



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

August 25th, 2024 + 9th Sunday after Pentecost + Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew; Holy Apostle Titus



(Tone 2) Titus, worthy of all praise and preacher of Christ's mysteries, / thou wast Paul's companion, and with him taught us the doctrine of God. / Therefore we cry out to thee: // "Never cease to intercede for the sake of us all!"

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 3:9-17

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gospel - Matthew 14:22-34

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the

Hymns for This Week

(Tone 8) Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst acept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

(Tone 3) Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Titus, / entreat the merciful God, // to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

(Tone 8) By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

(Tone 4) Thou hast appeared to the universe as a great sun, / shining with the radiance of thy teachings and awesome miracles. // Thou dost enlighten those who honor thee, O Apostle of the Lord, Bartholomew.

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!

waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.



This Week's Schedule

Doly Trinity Orthodox Church

THIS WEEKEND - Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew; Holy Apostle Titus

Saturday, August 24th

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Parastas for Marge Zavatski

Offered by Bill Gurka

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, August 25th

Resurrectional Matins @ 8 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Ephraim Neal's Appalachia Service Project

Presentation during Parish Potluck

HROC Parish Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM

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THIS WEEK

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

WED 6:30 PM: Vespers for Beheading of

John the Baptist (at Holy Trinity)

THUR 9AM: Patronal Divine Liturgy at St John the

Baptist Orthodox Church (in Edwardsville)

NO THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEKEND - Church New Year: St. Simeon the Stylite and his mother, Ven.

Martha

Saturday, August 31st

Orthodoxy 101 @ 3:30 PM

Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Confession available before or after Vespers

Sunday, September 1st

Resurrectional Matins @ 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

Followed by Coffee Hour



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, Sept 8th @ 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 +++

TODAY - SPECIAL COLLECTION for Intern Dn Nicholas Johnson and Family:

Today is the last day to have our Summer Intern from St. Tikhon's Seminary - Dn Nicholas Johnson and Family - with us. Our interns make many sacrifices to be with us and contribute to the parish in many ways. Dn Nicholas's hard work and love for the church has been inspiring - especially in his most recent presentation on St. Alexis for which we are so grateful. If you are able, **would you please consider making a donation to the Johnson family to help support them in their last year of seminary?** Check's can be made out to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church with a note at the bottom (Dn Nicholas & Family) and left at the

candlestand OR feel free to offer your gift to them directly. We will miss them greatly and hope they come and see us regularly throughout the coming year. May God grant them many years!

TODAY - 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.

Sept 15, Holy Resurrection Special Meeting:

A special meeting is required on September 15th for all members of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church relating to the parish closure. Details for the meeting have been sent to parishioners via email and mail. If you have any questions please see Brian Hutz.

Sept 15, First Day of Church School:

September 15th is the first day of Church school for all children (preschool through 12th grade). Class begins immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sundays downstairs in the church hall. Please sign up for your child on the signup sheet in the Narthex (vestibule). If you have any questions please see Paula Holoviak.

Holy Trinity Foodfest – October 4 & 5:

The foodfest is just around the corner. Please consider volunteering your time before, during and after preparing and serving foods, setting up and breaking down tables & chairs, parking cars or just helping wherever the need arises. Beginning on 1 September please check the information stand in the vestibule for food prep schedules, volunteer sign up sheets, information on how to donate money or supplies plus overall information in general. Your time, talents and donations will always be appreciated. If you have any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact Sandy @ 571-274-5846.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays: Joan Lello (8/1), 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)

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This Week:

Birthdays: Ephraim Neal (8/25), Sylvia Dreater (8/29) Lindsey Rivera (8/31) **Anniversaries:** George & Rita Krill (8/29)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew from Anastasiopolis to Lipari

The Transfer of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew took place at the end of the sixth century. His apostolic activity and martyr's end are remembered by the Church on June 11. The Apostle Bartholomew suffered for Christ in Armenian Albanus (now Baku) in the year 71, where his holy relics were. Numerous miracles occurred from the relics of the holy Apostle, and many of the unbelieving were converted to Christ. Under the emperor Anastasius (491-518) the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew were transferred into the newly constructed city of Anastasiopolis (or Dura) and remained there until the end of the sixth century.

When the city of Anastasiopolis was captured by the Persian emperor Chozroes, Christians took up the chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew and fled with it to the shores of the Black Sea. Having overtaken them, pagan priests threw the chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew into the sea. Four other chests containing the relics of the holy Martyrs Papias, Lucian, Gregory and Acacius were also thrown into the sea.

By the power of God the chests did not sink into the depths of the sea, but miraculously floated upon the waves and reached Italy. The chest with the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew came to land at the island of Lipari, and the remaining chests continued their journey and came to land at various places in Italy. The chest with the relics of the Martyr Papias halted at Sicily, the Martyr Lucian at Messina, the Martyr Gregory at Calabria, and the Martyr Acacius at Askalon.

Myrrh flowed from the relics of the Apostle Bartholomew, healing people of various illnesses. The holy relics remained in the church of the island of Lipari until the middle of the ninth century when the island was captured by pagans. Christian merchants took up the holy relics of the Apostle Bartholomew and transferred them to the city of Beneventum, near Naples, where they were received with great veneration and placed in the main church of the city.

Apostle Titus of the Seventy

Saint Titus, Apostle of the Seventy was a native of the island of Crete, the son of an illustrious pagan. In his youth he studied Hellenistic philosophy and the ancient poets. Preoccupied by the sciences, Titus led a virtuous life, not devoting himself to the vices and passions characteristic of the majority of pagans. He preserved his virginity, as the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer (December 20) testifies of him.

For such a manner of life the Lord did not leave him without His help. At age twenty Saint Titus heard a voice in a dream, suggesting that he abandon Hellenistic wisdom, which could not provide salvation for his soul, but rather to seek that which would save him. After this dream, Saint Titus waited yet another year, since it was not actually a command, but it did guide him to familiarize himself with the teachings of the prophets of God. The first that he happened to read was the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Having opened it to the 47th Chapter, he was struck by the words, speaking as it were about his own spiritual condition.

When news reached Crete about the appearance of a Great Prophet in Palestine, and about the great miracles He worked, the governor of the island of Crete (an uncle of Titus) sent him there. This Prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, incarnate of the Most Holy Virgin Mary Who came into the world for the redemption of the race

of mankind from the oppression of ancestral sin. At Jerusalem, Saint Titus saw the Lord. He heard His preaching and believed in Him. He witnessed the suffering and death of the Savior on the Cross, His glorious Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven. On the day of Pentecost the future apostle heard how the Twelve Apostles, after the descent of the Holy Spirit, spoke in various languages, among which was the Cretan language (Acts 2: 11).

Saint Titus accepted Baptism from the Apostle Paul and became his closest disciple. He accompanied Saint Paul on his missionary journeys, fulfilling the tasks entrusted to him. He was involved in establishing new churches, and was with Paul in Jerusalem.

Saint Titus was numbered among the Seventy Apostles and was made Bishop of Crete by the Apostle Paul. Around the year 65, not long before his second imprisonment, the Apostle Paul sent a pastoral epistle to his son in the Faith (Tit. 1: 4). When the Apostle Paul was taken like a criminal to Rome to stand trial before Caesar, Saint Titus left his flock in Crete for a time and went to Rome to be of service to his spiritual Father.

After Saint Paul's death by martyrdom, Titus returned to Gortyna, the chief city of Crete. Saint Titus peacefully guided his flock and toiled at enlightening the pagans with the light of faith in Christ. He was granted the gift of wonderworking by the Lord.

By such miracles Saint Titus brought many to faith in Christ. After bringing the light of faith to the surrounding regions, Saint Titus died peacefully at the age of 97. At the time of his death, his face shone like the sun.



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 (8/18/24) : \$2,301</p>
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