The Sunday Messenger

+ Holy Trinity, Wilkes-Barre + Aug 9th, 2026 + Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America + 10th Sunday after Pentecost +

Hymns & Readings

For Today's Divine Liturgy

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, guiding all men to the heavenly Kingdom; teacher and apostle of the True Faith; intercessor and defender of the oppressed; adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray to our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls!

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

The eternal light of Christ our Savior guided thee, O blessed Father Herman, on thine evangelical journey to America to proclaim the Gospel of peace. Now as thou standest before the throne of glory; intercede for thy land and its people: peace for the world and salvation for our souls!

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Please Sing Along!

Singing throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we

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!

entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 17:14-23

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Dormition Fast Continues: Aug 1st thru 15th

THIS WEEKEND
SAT, Aug 8th
Friends of the Poor @ 9 AM, Great Vespers @ 5 PM, followed by Confessions
SUN, Aug 9th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

THIS WEEK
Bible Study is on Summer Break - Stay tuned!
WED @ 11 AM - 1 PM - Church Open for Prayer
WED @ 6 PM - Akathist to the Mother of God

Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God
FRI, Aug 14th @ 6:30 PM - Great Vespers w/ Lity
SAT, Aug 15th @ 9 AM - Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Herbs & Flowers

NEXT WEEKEND
SAT, Aug 15th
Divine Liturgy for Dormition @ 9 AM
followed by blessing of herbs & flowers
Great Vespers @ 5 PM, Confessions
SUN, Aug 16th
Matins @ 8 AM, Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM, Coffee Hour

Sun Aug 16th Coffee Hour & Hospitality Meeting
Everyone who is currently involved in providing coffee hour and/or considering helping with this critical ministry is encouraged to attend. We will discuss upcoming hospitality events after our coffee hour discussion.

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

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.

Annual Shrimp Boil* – Aug 21 - Noon to 5PM - $18
A hearty meal consisting of a generous portion of extra-large shrimp, smoky pork sausage, locally harvested new potatoes and freshly picked corn on the cob. All ingredients prepared in a broth of old bay, herbs and other seasonings. *** A fasting meatless version of this meal (no kielbasa, w/ extra shrimp) is also available.** Pre-orders may be placed August 17 - 20 (Monday - Thursday) / 9AM – 5 PM. Reservations by phone (570-825-6540) Walk-in orders are also welcome. Eat in or take out available.

Request help for prep on August 20 – 2PM to 4PM. Request help during sale and afterwards for clean-up. 10 AM to 6 PM. Any help during those times will be greatly appreciated. Sign up sheets for volunteer workers or for pre-ordering meals are in the vestibule. Thanks in advance for your help and participation.

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: Liam Reznak (8/9), Joe Lello (8/14)

... of the Saints, Fathers & Teachers

The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk11.27–28).

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death (Troparion).

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

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

translated to life, by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb (Kontakion).

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has "passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight" of the Kingdom of her Son (Vesperal hymn). The Old Testament readings, as well as the gospel readings for the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin's nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Lk 1.47). At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where Saint Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be "highly exalted by God his Father" (Phil 2.5–11). And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary's blessedness belongs to all who "hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11.27–28).

Thus, the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is the celebration of the fact that all men are "highly exalted" in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary's fate is, the destiny of all those of "low estate" whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Saviour, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary's child, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. With her all people will be "blessed" to be "more honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim" if they follow her example. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is called in the Orthodox Tradition the Image of the Church. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells.

It is the custom in some churches to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos.

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 (8/2) : $2,500

Scan to make an online donation.

Thank You

Thank you to **Paula Holoviak and Mary Ann Kudey** for today's coffee hour and to those who helped clean up! Next Sunday Mat. Vicki Kapral & Diane Welgus 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.