



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

August 18th, 2024 + 8th Sunday after Holy Pentecost + Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria



Hymns for This Week

(Tone 7) By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

(Tone 1) In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. / In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life, // and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

(Tone 4) Let us praise as is meet, O faithful, / the most comely, radiant and divinely wise martyrs: / Most blessed Florus and all-venerable Laurus, / who proclaimed to all the uncreated Trinity. / Suffering unto bloodshed, / they were adorned with brilliant crowns. // Entreat Christ our God to save our souls!

(Tone 7) The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / "The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

(Tone 8) Today all the world honors in glory the divinely wise Florus and Laurus as pious martyrs who suffered for Christ. / Through their prayers may we receive grace and mercy // and be delivered from calamity and temptation, and from wrath and sorrow on the Day of Judgment!

(Tone 2) Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, // she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

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 1:10-18

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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 14:14-22

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.



This Week's Schedule Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria

Saturday, August 17th
Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM
Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, August 18th
Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Followed by Coffee Hour
HTOC Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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THIS WEEK

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Church open for prayer
WED 6PM: Akathist: Mother of God Healer of Cancer
THUR 11 AM: Bible Study

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NEXT WEEKEND - Holy Apostle Titus

Saturday, August 24th
Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM
Great Vespers @ 5 PM
Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, August 25th
Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Ephraim Neal's Appalachia Service Project
Presentation during Parish Potluck
HROC Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Gospel of St. Luke with discussions.

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

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is August 25th.

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be SAT, September 21st @ 9 AM

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Aug 18th @ 11:30 AM

Holy Resurrection Parish Council Meeting will be the 4th Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, Aug 25th @ 11:30 AM

+++ Upcoming Events +++

Foodfest Meeting Mon, Aug 19 at 6:30 PM at the Pavillion. Everyone is invited to attend. This is a major fundraiser for the parish so we can use all the help we can get.

St. Tikhon's Southern BBQ Night: We have all been invited, along with the entire Wilkes-Barre Deanery, to a free Southern BBQ Night at St. Tikhon's Seminary on August 22 at 6 PM. To attend RSVP at events.stots.edu or

via email at info@stots.edu. If you are unable to RSVP by either of those methods let Fr. Innocent know, and he will do it for you. Need a ride or want to carpool? Let Fr. Innocent know and we will make arrangements.

Holy Resurrection Coffee Hour: Holy Resurrection Community is 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.

Aug 25, Appalachia Service Project Presentation: Ephraim Neal and his uncle Matthew Reed, who accompanied Ephraim on his recent mission trip, will offer a brief presentation on the work they did that so many of you supported. The presentation will be on Aug 25 during Coffee Hour.

Aug 29, Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist: The Holy Trinity & Holy Resurrection Communities are invited to celebrate the Patronal Feast Day of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church at their parish in Edwardsville. Join them Thursday, August 29 at 9:00 AM for a Divine Liturgy commemorating the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. All attending are invited to share a potluck brunch in Repella Hall immediately following the service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays: Jonathan Sims (8/6), Liam Reznak (8/9), Dn Michael McCartney (8/13), Joe Lello (8/14), Lisa Talpash (8/16), Greg Kurtz Jr. (8/16), William Talpash (8/19), Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23), Ephraim Neal (8/25), Sylvia Dreater (8/29) Lindsey Rivera (8/31) **Anniversaries:** Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3), Greg & Laura Polk (8/17), George & Rita Krill (8/29)

This Week: Birthdays: William Talpash (8/19), Olivia Dutko (8/22), Carl Zbegner (8/22), Denise Meck (8/23)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria

The Martyrs Florus and Laurus were brothers by birth not only in flesh but in spirit. They lived in the second century at Byzantium, and afterwards they settled in Illyria [now Yugoslavia]. By occupation they were stone-masons (their teachers in this craft were the Christians Proclus and Maximus, from whom also the brothers learned about life pleasing to God).

The prefect of Illyria, Likaion, sent the brothers to a nearby district for work on the construction of a pagan temple. The saints toiled at the structure, distributing to the poor the money they earned, while they kept strict fast and prayed without ceasing.

Once, the son of the local pagan-priest Mamertin carelessly approached the structure, and a chip of stone hit him in the eye, severely injuring him. Saints Florus and Laurus assured the upset father, that his son would be healed.

They brought the youth to consciousness and told him to have faith in Christ. After this, as the youth confessed Jesus Christ as the true God, the brothers prayed for him, and the eye was healed. In view of such a miracle, even the father of the youth believed in Christ.

When the construction of the temple was completed, the brothers gathered the Christians together, and going through the temple, they smashed the idols. In the eastern part of the temple they set up the holy Cross. They spent all night in prayer, illumined with heavenly light. Having learned of this, the head of the district condemned to burning the former pagan priest Mamertin and his son and 300 Christians.

The martyrs Florus and Laurus, having been sent back to the prefect Likaion, were thrown down an empty well and covered over with earth. After many years, the relics of the holy martyrs were uncovered incorrupt, and transferred to Constantinople. In the year 1200 the Novgorod pilgrim Anthony saw them. Stephen of

Novgorod saw the heads of the martyrs in the Pantokrator monastery around the year 1350.

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos

The Lord Who, on Mount Sinai, gave the Fifth Commandment, *Honor thy father and thy mother*, showed by His own example how one should respect one's parents. Hanging on the Cross in agony, He remembered His Mother, and indicating the Apostle John He said to her: *Woman, behold thy son*. After that, He said to John: *Behold thy mother*. And so, providing for His Mother, He breathed His last.

John had a home on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, in which the Theotokos then lived. She dwelt there to the end of her days on earth. By her prayers, kind guidance, meekness, and patience, she greatly assisted her Son's apostles.

She spent most of her remaining time on earth in Jerusalem, often visiting those places that reminded her of the great events and of the great works of her Son. She especially visited Golgotha, Bethlehem, and the Mount of Olives. Of her few distant journeys, her visit to St. Ignatius the God-bearer in Antioch is recorded; as is her visit to Lazarus (whom our Lord resurrected on the fourth day), the Bishop of Cyprus. She also visited Mount Athos, which she blessed; and she stayed in Ephesus with St. John the Evangelist during the time of the great persecution of Christians in Jerusalem.

In her old age, she often prayed to her Lord and God on the Mount of Olives, the site of His Ascension, that He take her from this world as soon as possible. On one of these occasions, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that she would find repose within three days. The angel gave her a palm-branch, which was to be carried in her funeral procession. She returned home with great joy, hoping in her heart to see her Son's apostles just once more in this life. The Lord fulfilled her wish, and the apostles, borne by angels in the clouds, gathered together at the house on Mount Zion.

With great rejoicing she saw them, encouraged them, counseled them, and comforted them. Then she peacefully gave her soul to God without pain or physical illness.

The apostles took up her coffin, from which a heavenly fragrance arose - and, in the company of many Christians, bore it to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the sepulcher of her parents, Saints Joachim and Anna. By God's providence, the procession was concealed by a cloud from the evil Jews. Even so, Aphthonius, a Jewish priest, grabbed the coffin with the intention of overturning it, but an angel of God severed both his hands. He then cried out to the apostles for help, and was healed upon declaring his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Thomas was absent - again, according to God's providence - in order that a new and all-glorious mystery of the Holy Theotokos would be revealed. Thomas arrived on the third day and desired to venerate the body of the Holy Most-pure One. But when the apostles opened the sepulcher, they found only the winding sheet: the body was not in the tomb!

That evening, the Theotokos, surrounded by a host of angels, appeared to the apostles and said to them: "Rejoice, I will be with you always."

The Theotokos' age at the time of her Dormition is not known exactly, but the overwhelming opinion is that she was over sixty years of age.



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 (8/11/24) : \$3,640</p> |
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