The Sunday Messenger

+ Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre + July 19th, 2026 + Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils + 7th Sunday after Pentecost +

Hymns & Readings

For Today's Divine Liturgy

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith. O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee.

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Please Sing Along!

Singing throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Romans 15:1-7

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Gospel - Matthew 9:27-35

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all

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!

that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!” But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.” Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

"The greatest blindness is not the loss of bodily sight but the inability to recognize God when He stands before us."

— St. Nicholai of Zicha & South Canaan

THIS WEEKEND
SAT, July 18th
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, July 19th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

July 19th - Parish Town Hall during Coffee Hour
Orthodox Family Day at Knoebels!

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 25th
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, July 26th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Blessing of Vehicles,
Parish Potluck, ASP Presentation

+ Blessing of Vehicles immediately following Liturgy +
Appalachia Service Project Presentation @ Coffee Hour
Presented by Ephraim & Andrew Neal

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, July 26th.
Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next FOP is Saturday, August 8th
Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. The next Parish Council is August 9th.

TODAY - HTOC Town Hall:, July 19th: There will be a Town Hall during coffee hour on July 19th to discuss our various parish projects. Topics will include: Bell Tower @ Community Space, HVAC, Glide Chair Replacement and Constructive Feedback for the Harvest Dinner. The Town Hall will be an informal discussion and everyone is encouraged to provide questions / comments on these or any other topics during the meeting.

TODAY - Sun, July 19th, 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.

Sun, July 26th, Blessing of Vehicles: 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 26th to be blessed immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Attention Families! August 2nd Nature Hike

Sunday, August 2nd following Coffee Hour, the HTOC Youth will embark on a Nature Hike led by Steve Nealon w/ Ice Cream @ Hillside Dairy to follow – weather permitting. If the weather is not cooperating we will stay at church, for games and ice cream. Save the date and invite friends! Everyone is invited.

July Birthdays: Christina Cherkis (7/2), Marley Willis (7/10), Xenia Clark (7/11), Luke Austin (7/15), Diane Welgus (7/18), Rachael Talpash (7/24), Damian Rosencrans (7/24), Ava Spinghel (7/25), Katrina Zbegner (7/26), Chris Yanovich (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), JP & Denise Meck (7/24), Marie & Vladimir Dutko (7/26), Tom & Alexanne Conklin (7/27), Kristin & Bill Resnick (7/31)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Rachael Talpash (7/24), Damian Rosencrans (7/24), Ava Spinghel (7/25), JP & Denise Meck (7/24)

... of the Saints, Fathers & Teachers

St. John Chrysostom

Commentary on today's Gospel - Matthew 9:27-30

"When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David.' Why does He delay them as they cry after Him? Once again He teaches us to flee the glory that comes from the crowds. Since the house was nearby, He leads them there to heal them privately. This is shown also by His command afterward that they tell no one.

This becomes a severe accusation against the Jews. These blind men, deprived of bodily sight, came to faith through hearing alone; but the Jews, though they witnessed His miracles with their own eyes, responded in exactly the opposite way. Notice also the earnestness of these blind men. They do not merely approach Him casually, but cry aloud, asking for nothing except mercy. They call Him 'Son of David,' a title of honor that confessed Him to be the promised Messiah.

Observe also that Christ often wished to be asked before granting healing. He did not do this because He needed information, but so that no one could accuse Him of displaying His power for empty glory. He desired first to reveal the faith of those seeking Him and to make their virtue evident before all.

Therefore, after entering the house, He asks them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' He asks not because He is ignorant of what is in their hearts, but because He wishes to draw forth their confession. Their answer is brief and full of faith: 'Yes, Lord.' They no longer merely call Him Son of David, but Lord, rising to a fuller confession.

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, Don Redmond **// Recently Departed:** James, Ruth, Walter, Dn Christopher, Claire Ann, Clement, Ernie, Elizabeth **// 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

"These blind men, though deprived of sight, believed through hearing alone; while others, who saw the miracles with their own eyes, remained blind through unbelief."

Then He touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith be it unto you.' Consider His wisdom. He attributes the healing to their faith, teaching us that faith is the root of every blessing. Everywhere He speaks this way: to the woman with the issue of blood, 'Your faith has made you well'; to the centurion, 'As you have believed, so let it be done for you.' In this manner He encourages all people to approach Him with confidence.

After opening their eyes He commands them sternly, 'See that no one knows it.' Again He teaches humility and avoids every appearance of seeking human praise. Yet they, unable to contain their joy, proclaimed Him throughout that whole region. They were not acting out of disobedience so much as gratitude. Their hearts overflowed with thanksgiving for so great a gift.

Immediately afterward another man was brought to Him, one who was mute because of a demon. Christ cast out the demon, and the mute man spoke. The people marveled, saying that nothing like this had ever been seen in Israel. But the Pharisees, instead of joining in thanksgiving, accused Him, saying that He cast out demons by the prince of demons.

Do you see the difference between sincere hearts and envious ones? The crowds, though unlearned, were led by the evidence of the miracles to glorify God. The Pharisees, though learned in the Scriptures, allowed envy to blind them more completely than these men had ever been blinded in body. For envy darkens the soul and refuses to acknowledge what is plain before the eyes.

Christ, however, was not turned aside by either praise or slander. He continued going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. Neither the hatred of His enemies nor the admiration of the crowds altered His purpose. His concern was always for the salvation of mankind. Thus He teaches us not to seek the approval of people, nor to become discouraged by those who oppose us, but to persevere in doing good, leaving both praise and blame in the hands of God."

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

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: $2,840
Last Week's Collection (7/12) : $

Scan to make an online donation.

Thank You

Thank you to **Joann Dutko for today's coffee hour** and to those who helped clean up! Next Sunday is our parish potluck. Bring a dish to share!

Would you sponsor a coffee hour with a friend?
See Fr. Innocent, Mat. Melanie or Joanne Dutko.