



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

June 30th, 2024 + 1st Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Sunday of All Saints



prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Please Sing Along!

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

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 11:33-12:2

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hymns for This Week

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God: "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, // grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. By their

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 – Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.



This Week’s Schedule Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND – Sunday of All Saints

Saturday, June 29th

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, June 30th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Holy Resurrection Special Parish Meeting

following Coffee Hour

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THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist to St. Alexis Toth

THURS 11 AM: Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND – Sunday of Saints of North America

Saturday, July 6th

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, July 7th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour



ANNOUNCEMENTS & Upcoming Parish Events

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Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is July 14th @ 11:30 AM

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, July 13th @ 9 AM

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is July 28th.

Holy Resurrection Coffee Hour: Holy Resurrection Community will be providing our Coffee Hour meal every second Sunday of the month. We are very grateful and blessed to have you with us! See Cookie if you have any questions or would like to contribute.

Orthodoxy 101 Class: Classes every Saturday @ 3:30 PM for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. Classes last 1 hour followed by Great Vespers.

Friends of the Poor Summer Appeal: As we transition into Summer, we have had requests for under garments. We have received donations of under garments in the past, however, most were not passed on due to the condition of the garments. So we are making an appeal for monetary donations during the remainder of the month so that new under garments may be purchased. Thank you all for your generosity in keeping our Friends of the Poor ministry stocked, to provide needed items to the less fortunate. Please earmark donations to “Friends of the Poor”.

TODAY – Holy Resurrection Special Meeting: There will be a special meeting for members of the Holy Resurrection community following Divine Liturgy on June 30th. This meeting is for a discussion about the current repairs needed for the parish building.

Parish Food Festival: In lieu of our annual bazaar this year we will instead host a food festival. The date for this event is currently slated for the weekend of 4/5 October. An organizational meeting will be held on 2 July at 6:30 PM at the pavilion. Anyone interested in helping to organize or to provide input for this year's event is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846 with any questions or suggestions.

Upcoming Pierogi Project: The next pierogi project is on July 12th & 13th. The sign up sheet is in the vestibule. There will be no orders taken. These will be for the Parish Food Festival in October.

BLESSING OF VEHICLES - SUN, JULY 21st: Vehicles are traditionally blessed on or near the Feast of St. Elijah (July 20th) who was taken up by God into the heavens in a fiery chariot. We are all accustomed to having our homes blessed around the Feast of Theophany, yet we also spend a great deal of time in OR on our vehicles traveling through town, on vacations, for work, and for recreation. This blessing is a request to Our Lord that He send a Guardian Angel to protect and keep both drivers and passengers in safety, and to bless our vehicles given to us by God for their good use. Bring your vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles or any other form of transportation on Sunday, July 21st to be blessed immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Appalachia Service Project - Thank you to all who have offered support for Ephraim Neal to participate in his upcoming mission trip with the Appalachia Service Project. If you would like to learn more or offer a donation please see Ephraim.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays: Christina Cherkis (7/2), Marley Willis (7/10), Xenia Clark (7/11), Luke Ausin (7/15), Diane Welgus (7/18), Rachael Talpash (7/24), Katrina Zbegner (7/26), Donna Stankiewicz (7/27), Christopher Dutko (7/28), Shannon Bisset (7/28), Deborah Mills (7/31)

July Anniversaries: Lisa & Scott Harvey (7/15), Marianne & Jeremy Haugh (7/18), Marie & Vladimir Dutko (7/26), Tom & Alexanne Conklin (7/27)

This Week: **Birthdays** - Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30), Marlene Lutzman (6/31), Christina Cherkis (7/2)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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The Sunday of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (Philokalia [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the Octoechos, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

Saint Nikódēmos of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nikódēmos is found in his book The Fourteen Epistles of Saint Paul (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous..."

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Tom & Joan Austin, Joan Lello, Barbara Pascoe, Elizabeth Hutz, Delores Voda, David Goobic, David Lezinsky, Fr. Gregory White, Mary Gurka, Mary Ann Kudedy, Tom Youngblood, Catherine Gates, John Boyle, Nicholas, Tatiana & Constantine **Departed:** Rose Marie, Agaphia

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not

attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of Saint Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.



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. + Jesus Christ

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<p>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305 Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840 Last Week's Collection (6/23/24) : \$2,458</p>
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