The Sunday Messenger

+ Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre + June 28th, 2026 + Holy and Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cyrus and John + 4th Sunday after Pentecost +

Hymns & Readings

For Today's Divine Liturgy

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.

Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy martyrs, Cyrus and John, as an invincible rampart, O Christ God; through their prayers, frustrate the plans of the heathens, and strengthen the faith of the Orthodox Christians, for Thou alone art good and the Lover of man.

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.

Having received the gift of miracles through divine grace, O saints, you work wonders in the world unceasingly. You remove all of our passions through your invisible surgery, divinely-wise Cyrus and glorious John, for you are truly divine physicians.

Please Sing Along!

Singing throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my

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!

servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

"The centurion sought healing for another and found faith for himself."

— St. Ambrose of Milan

THIS WEEKEND
SAT, June 27th
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, June 28th
Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM,
Parish Potluck Coffee Hour,
Great Vespers for Feast of the Apostles

FEAST DAY
Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
SUN (TODAY) Following Coffee Hour - Great Vespers
MON @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy

THIS WEEK
Bible Study is on Summer Break - Stay tuned!
WED @ 11 AM - 1 PM - Church Open for Prayer
WED @ 6 PM - Akathist
WED @ 6:30 PM - Orthodoxy 101

NEXT WEEKEND
SAT, July 4th
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, July 5th
Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM,
Coffee Hour, Orthodoxy 101 @ noon

July 5th Parastas following Divine Liturgy
In Memory of William, Julia, Eva, Alexander
Offered by Marie Talpash

If you would like to submit names for this Parastas/Memorial Service, please give them to Fr. Innocent in writing just before the service begins.

July 5th Mission Coffee pickup to support Ephraim & Andrew's Mission Trip after Divine Liturgy. Pay by cash or check made out to Melanie Neal. Thank you!

Bible Study is currently on summer break
ORTHODOXY 101 Alternating between Sundays @ noon following the coffee hour & Wednesday following the Akathist service. Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about our faith.
Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is Sun, June 28th.
Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next FOP is Saturday, July 11th.
Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is Sunday, July 19th.

Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip: Ephraim and Andrew Neal will be joining other Orthodox youth to serve at the Appalachia Service Project. The ASP provides

opportunities for youth and adults from around the country to repair and replace homes for low-income families in rural central Appalachia. To volunteer, each participant is required to raise funds to cover expenses for the service project, PLUS travel to and from Appalachia. This year, Ephraim and Andrew will conduct fundraisers to help fund the cost, approx $800 each. For the first fundraiser they will offer Fresh Roasted Coffee - roasted with love in the rectory roastery (yes, we have one). This coffee will be a custom "Mission Blend" - roasted, prepared, and packaged by Fr. Innocent and the Neal boys. The cost will be $20 for a 12oz bag / ground or whole bean. *You can support Ephraim and Andrew by preordering yours today on the order sheet in the vestibule. Pickup Date will be Sunday, July 5th after Divine Liturgy.*

Orthodox Family Day at Knoebels: A FREE Picnic Dinner at Knoebel's Amusement Park on Sunday July 19th. Everyone is invited. The Harrisburg "O" Club of the FOCA will be sponsoring an Orthodox Picnic outing. Arrive after your Liturgy and stop by Pavilion B (new pavilion this year) to check in and spend the afternoon at the Park. At 6pm there will be a Picnic Dinner in the Pavilion. Hamburgers, hotdogs, sodas and side dishes will be served.

June Birthdays: June Willis (6/1), Anna Cardoni (6/2), Rose Kennedy (6/2), Marlene Latzman (6/3), Noelle Flis (6/6), Patrick Ciak-Linton (6/6), Fr. Innocent Neal (6/7), Julia Stankiewicz (6/7), Doreen Cherkis (6/10), Rebecca Willis (6/12), Christopher Polk (6/12), Melanie Flis (6/13), Symeon Clark (6/17), Noah Nealon (6/17), Eric Zbegner (6/18), Stephen Serafin (6/19), Barbara King (6/19), Constantine Rosencrans (6/19), Jen Hanson (6/19), Dom Astolfi (6/19), Zoryana Duda (6/20), Aimee Austin (6/20), Amy Rubino Welgus (6/23), Laura Polk (6/28), Kyra Zoranski (6/28), Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30), Marlene Latzman (6/31) **Anniversaries:** Tom & Joan Austin (6/5), Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz (6/6), Matthew & April Redfeld (6/7), Pdn Sergei & Mat Vicki (6/15), David & Deborah Mills (6/16), Leigh & Jodie Storey (6/18)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Laura Polk (6/28), Kyra Zoranski (6/28), Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30), Marlene Latzman (6/31), Christina Cherkis (7/2)

... of the Saints, Fathers & Teachers

The Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42).

On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression.

After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a

PARISH PRAYER LIST // Homebound: Evelyn, Vladimir, Marie, Pearl, Jeri, David, Paul, Archpriest Theodore, Mat. Elizabeth, Mary, Patricia, Barbara, Jeri, Joan, Irene, Alice, Sylvia, Paul **// Sick & Suffering:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Elizabeth Hutz, Mary Hutz, David Lezinsky, Tom Vaskalis, Tom O'Brian, David, Delores Tressa, Elaine & Forrest Hanson, Alexandra, Jody, Michael Noice, Paul Loftus, Santo, Susan Shiposki, Dn Jerimiah, William, Alan, Tim, Ann, Paul, Bill, Linda, Betty, Jim, George, Ali, Athansios, Hanna **// Recently Departed:** James, Mark, Ruth, Walter **// Pray for our Catechumens:** Tom, Gail, Jaqueline, John, Adrienne, Michelle, Jesse, Katie, Lisa, Aaric, Tyler, Dom, David, Ashley, Audrey, Jessica, Nicholas, Nicholas // **Inquirers:** Steve, Nicholas

Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4).

In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness.

And straightway- O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles.

His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by Saint John Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $2,840
Last Week's Collection (6/21/26) : TBD

Scan to make an online donation.

Today's Coffee Hour

Thank you to **everyone who provided for today's potluck** at Coffee Hour. We are also thankful to those who help clean up, including our parish catechumens who help after each Sunday's meal. Would you consider sponsoring a coffee hour with a friend? See Fr. Innocent, Mat. Melanie or Joanne Dutko.