The Sunday Messenger

+ Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre + Aug 2nd, 2026 + Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen + 9th Sunday after Pentecost +

Hymns & Readings

For Today's Divine Liturgy

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!

Thy relics have risen from the depths of the earth, like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation. The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them, dutifully honors thee, O Protomartyr Stephen. Preserve us from error and heresy by thy intercession!

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!

Thou wast the first to be sown on the earth by the Heavenly Husbandman, O all-praised one, and wast the first to shed thy blood on the earth for Christ, O blessed one. Thou wast the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven, O Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.

Please Sing Along!

Singing 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

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!

when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the 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.

"Where trust in God increases, fear diminishes."

— St. Isaac the Syrian

Dormition Fast Begins: Aug 1st thru 15th

THIS WEEKEND
SAT, Aug 1st
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, Aug 2nd
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

+ Youth Nature Hike following Coffee Hour +

THIS WEEK
Bible Study is on Summer Break - Stay tuned!
WED @ 11 AM - 1 PM - Church Open for Prayer

Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
WED, Aug 5th @ 6:30 PM - Great Vespers w/ Lity
THURS, Aug 6th @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Fruit
followed by Festal Coffee Hour

NEXT WEEKEND
SAT, Aug 8th
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, Aug 9th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Bible Study is currently on summer break
ORTHODOXY 101 Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about our faith. We just completed our summer session but will have more classes coming soon. Classes on Wednesdays and/or Sundays.
Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is Sun, August 30th.
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 TBD

TODAY - Youth 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.

Upcoming Ministry Committee Meetings
Aug 16th - Hospitality / Coffee Hour Meeting
Aug 23rd - Friends of the Poor Meeting
Aug 30th - Annual Church School Planning Meeting

If you serve in one of the above ministries, would like to serve, or would like to learn more, please join us! As our parish grows, all of our ministries need more volunteers to keep up and be effective. If you have any questions please see Fr. Innocent.

August Birthdays: Joan Lello (8/1), Ruby Redfield (8/2), Sophia Leonori (8/5), Jonathan Sims (8/5), Radu Spinghel (8/6), Liam Reznak (8/9), 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)
August Anniversaries: Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3), Greg & Laura Polk (8/17), George & Rita Krill (8/29)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Ruby Redfield (8/2), Sophia Leonori (8/5), Jonathan Sims (8/6), Radu Spinghel (8/6), Paul & Sylvia Dreater (8/3)

... of the Saints, Fathers & Teachers
From a Sermon by St. Leo the Great on the Transfiguration

The Lord revealed His glory before chosen witnesses. The body He shared in common with all mankind He illumined with such splendor that His face shone like the sun and His garments became white as snow.

The chief purpose of this Transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the Cross from the hearts of His disciples, and to prevent the humiliation of His voluntary Passion from shaking the faith of those who had seen the hidden majesty of His divine glory.

But with no less wisdom, He was also laying the foundation for the hope of the whole Church. Christ desired that His entire Body should understand the transformation that awaited it, and that all His members should confidently look forward to sharing the glory that had already shone forth in their Head.

The Lord Himself foretold this when He said, "Then the righteous shall shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." The blessed Apostle Paul likewise bears witness, saying, "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Again he says, "You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

To strengthen the Apostles still further, another marvelous mystery was revealed.

Moses and Elijah appeared speaking with the Lord. In these five men was fulfilled the saying that "every word shall be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." What could be more firmly established than this proclamation, in which the trumpet voices of both the Old and New Covenants sound together, and the ancient witnesses agree with the teaching of the Gospel?

The pages of both Testaments confirm one another. The glory once veiled beneath figures and shadows is now openly revealed. As Saint John declares, "The Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." In Him the promises of prophecy are fulfilled, and obedience to the commandments receives its perfection. His presence proves the truth of every prophecy, and His grace makes obedience possible.

Therefore, in the preaching of the holy Gospel, let the faith of all be strengthened. Let no one be ashamed of the Cross of Christ, by which the world has been redeemed.

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, Alijah, John **// Recently Departed:** Clement, Ernie, Elizabeth, Margaret **// 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

Let no one fear to suffer for righteousness' sake, nor doubt that God's promises will be fulfilled. Through toil we come to rest; through death we pass into life. Christ has taken upon Himself the weakness of our humanity, so that if we remain steadfast in faith and love, we shall overcome as He overcame and receive what He has promised.

The pages of both Testaments confirm one another. The glory once veiled beneath figures and shadows is now openly revealed.

Whether we are called to obey His commandments or to endure trials for His sake, the Father's voice should always echo in our hearts:

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him."

He is the Truth and the Life. He is the Power and the Wisdom of God. He is the One whom the Law foretold and the Prophets proclaimed. He redeemed the world by His Blood, bound the devil, broke the chains of sin, opened the gates of heaven, and by the mystery of His Cross prepared for us the path into the Kingdom.

Why should we fear what Christ has already conquered? Why should we tremble before suffering when our Savior has transformed suffering into the road to glory?

These words were spoken not only for Peter, James, and John, but for the whole Church. In those three Apostles, the entire Body of Christ learned what their eyes beheld and their ears received.

May every believer, therefore, be strengthened in faith. May no one lose heart before the trials of this life. Let us remain steadfast in Christ, knowing that the glory revealed upon Mount Tabor is the inheritance prepared for all who love Him.

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 (7/26) : $5,914.25

Scan to make an online donation.

Thank You

Thank you to **Olga Layton and Zora Narcov** for today's coffee hour and to those who helped clean up! Next Sunday Paula Holoviak and Mary Ann Kudey will offer coffee hour. Please see them if you'd like to help.

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

The Lord desires not simply to forgive us, but to transform us.

— St. Gregory Palamas