

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Elmira Heights, NY – 607-732-3980 – www.holytrinityorthodoxchurch.org



Sunday, January 31, 2021: 34th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 1 Holy Wonder-Workers and Un-Mercenaries Cyrus and John, and Those With Them

PLEDGE UPDATE FOR 2021: So far, for 2021, 14 parish households have turned in pledges, and \$53,880 has been pledged. That's 74 percent of the stewardship income we will need to meet our budgeted amount for 2021 Parishioner Donations.

(The Proposed 2021 parish budget is up for approval at today's Annual Meeting.)

In 2020, 20 households pledged. We hope that at least that many will turn in a pledge form for 2021.

Please submit your 2021 pledge by email, US mail, or in person:

Email frdavidcowan@gmail.com · 140 Horseheads Blvd., Elmira Heights NY 14903 – *Thank you!*

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 2021: TODAY – SUNDAY, JAN. 31, AFTER LITURGY

Orthodox Christian adult members of Holy Trinity Church who are active in the Sacraments may participate in voting and discussion on matters affecting the life of the parish.

Because of Covid restrictions, we will hold the Annual Meeting in the nave of the church. Everyone is asked, of course, to maintain distancing and wear masks throughout the meeting. Unfortunately we cannot serve refreshments this time.

All things considered, we have received many blessings from God as a parish family this past year. I look forward to reflecting on them with you, and I look forward to planning with you to wisely steward the resources and ministries of Holy Trinity Church in 2021!
– With love in Christ, Fr. David

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:

Most Services May Be Joined by Live Stream at Web Address www.facebook.com/htocelmiraheights or go to www.YouTube.com and search for "Holy Trinity Church Elmira Heights NY"

Today

8:50 AM Third Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, Followed by the 2021 Parish Annual Meeting

Youth will meet in the lower level of the Church during the meeting. No Zoom Church School today.

Monday, February 1

6:30 PM Great Vespers & Litya with the Blessing of Candles: The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Tuesday, February 2 – Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

8:50 AM Third Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, with the Blessing of Candles

Wednesday, February 3

7:00 PM "Orthodox Journeys" Adult Education & Fellowship – On Zoom; Check Email for Instructions

Saturday, February 6

5:00 PM Great Vespers

Private Confession Available Before Vespers by Appointment or After Vespers By Request

Sunday, February 7

8:50 AM Third Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

1:00 PM Church School Meets – By Zoom; Parents, check your email for instructions

TODAY'S EPISTLE Colossians 3:12-16 Brethren: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

TODAY'S GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30 Our Lord told this parable: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Prayer List

Memory Eternal: James, Helena, Tedros, Joseph, Dorothy, Nicholas, Jay; Mary; Fr. Joseph Gibson; Fr. Daniel Ressetar; Sharon; Fr. Joseph Irvin; Fr. James Doyle, Andrew; Joan; Helen, Josephina; John; John; Krislyn; Ralitsa Maltabas; Fr. Eugene Pianovich; Shirley Kohena; Jeffrey; Catherine; Maryanne, Marijana, Carlos; Donald; Dana; Wendy. All those taken from us by the Coronavirus, by sickness, violence, and accidents. Ever-memorable Marlene Loveland (Kathleen's mother, +1/29/17).

For Health: Archpriest Jason, Archpriest Nicholas, Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra, Archpriest Herman, Archpriest John, Archpriest John, Archpriest Ken James; Matushka Kathryn & Natalie; Rdr. Thomas & Mildred, Rdr. William, Mat. Cynthia, Mat. Anastasia; Robert Karney; Eileen, David, Samantha; newborn Michael & mother Elena; Joan; Nicholas; Scott, Steven; Juliana, Antonina; Ryan; expecting mothers Ashley, Lauren & Matushka Margaret; Jane Ann, Susan, James, James, Child Hannah, Joshua, Chloe, Helen, Nadezhda, Kathleen, Erica, Sherri, Ruth, Harriett, Katherine, Kristin, Sierra, Maria, Michael, Kate, Lorraine, Abigail. **Diocesan Prayer Requests:** Bishop ALEXIS; Bishop DANIEL; Fr. Michael; Fr. Igor Yakunin, Fr. Stephen and Nicholas Loposky; Dn. Edward & Mat. Holly Dawson; Reader John; Mat. Theodora Ressetar; Mat. Eleanor; Mat. Nancy; Mat. Julitssa; Volodymyr; Merrill; Gerard, Nikita, Michael, Dianna, McKendamin, Danica, Stacia, Sonia, Joseph, Joseph; child Mark, John, Kathleen, Melanie, Diana, Stephanie; Maria; Andrew, Liudmilla, Pamela, Alexis, Krista, William; George, Jessica; Roel, Wendy, Juliana, Alex, Emilia, Thomas, Joanne, George, James; Nicholas; Cheryl; John; Anna; Donna; Larry; Thomas; Joan; Marion; Nikolai, Margaret, George, Patricia. Drs. Carol & Steven, Dn. Michael, Adam; Dennis; Officers Luke, Boris & Charles, and all of the healthcare and public safety personnel in our parish and our communities; all those afflicted with the Coronavirus and those caring for them, those afflicted by sickness and injury. **Birthday:** Anthony Lyon (1/31). **Anniversary:** Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky (the Cowans' brother-in-marriage, Ordination to the Priesthood, 1/29/05).

Parish Children:

Lucia	Hannah	Jeremiah	Andrew	Myra	Anthony	Anysia
Lydia	Natalie	Emilia	Patrick	Sophia	Dmitri	Jonah
Gabriel	Angelina	John	Thomas	Nikolai	Melania	Alexei
Larissa	Julianna	Nadia	Nathan	Justus	Gabriel	Ezekiel

College Students:

Anna McKane – Duke University Katherine McKane – Sarah Lawrence College
Please give prayer requests to Fr. David, Dn. Michael, Subdcn. Walter, or Reader William. Typically, prayers for Newly Departed and Health remain on this list for 40 days, unless requested otherwise. Thank you.

PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible: In thine ineffable goodness, look down upon us, thy people gathered in thy Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou hearest our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who lovest mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Corona Virus. Send thine angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace; that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRAYER IN A TIME OF CIVIL UNREST

Our Father, great and glorious God Who art in Heaven, yet Who dost look upon the earth with compassion, meting out Thy justice and Thy mercy upon nations: look down upon our earthly and temporal homeland, the United States of America, which is now divided by strife, and send Thy Spirit, the Spirit of peace, upon us like a heavenly Breeze, to restore peace to our cities, our countrysides, and our hearts. May He, the Spirit of truth Who leads the saints into all truth, teach us the truth, that we may abide in it, repenting of our error and ignorance. May He, the Spirit of righteousness, lead us in the way of righteousness, that we might cast aside and forever reject all hatred and bigotry. May He, the Spirit of Justice, strengthen us to restore justice to our land, that we may root out all corruption. O Father Almighty, adorn our rulers with a spirit of wisdom; adorn our civil authorities and the police and all who enforce the law with a spirit of mercy and restraint; and adorn all who dwell in our land with a spirit of love for one another, regardless of race or class. O Father without beginning, Who at the breathing of Thy Spirit didst cause dry land to appear out of the churning waters of chaos when the world was founded: deliver our earthly homeland from disorder, and grant us all to stand firmly on the ground of Thy justice and Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom is due all worship, together with thee, the God and Father, and the All-holy Spirit, the Comforter, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Please consider your financial PLEDGE to the parish for 2021.

THE “GIVING GRID”

Our 20 pledgers for 2020 pledged an average of \$56/week.

If everyone who pledges were to increase their pledge

by even 1 percent of their income;

and if those households who aren't yet pledging (many of whom already give!)

could commit to a pledged amount for 2021,

then we could raise that average amount to \$73/week per pledging household ...

Then, we could meet our anticipated budgeted Parishioner Support of \$73,000 for the year 2021, just through the fulfilling of pledges!

That would be another great step in the maturing **stewardship** of our parish family!

So, ask yourself:

Where am I on the grid?

If I'm not at 10%, can I move 1 square to the left

and pledge that amount for 2021?

	Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Beyond a Tithe		Weekly Tithe	Weekly Upper Range of Giving			Weekly Middle Range of Giving			Weekly Lower Range of Giving		
			15%	12%		10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%
A	\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
B	\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
C	\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
D	\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
E	\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
F	\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
G	\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
H	\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15

**Pledge Commitment Forms were mailed out Saturday 12/12;
look for yours in your mailbox.**

**Thank you for your generous stewardship
of the ministries of Holy Trinity Church!**

**With love in Christ,
Fr. David**