with Him that we may die with Him. In this way, and only in this way, will we ourselves come to share in the Paschal light that knows no evening.”

Fr John Behr

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“He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.”

Proverbs 19:16

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“The rich exist for the sake of the poor. The poor exist for the salvation of the rich.”

St. John Chrysostom

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“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

Jesus Christ, Luke 6:38

**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.