



# The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ The Sunday of the Great Feast of Holy Pentecost + The Feast of the Holy Trinity + Sun, June 4th, 2023



## Hymns for Holy Pentecost

Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength! We will sing and praise Thy power!

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

## Epistle Reading - Acts 2:1-11

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it

filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

## Gospel Reading - John 7:37-52, 8:12

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the

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**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!

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law is accursed.” Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?” They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.” Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

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## This Week's Schedule

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

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#### **THIS WEEKEND - GREAT FEAST of PENTECOST**

Saturday, June 3rd

5 PM: Great Vespers & Confessions, Parastas

Sunday, June 4th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,  
Kneeling Vespers

**HOLY PENTECOST PARISH POTLUCK**

*Bring a dish to share!*

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#### **THIS WEEK**

Monday, June 5th - HOLY SPIRIT MONDAY

Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM

WED 11 AM - 1:30 PM: Private Prayer in Church

WED 6:30 PM: Akathist to the Mother of God

SAT @ 10:00 AM - Friends of the Poor

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#### **NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of All Saints**

Saturday, June 10th

5 PM: Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, June 11th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy,  
Coffee Hour, Parish Council Meeting

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## Congratulations

to our recent High School Graduates

*Joli Dutko*

*Andrew Conklin*

*Eli King*

*May God grant you many years!*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### & Upcoming Parish Events

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**GROUNDS MAINTENANCE** this coming Tuesday, June 6th at 6 PM anyone available to help weed whack, edge, pull weeds, etc would be greatly appreciated. The detail will last around 2 hours, but come and offer whatever time you have to help keep our property beautiful for the glory of our loving God. Any questions, contact Steve Dutko.

**BAZAAR COMMITTEE MEETING, WED June 7th at 6 PM:** There will be a Bazaar Meeting this coming Wednesday at the Parish Pavillion @ 6 PM.

**Parish Council Meeting Next Sunday, June 11th @ 11:30 AM.**

**PARISH APPRECIATION PICNIC** At the Rectory from the NEAL Family to all Parishioners and Parish Friends - Friday, June 9th (Fast Free): Fr. Innocent and the Neal Family would like to invite all parishioners and friends of the parish to come to our home from 4 PM - 8 PM on June 9th for food, fun and fellowship. You will eat dinner, spend time with us, play games, fellowship with one another, but you will not bring food or do any work :). You may bring a beverage of your choice if you like - but not required. Please come. If it is a beautiful day we plan to set up tables outside and enjoy the weather. We are so thankful to Our Lord for each one of you that God has put into our lives.

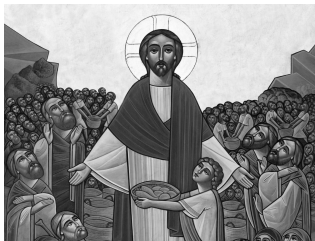
#### **THANK YOU - NEW GREEN LITURGICAL COVERS:**

We want to thank Billy and Mary Gurka for the memorial donation of the beautiful green liturgical covers in memory of their departed family members. The green covers are used in the celebration of the Great Feast of Holy Pentecost and throughout the summer season. The color green represents the “new life” given by God upon all creation through the gift of the Holy Spirit. May Our Lord bless Billy and Mary for their offering and grant them many years!

### **FRIENDS OF THE POOR NEXT SATURDAY, JUNE**

**10:** "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7

"The merciful person is he, who gives to others what he, himself, received from God, whether it be money, or food, or strength, a helpful word, a Prayer or anything else that he has through which he can express his compassion for those in need." Saint Peter of Damascus



**Holy Trinity Friends of the Poor will meet to practice mercy among our poor and homeless neighbors on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM.**

**PEROGIE FESTIVAL NEXT WEEKEND:** St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church will offer our award-winning, homemade pierogies during the Edwardsville Pierogie Festival, June 9 & 10th. We will also have our homemade Holupki (Piggies) on hand. Frozen only for both items, supplies are limited – first come, first serve. Friday, June 9, 2PM – 6PM, Saturday, June 10, 12PM – 6PM. Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 93 Zerby Avenue, Edwardsville, PA 18704

### **NEW SUMMER INTERNS FROM ST TIKHON'S**

**SEMINARY:** This summer we are blessed to have, not one, but two Summer Interns with us here at Holy Trinity. Please welcome Dn. Kirill & Matushka Olivia Zawatski & Dn Damian & Matushka Lillian Kulp and their family.

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## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**June Birthdays:** Anna Cardoni (6/2), Rose Kennedy (6/2), Marlene Latzman (6/3), Noelle Flis (6/6), Fr. Innocent Neal (6/7), Doreen Cherkis (6/10), Rebecca Willis (6/12), Christopher Polk (6/12), Melanie Flis (6/13), Symeon Clark (6/17), Eric Zbegner (6/18), Stephen Serafin (6/19), Zoryana Duda (6/20), Aimee Austin (6/20), Amy Rubino Welgus (6/23), Peter Welgus Jr. (6/24), Laura Polk (6/28), Gregory Stankiewicz (6/30), Emily Willis (6/30)

**Anniversaries:** Tom & Joan Austin (6/5), Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz (6/6), David & Deborah Mills (6/16), Leigh & Jodie Storey (6/18)

**This Week's Birthday/Anniversaries:** Noelle Flis (6/6), Fr. Innocent Neal (6/7), Doreen Cherkis (6/10), Catherine Gates, Ivan Roumiantsev, Tom & Joan Austin (6/5), Donna & Jerry Stankiewicz (6/6)

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## **Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers**

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### **The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost**

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation: "Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Tom & Joan Austin, Lilly, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick, Dave Hamilton, David & Delores Voda, Nicole Hapeman, Anthony Russo, Eileen Cramton, Scott Reimer **Departed:** Alexander Pritchky, Marilyn Havrilak, John C. Metz, Chad Henderson

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“The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians, He brings together the whole council of the Church.”

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16–17, 24–29; Joel 2:23–32; Ezekiel 36:24–28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God “would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.” This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...,” the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose “descent” upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit “coming and abiding in us.”

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for “verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world.” In the Gospel reading (John 20:19–23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles’ preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God’s Kingdom.

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is “added” to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn “summing up” of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

“Who is so great a God as our God?”

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during

which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter “the ordinary time” of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called “after Pentecost”—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church “never grows old, but is always young.” It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—“the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity,” and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. – Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)



## 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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<b>Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:</b> \$12,305
<b>Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:</b> \$2,840
<b>Last Week's Collection (5/28/23):</b> \$4,267